



FUNDAÇÃO TARTARUGA

Turtles News

June/July - 2017

Protect sea turtles and their habitat

AND WE'RE OFF!



Front office view (Sal Rei)

Another season begins, a season of extreme importance, full of new challenges, with new ideas, new projects, new faces and partnerships. And for us at Turtle Foundation, the month of June is definitely one of the most important months of the year, with many events occurring simultaneously. Firstly, with the arrival of a container, that puts some people in the office on the brink of a

nervous meltdown. Unfortunately, it was not the first thing to arrive, because of bureaucratic procedures, where neither customs brokers or agents can explain the reason for such delay. Obviously, it arrived and had to be unloaded on the same day that one of the camps was already scheduled to be set up. Even without the container, the office team, with some rangers, had already started the preparations to get coordinators and volunteers in. The second part involves meticulous organization to begin the assembly of the camps. Some steps have to be calculated finely, since the camps are very far from the deposit where all the material is stored between seasons. Contrary to previous years, this year we will have 5 camps instead of 3, almost double the work in terms of logistics! We expect a season with fewer



Ukie, "da BOSS" e Evandro "da GUY", lo



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turtles than last year, as individuals do not nest every year, but that does not mean that the work is less, or easier. Last year we broke all records along with other organizations around the world for sea turtles, and this year we will break our own records regarding number of camps, numbers of local people involved and number of hatcheries. A new hatchery will be built at the camp of Boa Esperança, hoping to increase the survival rates of nests that have a high number of predation to crabs. We hope that they keep coming, always in increasing numbers, to nest peacefully on the beaches of Boa Vista and that our work today can yield good results for a future where this species, like many others, can escape the danger of extinction. An important part of the work carried out by the Turtle Foundation is to alert people around the world of the importance of turtles in maintaining the ecological balance of the waters in this paradise archipelago that is Cape Verde.

CAMP ASSEMBLY!



North Camp. Drone photography

This new season of 2017 started earlier, the first camp to be set up was in the North, in Canto Beach on the first day of June. Assembly logistics are not easy, sleeping tent structures, large kitchen tent, benches, tables, all kitchen supplies, water tanks, shade nets, everything has to be right so a second trip is not necessary. First stop is at

the depot, where cars and a cart are loaded with all the equipment. Some rangers and the office staff are led by Carlos, who knows every part and every corner of the camp setup. It is a long way to the north, with stone roads, dirt and sand. The arrival in the North was time-consuming but quiet, everyone is prepared to begin the assembly. Sleeping tents and the



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kitchen tent are the first to be assembled, with the scorching sun, the shade is key and is the main part to prepare first. With all the structures ready, the water tank full and the most basic materials off-loaded, we leave the camp under the direction of coordinator Sidney, who with all his experience will give the final touch to his camp. On the 10th of June, we started with



Carlos, "EI COMANDANTE"

Lacacão camp. It is a little further from the sea than our other camps and for a strategic reason, has access to more distant beaches, and so we can control unlicensed tourism, or even intercept cars that intend to catch turtles. It is situated next to a large resort, where nests are relocated daily to a nursery in a safe place, since the hotel lights can disorient the hatchlings and also some adult nesting females. On June 15, it was Boa Esperance's turn. A beach with a view of a shipwreck, the Santa Maria, one of the most visited tourist spots on the island. The other two camps at Cruz Morto and Curral Velho are annexes of the North and Lacacão camps respectively, and are somewhat smaller in size, but their importance is the same as that of the



Beginning of the Lacacon Camp

main camps. These two new camps are strategically set up in places where there is a greater risk of illegal harvesting. It is one of the new strategies for this season and we hope we will see good results. All 5 campsites are properly in place, all with their shaded areas and kitchens set up. Solar panels are ready to receive the new refrigerators that came with the



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container, replacing the old gas ones. The coordinators of all camps will sort out the finer details with their team of rangers and volunteers, national and international. In the northern camps are only Cape Verdians, since it is a zone of greater conflict and understanding the local language is paramount to work so close to the communities. International volunteers have already begun to arrive, from diverse parts of the world, such as Argentina, England, Portugal, Spain, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, USA and we expect many others, who will be part of the Boa Esperança and Lacacão teams.



