**Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report**

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note": (https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/information-notes-learning-notes-briefing-papers-and-reviews/).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

**Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024**

**Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line**

### Darwin Initiative Project Information

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| Project reference | 29-009 / DIR28S2\1073 |
| Project title | Empowering Cabo Verde communities towards responsible practices in artisanal fisheries |
| Country/ies | Cabo Verde |
| Lead Partner | BirdLife International |
| Project partner(s) | Biosfera<br>Projecto Vitó (PV)<br>Associação Projeto Biodiversidade (APB)<br>University of Oxford (UO)<br>Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA). |
| Darwin Initiative grant value | £ 579,426.00 |
| Start/end dates of project | 01 June 2022 to 31 March 2025 |
| Reporting period and number | 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 – Annual report 2 |
| Project Leader name | Tabea Zwimpfer |
| Project website/blog/social media | N/A |
| Report author(s) and date | Tabea Zwimpfer, Iderlindo Santos, Ahmed Diame, Lucia Way-Bricault, 30th April 2024 |



Image 1: Country map and map of six project target sites

## 1. Project summary

Cabo Verde (CV) is of high global importance for breeding endemic threatened seabirds (Cape Verde shearwater NT) and hosts the third largest population globally of Loggerhead turtles (EN for the Northeast Atlantic population). There are around 5,000 artisanal fishers operating in CV. Bycatch is occurring at high rates and has severe impacts on marine biodiversity. A 2020 study (G. Montrond, Unpublished thesis) found that 77% of artisanal fishers captured seabirds (mainly Cape Verde shearwater), 55% caught turtles and 86% sharks. For fishers, bycatch has negative impacts - it reduces fishing efficiency, releasing non-target species takes time, and it can cause bait loss and damage fishing gears. For biodiversity, continued bycatch mortality contributes to localised extinctions of endemic seabird species. Mortality of breeding age adults reduces the breeding stock of these species, and lower recruitment rates and deferred breeding means populations recover more slowly. Reducing the direct mortality of threatened species in fisheries is a primary tool for conservation of long-lived seabird and turtle species. The Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem is one of the most productive worldwide and a primary source of protein and livelihoods for millions of Africans. However, the overexploitation of marine resources by industrial and artisanal fisheries is jeopardizing their sustainability. The future of artisanal fishing communities depends on healthy, sustainable fisheries and the protection of fish breeding areas. Plastic debris from land-based sources is a major problem in CV. In addition, artisanal fishers use ice frozen in plastic water bottles to preserve fish catch on boats, these are discarded at sea after use. Finding ice and bait and preserving fish are limiting factors for fishers. In Cabo Verde, 90% of seabirds and 50% of turtles caught had ingested plastic, indicating the pervasiveness of this threat. These threats were identified by local NGOs and documented by BirdLife and academic research groups. The project creates improvements in fishery practice by better disposal of old gear and plastic waste, which are additional threats to marine biodiversity.

This project addresses threats to biodiversity and improves livelihood sustainability by scaling up a local labelling scheme piloted in São Vicente Island with fishers that increases the market value of sustainably caught fish sold to local restaurants

yielding increased income for the community. This project is building on this scheme, and replicating it in communities on five additional islands, whilst improving and adapting it based on the different contexts on each island. Varying contexts will provide more scenarios to demonstrate replicability at national and regional scale. Measures will include minimum catch sizes, seasonality, waste- and bycatch-reduction. Improved fish handling facilities provided as livelihood benefits, such as better freezing facilities, will reduce waste of fish caught and reduce pressure on fish stocks. The project supports the deployment of mitigation measures to reduce bird and turtle bycatch, using tested technology that is applicable in small-scale fisheries worldwide.

## 2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The main partners of the project are: Birdlife International – Lead Partner, Biosfera, Associação Projeto Biodiversidade (APB), Projecto Vitó (PV), University of Oxford (UO) and Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA).

The six main partners listed above have been closely working with each other throughout the second year of the project to exchange experiences and progress. Furthermore, there have been two in-person meetings: the field visit of the BirdLife team from 2-6 October 2023 in three Islands (São Vicente, Santiago, and Fogo) to support the partners with the implementation and reporting of the projects, strengthen engagement with national and international institutions and reinforce the network, and the Steering Committee meeting 11-15 March 2024, in Mindelo (São Vicente). During the Steering Committee meeting with all the partners, key aspects on the progress of the project were highlighted and challenges and next steps were discussed. Key recommendations were outlined to effectively navigate the project's final year and achieve its desired outcomes, such as:

- Ensure good coordination and consolidate the third-year project implementation workplan to support adequate closing of all activities.
- Enhance continuous data analysis and management in collaboration with SPEA to ensure consistency and effectiveness, and align data collection methodologies to strengthen comparability and overall analysis.
- Centralize project data, including on bycatch and incidents, to establish and maintain a unified project database accessible by all project partners.
- Put a strong focus on the c-design, implementation and monitoring of the social marketing strategy and related behaviour change activities.

Additional partners:
In addition to the key project partners listed above, other relevant national partners, such as governmental entities, Direção Nacional do Ambiente (DNA, Direção Nacional de Pesca e Aquacultura (DNPA), Instituto do Mar (IMar), Inspeção Geral das Pescas (IGP), and Instituto para Gestão da Qualidade e Propriedade Intelectual (IGQPI)) were engaged from the beginning of the project. A focal point per directory is part of the Steering Committee and the various technical working groups, allowing them to follow-up and contribute to the effective implementation of the project. The local authorities (municipal councils) on the different islands where the project is being implemented, as well as the fishing communities, show great interest and are engaged and consulted in relevant activities as appropriate such as through the Guardians of the Sea (GOS) program and in the various awareness actions to ensure continuous engagement and collaboration.

## 3. Project progress

## 3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

**All evidence documents can be accessed using this LINK**

**Output 1. Increased conservation capacity built amongst 3 civil society organizations and 170 Guardians of the Sea (GOS) members; including behaviour change, sustainable fisheries labelling, and voluntary stewardship.**

**1.1.1** Behaviour change methodology: Oxford University to build capacity of national NGOs via train-the-trainers sessions in Y1 Q2: identification of influencers, target audiences, barriers to change.
The train the trainers was conducted in year 1. in year 2, UO (behaviour change team) conducted an country wide questionnaire and are currently making use of a visit of the Behaviour Change Field Coordinator to the UO to strengthen skills and plan next steps. The initial analysis of the baseline supported the identification of groups of influencers, namely groups that fishers trust and who are influential to them, such as teachers and NGOs, as well the media channels that were most used and trusted which are radio and TV. Furthermore, the behaviours that lead to seabird incidental fishing can be understood through the COM-B model. This theoretical model assesses the capabilities, opportunities, and motivations of different stakeholder groups, such as fishers, providing valuable insights for the development of effective interventions. Based on initial data analysis, the capability component refers to the physical and psychological ability of stakeholders to avoid certain behaviour (the general pattern was high averages of knowledge about the effects of fishing on bird populations and knowledge of aspects of birds (reproduction and migration) and Sal and São Vicente presented lower averages related to the ability to prevent accidental capture). The opportunity component addresses the external factors that influence this same behaviour (low access to tools and training to reduce catch) and finally the motivation component explores the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that encourage the group in question to adopt certain practices (recognized the importance of the species and their protection, in addition to expressing sadness for lost individuals). Finally, the reported bycatch is higher in Sao Vicente, Fogo and Brava, with lower averages in Sal and Santo Antão.

Evidence documents: (i) Act 1.1.1. Report of the baseline questionnaires; (ii) Act 1.1.1. Questionnaire

**1.2.1** Review existing labelling scheme, agree on guidelines, criteria, benefits during Inception Workshop in Y1 Q2.
This activity has been carried out and reported on during the first year of the project.

**1.2.2** Biosfera to train APB and PV on labelling approach during inception workshop in Y1 Q2.
This activity has been carried out during the first year of the project and all the participants (total: 20) who took part of the inception workshop benefited from this training, including particularly 3 participants from APB (2M/1F) and 3 from PV (1M/2F). The leaders and focal points of each NGO have been continuing their activities to raise awareness and engage fishing communities and restaurants in the labelling process.

**1.2.3** Create database of species sizes, sampling sites, dates, fishers sampled in Y1 Q2. Establish baseline using weekly GOS self-reporting data and monitor 6 monthly.
A database with all the relevant information was created and has been shared with all partners by Biosfera. The data was, however, collected by a Biosfera technician due to the time, effort and quality required and the amount of data to be collected (to be used in scientific articles and to be shared by local responsible authorities to adapt fishing management measures). Nevertheless, GOS have been trained and supported in all target islands to collect those data to populate the database, regarding marine megafauna in general.  As data collection continues on all islands through self-reporting forms of the GOS, this database is being further populated as well as organised and harmonised by SPEA, which will allow for a better overall analysis of the project's data.
Evidence documents: (i) Act 1.2.3. Database of species (sizes, sampling sites, dates)

**1.2.4** Train fishers in using self-reporting forms on bycatch, monthly reporting by a selection of GOS to NGOs in Y1 Q2.
All fishers that have joined the GOS program (currently 150 fishers) have been trained and are being supported in using the self-reporting forms on bycatch. GOS are collecting data in different project sites and continuously share the data with NGOs to populate the existing bycatch and incidents database.
Evidence documents: (i) Act 1.2.4. Self-reporting form on bycatch (Biosfera, APB and PV);

**1.3.1** Guardians of the Sea: Draft Terms of Reference, consult, agree and APB to train Partners at the Inception Workshop in Y1Q2
MOUs for GOS protocol and branding use were established by Fundação Maio Biodiversidade (FMB) with local partners in year 1 and duly reported in year 1. For more details see 1.3.3.

