

The

Turtle Times

The first activities!

A former TF ranger was jogging along the beach of Boa Esperança on the morning of June 13th when he found the first loggerhead nest of the year. He even made a video showing the discovery.

On the next day, whilst putting up the camp in BE, some of our team members went looking for the nest, unfortunately, it was hard to find as the wind had blown away the track.

A few days later, the night patrol from Lacação found 2 activities on Curral Velho; 1 FC and the other a nest.

As of the end of June we had had 12 nests across all our beaches. But for the most part it is quiet, and we find ourselves waiting for the season to *really* begin. Nonetheless, if our predictions are right then we should enjoy it whilst we can and we won't be waiting long!



Expectations for the season?

Over the last year there has been a lot of talk about the upcoming nesting season. In particular the number of nests that will be laid on the beaches of Boa Vista. Some biologists estimate this could be as many as 30,000 nests! (by potentially as many as 7,000 females). The highest number since data has recorded. Here's why...

On average turtles return to their nesting grounds every 2 to 3 years (although this depends on food availability as well as various other factors). Nonetheless, if we look at the data from 2009; when TF began to fully monitor their beaches, we find that it was a 'big season', relatively speaking, when compared to the subsequent years. However, in 2010 it was lower (now considered an 'average season'), followed by 2011 with even lower numbers still (a 'low season')...

Then in 2012, 3 years after the 2009 season, TF was again confronted with the highest season on record; with around 750 individuals coming to "our" beaches. The following year (2013) the season was again considered average, and in 2014 again low (although not as low as in 2011).

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ADOPT a stray!
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TURTLE FOUNDATION VOLUNTEERS 2015

The diversity of the team this year is great and we are happy to see returning faces. There are interns coming from Costa Rica, Canada and Australia to name a few, as well as national volunteers and rangers from most of the islands in Cabo Verde.

In Europe, England and Germany are classically represented but there are also more Spanish and Portuguese volunteers again, which is always a good thing!

The addition of Brazilian coordinators-Renato and Camilo, brings new flavour to an experienced team! Passionate Catalan Ariadna and *Commadante* Patrick from Guiné-Bissau in Lacacão and Boa Esperança respectively. As well as the two long-standing Cape Verdean legends Miguel and Divaldo (both from Santo Antão) who coordinate Norte.

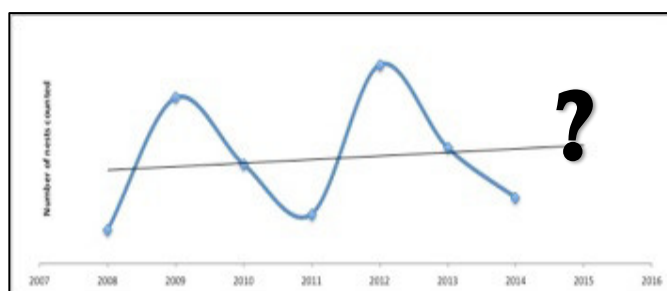


(Continued from front page) Although the data is limited we can begin to see a 3-year cycle repeating itself, between big, average and low seasons. This cycle is further supported by *Natura2000*, who have a more extensive dataset, which begun in 1997, and would suggest 2015 will again be a big season.

Furthermore, if we look at those turtles tagged in 2012 we find that last year only 5% of them returned. This is exceptionally low since it was expected to be at least 30%. As a result the vast majority of the turtles that have tended to nest in the 'big' years have yet to return after two, which suggests they will be coming back this year... Add this to those turtles tagged in 2013 and which may nest every 2 years and we're looking at a big one!

Obviously, we cannot ignore that something else may have affected their usual nesting behavior such as changes in their feeding ground or increased bycatch / mortality caused by the fishing in their foraging grounds and migration routes.

This said, quoting Red,



"We're confident that this year is going to be a big year... which means a lot of turtles and a lot of work, but either way, we won't have to wait long to see!"

Meet the management

The team in Sal Rei has years of experience managing projects, fieldwork and people. They are there to coordinate the smooth running of the project or at least deal with the problems when they arise and to help you work well and be happy.

Red Project Manager

If Jesus was a biologist he might be Robert E. D. Hallworsch (or *Camilo for that matter*). Red began working with loggerheads in Greece a long time ago and hasn't stopped! Like a logger he has been returning to Boa Vista each season for the last 6 years. A stickler for stats he knows everything about turtles (and TV series!).

Ukie Logistics and Finance Manager

Coming from the island of Fogo via the Boston *ghetto* (actually a fairly well off suburb) Ukie has always had a fiery character. He has been developing his responsibility for TF for the last 4 years. He handles logistical problems like Fedex and financial accounts better than a Swiss banker but is perhaps best known for his lively sense of humour.

