



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2020)

Project reference	26-025
Project title	Eco-village approach to enhance socio-ecological resilience in Cabo Verde
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Cabo Verde
Lead organisation	University of Cabo Verde (UniCV)
Partner(s)	Cabo Verdean Ecotourism Association (ECOVCV), Cabo Verde National Directorate of the Environment (DNA), Cabo Verde Bangor University, Ocean Science School, UK Association for the Development of Sao Francisco - ADSF Civil Movement '350 Cabo Verde' Cooperative Society for the responsible tourism, Italy 'ViaggieMiraggi'
Project leader	Mara de Castro Abu-Raya
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	https://web.facebook.com/raizazulcabo Verde/ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB12Gn7osjiZaD3tcdWhwiA/videos

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Output 1 (implemented and reported by ECOCV and partners)

A1.1 Completed in Y1

A1.2 June-September. As started in Y1, in São Francisco the selected households continued to separate plastic and paper; the school was closed during Q1-Q2 period. These activities will be upscaled in Q3-Q4 when the plastic recycling centre is fully operational in São Francisco. In Rincão, after the consultation with the community, it was decided to install four big containers to collect glass near the public use spaces such as local bars and shops. The special carriage was purchased to transport full containers to the eco-centre for recycling.

A1.3 In June, we participated in the beach clean-up campaign with NGO '*Caretta caretta*' and gave interview to the *Record TV* on the potential increase of pollution linked to COVID-19 (disposable masks, gloves), and threats to marine biodiversity such as sea turtles. Regular updates were communicated on project Facebook page, partner website and social media sites. Responsible waste disposal and recycling are always included in general presentations of the project/national communication (see A1.7)

A1.4 In July we had meetings with: *JMD Metal Trading* and discussed the potential sale of the recycled plastic; *All Green Trust* responsible for the collection and disposal of waste in capital Praia including the international airport and options to start separation of plastic waste was discussed. During the meeting with *CaboPlast*, the producer of various plastic products in Cabo Verde, we discussed their support to the community awareness raising and installation of the plastic recycling eco-centre in São Francisco.

A1.5 In Y1 the decision was made to expand recycling options and include not only plastic but also glass recycling with the focus in Rincão. In June, the project partner CERMI produced the glass recycling machine manual, and in July they trained six community members (3 men and 3 women) on the operation of the machine. ECOCV delivered the training on health and safety and organised all operational procedures and materials. In July, at CERMI, we had a meeting with three teams of students that, under the supervision of engineers, were producing plastic recycling machines as part of their final training and certification program. The machines were produced following the internationally recognised methodology of '*Precious Plastic*' (the Netherlands). In September, we met with the company *SOPLACAS* to discuss the experimentation with the recycled glass sand and potential production of bricks for construction.

A1.6 Implemented and reported by UniCV. Due to the pandemic, it will not be possible to perform microplastic analyzes in human feces, due to the risk of contamination associated with the samples. Considering that one of the Outcome of Indicator 2 is the development of basic assessment and analysis methods for the sources and prevalence of microplastics in target locations. The methodology developed and implemented in the first year of the project, was adapted and within the scope of the IMPAMAC project (<https://www.facebook.com/IMPLAMAC/>) coordinated at national level by UNICV. The evaluation of microplastics in coastal areas and in fish it is being replicated at national level and in 4 fish species of commercial interest. The results of the Y1 study have been submitted and will be presented at MICRO 2020 (<https://micro2020.sciencesconf.org/>)

A1.7 Ahead of schedule. In June, the project partner Association for the Development of São Francisco (ADSF) took the initiative and gave interview to the national media *Inforpress* about the establishment of the plastic recycling eco-centre in São Francisco. The effect was strong and led to enquiries from businesses that are involved in waste management in Santiago Island (see A1.4). In July, project partners (ECOCV, UniCV, ADSF, CERMI) presented the project and waste recycling during the online meeting with UNDP Cabo Verde office. In September we and community members gave interviews to a media companies *Agency LUSA* (Portugal) and *DW* (Germany) about glass recycling and eco-centre in Rincão.

Output 2 (implemented and reported by Uni-CV and partners)

A2.1 Done in Y1 and in progress Y2Q4, Y3Q3Q4

A2.2 Due to Covid pandemic the workshop was scheduled to Y2Q4.

A2.3 Due to Covid pandemic we could not start the Develop targeted campaign to communicate the value of the resilient marine ecosystem to the coastal communities and

decision makers. As soon as the sanitary situation changes and we get the authorization from authorities we will start it. Meanwhile, during the months of July and August, UNICV worked with DNA and Maritime Police in the national sea turtle conservation program, more specifically in the monitoring of the spawning beaches of *Caretta Caretta* in Santiago.

A2.4 In July, through local association we promoted the presentation of the new national fisheries management plan, which was prepared by ECOCV and partner, in Porto Mosquito and in Rincão. We scheduled the Introducing tailor made system for the self-monitoring of artisanal fishing catch, biodiversity on the individual level to Y2Q3Q4.