**1.3.2** Build numbers of GOS - train to monitor target and non-target catch (seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, rays) from Y1 Q2, report & review 6 monthly.
Partners (APB, Biosfera, APV, SPEA, and BirdLife) have been continuously supporting the GOS in various aspects, including continuous trainings and capacity buildings for all GOS including the 27 new recruits in 2023, such as on:

-   Data collection on marine megafauna sightings, accidental catch, and infractions in fishing areas, equipment uses and monitoring, training on safe handling and release of seabirds and sea turtles for around 23 fishers from Brava and 42 fishers from Fogo, including providing equipment and trainings on the use of GPS, VHF radios, cameras, and binoculars.
-   Acoustic sonars in fishing, importance of and how to use the safety materials, safe handling and release for seabirds and sea turtles involving 26 fishers from 3 communities and 5 technicians from APB in Sal.
-   Impact of plastic pollution, proper disposal of fishing waste, and safe handling for seabirds, sharks and sea turtles, national legislations in fishery and MPAs, navigation with GPS and VHF radio, involving more than 30 fishers from the communities of São Pedro, Salamansa and Calhau in São Vicente Island.
-   Providing kits that include equipment for safety, safe handling, monitoring of marine megafauna, and navigation to partners.
-   Conducting regular weekly visits through APB to exchange the kits among the fishers, to check equipment's and collection of the data sheets, with reinforcement for the collection of bycatch data, as fishers still show a certain resistance to the collection of this data. In addition, they also join the GOS three days a week to support data registration and collection on conflicts with dolphins and sharks. Data on shark conflicts is being used to identify mitigation measures that reduce the impact on shark species and minimize disruptions for fishers. So far, they have identified one device from SharkGuard that will be tested to evaluate the benefits from using it. They also encourage GOS to use different types of hooks, that provided, such circle hooks which may reduce the bycatch capture rate for sharks.

Evidence documents: (i) Act 1.3.2. Training/workshop GOS report (ii) Act 1.3.2. GOS photos with kits

**1.3.3** GOS Brand and Communications strategy agreed and rolled out by Y1 Q2.
Communication Strategy was prepared by Project partner Fundação Maio Biodiversidade. Cabo Verdean Project partners, led by APB, participated in the creation of TAOLA+, the National Network for the Conservation of Nature. During 2023, APB secured funding to employ the first national coordinator of the network, who started in November 2023. In January 2024 APB contracted the Communication Technician for the TAOLA+ network. She started to plan the general communication of TAOLA+ as well as the organisation of the annual meeting to be held in April 2024. The communication technician also leads the GOS communications strategy which will be implemented soon through a new social media channel for GOS, among other initiatives.

Evidence documents: (i) Act 1.3.3. GOS communications strategy. (ii) TAOLA+ official document of creation

**Output 2. A pilot participatory local labelling scheme for sustainable fisheries is implemented by fisheries value chain stakeholders (fishers, fishmongers, restaurants, and consumers) in six islands (Sal, São Vicente, Santo Antão, São Nicolau, Fogo, and Brava).**

**2.1.1** Baseline surveys and semi-structured interviews to determine barriers to social change in fishing practices identified and strategies to mitigate them are determined by Y1 Q3.
The behaviour change field coordinator was recruited, a baseline survey was carried out and the data analysis was completed. Questionnaire surveys were conducted across all inhabited islands of Cabo Verde. The final number of respondents was 356 (65 GOS), with 99.7% being men (355) and a single woman 0.3% (1) and with an average age of 42 years. The majority of respondents completed up to the 6th grade of education (59.2%; N = 211) and did not declare a religion (44.6%; N = 159). Respondents had an average of 4 declared items per residence, relating to trusted means of communication. In terms of media, respondents seem to use television most frequently with 57.6% (N = 205) reporting daily use, followed by radio at 34.5% (N = 123). The least used media channels are posters, with 26.12% (N = 93) reporting annual use. For more info see Act 1.1.1.
Evidence documents: (i) Act 1.1.1. Report of the baseline questionnaires.

**2.1.2** Social marketing strategy using most relevant communication channels implemented, monitored (see 3.4.4), reviewed, analysed.
Based on the questionnaires and surveys conducted and still being continued regarding behaviour change, influencers and communication channels as well as insights regarding bycatch behaviour change such as capabilities, opportunities and motivations (see Act 1.1.1. and output 2.1.1.) were identified which inform the strategy which is currently being developed and will be implemented and monitored in year 3.

**2.2.1** Hold a workshop with fishery value chain stakeholders to agree on pilot labelling criteria in Y1 Q4, reporting on these outcomes.
After the development of initial criteria and stakeholder consultations in year 1, various meetings and conversations were held between partners and government entities, in particular, IGQPI in October 2023 regarding the labelling process, which led to the decision to move forward with a two pronged approach: (1) the development of a normative document for labelling for the restaurants that aims to establish a set of criteria that restaurants must meet to receive a sustainability label (more details see 2.5.1); (2) the development of a normative document for labelling process for fishing products. The second task is led by IGQPI, with the support of a technical committee including IMar, DNPA, and IGP. The agreed criteria are to be included in the code of conduct for the labelling of fisheries products that is being developed with IGQPI in the coming months.
Evidence documents: (i) Act 2.2.1. Field visit report

**2.3** Recruit restaurants, fishers' associations, fish mongers by Y1 Q4, with 6 monthly monitoring.
Four restaurants have been engaged in the labelling process in São Vicente so far and 2 fisher's association (about 400 members total) are actively participating on the GOS and sustainable fishing program. In Fogo around 14 restaurants were approached and showed interest in joining the labelling process. The next steps are to finalize the labelling process and then formally engage the restaurants and reach out to fish mongers.

**2.4.1** Train fishers in waste reduction, measurement, need to release undersized fish, and existing applicable MPA legislations in Y1 Q3 and annually.
On the different target islands including São Vicente, Sal, Fogo, and Brava, several activities including trainings (more details in section 1.3.2.) in waste reduction, need to release undersized fish, legislations about MPAs and fishing areas, were conducted involving local fishers especially GOS. In addition, Biosfera conducted workshops in fishers' associations in different communities to promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge among them, involving around 45 fishers. APV conducted similar training sessions on Fogo and Brava islands, involving 22 fishers on Fogo and 28 fishers on Brava. These sessions covered important subjects related to fishing practices and marine conservation.

Evidence documents: (i) Act 2.4.1. Training/workshop report

**2.4.2** Improve the process by iteration of socialising, reporting results to stakeholders, adjusting if needed in Y2 Q2, report 6 monthly.
The labelling process has shown to be a challenge and is slowly advancing due to the complicated and often bureaucratic approach of governments and their role in such processes, however IGQPI has been engaged more actively during year 2 which should support this process. The revised two-pronged approach for the labelling process was presented to the SEC in November 2023 and input was received which informed the development of the code of conduct. Some stakeholders are losing interest due to the slow advancements and there is a need to dynamize this process to ensure the active engagement of restaurants and fishers during this last year. The code of conduct, which was recently developed as well as the engagement of IGQPI, should help to ensure that this process will advance and generate new interest from stakeholders. See Act 2.2.1 and 2.5.1.

**2.5.1** Prepare a code of conduct with adjusted criteria in Y2 Q2.

The code of conduct (Guide for awarding the sustainable, from the sea to plate label for restaurants) for the restaurants is already finished and servers as a guide to the NGOs that will provide the sustainable restaurants labels listing the requirements for the restaurants to follow to receive the label. The code of conduct was presented and discussed at the last Steering Committee meeting in March 2024. Another code of conduct for the fisheries products is being developed with IGQPI for the fishers and fishmongers.

Evidence documents: (i) Act 2.5.1. Guide for awarding the Sustainable, from the sea to plate label for restaurants.

**2.5.2** Analyse results and conduct advocacy with IGQPI to local authorities, government, and fishers' associations to determine formal compliance mechanisms in Y3 Q3

This activity is planned for year 3. This action will be taken after the development of the code of conduct for fishery products that is led by IGQPI.

**Output 3. Bycatch mitigation measures, including safe release, protecting seabirds and sea turtles and that do not adversely affect other vulnerable species (sharks, rays) are deployed by 600 artisanal fishers around 6 islands and show a 25% reduction of estimated total bycatch of seabirds (compared to Y1 baseline) by Y3 Q3, and 50% of fishers safely release captured seabirds and turtles by Y3 Q3.**

### 3.1 BYCATCH ESTIMATION

**3.1.1** Review bycatch self-reporting methods in Y1 Q1 and define methodology for sampling fishers re intentional catch & unintended catch rates by Y1 Q2.

After the development and validation of the bycatch self-reporting form, a data manager for each partner has been identified and the databases used by each partner were validated and harmonised, assuring all partners are using the same database structure and codification. The methodologies used to sample and estimate bycatch rates are planned to be discussed within the data management working group and the SEC based on the data collected during year 2 as this showed differences in sample size among islands, highlighting limitations in the methodology including regarding seasonality (data were collected non evenly among all months of the year or islands).

Evidence document: (i) See Act 1.2.4 Self-reporting form on bycatch (Biosfera, APB and PV); Act 3.2.2. SCM Cabo Verde Conservation Projects 2024_report

**3.1.2** Establish a baseline level of birds and turtles caught, released alive or landed dead through weekly self-reporting surveys by GOS and report monthly for Y1 Q2.

