



TURTLE TIMES

9TH EDITION



The month of September finished with another Community Development event within Projecto Tartaruga Boavista of which Fundação Tartaruga integrates. Our community coordinator, Carla, organized the donation of 12 bicycles and 5 guitars to the communities in Norte. The children in Cabeça dos Tarafes need to walk 2 km everyday to go to the school in Fundo das Figueiras so the project financed the donation of community bicycles for the children to use along with helmets, as safety is of utter importance. The 5 guitars were given to the school in João Galego village where they will be used to complement extra-curricular activities. We believe music plays a big part in a child's development so this donation goes along with the percussion instrument workshop done previously. Other NGOs and government authorities were also present and the event was covered by the national TV RTC, the video can be seen on our Facebook page. On the same day the project donated a TV and a satellite dish to the community of Bofareira. It is a very isolated area without TV signal and this set (TV + satellite dish) will be placed in the community centre where everyone can enjoy it. All this activities were planned after a process of community engagement where the people identified their needs and in areas the project could be of assistance. This allows for a much more effective community development action plan and there is much more to come! A brief note about the campaign Menos Álcool Mais Vida (Less alcohol more life), a cooperation between Projecto Tartaruga Boavista and the Presidency of the Republic of Cabo Verde to create awareness for alcohol abuse.



You may remember the big fundraising campaign of Mijke de Waal last July: The young Dutch woman walked 160 km on the famous 4-days march of Nijmegen, got blisters and sore muscles, and dedicated this extremely strenuous tour to the Turtle Foundation! We were therefore particularly pleased to welcome Mijke as a volunteer on Boavista in September, where she spent two weeks in Lacacão Camp. She took the opportunity to officially hand over the collected donations of 960 € (on the right in the picture: project manager Euclides Resende). Mijke comments on her stay with these words: "Had the best time at Lacacão camp! Really enjoyed it over there and I saw and helped so many turtles!!" Mijke, once again we thank you so much for your great commitment! Text by: Thomas Reischig





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As the season progresses towards the end it is time to present another Turtle Foundation Local Hero and this time it will be a very heart-warming “local”. If you speak of sea turtle protection and Boavista this name pops up for sure: Joana “Joaninha” Nicolau. Joaninha was born and raised in the town of Cartaxo, Portugal, and since young age she showed love for animals and the sea so naturally marine biology was the obvious choice in her studies. For many years she has been travelling the world working with sea turtles between conservation and research which took her to places like Costa Rica, Mexico and Brazil where she acquired tremendous field and life experience. Many adventures, turtles and journeys later Joaninha found herself in a little island lost in the Atlantic Ocean. It is now 2011 and Joana is the new Field Coordinator for Turtle Foundation camp in Canto, Norte region. It was a very challenging task as being in charge of a local ranger team, together with army soldiers, and fighting turtle poaching while trying to maintain good relations with the local communities to show them the value of this amazing heritage of their country would be prove a 24/7 job.



Small in size but not in will power her determination was enough proof to everyone that she was here for one thing: to save the turtles of Boavista. For 4 years she was in charge of Field work in Norte and we have no doubt her work contributed directly in the reduction of turtles poached year after year. At the same, time her non-violent approach with the communities, always trying to create awareness to the value of turtles live rather than dead with kindness and friendship was vital in gaining a huge amount of respect and becoming part of the community herself. Even today, after 3 years based in Sal-Rei, when she visits Norte everyone has a kind word and a hug to Joaninha. Since 2016 she took a position of more responsibility as project manager of Fundação Tartaruga, working with the data collected on the beaches, producing annual reports and representing FT in meetings and conferences as far as Senegal and Japan! Joana is a symbol of strength, courage and love for turtles and she inspired many over the years to fight not only for turtles, but for other wildlife and the environment too. The turtles and the people of Boavista have much to thank for everything this small but fierce Portuguese warrior has done.

Photo contributions: Euclides Resende, Carla Corsino, Joana Nicolau, Gabriela Fernandes, Camilo Carrasco