A2.5 In June UNICV contacted the IMar (formerly INDP) and the BIOSFERA Association in order to adapt the methodologies developed and implemented in São Vicente island and in the protected marine area of Santa Luzia island to the communities of Porto Mosquito, Rincão and Gouveia.

A2.6 Scheduled to Y2Q4 and Y3.

Output 3 (implemented and reported by Uni-CV and partners)

A3.1 Complete. We surveyed the remaining historical data on the Baía do Inferno using the documentary / bibliographic survey technique and the technique of interviewing 4 local fishermen with significant roles in the communities of Rincão and Porto Mosquito. The bibliographic / documentary research confirmed that there is not much written data about the Bay, except for the works of Woldzimierz Szymaniak (2014; 2015). In the collected interviews, we collected stories and passages related to the fishermen's private life and not so much about the Baía do Inferno. During the months of June-September, we added this to a qualitative research about cultural aspects that connects the communities of Porto Mosquito and Porto Rincão to the marine environment, such as food, sexual division of work, religiosity and leisure.

A3.2 As reported in Y1, we made a meeting with the village Porto Rincão in March 7, with the national, municipal stakeholders. After that all meetings are forbidden due to Covid pandemic. We schedule this public meeting as sooner as it is allowed for the authorities. Meanwhile, in August we carry out awareness raising and signature collection campaigns in the communities of Rincão, Porto Mosquito with the aim of sensitizing them to the need to actively participate in the process of building the MPA. We appealed, due to the limitations of the pandemic, the cooperation of leaders of community associations that allowed us to contact individually as members of the indicated communities. We collected 392 personal signatures, with will be added to our MPA proposal.

A3.3 Ahead of schedule: As another proposal to Baía do Inferno was delivered the governmental authorities by a local association, in July Uni-CV contacted a consultant to prepare the final proposal which was submitted to governmental authorities *in October*.

A3.4 Ahead of schedule: The Covid pandemic and the governmental restriction didn't allow us to do the programmed meetings. After the MPA proposal from Lantuna get in the environmental authorities we decided to schedule the meetings for Y2Q3.

A3.5 In June, we participated in the public presentation and in the public exhibition of the proposal for MPA in the Baía de Inferno by *Associação Lantuna* and University of Jean Piaget at the Palácio da Cultura, in Praia, as partner of its proposal. We schedule to Y2Q3Q4, after delivering our MPA proposal to governmental authorities, to use social media to raise the importance of the MPA network in Cabo Verde and local uptake of the prospective MPA in the Baía do Inferno.

Output 4 (implemented and reported by ECOCV and partners)

A4.1 Completed in Y1

A4.2 Activities for Y1 completed. However, in Q3-Q4 Y2, the consultant will be contracted to start developing attributes for the 'Raiz Azul/ Eco-network' brand that incorporates various products in the four villages that are currently in development (e.g. community led/assisted tours; artisanal products; visitation of eco-centres (culture, biodiversity, waste management).

A4.3 In June, we started scoping marine trails with local fishers from Rincão and Gouveia. We identified the nearby bays of *Terra Brabu* and explored the old port of Gouveia as potential sites for marine ecotourism. There we conducted the first marine biodiversity mapping for

potential snorkelling activities that eventually will be led by local fishers. In August, the tourism-info panel was installed by the *Gruta de Lazaro* (São Francisco zone) as part of the eco-trail development. In September, in Gouveia, the questionnaire/informal interview survey was conducted to assess overall feedback to the project by community members. In September, we met with the National Institute of Tourism to present the project and ensure their support for the development of eco-network. With the invitation from the Ministry of Tourism and Transport we participated in the celebration of the World Tourism Day in Rui Vaz. We did the presentation on the project Eco-Village and the role of women in the development of rural tourism in Santiago. The proposal for the national stakeholders in tourism sector was developed to invite them for the FAM trip (introduction to the new community-based tour offer) to Gouveia- Baia do Inferno (eco-centre/marine eco-trails) in collaboration with the Association of the Travel Agencies of Cabo Verde.

A4.4 In June, in Gouveia, the first eco-centre “*Kaza Panu di Terra*” was inaugurated. The aim is to communicate the value of a traditional cloth, local biodiversity and support women’s cooperative ‘*Sulada*’. In August, following the agreement with the Municipality of Santa Catarina, the installation of the eco-centre in Rincão was finished. In August-September, the preparation of the inside part of the plastic recycling centre complex in São Francisco has started.