A baseline level of birds and sea turtles caught has been established through the questionnaires performed to fishers in the different islands covered by the project. The table below shows these rates. This analysis shows that the most affected species regarding bycatch were the Cape Verde Shearwater, the Red-billed Tropicbird and the Brown Booby. Most of the species bycaught were released alive.

| Island | Bycatch rate for all seabird species | Bycatch rate for Cape Verde Shearwater (scientific name) | Bycatch rate for Red-billed Tropicbird | Bycatch rate for Brown Booby | Bycatch rate for all sea turtles | Bycatch rate for Loggerhead Sea Turtle | Bycatch fate for Olive Ridley Sea Turtle |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Brava | 0.008 | 0.001 | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.003 | ? | ? |
| Fogo | 0.001 | <0.001 | 0 | 0 | 0.002 | 0.001 | <0.001 |
| Sal | 0.011 – 0.012 | 0.008 – 0.009 | 0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | 0 |
| Santo Antão | 0.014 | 0.009 | 0.004 | 0.002 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| São Nicolau | 0.005 | 0.002 | 0 | 0 | 0.003 | ? | ? |
| São Vicente | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0 | 0 | 0.002 | ? | ? |

Table 1: Bycatch rate as number of individuals per day at sea of seabirds and sea turtles estimated from questionnaires performed to fishers from Cabo Verde islands from September 2022 to April 2023.

The bycatch data from the self-reporting forms show the number of bycatches per species in the different islands. From September 2023 to February 2024, a total of 198 bycatches have been reported by the GOS in the project target sites. According to these data, sharks appear to be the most bycaught (96) followed by seabirds (68), sea turtles (26), and Rays (8) by fishers. Additional number of trips, of days at sea, and of vessels are being collected and analysed to determine the bycatch rates. This fine-scale analysis will be available shortly.

| Islands / Species | Seabird | Turtles | Dolphins | Rays | Whale | Sharks | Total |
|-------------------|---------|---------|----------|------|-------|--------|-------|
| Fogo | 10 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 25 |
| Brava | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 9 |
| S. Vicente | 3 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 20 |
| S. Antão | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 13 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S. Nicolau | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 32 |
| Sal | 34 | 13 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 48 | 99 |
| **TOTAL** | **68** | **26** | **0** | **8** | **0** | **96** | **198** |

Table 2: Number of bycatch records per islands per species from the self-reporting forms (September 2023 to February 2024)

**3.1.3 Analyse the changes in catch rate by season, area, fishing method and estimate catch reduction**
Data collection has been ongoing through the self-reporting form and more recently, the process of standardizing the partners database has led to a harmonised approach. However, more time is needed for a comprehensive analysis of seasonality to allow the GOS to gather data more consistently throughout the year and across different islands. A preliminary analysis of the bycatch data collected by GOS showed that for example the biggest part of the events occurred in Sal Island. Which could be a consequence of the fact that more time has been spent (February to December 2023) in this island to collect bycatch data by the GOS whereas less time has been spent for now in other islands (September to December 2023 in Fogo and Brava; September 2023 to February 2024 in São Vicente, São Nicolau, and Santo Antão).

**3.1.4 In Y2 Q2, review method of catch recording and adjust, if necessary, in relation to species definition, sampling intensity across fishing methods.**
Learning from the initial data obtained from the self-reporting forms in the various islands, a review was carried out and adjustments made to the content of the forms and the collection methods. For example, the use of audio recorders instead of forms have been introduced for those GOS who have raised difficulties in using the forms correctly. Also, using cell phones to get pictures that can help identify species bycaught has been identified as a method to improve species definition which has been flagged as a challenge in the self-reporting forms. In addition, the first section of the safe handling manual addresses species identification which should support fishers in the identification process.

**3.2 MITIGATION**
**3.2.1 Introduce the topic at Inception workshop and seek volunteers to contribute/test.**
This activity has been successfully implemented and reported on in year 1.

**3.2.2 Review mitigation methods via workshop with Scientific Expert Committee in Y1 Q2.**
Various mitigation techniques were identified and shared with some identified experts who are part of the SEC who provided input. Based on the feedback from these experts, the scary bird, the night setting, the line weighting (for seabirds) and the change of bait, fish instead of squid, (for sea turtles) have been identified as the most appropriate techniques considering the fishing method in the islands. Therefore, scary bird devices have been purchased and trainings for their use performed for project technicians and GOS members during the Steering Committee meeting in 2024. A protocol is being developed to support the partners in these trials together with the local fishers, which will commence soon. Regarding the sea turtle mitigations identified, fishers are already using fish as bait. This will be emphasized, and appropriate safe handling and release trainings will continue to be delivered to fishers. See output 3.3 for more info on safe handling.
Evidence documents: (i) Act 3.2.2. SCM Cabo Verde Conservation Projects 2024_report; Scary birds devices

**3.2.3 With fishery associations, determine adaptations / test in fisheries in Y1 Q4 with a minimum 5 deployments of each at 6 sites by Y2 Q1**
A bycatch mitigation training session was given by SPEA and BirdLife International in March 2024 in São Vicente. The training included an in-room session and a trial at sea aboard a local fishing boat to simulate the use of the scary bird as mitigation measure for seabird bycatch. Knowledge on the methodologies, logistics and main constrains to trial and implement mitigation measures were given to the project partners. Factsheets on the use of the scary bird in lines and hooks (attached to the boats or to mark buoys) as well as in other fishing gears (namely purse seine and set nets) were shared with the project partners. Also, a detailed user guide was shared. Regarding the mitigation devices, 24 scary birds are already with project partner to trial the mitigation measure with fishers. In addition, 50 more scary birds have been purchased and will be distributed shortly for the same purpose.
Evidence documents: (i) Act 3.2.2. SCM Cabo Verde Conservation Projects 2024 report

**3.2.4 Monitor and review outcomes of bycatch mitigation trials with Scientific Expert Committee and define the most effective measures.**
The bycatch mitigation trials started after the in-person training during the second Steering Committee meeting in March 2024. Once sufficient data has been collected from July 2024 onwards, the data will be analysed, and outcomes reviewed including with the SEC to discuss the efficiency of these measures.
Evidence documents: (i) See Act 3.2.2.

**3.3 SAFE HANDLING**
**3.3.1 Create training module for use at inception workshop and NGOS capacitated by train-the-trainer.**
Training on safe handling and release of seabirds and sea turtles bycaught by lines and hooks fishers was delivered to all the partners and GOS members. More than 45 participants were part of the online training in September 2023 and around 18 participants benefited from the on-site (train-the-trainers) training during the second Steering Committee meeting in March 2024. Participants unanimously indicated that the training met their expectations, according to the results of the

training evaluation and the knowledge test carried out after the training. In addition, training modules as well as a laminated one-pager on seabirds and sea-turtle safe handling and release were provided to project partners and GOS.
Evidence documents: (i) See Act 3.2.2.; Photos; Training modules; Act 3.2.2. Safe handling manual and One-pager

**3.3.2** Adapt SPEA (Portuguese) materials for safe handling guides and seek Scientific Expert Committee inputs in Y1 Q2.
A manual on safe handling and release of seabirds and sea turtles in line fisheries was produced by SPEA under the guidance of the Scientific Expert Committee. The manual included a section on identification of the most common species of seabird in Cabo Verde to be bycaught and all sea turtle species present in the archipelagos. In addition, a short format (one-pager) has been produced and shared during the Steering Committee meeting to be carried at-sea by fishers.
Evidence documents: (i) Act 3.3.2. Safe handling manual and One-pager

**3.3.3** Train fishers in Y1 Q2, monitor using information provided in 3.1, analyse and report.
Fishers are being engaged on all target sites, equipped, and trained with useful skills aiming to strengthen data collection and reporting.

## 3.4 BEHAVIOUR CHANGE
**3.4.1** Conduct quantitative and qualitative surveys and semi-structured interviews to get insight on motivations, social norms, context of behavioural patterns underpinning fishing activities by Y1 Q2.
The field coordinator was recruited, an initial baseline survey was carried out and data was analysed (see act 1.1.1 and output 2.1.1). Based on the statistical analysis of the surveys which have been and will continue to be conducted, the strategy is currently being drafted and will be refined and validated during stakeholder workshops before it will be implemented in the coming months. 9 participants among all project partners also took part in a regional social marketing training in July and August 2023, to exchange experiences, lessons and solidify approaches and methodologies for behaviour change activities.
Evidence document: (i) Act 3.4.1 Social Marketing Training Timetable

**3.4.2** University of Oxford to co-design culturally sensitive behaviour change strategy with national NGOS and impact evaluation plan in Y1 Q2.
See output 3.4.1. In addition to the strategy that is being developed and socialized, an impact evaluation plan is defined before the implementation will commence.

**3.4.3** Implement behaviour change/social marketing strategy linked to 2.1.2 in Y1 Q3.
This activity has not yet started. Distilling of insights from audience survey and of fisheries data on bycatch to support intervention design is underway. The finalization of the strategy will be informed by the codesign workshops which will take place in July/August 2024. The implementation of the strategy will be of a duration of a minimum of six months followed by an impact evaluation.

**3.4.4** Measure intervention causal impacts by Y3 Q3 through 6-monthly surveys at target and comparison sites and actual behaviours to overcome limitations of self-reported indicators.
Measures for causal impacts and actual behaviours as well as the identification of target and comparison sites are being defined as part of the behaviour change strategy and impact evaluation plan.

**3.4.5** Review and adjust methodology following feedback by Y2 Q3
A review process of the implementation of the behaviour change strategy is planned after three months of implementation.

