



TURTLE TIMES



This year we're bringing a fantastic upgrade to some of our camps: biogas toilets! A pioneer project that we will be testing out so that in the future, hopefully, we will be able to use not only in all the camps, but in the local communities too! Francois de Wet, that worked with Turtle Foundation in 2017, has founded a company that is developing these innovative systems in Germany. To put it simple, a biogas system uses biodegradable matter (human, animal and vegetable) to produce methane gas that can be used just like your normal LPG gas. The system is already broadly used around the world but was never designed in such a compact, easy to transport and assemble way. The system in our camp will compose of 3 main parts: the biogas unit, where all matter will gather and breaking down process will occur, a toilet, and a water tank (for flushing processes). In the main compartment of the biogas unit we can find a mix of water and bacteria responsible for turning the waste into compost and gas. From that "stomach", we will be able to gather not only gas, but also natural liquid fertilizer. The gas is stored in an inflatable chamber on top of the unit and, because it's not pressurized, the risks are less (there's also a safety pressure release valve for when the gas is too much). That gas can then be used in kitchen stoves, lights and, with the right appliances, much more!



The waste water produced from the system goes through a chlorine filter and then collected to be used as a super-fertilizer, 100% biological since no chemicals can be used in the system or it will kill the bacteria. We are thrilled to be able to try this fantastic system that besides improving camp living conditions, we will still be able to use the gas and the fertilizer from it. Also to note that the flush system only uses about 1,5L of water per flush against your normal toilet where each flush is between 10 to 12 litres! And remember, all this water will be re-used as fertilizer. So on the 7th we gathered at Lacacção to install the first unit, followed by Boa Esperança, the two camps where we will test this system. Francois, Mathias (from Turtle Foundation Germany) and the local team joined efforts so everything went smooth. With a few bumps along the way, logistics to solve and everyone involved we managed to get it up and (almost!) running by late afternoon. This type of unit uses bacteria that develops through 3 stages, so it will take a couple of weeks to settle in but after that our camp team will not only be able to fully use the toilet but also "recycle" their food waste from the kitchen to increase the gas and fertilizer production. We are very thankful for being able to use this system in our camps as conservation is much more than saving turtles, is also keeping a healthy world for them to live in, and we love to go even greener!



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On the 5th of July Cape Verde celebrated it's 43th year as independent country. Around 1460 Portuguese navigators discovered a 10 island uninhabited archipelago that they named Cape Verde. A few hundred years later and after being populate as a Portuguese colony Cape Verde became an independent country in 1975. It is a very important date for all the Cape Verdeans and in Lacação Camp our rangers decided to celebrate it fully by hoisting the flag and singing the National Anthem. It was a great opportunity to involve our international volunteers and teach them about Cape Verde and its history. Here's a photo of our current team at Lacação posing next to the National Flag.



We already talked about all the trash on the beaches of Boavista, but just talking about it it's not enough. Tired of walking among rubbish the team at Lacação decided to take action and organize their own beach clean up! On the 13th of July rangers and volunteers made their way to Curral Velho beach and with Field Coordinator Gabriela organizing the troops they spread out to gather the immense amount of trash lying around. Even after patrolling the beaches at night to protect sea turtles the team worked through the morning with a smile on their faces and lots fun to make the beach cleaner and better not just for the soon-to-be turtle mothers, but for everyone too. It was a great initiative from the Lacação Camp and shows there is not always a need for huge clean up actions with hundreds of people because a small group willing to help can make a big difference. Even though we know that this trash will probably end up being burned or buried we will always try our best to do something about it and keep it off the beach. Photos by: Gabriela Fernandes.