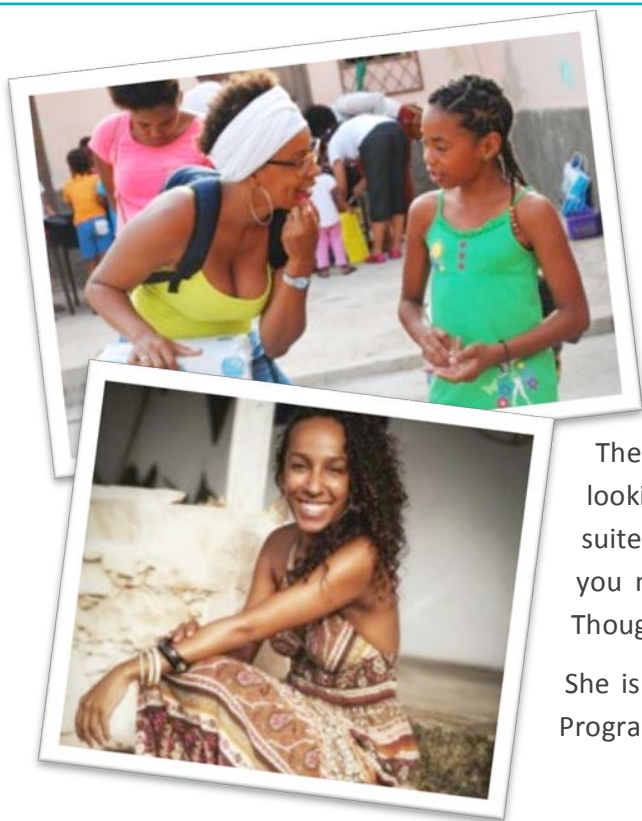
Joaninha Field Project Manager

Although the smallest member of the team Joana is strong and resilient. As coordinator of Norte for four years she is no stranger to controlling a rowdy bunch of men. She is a solid member of the community and a driving force in reducing poaching. *Pictured here with a PIT tag in her mouth not a ciggie!*

Zeddy, Assistant Project Manager

Equally as passionate about sharks as turtles. Zeddy has spent significant time working in Latin America and Africa. He joins the office after 2 seasons in Lacacão. Although much more at home in the water with a shark, than on a computer, he often takes the role as everybody's secretary due his helpful and caring attitude. Not often seen without Frida by his side.





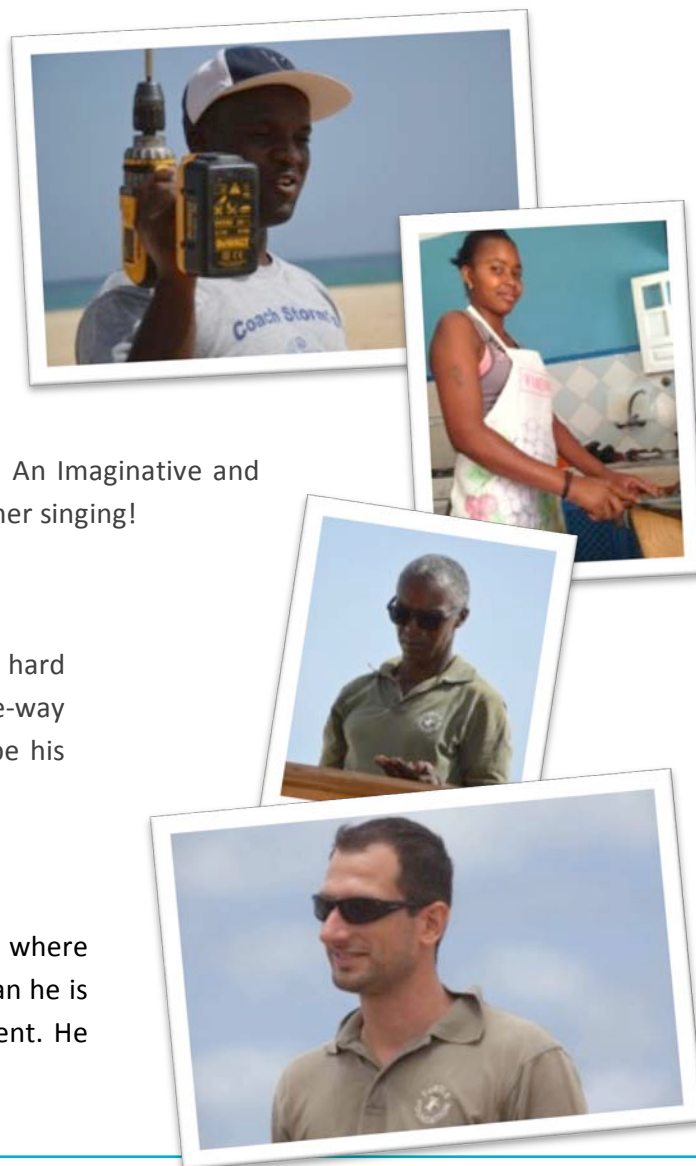
Cintia Domingos Outreach and Education

Cintia takes over the Outreach and Education role after learning the ropes last year. She is passionate about education and great with kids and teenagers alike. Often found doing activities around Sal Rei and sporting a nice pair of glasses.