## 3.5 SPATIO TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF EXISTING DATA
3.5.1 Review existing data on spatiotemporal overlap between vessels and seabirds to find hotspots for interactions and target data gathering and mitigation efforts by Y1 Q4.
The consultancy process for studying the interactions between seabirds, marine turtles, and fishing activities is in its final stages of negotiation with a consortium of consultants, allowing work to begin in the coming weeks. This study will provide deeper insights into these interactions and offer recommendations to national authorities on reducing bycatch and enhancing legislation in this area. An initial outline of the study and methodology was presented during the second Steering Committee meeting.
Evidence documents: (i) Act 3.5.1. Presentation of the study, methodology, approach and timeline

**3.5.2** Deploy GPSs on artisanal boats on 6 Islands, monitor, analyse, report to understand the seasonality and spatial spread of fishing activity to determine mitigation strategies.
On the islands of Fogo and Brava, 26 GPS are currently actively collecting data, enabling the tracking of navigation patterns and interactions areas of seabird and sea turtles. Biosfera has leveraged this technology to collect data on the spatial distribution of fishing activity across the Santa Luzia marine reserve complex. This data is crucial not only for understanding local fishing practices but also for ensuring the sustainability of marine reserves, particularly in areas important for bird and marine turtle habitats. Additional 60 GPS for the vessel tracking have already been acquired and shared with partners during the Steering Committee meeting held in March 2024, to be deployed on the artisanal vessels and improve data collection on the interactions between fishing activities and seabird and sea turtle distribution.

## 3.6 AGREEMENT ON MITIGATION MEASURES

**3.6.1** Using outputs from 3.2, socialise effective mitigation methods with FAs, including changes to target fish catch and target reduction levels (Y3)

Birds scaring devices have been acquired by BirdLife and shared with all NGOs. Partners learnt through the first onsite training during the Steering Committee meeting how to use them and to replicate the trainings with the partner fishers and GOS. Further trainings for the GOS on how to use the scary bird devices are scheduled for May 2024. The devices will be deployed in 74 artisanal fishing boats across the project sites from May 2024 to evaluate their effectiveness and further devices will be acquired and deployed if proven useful for reducing seabird bycatch. See output 3.2.2.

**3.6.2** Advocacy with government parties/ local authorities, throughout contributing to policies on bycatch reduction a) seabirds; b) turtles; c) MPA implementation; d) fishery sustainability; e) labelling.

Biosfera has been continuously working on advocacy and lobbing with government parties, especially the ministry of the sea in different topics such as fisheries management, creation of OECMs, bycatch reduction and labelling process. Additional activities include a meeting with representatives from DNPA regarding available bycatch mitigation legislation in the region and a meeting with DNA to discuss remaining steps for the adoption and implementation of the Cabo Verde Seabirds Conservation Action Plan which identified bycatch as one of the major threats to seabirds in the country. In addition, the results of a previous bycatch project in Cabo Verde industrial fisheries showing the impact of fishing activities, especially pelagic longlines, on the Cabo Verdean sea turtle population was presented to representatives of the DNPA. Various meetings were held with authorities such as IGQPI, IGP and IMar regarding the labelling process (see act 2.5.1).
Evidence document: (i) Act 3.6.2.

## 3.7 AUDIT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED

**3.7.1** Development of audit scheme based on existing modes in Y1 Q2.

The audit scheme has been created and was discussed during the project inception workshop on Sal Island. This audit scheme will be part of the fisheries products labelling process that is being carried out together with IGQPI.

**3.7.2** Hold a workshop with IGQPI, FAs, local authorities to identify means of delivery in Y1 Q3.

The workshop was delayed due to the preparation of the code of conduct. A workshop is scheduled for May 2024 with IGQPI, restaurants, local authorities, fishing associations and fishers to present the code of conduct for restaurants labelling which outlines the criteria to be followed and the advantages for restaurants. This document also presents some advantages for fishers and fishmongers, namely the extra 50 CVE that restaurants will need to pay for the sustainable fish. Another workshop on the fisheries product certification involving the same stakeholders is scheduled for August 2024 (once this code of conduct is developed).

**3.7.3** Trial of the audit scheme, monitor in Y2 Q4 and Y3 Q2, analyse in Y3 Q3, and deliver results to stakeholders & government in Y3 Q4.

An audit scheme has been created and previously applied as a trial for 6 restaurants in São Vicente. With the new approach and the already developed code of conduct (Guide to awarding the 'sustainable, from sea to plate' label to the catering sector in Cabo Verde), a revised audit and monitoring system has been developed to verify whether certified restaurants continue to meet the criteria set during the process of obtaining the label.
Evidence document: (i) Act 2.5.1. Guide for awarding the Sustainable, from the sea to plate label for restaurants.

**Output 4. Knowledge on nature and extent of interactions between seabirds and sea turtles in artisanal fisheries is improved and informs bycatch mitigation policies and solutions being used by artisanal fishers in Cabo Verde and in the wider West Africa region by EoP.**

**4.1.1** Scientific Expert Committee established in Y1 Q2, quarterly meetings held virtually, minuted with regular inputs on outputs, noted.

The SEC has been established in June 2023 with the aim to support the implementation of the conservation projects in Cabo Verde through the provision of scientific insights, data analyses, experiences, comprehensive reviews, and advice. The SEC consists of 14 experts with diverse expertise and meets twice a year virtually.
Evidence document: (i) Act 4.1.1. Minutes of the SEC meeting; TOR; List of experts

**4.1.2** Get Committee's advice on extension of activities to West Africa during Y3.
This will be reported on in year 3.

**4.2.1** Agree indicator populations (seabirds and turtles) for monitoring, based on pre project data and planned activities of local NGOS during the project by Y1 Q2.

Indicator populations (seabirds and sea turtles) were agreed upon for monitoring. Partners collected and compiled the monitoring information for seabirds and sea turtles on the islands of Fogo, Brava, Santiago, São Nicolau, Santo Antão, São Vicente, Sal, Santa Luzia and Ilhéu de Cima (2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023).
Evidence document: (i) Act 4.2.1. Monitoring data (seabirds and sea turtles)

**4.2.2** Use bird and turtle population monitoring data from NGOs to compare to 2019/2020 baselines to identify population changes in indicator populations across the archipelago annually.
Baseline: Number of active nests monitored in 2019/2020

According to the monitoring results for 2023, both sea turtles and seabirds at the various project sites show a trend of recovery and population growth.
Evidence document: (i) See Act 4.2.1. Monitoring data (seabirds and sea turtles)

**4.2.3** Train Guardians of the Sea to conduct species and bycatch monitoring at sea and socialize methods in Y1.
Various trainings were successfully conducted and continued support to GOS on the monitoring of marine megafauna is being implemented. More details on training activities are mentioned under activity 1.3.2.

**4.3.1** Three NGOS conduct awareness raising campaigns of fishing communities throughout 6 islands e.g., fish market information tools, posters in buses, radio interviews, television, and newspapers.
This is an ongoing activity. A billboard and rulers (for measuring minimum fish size) have been installed in the fish market informing the consumer what choices to make in order to buy a sustainable fish which is caught in accordance with the relevant management plans. Five billboards are installed in all fishing communities in São Vicente and Santo Antão to inform the fishers and wider population of fishing legislation in Cabo Verde and management measures in place. There is also an ongoing campaign on social media (Biosfera) to inform and sensitize people on how they can be more sustainable and help conserve the environment in Cabo Verde. Various activities have been carried out in Sal with awareness-raising posters in the communities, the Mundo Sustentável television programme which has been broadcast on local television on the island of Sal and Boa vista (12 episodes). On the APB's social networks, several posts have been made promoting the project and awareness-raising campaigns on good fishing practices. 10 banners on minimum catch size and commercialisation have already been produced and will be installed at landing ports and fish markets on both Fogo and Brava islands to inform fishers and the general public about fishing legislation.
Evidence document: (i) Act 4.3.1. Ruler for measuring fish size; (ii) Act 4.3.1. Photos of billboard; Radio.TV.Web Program contract; Posters; Link of the different posts on social networks from partners.

**4.3.2** Report on reach of the campaigns in Y3 Q1-Q2, sample feedback from fishers including pre and post workshop test of participants knowledge of key workshop messages.
This will be reported on in year 3.

**4.4** Compile results and lessons learned from behaviour change campaign, suggest opportunities in a report for replication at national, regional and global level in Y3 Q2.
The activity not yet started and will be done and reported on in year 3.

**4.5** Share recommendations with national policymakers (DNA, Ministry of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries, IQGPI) through meetings and events in Cabo Verde in Y3 Q4.
All these entities have demonstrated their commitment to the project through their active participation in the Steering Committee, sharing updates on progress, challenges, and future plans. Recommendations from these and other discussions in coordination meetings, are being considered for further implementation. Additionally, various other collaborative efforts have helped to strengthen synergies across the project. This engagement and exchange will continue throughout the project and recommendations will be shared in year 3.

**4.6.1** Develop communications strategy for the project linked to 1.3.3 identifying key target audiences and channels by Y1 Q2.
This activity has been successfully concluded. Communication tools are being implemented with a focus on advertising the sustainable fishing label and promote restaurants that are adhering to the initiative in the coming months.
Evidence document: (i) Act 4.6.1. Communications strategy

**4.6.2** Develop dissemination materials on project results, mitigation fact sheets, and lessons learned in easy to access formats in Y3 Q2. This will be reported on in year 3.

**4.6.3** Write and publish a scientific article on bycatch mitigation results and uptake of measures through social marketing in Y3 Q3. This will be reported on in year 3.

**4.6.4** Create interactive forum for uptake & response in WA countries on Hatch platform in Y3 Q4.
This will be reported on in year 3.