Preparing solar panels



Beginning of the assembly of Boa Esperança



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MEET THE OFFICE TEAM!

Euclides Resende **Financial Director**



"Ukie" was born on Fogo Island (Fire Island), the hottest island in Cape Verde, and the only one that currently has an active volcano. That must be why he has the strength that he has. He has been at the Turtle Foundation for 7 years and this is his second year leading the project on Boa Vista. He started out as the logistics manager and for a few years the camps only worked because he did not miss anything. Through his cognitive ability, he began to take care of the financial part of the project, not letting even a single coin escape. He has proven himself the right person to lead, thanks to his leadership spirit and reliability. He's the money guy, so do not mess with him. If all goes wrong, he can still take the risk of being a comedian.

Joana Nicolau **Project Director - Scientific Coordination**

Joana Nicolau, or better known as "Joaninha" (Ladybird translated literally in Portuguese), an arthropod of the Coleoptera Order, Coccinellidae Family, with more than 300 genres and thousands of species, but this one is unique. Born in Santarém, Cartaxo - Portugal, she is a marine biologist and biotechnologist. She worked with marine life in Brazil and with turtles in Mexico and Costa Rica. She has been dedicated to sea turtles in Cape Verde since 2011, where for 4 years she





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coordinated the Northern camp, which is a zone of greater conflict in relation to turtle poaching. Joaninha has spent a year as scientific coordinator and is in her second year in a leadership position. "Inha" (little), only refers to her size, as her strength and courage are formidable. Extremely respected and well known on the island makes her an ideal person to lead the project.

Henrique Cruz

Administrative Manager



Mr. Engenheiro Cruz was born in Povoação Velha, located in the interior of Boa Vista Island. He majored in engineering in Russia, where he also completed his master's degree in mechanical engineering. Protector of turtles since 2009, when he founded the protection group for the beaches of Varandinha and Curralinho (commercial name, Santa Monica). President of the Association Varandinha de Povoação Velha, he is passionate about fishing, agriculture and livestock and with his knowledge in these areas, always seeks to encourage and teach the importance of cultivation in order to improve the local economy. A lover of sports like tennis, football and karate, he always keeps on moving. We could affectionately give him his nickname "Mr. Cruz, the storyteller", grab some popcorn and listen to his incredible stories of Cape Verde.



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Francois De Wet

Seasonal Consultant



Originally from South Africa, Francois has 17 years of conservation experience. He worked in the most remote parks of mainland Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, South Africa and Namibia. He is a very strong force that comes to the Turtle Foundation this year. Although his first turtle season, he has very innovative ideas for the improvement of the project. He has been a big help in the office. Despite his enormous experience with wildlife and conservation, remote sites and graduation in Ecology, it seems that he prefers installing alarms, working with computers and maintaining the office internet network ☺. Maybe this is the opportunity he needed to rediscover himself, who knows!?

Camilo Carrasco

Volunteer Coordinator

Born and raised in São Paulo - Brazil, a graduate biologist and conservationist by nature. He had his first contact with marine animals on the coast of São Paulo, in a rehabilitation center for marine animals, mostly consisting of penguins. This year Camillo joins the office team to coordinate volunteers and of course everything



else as well. After coordinating Lacacão camp over the last two years, he is very enthusiastic about his new responsibilities, and although he does not like writing very much, it was he who wrote this newsletter. His heart will always be on the beach, his favorite place, near the turtles.



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Alcídia Mendes

Education and Awareness



Alcídia was born in Paiol in the city of Praia on the Island of Santiago. Soon to graduate in journalism, it is her first year in the Tartaruga Foundation's team to coordinate the environmental education program. She has excellent relations with the communities of Boa Vista, which is fundamental for good understanding between Turtle Foundation and the communities. Since she likes to talk a lot, we are sure that there will be no problem with communication.

Carlos and Evandro

Supply and Maintenance Officers

"The Dynamic Duo". Without them almost nothing would work as they are responsible for all logistics.

