

KICKSTART OF THE SEASON!



For the team working with Turtle Foundation, June is probably the most important month of the year as it marks the start of another season. Everyone has been working hard to make sure the camps are ready to welcome both coordinators and volunteers and the office is ready to support them. One of the main events is the arrival a huge container sent all the way from Germany by ship, carrying everything we'll need for the season. But Cape Verde is

Cape Verde and things can't happen without a few setbacks. After some days of waiting for reasons we still don't understand, a very stressed Ukie announced that the container finally arrived and we all rushed to the port to begin what would become a not so easy task of unpacking the materials, with the sun blazing and no shade to be found except the inside of a metal container where you could have easily baked some bread! Tables, benches, tents, shade cloths, fridges and everything else we would need for the season was safely unloaded and stored until the day we would build our camps. Along with all the material came a brand new Toyota Hilux to join the Turtle Foundation fleet, which Ukie kindly named "Fred".



BUILDING THE CAMPS



June 13th was the day chosen to start building the camps, Boa Esperança being the first! With about 18 people including the office team and rangers from all the camps, the day started with loading everything in the trucks and driving to the camp site (which was not an easy task). Literally 10 meters from the water with a view to the ship wreck Santa Maria, the only thing left

from the last season was a small rock structure where the water tanks stand. With Carlos running the troops and Ukie and Evandro going back to town for more supplies, the work started with assembling the frame structure for the big kitchen shade and the sleeping tents. Again, setbacks were part of the



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Protecting sea turtles and their habitats

job and a few broken and missing parts delayed the task but everyone kept working as there was a lot to do. The wind was blowing (after all, we were at Boa Esperança) and some cloud cover set the prime conditions for a successful day. A few hours later the water tanks were in place and the tents were up leaving for last a “little” surprise: brand new solar panels that will provide a charging point for lights, phones and the camp’s laptop! With the help of some friends from Belgium the panels were set and ready to supply a little bit of power to camp. The following day was Lacacão’s turn, which involved a longer journey. This time with less people as the Boa Esperança rangers were already in camp, the work progressed slowly under the blazing sun and lack of wind, very typical of Lacacão. Once more, some minor setbacks tried to hold us back but some creativity and geniality made things possible and just after lunch time the camp was ready to welcome the volunteers and coordinators arriving next day. June 15th marked not only the start of the season as well as building our campsite in the Norte, a slightly smaller task due the size of the camp.



With the start of the season it was also time to welcome our coordinators and volunteers to Boa Vista. The volunteers that join Turtle Foundation each year are an essential part of our project, they’re the backbone of what we do, and without them our work would not be possible. Our volunteers come from all the corners of the world, but also from Boa Vista and other islands in Cape Verde. They work on our 3 camps and while only Cape Verdeans take care of the Fundo das Figueiras Camp and the beaches in Norte, international volunteers patrol the beaches around Boa Esperança and Lacacão Camps. This month we also welcome our coordinators for the season: Domas (Cape Verde, camp coordinator) and Davidson (Cape Verde, field coordinator) work in Norte, Camilo (Brazil, camp coordinator) and Laura (Spain, field coordinator) are in charge of Lacacão Camp, and Patrick (Guinea-Bissau, camp coordinator) and Cristina (Spain, field coordinator) take care of Boa Esperança. In addition, we have several international volunteers arriving this month to Boa Vista coming from the UK, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and Brazil.

MEET THE TEAM!

Ukie – Project Manager



Euclides “Ukie” Resende starts his 6th year with Turtle Foundation as project manager, climbing the ladder of responsibility thanks to his leadership and organisational skills. After working as the Financial and Logistics Manager last season the directors decided he was the right man for the intense job of leading the troops in Boa Vista. Although famous for his sense of humour Ukie delivers the job keeping a tight control of all his team members....with the exception of his dog Zeda!

Joana – Project Manager – Field Work

Joana is a well-known face on Turtle Foundation and Boa Vista, and on her 6th season she is in charge of all the field work, making a strong partnership with Ukie as project manager. After being a strong presence in the field, her position this year requires more “paperwork” so she won’t spend so much time in the camps. Her love for turtles and contempt for poachers are well known in Boa Vista and the beaches are a much safer place for turtles since she’s around.



Derek – Data Collection Supervisor



Yes, he’s back. Derek, aka Des, returns to Boa Vista for the 4th year as the man in charge of all the data collected by the camps. We all heard the words “This will be my last year” and yet it seems that Des has an unnatural attraction for Cape Verde as he can’t be away for long! He is based at the TF office this year but will take every chance he can to return to the field so expect to see Des around the camps often. And although he is the exact replica of a famous musician, whatever you do, don’t ask him to sing.

Cintia – Community Coordinator

There's not a single person in Boa Vista that Cintia doesn't know, and that's why she is the perfect match for the community coordinator position. After working with volunteers last year her attentions will be focused on the local communities and the schools. Her creativity was already put to use and prepare to see lots of activities from this department. Luckily for the people of Boa Vista she will not be doing much driving around!



Nuno – Volunteer Coordinator

Joining Turtle Foundation for the first time, Nuno is in charge of our volunteers this season. His previous experience working with international volunteers from all over the world in past projects makes him the right man for the job. After working in the wild African bush for a few years he decided for a change of scenery and nothing better than the blue waters of Boa Vista. He loves food, football and espressos like a good Portuguese should but his passion for nature and wildlife does not stand behind.