**4.6.5** Share recommendations with policymakers and with fisheries stakeholders in West Africa at regional meetings with governments, and at global conferences in Y3.
Lessons and experiences from this project were shared during a regional workshop in Ghana among members of the Coalition for Fisheries Transparency in February 2024. During the International Scientific Symposium on the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) efforts regarding understanding and addressing bycatch of vulnerable species of marine megafauna (seabirds and sea turtles) in West African fisheries were presented in Guinea Bissau in November 2023. In addition, the approach of the GOS program was shared during the ICCB in Kigali - an innovative citizen science approach to mitigate bycatch by empowering members of the local artisanal fishing community to act, monitor and report bycatch incidences on marine megafauna in fisheries activities.
Evidence documents: (i) Act 4.6.4. Symposium CCLME; (ii) Act 4.6.4. ICCB2023 Bycatch presentation Kigali

**Output 5. At least 70% (n=370) of pilot participatory sustainable fisheries labelling scheme participants (260 people, ~35% women) directly benefit from a 10% increase in income (compared to baseline) by joining the scheme a and co-create livelihood benefits, shared amongst the communities for approx.1,200 people with increasing equitability across genders**

**5.1.1** Governance structure models for fisheries associations to be developed by APB and shared at Inception Workshop. APB to train other partners.
This activity has been successfully implemented and reported on in year 1.

**5.1.2** NGOS to train fisheries associations on 6 islands through workshops in Y1 Q2, monitor and support strengthening throughout project.
This activity has been successfully implemented and reported on in year 1.

**5.2.1** Define communities' income and non-financial benefits & costs via Baseline and end line surveys disaggregated by gender and age, analysis for equitable distribution.
This activity has been successfully implemented and reported on in year 1.

**5.3.1** Assess the safety equipment needs during Y1, identify and implement most equitable distribution across parties with FAs.
Meetings with the fishermen's associations were held by Biosfera and APB with the aim of identifying the needs and opportunities for improving the associations' capacity. With the data from the SWOT analysis, Biosfera is implementing work plan with the fishermen's associations according to priority needs already identified (i.e. lifejackets, communication equipment, GPS, first aid kits).
Evidence document: (i) Act 5.3.1. Pictures of delivery of safety equipment.

**5.3.2** Training workshop at 6 islands to train participants in use of safety equipment in Y1 Q4.
In the last months the 3 NGOs facilitated trainings to 88 fishers in how to use the safety equipment that was acquired for the GOS including safety kits for emergencies situations.
Evidence documents: (i) Act 5.3.2. purchase kits evidence; (ii) See Act 1.3.2. GOS trainings.

**5.3.3** Monitor use of equipment, ensure photos/records are kept (links to comms strategy)
Regular visits to the fishing communities are ongoing to follow up with the active GOS, revise equipment, collect data and continue the work to identify their needs and how we can support, in 4 islands (Sal, São Vicente, Fogo, and Brava).
Evidence documents: (i) Act 5.3.3. Photos of equipment's monitored.

**5.4.1** Define baseline and EOP post-harvest loss through surveys in Y1 Q2 and Y3 Q2.
The survey for EOP data is currently being finalized to be administered in year 3.

**5.4.2** Define the need and distribution of measures that improve fish handling practices across 6 sites in Y1 Q2.
The training workshops that were carried out with the fishers in year 1 informed by the needs outlined in the manual of good practices shared in year 1 report will be replicated across 6 sites to reinforce the need to correctly handle and conserve the fish products to keep their quality.
Evidence document: Act 5.4.2. A manual of good practices.

**5.4.3** Deliver materials and training for sanitary and cooling to FAs (fishers and fish mongers) in Y1 Q4.
This activity has been successfully implemented and reported on in year 1. In addition, due to the challenges identified with fisher's associations on Sal Island, specifically the high electricity consumption of ice production machines making them unsustainable, APB is partnering with Águas Ponta Preta to create a renewable energy solution using solar panels. APB is collaborating with the fisher's associations to install solar panels, reducing the costs of ice production and sale to benefit fishers and fishmongers.

Evidence documents: (i) Act 5.4.3. Photovoltaic proposal Palmeira Fishermen's Association.

**5.5.1** Inception workshop - train the trainers from APB to other NGOS on social benefits applicable to fishing communities.
This activity was successfully implemented and reported in year 1 report. In addition, Biosfera is continuously working closely with fishing communities and looking for solutions together with the fishing associations to improve the livelihoods of the communities while engaging people on conservation aspects. They are currently developing a project centred in the fishing communities with which they aim to build a stronger connection with those people and their surrounding marine environment, get them to know the marine species and engage them as the main actors for conservation.

**5.5.2** Training workshops on tax/insurance aspects with FAs on benefits of involvement, post-workshop surveys to monitor uptake of measures quarterly and adjust/support in Y1 Q3.
Additional meetings were held with the national institute for social security (INPS) and DNPA to further efforts to include informal sectors such as fisheries in the social security system. The relevant national authorities will work with the FAs on this going forward. In addition, Biosfera is building a partnership with the fishmonger association in São Vicente to develop actions for a new project among others on the formalization of the fishmongers' selling activities so they will have to pay tax/insurance, and therefore be part of the social security system. A training workshop with fishers on financial education and importance of paying taxes/insurances will take place in the coming months.

## 3.2    Progress towards project Outputs

**Output 1.** Increased conservation capacity built amongst 3 civil society organizations and 170 Guardians of the Sea (GOS) members; including behaviour change, sustainable fisheries labelling, and voluntary stewardship.
Baseline condition: 1 NGO trained, and 40 fishers engaged on Sal Island in the Guardians of the Sea (GOS) program.

**Indicator 1.1** SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODS: Three NGOS conduct qualitative and quantitative social science research by Y1 Q1 in order to design messages, identify and prioritize target audiences, trusted influencers, channels of communication, and drivers of change by Y2 Q1.

Social science research was conducted by the behaviour change team, particularly the field coordinator, as well as all project partners and the relevant baseline analysis was shared (see act 1.1.1 and 2.2.1).

**Indicator 1.2** LABELLING: Two NGOS are trained by Biosfera to replicate a local sustainable fishery labelling scheme by Y1 Q1.
This activity has been successfully implemented and reported on in year 1.

**Indicator 1.3** GUARDIANS OF THE SEA (GOS): Two NGOS are trained by APB to replicate the GOS model promoting voluntary stewardship and target species and vulnerable non-target species monitoring (seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, rays) amongst fishers, and the GOS brand has agreed governance and communications strategy by Y1 Q1.
This activity has been successfully implemented and reported on in year 1. MOUs for GOS protocol and branding use was established by Fundação Maio Biodiversidade (FMB) and local partners, allowing them to continue to do awareness raising and engage more fishers.

**Indicator 1.4** RECRUITMENT OF GOS: At least 170 new volunteer fishers join the GOS programme project sites and are trained to monitor key species and monitor fishing practices by Y2 Q1.
27 new fishers engaged in the GOS program in 2023 (17 in Sal and 10 in São Vicente Island) reaching a total of 150 fishers engaged so far. Additional fishers have already shown interest in joining the program, including 12 fishers in São Vicente who have already been identified.
Evidence document: (i) See Act 1.3.2. GOS Training report; (ii) See Act 1.3.2. GOS photos; (iii) Ind 1.4. list of new fishers engaged in GOS.

**Output 2.** A pilot participatory local labelling scheme for sustainable fisheries is implemented by fisheries value chain stakeholders (fishers, fishmongers, restaurants, and consumers) in six islands (Sal, São Vicente, Santo Antão, São Nicolau, Fogo, and Brava).
Baseline condition: 6 restaurants engaged in São Vicente (one island) for the labelling scheme for sustainable fisheries.

**Indicator 2.1.** Barriers to implement social change, such as customary fishing practices, or material barriers, are identified by Y1 Q2 in workshops and through a participatory process involving stakeholders, barriers to change and potential behavioural change interventions to overcome them are agreed through co-design. Y1 Q4.
The behaviour change report on the baseline questionnaire analysed the data and identified capacities, opportunities, and motivations to inform the strategy which will be co-designed through workshops with stakeholder in July/August 2024 (see Act 1.1.1, 2.2.1 and 3.4.3).

**Indicator 2.2.** Local labelling guidelines and criteria (potentially minimum catch size, seasonality, bycatch mitigation, no discarded fishing gear) reviewed, consulted, and agreed by NGOS and fishing value chain stakeholders, as well as local authorities by Y1 Q4.
After meetings with IGQPI and the following decision to move forward with a two-pronged approach, the revised strategy was presented to the SEC and feedback was received for further consideration. This feedback fed into the subsequent development of the code of conduct, which was discussed, reviewed, and agreed by the NGO partners including IGQPI. The next step involves a broad and reinforced consultation with local and government authorities, as well as creating links with all partners identified as important in this process and promoting the initiative.

**Indicator 2.3**. By Y1 Q4, at least 50 restaurants on 6 islands agree to participate in the labelling scheme.
Baseline 2021: 6 restaurants in São Vicente.
Currently four restaurants have been engaged in the work with Biosfera. In addition, in Fogo 14 restaurants have expressed interest to engage in the process. More details on the activity 2.3.

**Indicator 2.4.** At least 240 Fishers and 130 fish mongers are engaged in the labelling program by Y2 Q3 and trained in the current legislation on fisheries and existing MPAs and their management plans.
Initial consultations have been conducted with fishers, restaurants and fish mongers on the labelling process and the recently developed code of conduct will be socialized among relevant stakeholders in May 2024 after which official engagement with and on boarding of the stakeholders will be launched. As for trainings on legislation on fisheries and existing MPAs see act 2.4.1.