Cintia Lima Volunteer Coordinator

The new member of the team Cintia Lima is responsible for looking after volunteers. Having a young baby, she is more than suited to the job! Joking apart, Cintia is friendly and dependable if you need to speak to some one outside of camp she's the one! Though don't ask her to drive or go on a boat!

She is also assisting Cintia Domingos in developing the Educational Programme.



Carlos Logistics Coordinator

Not one for attention Carlos prefers to manage behind the scenes. He can fix pretty much everything and is always happy (even when he doesn't look it!)

Ariana Cook & housekeeper

Always happy and smiling whilst pottering in the kitchen. An Imaginative and lovely person. Fortunately her cooking is much better than her singing!

Alberto Driver

Back in the fray after a year out Alberto makes driving in hard conditions look easy. Equally happy on the sand and the one-way system he is a safe driver and reliable character. Let's hope his knowledge of mechanics is up to it!

Christian Director

After 7 years in charge Christian is now based in Germany where he now directs from the sidelines. Not your ordinary German he is both relaxed and a little 'funky' but still dangerously efficient. He will be on the island for the next 2 weeks.



Preparations: logistics and camp set up

This year all three camps were put up with in a matter of days, beginning with Lacacão on the 12th of June, then Boa Esperança (on a Sunday!), and then Norte.

As usual, finding all of the materials, necessary parts and tools, which have been stored in containers during the off-season, was always a tiring job but fortunately Carlos was there to lead everyone in the construction of the shades.

Coincidentally Ukie was away in Praia, working tireless organising supplies and logistics. He must have been working so hard he even missed most of the goals in the 7-1 routing of São Tomé!

The situation was not made any easier by the arrival of the containers; one from Praia with the food supplies for the season and the other with materials and equipment from Germany.

Coincidentally they arrived on the same day meaning the team was stretched thinly. Something not helped by further mechanical issues with nearly all of the vehicles! Nonetheless, the team remained calm in the face adversity and the camps were erected, the supplies stored and the first volunteers began to arrive.

Since then the beaches have been quiet. Volunteers have been trying to keep busy and stay focused to not lose their minds.

On the way to Boa Esperança, Laika, Red's dog, appeared to do just that but proved to be an excellent "goat-dog". She decided that all the goats needed to be "controlled", so she jumped out of a moving car and started herding them. And she succeeded! Maybe we should take her to Lacacão to defend the kitchen from the hungry goats over there!



Outreach and Education

June

As part of the month-long celebrations for *World Kids, Environment Day, World Ocean Day* and *International Sea Turtle Day*, the outreach and education team have been particularly busy. The Boa Vista Environmental Committee, in which the Turtle Foundation is a part of, along with the *Camara Municipal* and other NGOs, have been running educational events in communities around the island. It has been a great chance to speak to the children, show them some of the marine life that exists around Boa Vista and get them excited about marine ecology and the importance of the environment.

We have been giving talks, showing documentaries and screening a short-film produced from recent research conducted by MarAlliance (about the shark and ray diversity in Boa Vista). As well as promoting recycling through art and appearing on the local radio in collaboration with other organisations.



Escola da Natureza

School of Nature is one of the most significant environmental education programmes in Boa Vista. It was created with the main goal of inspiring young people about the environment and improving attitudes towards it.

As the name suggests the programme views nature as a classroom in order to encourage learning and understanding of the environment. Through weekend environmental camps kids and young people from poor communities are taken to Boa Esperança where they learn about turtles, the environment and sustainability. Activities include presentations, games and films, as well as night patrols and beach clean ups.

Zeddy, Cintia (Cindy) and Cintia (Patti) will be hoping to improve upon last year's work and expanding our reach. The first event is on the **31st of July – 2nd of August** in Boa Esperança.