Carlos and Evandro – Supply and Maintenance Officers



Although Carlos works behind the scenes, he is a vital piece that allows the Turtle Foundation "machine" to work. Always in the shadow, he's a man of few words that can fix about anything and he is the one running the troops when it's time to build the camps.

Always very relaxed and with a smile on his face Evandro is well known for his driving and mechanic skills that are often put to test and he can take our trailer into places you wouldn't believe.

Artemisa – Cook

Artemisa takes care of our staff at the office. She is always smiling and makes the most amazing food you can think of. “Ti”, or “Timisa”, as people call her, likes to spoil us with fresh cups of coffee and delicious dishes!



Zeda – The dog



Named after a former TF staff member, Zeda is crazy and wild and it seems that her only speed of movement is sprinting, so be careful not to be hit by her because this dog has no brakes. She keeps the office well-guarded and never loses the chance of having a go at the cats!

Dave and Malagueta – The cats



Dave looks like a tiny sweet fur ball but do not be fooled, this lady cat (yes, we know she’s called Dave) is the queen of the office and she doesn’t take nonsense from anyone as she often puts the dogs in their place just with a look. She can also eat twice her bodyweight in one go, and you can find her sleeping on her office chair

or begging for food at the kitchen. Malagueta is a curious case as no one really knows why a black and white cat is named “Chilli”. He’s a bit shy but likes to rub on people’s legs asking for some TLC.



Domas – Camp Coordinator, Norte



Working as sub-coordinator in the Norte last season made the TF directors realise that when there was a need for camp coordinator, he was the right man for the job. While living the community he always tries to create awareness for turtle conservation and did an excellent job in changing people’s minds. Domas is a farmer during the off season and very creative when problems come up around camp.

Davidson – Field Coordinator, Norte

Davi moved to Norte this season, after a few years in Lacacão as ranger. His expertise and knowledge of the beaches are crucial for his job as field coordinator. He is in charge of leading the troops protecting the beaches in Norte and training new rangers for years to come. Both are not easy tasks but so far Davi is been up to the task



and he never loses a chance to go to Lacacção and visit old friends.

Patrick – Camp Coordinator, Boa Esperança



The General is back for his 7th season with TF, between several camps in Boa Vista and Guinea-Bissau, where he's originally from. His vast knowledge of turtles and his "infra-red" vision are well known and allied to his experience running camps, he's just the man for the job! He's very relaxed but there's nothing happening in camp that Patrick does not know. He put the rubbish that comes ashore in Boa Esperança to good use and improving life in camp!

Cristina – Field Coordinator, Boa Esperança

This veterinarian coming from Valencia, Spain has been working with turtles in Costa Rica and decided for a change of scenery: nothing better than the blue waters of Boa Vista. She puts together turtle experience, vet techniques and excellent organisational skills and the result could only be one, as the beaches in Boa Esperança are well protected.



Camilo – Camp Coordinator, Lacacção



Camilo Redentor aka Brazilian JC can't get enough of Boa Vista and joins TF for a second season as camp coordinator in Lacacção. Although he never stops complaining, Camilo's sense of humour can have the entire camp laughing their heads off. Also trained as a night patrol and census leader, Camilo is a valuable resource, besides lacking height to ride some fair attractions. He's a biologist and a pure conservationist, yet shows some skills playing guitar and is always up for his Brazilian "Mate" tea.

Laura – Field Coordinator, Lacacção

Laura joins us from Spain, after working in Costa Rica and Boa Vista in the past. Previously collaborating with BIOS she decided to give TF a hand for this season. Working with turtles in several different places gave her valuable knowledge but she's proving to be fit for the



beaches in Lacacão Camp. Laura has an unnatural love for bread, cake and her precious Coca-Cola.

School of Nature



Our Community Coordinator, Cintia, has been busy the last couple of months with 4 School of Nature events, taking place in Boa Esperança and Lacacão Camps. Kids from 8-12 went to Boa Esperança for the day for conservation awareness activities including a beach clean-up and turtle sand sculptures! Other activities with older teenagers involved a weekend stay in camp and taking part on night and morning census patrols. The School of Nature event is a vital part of our awareness campaign in Boa Vista and teaches Cape Verdeans to protect their country and its biodiversity. Other events in the villages of Bofareira, Povoação Velha and Norte were also successful and there are many more to come. These events involve a lot of planning and the logistics can be quite tricky: it's not easy to provide transport, food and accommodation for 15+ kids, but luckily Cintia has a lot of help from both the office and the camps.



Poachers Caught!

During the month of July the Turtle Foundation Office got a call that there were potentially poachers in the region of Norte, so there was a need to act quickly. We rapidly called the police who immediately sent officers to the village and caught 3 poachers in their house. Unfortunately they were too late to save 4 turtles caught on unprotected beaches. The police recovered 39 Kg of meat, 12 Kg of eggs and 6 Kg of organs. Not all hope is lost as the poachers are awaiting trial and the quick and effective action of the police makes us think that they are much more concerned with turtle conservation this year than in the past. Turtle Foundation will continue to work with other conservation projects, the government, the police and the communities to end turtle killing in Boa Vista!