**Indicator 2.5** Local labelling results are shared with appropriate government agencies and advocacy conducted to transition to formal compliance mechanisms by EoP.
This will be reported at the EoP. The code of conduct for restaurants is complete and will be shared and socialized and advocated for in the coming weeks and months, followed by the official implementation of the labelling process.

**Output 3.** Bycatch mitigation measures, including safe release, protecting seabirds and sea turtles and that do not adversely affect other vulnerable species (sharks, rays) are deployed by 600 artisanal fishers around 6 islands and show a 25% reduction of estimated total bycatch of seabirds (compared to Y1 baseline), and 50% of fishers safely release captured seabirds and turtles by Y3 Q3.

**Indicator 3.1** BYCATCH ESTIMATION: The nature, extent, and intention behind current bycatch is characterized for different species/taxa within specific project sites by Y1 Q2 and at EoP to compare with baseline estimates (% of fishers catching seabirds, sea turtles, and sharks).
Baseline (from the survey): 62% of fishers interviewed by the 3 NGOS (Biosfera, APB and PV) confirmed bycatch.
40% of fishers caught seabirds, 13% sea turtles and 46% sharks.

Bycatch data are being collected by GOS and project technicians in the various target sites. A preliminary analysis is provided in the table 1 and 2 of output 3. This analysis shows the most affected species as bycatch within the specific project sites. A more in-depth analysis will provide more detailed elements regarding the nature and extend of the bycatch.
Evidence document: (i) See Act 1.2.4. Self-reporting forms on bycatch.

**Indicator 3.2** MITIGATION: Tailored bycatch mitigation options targeted at reducing seabird and turtle bycatch (bird-scaring devices, line weighting, hook types, offal management, bait thawing, net lights (LEDs)) are explored and assessed by Y1 Q4 and rolled out by Y2 Q4.
Based on previous projects and studies carried out as well as input from the SEC, the main measures for Cabo Verde were identified (bird scaring, line weighting, night setting and bait change). In terms of equipment needs, scary birds were identified, and relevant equipment has already been delivered to the partners, including during the Steering Committee meeting held in March 2024, during which all the participants had the opportunity to test the scary birds on an artisanal boat. Partners will then support local fishers in the same way. Additional scary birds have been acquired and will be deliver for partners in the coming weeks to continue the trials.
Evidence document: (i) Ind 3.2. Invoice of purchase; Act 3.2.2. SCM Cabo Verde Conservation Projects 2024_report.

**Indicator 3.3** SAFE HANDLING: At least 1,200 fishers trained to safely handle and release seabirds, sea turtles, when entangled/hooked by Y1 Q3 to increase chances of survival for released animals and at least 50% report using the safe release methods by EOP.
Training on the safe release and handling of seabirds and sea turtles in incidental catches has been carried out throughout the year by the partners together with the GOS locally (150 GOS members), but it is also worth highlighting two additional training sessions, one online in September 2023, attended by around 45 people, including fishers and technical staff from the Cape Verde partners, and another one in person (train-of-trainers) during the Steering Committee Meeting held in March 2024 involving around 18 participants. In addition to theoretical content in this in-person session, participants engaged in practical experiences involving the safe handling and release of seabirds and sea turtles, as well as practical demonstrations of deploying the scary birds on fishing vessels, in collaboration with local fishers.
Evidence document: (i) See Act 1.1.1. Training/Act 3.2.2. SCM Cabo Verde Conservation Projects 2024_report

**Indicator 3.4** BEHAVIOUR CHANGE: A social marketing campaign shifting social norms and influencing behavioural patterns is implemented and, by EoP, an increasing number of fishers actively performing behaviours aimed at minimizing bycatch by 30% (n=1,200) compared to baseline and control.

Baseline condition: no fishers or fisher's association are aware of these methods to minimize bycatch.
Through our country wide survey regarding behaviour change, we established that more than 80% of fishers were not using any mitigation measures.
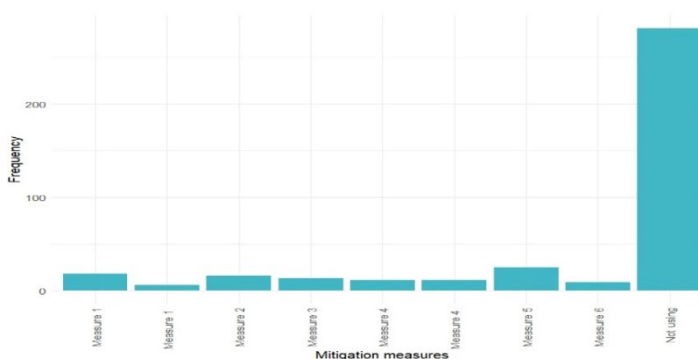


Frequency of adoption of mitigation measures mentioned, in sequence: measure 1 - bird scaring; measure 2 - increase fishing depth; measure 3 - night setting; measure 4 - line weighting; measure 5 - prohibition of discarding during fishing; measure 6 - hook protection and - not using.
Evidence documents :(i) See Act 1.1.1. Report of the baseline questionnaires

**Indicator 3.5** SPATIO TEMPORAL ANALYSIS: By Y3 Q2, Analysis of spatio-temporal overlap between artisanal boats, seabirds and sea turtles is informing future bycatch-mitigation decision-making to determine the seasonality, fishery types and species involved in bycatch risk.

The recruitment process for the selection of a consortium to conduct this study has almost been finalized and the selected candidates will shortly commence their work. An initial presentation on the outputs, data and methodology was presented during the Steering Committee meeting.
Evidence document: (i) See Act 3.5.1. Presentation of the study, methodology, approach and timeline; (ii) Ind. 3.5. TORs Consultancy - Cabo Verde Sea-based threats.

**Indicator 3.6** MITIGATION AGREED: By Y3 Q3, effective mitigation measures, including reduction target, use of specified best practice mitigation for each specific fishing method are agreed with fishers' associations.
Mitigation measures have already been identified and tested (i.e. scary bird). 24 scary birds are already available to be used by fishers, with 50 more to be made available in the coming weeks for the same purpose.

**Indicator 3.7** AUDIT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED: By EoP, audit system on bycatch prevention is implemented and integrated into the local labelling on sustainable fisheries.
A revised audit system has been developed and shared through the code of conduct and will be implemented as the labelling process progresses.

**Output 4.** Knowledge on nature and extent of interactions between seabirds and sea turtles in artisanal fisheries is improved and informs bycatch mitigation policies and solutions being used by artisanal fishers in Cabo Verde and in the wider West Africa region by EoP.

**Indicator 4.1** By Y1 Q1, an external scientific expert committee is established to provide guidance to the project, foster knowledge-exchange, and ensure cutting-edge practices are implemented.

The scientific expert committee (SEC) has been established in June 2023 with the aim to support the implementation of the conservation projects in Cabo Verde through the provision of scientific insights, data analyses, experiences, comprehensive reviews, and advice. The SEC consists of 14 experts with diverse expertise and meets twice a year virtually.
Evidence document: (i) See Act 4.1.1. SEC - List of experts; TOR.

**Indicator 4.2** Starting from Y1 Q4, species population monitoring is reviewed using baseline population data (number of individuals, species, seasonality, among others) and information from GOS on the occurrence and distribution of indicator species at sea is collated, analysed and reported. Bycatch reduction is observed in addition to bycatch reporting.
The partners have been collecting data related to the monitoring of the species and systematized in a database for a defined period of at least 1 year, to carry out the analysis and report the evidence, variations and trends. According to the monitoring results for 2023, both sea turtles and seabirds at the various project sites and as monitored by the partners, show a trend of recovery and population growth. For more details, see Act 4.2.1. Monitoring data (seabirds and sea turtles).
Evidence document: (i) Act 4.2.1. Data from monitoring.

**Indicator 4.3** Awareness of the value and benefits of adopting more responsible fishing practices and protecting seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, rays, and juvenile fish increases amongst fisheries value chain stakeholders (fishers, fish mongers, restaurant owners, government agencies managing fisheries). The campaign reaches at least 60% of the population in target communities on the six islands.

The awareness raising activities have been conducted by all project partners including billboards, TV series and publications. See output 4.3.1. In addition, there will be further engagement and awareness raising as part of the labelling process.

**Indicator 4.4** Report on social marketing outcomes and the opportunities/barriers to upscaling to national coverage is shared with local authorities on 6 islands and government agencies at national level, regional (West African), international levels.
Behaviour change questionnaires were conducted to define and inform the social marketing/behaviour change strategy which will be implemented in year 3. Outcomes from the strategy and the impact evaluation will be shared with relevant stakeholders nationally and regionally.

**Indicator 4.5** Advocacy is conducted at EOP and post-project on inclusion artisanal bycatch mitigation measures into Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plans and national policies.
To be reported from year 3 or at the end of the project.

**Indicator 4.6** Lessons learned, mitigation bycatch fact sheets, Guardians of the Sea development protocol, and scientific papers produced during this project are shared with policymakers, BirdLife Partners and NGOs in West Africa and to the wider public by EoP.
Various outreach and communication products were developed, and lessons and facts were shared within Cabo Verde as well as regionally. For more info see outcome 4.6.5 and 3.6.2.

**Output 5**. At least 70% (n=370) of pilot participatory sustainable fisheries labelling scheme participants (260 people, ~35% women) directly benefit from a 10% increase in income (compared to baseline) by joining the scheme a and co-create livelihood benefits, shared amongst the communities for approx.1,200 people with increasing equitability across genders.

Baseline: 57 fishers; 40 fish mongers in São Vicente and Sal. Average salary: 150-350 GBP per month.

**Indicator 5.1** 14 fishers (M) and fish monger (F) associations (memberships of 1,200 fishers and 130 fish mongers respectively) have improved structure, and governance by Y1 Q3.
Baseline condition: fishermen and fishermen's association are not very well organized.
This activity has been carried out during the first year and reported.