A4.5 In June, as the quarantine ended, we restarted the participatory biodiversity monitoring training with fishers in Rincão. In July, we continued the training of community guides in São Francisco (modules on communication and interpretation of rural trails). In August, these guides were trained in sea turtle monitoring and conservation in partnership with the local NGO *Fauna and Flora of São Francisco*. Info materials on sea turtle species and conservation were produced; the conversation guide in English adapted to community was finalised. In August-September, the training continued with the terrestrial and marine community guides in Porto Mosquito and Porto Rincão, modules on marine rescue, health and safety and tour guiding, participatory biodiversity and pollution monitoring were delivered by professional tour guides and trainers. The guide for the responsible marine tours was produced as an educational tool. The section on the venomous/poisonous marine animals was produced to complement the First Aid Manual done in Y1. In September, our team joined the local association *Faunal and Flora of São Francisco* for sea turtle patrols on the nesting beach. Educational materials were shared and the initial evaluation of the quality of patrols was conducted to identify gaps and support for sea turtle season in 2021.

Fish sellers (mainly women) in Rincão were introduced to the self-monitoring of sizes of the fish they sell. The plastic fish shapes of the species listed in the National Fisheries Plan for the 2020 were given to local women-project collaborators.

A4.6 Scheduled to start in Y3. However, the communication campaign has started in Y1 and continues throughout Y2. In April we released video and photo stories about the four villages that overviewed activities in Y1 and introduced general public to the four eco-villages in development. In May we participated in the online video-conference with our Italian partner ‘*ViaggieMiraggi*’ and presented the new eco-network in development to over 60 participants. In July, project partners published the 8-page article in the national newspaper *A Nação*, that gave the extensive presentation of the DI project *Eco-Village*, experience of project partners and community members. In August, the *Inforpress* published the article and video on the glass recycling operation in Rincão; we also gave interview to the national radio *Radio Educativa* about the project and waste recycling. In total, in Q1-Q2 Y2, ECOCV and community partners produced 33 posts on project social media sites on the topics of waste, biodiversity, tourism, training and the project.

A4.7 Scheduled to start in Q4 Y2. However, in September, the ECOCV submitted the project proposal to GEF SGP Cabo Verde (████████ USD) to complement the development of responsible tourism practices in Santiago. This would include Darwin project sites: Porto Mosquito, Porto Rincão and the first proposed MPA for Santiago island, the Baia do Inferno. In September, the ‘*Clean Coast*’ surveys were conducted in São Francisco, Rincão, Porto Mosquito and Quebra Canela (control site/urban zone). The index for marine (inshore) and beach zones will be used for the long-term monitoring of human environmental footprint. The methodology is in the process of being adapted to local conditions. The essential guide of

community based marine tours/explorations was produced. In September, we submitted proposal to WCS (USA) for the underwater drone. It was successful. The equipment will support monitoring of marine biodiversity and anthropogenic impacts in Santiago.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

No such problems have been identified. All activities are on track as planned, even though some active implementation has been delayed due to the Covid contingency. The above mentioned changes did not affect the delivery of project activities nor the budget. One of the key lessons learnt was discover the openness and availability of our partners to stay in contact and continue some activities in a challenging social context.

(Reported by ECOCV, Outputs 1 and 4) In Q1-Q2 we adapted really well and most of the activities were delivered as planned. In Y1 we delivered some activities ahead of schedule, this compensated for delays in the first half of Y2. We might need to reduce/stop activities in December due to the delayed transfer of Q3 funds. This might result in the delay of activities planned for Q3-Q4, delay to purchase and deliver of necessary equipment. If so, we will have to place a request to transfer some of the budget from Y2 to Y3.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Due to a Covid-19 pandemic, several constraints have arisen. During the months of April and May, the State of Cape Verde decreed the quarantine, making it impossible to carry out any public activity in the communities. In June, with the end of the quarantine, but within the framework of the State of Calamity, the activities affected by the participants were not authorized. In this sense, it focuses our attention on carrying out activities that could not jeopardize health regulations and that required the participation of controlled numbers of people. Thus, we took advantage of this period to deepen the qualitative research, as well as to prepare the methodology and tools for quantitative works that were postponed to Q3 AND Q4. These constraints do not affect the schedule of activities, nor do they imply changes in funds.

(Reported by ECOCV, Outputs 1 and 4) In August, we (the project partners) contributed to the DI Newsletter with the overview of our challenges and solutions in the time of COVID-19. Some activities had to be downscaled or postponed. For example, the inauguration of the eco-centre in Rincão was postponed; work visit of international partner *ViaggiMirragi* postponed; the production of plastic recycling machines was delayed by 2 months; some marine surveys reduced; several meetings and project presentations had to be done via online platforms. Probably one of the major concerns is the uncertainty whether international partners will be able to provide fieldwork support in Y2 and further reduction in fieldwork effort if new restrictions or another phase of quarantine is imposed.

2c. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

(reported by ECOCV) On numerous occasions we expressed concerns about the lack of communication by the UniCV (lead institution) on the project's social media sites. Project leader would always respond that activities were stopped and nothing to report. Project lead institution produced 0 posts, while partners 33 (not counting national/international press). And from this report we see that some activities were implemented by UniCV.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report** by email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**