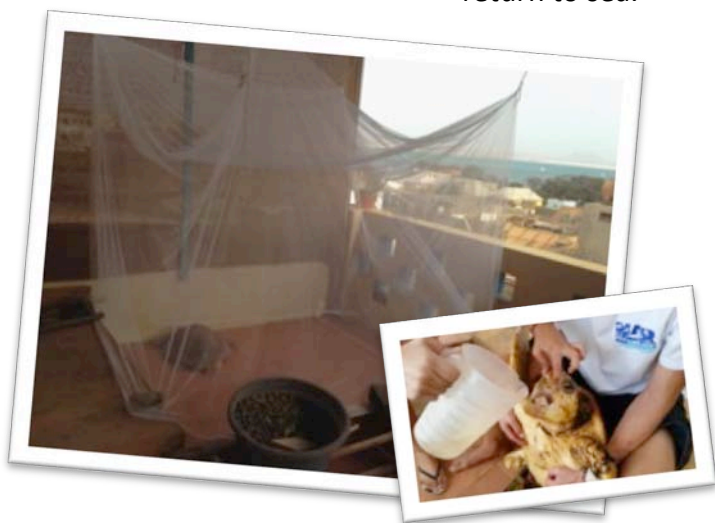


Turtle rescued by fisher

In the last week of June, Zé Luís, a local fisherman, found a sub-adult loggerhead wrapped in fishing net off Ponta do Sol and brought her to the office. With help from Maria of *Natura2000*, the net was removed, the wounds cleaned and the turtle rehydrated. Nonetheless, the net left deep wounds around the neck and flippers.

The patio of the office became a temporary rehabilitation centre, and through a combination of iodine, spirulina, and squid she began to get her strength back and the wounds started to heal.

She was monitored continually and after 10 days we decided the best thing for her was to return to sea.



It's a sad reminder of the damage caused by discarded nets and already the second injured turtle we have rescued in as many weeks.

She was named Luisa in honour of her saviour Zé Luís. She was tagged (PIT) and released by Zé and the team at the beginning of July out at sea NW of the island, where she had been found.

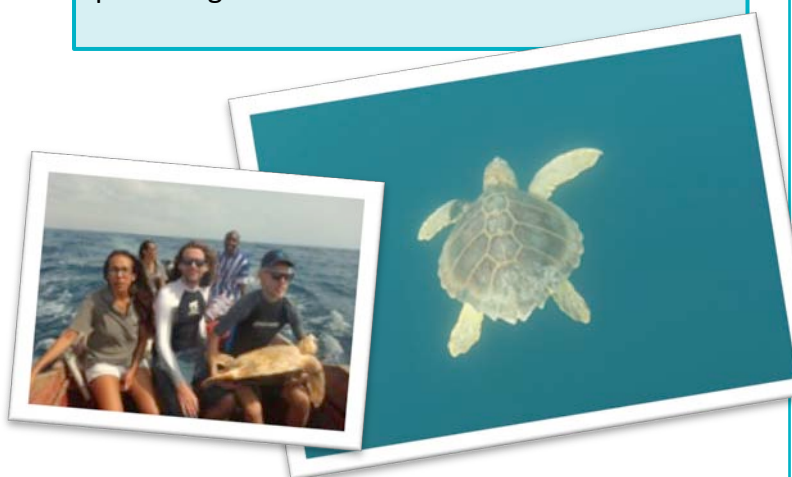
Perhaps one day we will find her nesting on Boa Vista!



Although 5 species of turtle can be found around Boa Vista, sub-adult and juvenile loggerheads are not usually encountered.

After emerging, hatchlings disappear into the pelagic ocean where they develop in the surface waters. Male and female loggerheads only return to mate / nest, when they are sexually mature. When they reach sexual maturity, female loggerheads are generally about 35 years old and 75cm (Curved Carapace Length).

At 60cm long (CCL) Luisa is not yet sexually mature. In fact, she remains seemingly androgynous externally. We estimate she may be about 20 years old. As a result it is unknown how she ended up here though perhaps she was caught in the net and was carried here in the prevailing current.



Turtle Foundation Day August 8th 2015

On Saturday the 8th of August we will be holding the annual *Turtle Foundation Day* celebrations in Boa Esperança.

Transport, food and beverages will be provided.

It's a great chance to meet people from other camps. Get involved in the dance or football competition and drink more *sumo* than a Japanese wrestler!



In Sal Rei there are thousands of dogs, many of which don't have anyone to care for them. Fortunately, *Associação dos Amigos dos Animais de Boa Vista* (AAB) do great work helping stray cats and dogs, organising sterilisation campaigns, adoptions and raising awareness.

This dog was living near the office but was abandoned.

- Male (name Bobo).
- Unknown age (approx. 2 years).
- Mixed breed.
- Brave, silly and loyal
- Strong and athletic.

If you want to help this dog by taking full responsibility of him, or one of the many others, please let us know