**Indicator 5.2** At least 70% of fishers and fish mongers engaged in the labelling program (n=370, including 240 fishers (M) and 130 fish mongers (F)) report a 10% increase in income resulting from reduced waste, increased fishing efficiency, higher market price for sustainably fished product, better food storage.
Baseline: 57 fishers; 40 fish mongers in São Vicente and Sal. Average monthly salary: 150-350 GBP.
The labelling scheme is still being finalized and socialized to ensure adequate involvement from needed government authorities as well as stakeholders (see output 2.5.1).

**Indicator 5.3** By Y1 Q4, safety equipment is provided to the 170 fishers engaged in GOS and the labelling, during the first year.
In the last months the 3 NGOs facilitated training to 88 fishers in how to use the safety equipment that was acquired for the GOS, in particular safety kits for emergencies situations. In addition, safe handling equipment was purchased shared with 100 fishers and relevant training of trainers were conducted.
Evidence document: (i) Ind 5.3. Training report

**Indicator 5.4** By Y3 Q4, ~20% decrease in post-harvest loss of catch for 600 fishers and fish mongers within the 14 associations taking part in the project due to improved sanitary measures for the handling and cooling of fish along the value chain.
An additional 22 fishers who are part of the GOS in Fogo received cooling boxes. In Sal solar panels are being installed to support the efficiency and reduction of costs for fishers of cooling systems to improve sanitary measures (see output 5.4.3)

## 3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

| Outcome: Fishing communities in 6 Cabo Verde islands engage in sustainable, locally defined labelling practices providing livelihood benefits to 1,200 people, reducing seabird bycatch by 25% and turtle unsafe release by 50%. | |
|---|---|
| Indicator 0.1 By End of Project (EoP), three civil society organizations and 170 Guardians of the Sea (GOS) members have increased capacity for delivering conservation action and visibility as role models. | Baseline condition: 1 NGO trained and 40 GOS engaged at 1 island (Sal)<br><br>All the partners are trained and are engaging and supporting fishers to be part of the GOS program. In 2023, 27 new fishers joined the GOS program totalling 150 GOS among the target islands. We are on the way to reaching the 170 fishermen indicated by EoP.<br>Evidence document: (i) See Ind 1.4. list of participants GOS training; (ii) See Act 1.3.2. Training GOS report |
| Indicator 0.2 A local, pilot participatory labelling scheme is replicated in six islands of Cabo Verde engaging at least 240 fishers (M) and 130 fish mongers (F) and 50 restaurants and results inform wider uptake by EoP. | Baseline condition: (before the Darwin project) pilot participatory labelling program on 1 island; 6 restaurants.<br>The code of conduct for the restaurants is developed and servers as a guide to the NGOs that will provide the sustainable fisheries labels and lists the requirements the restaurants must follow to receive that label. The code was presented at the last Steering Committee meeting held in March 2024. Another code of conduct for the fisheries products is currently being developed with IGQPI for the fishers and fishmongers. |
| Indicator 0.3 By EoP, at least 50% decrease in catch of under-sized, blue-dotted seabass and lobster, caught by GOS and fishers who joined the labelling (n= 240) compared to year 1 baselines. | Around 150 fishers are already enrolled in the GOS program but integration into the labelling process should take place after the complete establishment of the labelling scheme. 6 restaurants in São Vicente and 14 in Fogo are aware and interested to join the labelling process.<br>Evidence document: (i) See Act 2.5.1. Guide for awarding the Sustainable, from the sea to plate label for restaurants |
| Indicator 0.4 By EoP, at least 50% of fishers (GOS and fishers who joined the labelling (n=240)) report a decrease in waste discard against year 1 baselines. | There are still fishers who currently use plastic water bottles as an ice cube/cooling system. However, an additional 22 cooling boxes were provided to fishers in Fogo this year and awareness raising activities were conducted on waste disposal. |
| Indicator 0.5 By EoP, at least ~30% of fishers engaged around the 6 islands are actively performing behaviour changes to minimize unsustainable fishing practices | On the islands (Sal, São Vicente, Fogo and Brava) where the GOS program is already being implemented for a while, there is a slight change in behaviour among fishers and their peers, particularly in compliance with management measures applied during the closed season of species, improvement of fishing practices, size of species to be captured and disposal of the waste at the sea, among others initiatives to minimise the impact of the activities on the marine ecosystem. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Indicator 0.6 By Y3 Q3, estimated total bycatch of seabirds is reduced by 25% and adherence to the guidelines for release of captured seabirds and turtles is at least 50%. | Baseline condition: 62% of the fishers report bycatch. The 123 fishers of the GOS program last year collected data through the self-reporting on bycatch. Trends from that data indicate that bycatch still is an issue specifically for sharks, seabirds, and sea turtles. Ongoing analysis will determine specific bycatch rates for each of these species. Evidence document: (i) See Act 3.1.2. |
| Indicator 0.7 At least 70% of fishers and fish mongers engaged in the labelling program (n=370, including 240 fishers (M) and 130 fish mongers (F)) report an increase in income (compared to baseline) resulting from reduced fish waste through improved cold-storage facilities at sea and on land, increased fishing efficiency, higher market price for sustainably fished product. | Baseline condition: Average salary: 150-350 GBP per month Change recorded to date: Additional 22 cooling chests provided to fishers and fish mongers in year 2. Beneficiary fishers have reported the added value of cooling boxes received above all in terms of the hygiene and conservation of fish. They claim that this improvement in fish conservation conditions will have an impact on the quality and gradually on their income from the sale of fishery products. Evidence document: (i) See Act 5.4.2. Photos |
| Indicator 0.8 By EoP, at least ~20% decrease in post-harvest loss of catch for 600 fishers and fish mongers within the 14 associations taking part in the project due to improved sanitary measures for the handling, cooling, and processing of fish along the value chain. | In 2023, 22 additional fishers in Fogo received cooling boxes. The trainings previously conducted on good practices for safety and hygiene is to be adapted and replicated on the remaining project sites in the coming months. Evidence document: (i) See Act 5.4.2. Photos; (iii) See Act 5.4.2. A manual of good practices |

## 3.4    Monitoring of assumptions (for more details, please see Annex 5)
All assumptions hold true so far and more details are provided in Annex 5, except for the following:

Assumption 5.0: The assumption is that there are 5 people per household in Cabo Verde and that resources are shared within a household.
Comments: This assumption has been revised as follows: "There are 3.3 people per household in Cabo Verde and that resources are shared within a household."

## 3.5    Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction
**Benefits to biodiversity will include:**
Long-term the activities, together with the proposed local labelling process will encourage more sustainable fishing practices. Fish stocks are expected to increase through more balanced age-structure in long-lived fish populations such as blue dotted seabass and lobster. If maintained this should lead to resilience in the fish stocks. The population viability of the globally important Loggerhead Turtle and the endemic Cape Verde Shearwater population is on an upward trend. Reduction and management of plastic and fishing waste, promoted by delivering in this year at least 22 cooler boxes for GOS in Fogo Island and continued trainings in different subjects has and will continue to improve environmental outcomes and reduce marine pollution as well as mortality of marine biodiversity due to entanglements of birds and turtles in discarded plastic waste and fishing gear. The sensitization efforts have had a significant impact on fishers, leading to a notable increase in their awareness and understanding of the importance of seabird conservation. As a result, there has been a reduction of post-release mortality of seabirds, with fishers now equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely release them. This shift demonstrates the effectiveness of the sensitization and training initiatives in promoting sustainable fishing practices and mitigating the impact on marine megafauna especially seabirds and sea turtle populations.

**Impact on human development and wellbeing:**
In the short term, 600 community members are benefitting from improved fishing safety and enhanced food preparation and preservation material ultimately leading to at least ~20% decrease in post-harvest loss of catch. At the end of project, 1,200 fishers and fishmongers will gain increased agency in decision-making through formal representation in associations and access to social benefits. At least 170 influential GOS will be empowered with knowledge, tools, and resources to better protect wildlife and manage resources bringing recognition from within communities and the government including through news stories and publications recognizing the efforts, role and importance of the GOS. At least 260 people (~35% women) directly benefit from an increase in income by joining a pilot participatory sustainable fisheries labelling.
In the long-term, 600 fishers will engage in reducing bycatch and pressure on marine life (including juvenile fish) to create a more sustainable fishery. Local labelling will produce benefits to communities through increased governance and accountability of fishing activities, ensuring it is environmentally sustainable and benefits are shared across different groups within the community more equitably. Recent efforts regarding the guidelines for the restaurant labelling scheme and the planned next steps for implementing those, is laying the groundwork for nationwide campaigns and promotion of sustainably fished fish and of the restaurants which are committed to relevant sustainability standards such as buying fish of a specific size only therefore also contributing to adequate compensation of these fish products. Collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism as well as the tourism sector, will lead to the expansion and promotion of sustainable fish products and fisheries. Artisanal bycatch mitigation work piloted in the project has the potential to be scaled up across the whole of CV, and in other

West African countries and beyond, especially in Small Island Developing States such as São Tomé and Príncipe. Outcomes and lessons will be used to complement ongoing industrial bycatch mitigation work. The BirdLife Marine Programme has been such as during the CCLME Scientific Symposium and will continue to share project results through conferences, the project's Expert Committee, in publications and on 'Hatch', a public, capacity building platform.