CARLOS "El Comandante". Grumpy with a smile and always ready to help. Head of the TF Depot, he knows everything that goes on and is responsible for meeting the needs of all camps. He coordinates all the people to assemble and dismantle the camps.





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EVANDRO "The Guy". *Good-humored and anything that has a wheel or an engine he understands. He is the guy who fixes the pumps, cars and especially the quads. He is such a good driver that he can ride a motorcycle in the sand without tyres.*



Artemisa

Kitchen and Office Coordinator



Better known as "Ti", she coordinates our stomachs and tidiness around the office. If it were not for her, we would all be grumpy, as "empty bags can not stand" (Portuguese proverb). Responsible for wonderful lunches and a few extra pounds around the waist. Because of her we have the energy to endure a hard day's work.



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School of Nature



Environmental education is essential if a conservation project wants to succeed. Without the awareness of local people, conservation work is almost impossible. That is why the Turtle Foundation has a parallel project called the School of Nature, aimed at children, so that the new generation learns about the protection and preservation of the rich biodiversity that Cape Verde still has. The first youth event took place in the North Camp, in Canto Beach, on June 17 and 18, with children of different age groups, from the communities of João Galego, Fundo das Figueiras and Cabeça dos Tarrafes. Different activities have been developed, from presentations on sea turtles, beach cleaning and manual work. Also, events were held within the communities with the projection of the movie "The Turtle Journey" that shows and teaches the life cycle of the loggerhead turtle. These events involve simple logistics and require a lot of organization and commitment.



Garbage collection made by children



Handicraft with wooden turtles



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Lesson on the life of turtles



Children from Northern communities

Rescued Turtles

Sal Rei

On June 5th, a logger head sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) was delivered to the Turtle Foundation office in a small plastic bowl. The person who delivered it says she was rescued. The turtle was very young and showed no injury or sign of malnutrition. As the Turtle Foundation and Boa Vista Island do not have any type of infrastructure for the rehabilitation of marine animals, it was decided to release the turtle. The first attempt to release was unsuccessful, as the turtle remained about 20 minutes near the shore, with its flippers close to its body (see photo). We therefore believe that this turtle may have been held captive from birth. It was only 15cm long, a size too small to feed near the shore,





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and showed no signs of stress or fear in its handling. The second attempt was successful, as Camilo took her to a quieter beach in the afternoon near the reefs of Estoril Beach and swam with the turtle farther from the shore. After a few minutes, she began to take the first few strokes of freedom. Although we believe it to be her first time at sea, we hope that she will have the luck survive survive.

LACACÃO



Justo e Rasta e turistas com a tartaruga

On June 24th, the Lacacão team found an adult female sea turtle, disoriented at the bottom of Lacacão Beach. It had already nested, but it did not find its course back to the sea. We believe that the lights of the hotel influenced her orientation at night. This occurs with both both adult turtles and hatchlings. For years the numbers of unusual tracks and turtles disoriented on that beach are higher in comparison to the Beaches of Ponta Pesqueira

and Curral Velho, which are the following beaches of Lacacão Beach and have fewer lights. Congrats to the Lacacão team for saving this nesting female.



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Reports from a Field Coordinator by ALBERTO QUEIRUGA MANEIRO

"At 10:00 am on Wednesday 26th, the turtle foundation team from Lacacão camp was relaxing and giving information to the new volunteers in camp when one of our Rangers from CV2 camp showed up in the main camp reporting that they had discovered a lost turtle. She was stuck in the salt flat, which is after CV1 and far away from the shore. She was there probably from early in the morning and the sun that day was very hot. When we found her, she was exhausted and she couldn't move. She was a small female, around 78 cm in length, and she was not tagged. We took her out of the salt flat and put her in the shade, then we poured some water on her head and after that we carried her to the sea. Once we reached the ocean, she returned home assisted by the waves, continuing with her life. If we are lucky we may see her again this season nesting in one of our beaches."

Alberto Quiroga Maneiro





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TURTLE NEWS

JUNHO/JULHO 2017

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