## 4.    Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

In terms of impacts on biodiversity policy, the project will contribute towards the implementation of the **Cabo Verde National Action Plan for the Conservation of Seabirds** listing existing current threats to seabirds, elaborated in collaboration with the National Directorate for Environment (DNA) with support from BirdLife and its partners. Furthermore, the project also directly supports **Cabo Verde's 2020 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** adaptation goal #4 to increase and sustain ocean-based food security through regenerative fishing by 2030. In addition, the project is contributing to the **Convention on Biological Diversity** by monitoring, maintaining and improving the state of biodiversity, especially identifying and maintaining the integrity of sites vital for marine biodiversity. This contributes to the objective 1 of the CBD "the conservation of biological sites" as well as objective 2 "the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity". It also supports various targets of the GBF such as target 4 "Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts" by ensuring urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened marine species and for the recovery and conservation of other marine species. Target 5 "Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species" is supported by contributing to that the use, harvesting and trade of fish is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems and target 10 "Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry" is relevant as the project contributes to the sustainable management of fisheries, in particular through increased application of biodiversity friendly practices as well as strengthening of management associations.

Considering the seven national priorities of **the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for Cabo Verde (2014-2030),** this project aligns with these priorities by actively engaging artisanal fishing communities, NGOs, and local stakeholders in biodiversity conservation efforts (Priority 1). By working to reduce bycatch of threatened seabirds and sea turtles, the project directly addresses the need to reduce pressures and threats to marine biodiversity (Priority 3). Also establishing a local participatory sustainable fishery labelling scheme and peer-to-peer training supports the conservation of priority habitats and sustainable resource management (Priority 4). Moreover, the project promotes knowledge sharing and monitoring by sharing lessons learned with national and regional practitioners and policymakers (Priority 6), contributing to broader efforts to integrate the importance of biodiversity into strategies, plans, and policies (Priority 2).

Concerning the **Convention on Migratory Species,** the project aligns well with the convention's mission of conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats such as *Careta careta (*Cabo Verde is the second most important region for their nesting north of the Atlantic) which are endangered.

**Sustainable Development Goals** 12 and 14 are particularly relevant in this project. This project contributes to SDG 12 *Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns* by identifying "hot spots" within the value chain where interventions have the greatest potential to improve the environmental and social impact of fisheries *and* subsequently reducing the ecological footprint of fishing practices to allow for the regeneration of marine resources on which livelihoods and biodiversity depend**.** SDG 14 *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development* is relevant as the project contributes to ocean sustainability, in particular, SDG target 14.4 *By 2020, effectively regulate overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, to restore fish stocks.*

In the context of the recent decision to publish an **annual report on the state of biodiversity of Cabo Verde**, the data and activities of this project are relevant, particularly in terms of monitoring seabirds and sea turtles and can provide information for the 2022 and 2023 reports which currently are being finalized and developed respectively.

## 5.    Project support to poverty reduction
### Food security
The project contributes to food security through the improvement and protection of marine biodiversity, in particular fish stocks. Long-term, the actions of the project together with the proposed local labelling process will encourage more sustainable fishing practices contributing to the reduction of overfishing and addressing harmful and unsustainable fishing practices and equipment. Fish stocks are expected to increase through more balanced age-structure in long-lived fish populations such as blue dotted seabass and lobster. If maintained this should lead to resilience in the fish stocks. Furthermore, trainings on food safety, handling and hygiene are being conducted which contribute to reduction of food waste and efficient and healthy food provision. Empowering artisanal fishers, increasing productivity and livelihoods, rising consumers' awareness, and increasing investment in the seafood value chain as well as knowledge sharing are crucial for better functioning seafood food systems.

In Sal, APB is installing a small photovoltaic plant in the fishermen's associations, which will be used to produce ice and increase the availability and access to ice for fishers and fishmongers, improving working conditions and promoting the use of renewable energies in local communities and on the island in general. APB also plans to provide training in fish conservation and innovative ways of presenting and distributing fish on the market.

### Capacity development
The GOS provide mentors and leadership opportunities in the community of fishers, building the capacity, engagement, and stewardship of local community members as well as environmental NGOs and governmental institutions in more sustainable fishery practices and management. Individuals from GOS, all project partners and governmental entities receive trainings on sustainable practices in fisheries such as during the Steering Committee meeting in March 2024 ensuring these

capacities will be further shared and scaled within the different institutions as well as on the various islands. Fishery associations (including fishers and fish mongers) are being strengthened with input from the CV based NGOS to improve their governance, the distribution of benefits and their ability to create improved outcomes for their members and members households. Community members and associations are being trained in making tax declarations and holding insurance policies and provide support throughout the project to engage with these activities. Women in fishers' and/or fishmonger associations will have access to training as well as to benefits from the labelling scheme. Women currently participate in one fisheries association in Sal and have committee leadership roles within that group. Maritime safety and bycatch reduction training among the fishers will reduce accidents, and harm to marine life. These practices are currently under-used, therefore these changes should create rapid increases in survivorship for released animals, as well as reducing the numbers of birds caught in the line fisheries which are currently badly impacting artisanal fishing activity. Trends from recent data analysis indicate that up to 90% of bycatch is released alive.

**Sustainable livelihoods**

In the short term, 600 community members are benefitting from improved fishing safety and enhanced food preparation and preservation material leading to at least ~20% decrease in post-harvest loss of catch. 1,200 fishers and fishmongers will gain increased agency in decision-making through formal representation in associations and access to social benefits. At least 260 people (~35% women) directly benefit from an increase in income (compared to baseline) by joining a pilot participatory sustainable fisheries labelling. In the long-term, 600 fishers will engage in reducing bycatch and pressure on marine life (including juvenile fish) to create a more sustainable fishery. Local labelling will produce benefits to communities through increased governance and accountability of fishing activities, ensuring it is environmentally sustainable and benefits are shared across different groups within the community more equitably. In addition, equipment such as icemakers and infrastructure such as secure storage or local supply stores which are lacking are provided to reduce travel times, fuel costs, and improve the efficiency of operations, while improving livelihoods and reducing damage to the environment and biodiversity. The project also puts a strong focus on empowering women, in particular fish mongers, through their integration into fishing associations which enables them to establish their own fish monger associations which in turn provides them leverage to advocate for equitable and sustainable working conditions and livelihoods. The project also aims to address the issue of artisanal fishers being unable to sell their catch to hotels due to hygiene concerns. Improved knowledge in fish handling, combined with training activities and the provision of preservation equipment (cooling boxes), offers clear benefits and potential opportunities. However, this is not yet fully reflected in practice due to ongoing labelling processes and restaurants' engagement not being at its peak.

**Improved income through labelling process**

The participatory labelling scheme promoted by Biosfera in São Vicente has engaged fishers, fishmongers, restaurants, and consumers using premium incentives. It also raised community awareness about the importance of preserving fish stocks. After extensive consultations for replication, value chain stakeholders agreed to apply a higher price to the consumer in middle- to high-end restaurants and to redistribute benefits equitably to fishers and fishmongers through their associations. At the end of the project the aim is that at least 70% (n=370) of pilot participatory sustainable fisheries labelling scheme participants (260 people, ~35% women) directly benefit from a 10% increase in income (compared to baseline) by joining the scheme a and co-create livelihood benefits, shared amongst the communities for approx.1,200 people with increasing equitability across genders. The promotion of a local labelling system for artisanal fishers therefore adds value to the artisanal products.

## 6.      Gender equality and social inclusion

| | |
|---|---|
| Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[1] | ~42% |
| Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women[2]. | ~58% |

| GESI Scale | Description | Put X where relevant |
|---|---|---|
| **Sensitive** | The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities. | X |

Meaningful participation and empowerment of local communities, especially fishing communities is one of the focuses of this project. The project partners have established close and long-lasting relationships with fishing communities at the project sites and are in continuous exchange with them to ensure meaningful engagement. Integration of women into fishery associations has begun already mainly in Sal, especially through APB as part of their 'Empowerment Project'. This approach is continued to improve the status of women and increase their role in decision making. Their involvement in previously male-only associations means that their activities will be better recognised amongst the activities of the whole fishing

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[1] A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

[2] Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

community. Where their interests cannot appropriately be represented, the formalisation of their own association will raise their profile in the community. Their role is a crucial part of the supply chain and presents many opportunities for improved practice around waste reduction and improved food hygiene. The Empowerment Project has trained fishmongers through workshops in food safety and handling, and organisational leadership, and financial management. Through women's involvement in the labelling process, it allows them to benefit from increased income via the labelling scheme (via equitable benefit-sharing), and from shared resources such as icemakers (including solar panels), processing facilities, and aluminium tables to preserve and market their fish as well as the skills to better manage the challenges.

## 7.      Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the project is conducted by the project manager/leader by tracking the activities and metrics described in the Means of Verification. Each partner was also asked to develop their work plans to align the various activities and support progress tracking for each year.   The work plans as well as the information gathered by the project manager/leader was presented and discussed during the Steering Committee meetings, the latest one taking place in Mindelo in March 2024. The Steering Committee includes one person from the directorship of each of the 6 project partners, and one external advisor. Established at the start of the project, the coordination unit led by the project manager is meeting online monthly. The project manager also develops and shares within BLI as well as among local partners a monthly update on the progress, challenges and next steps including on this project. Moreover, the scientific advisory committee (composed of 14 experts from Cabo Verde as well as abroad with diverse expertise in marine conservation in the national context) aims to provide the members with a forum for exchanging information and knowledge as well as creating synergies among the various conservation efforts in Cabo Verde. The SEC meets virtually twice a year (Pre-meeting in June, the 1st meeting in September and the 2nd meeting in November 2023) but can be consulted at any moment to give feedback and/or input on any technical and scientific matters related to the project. In addition, M&E is strengthened by assigning a lead organisation to each activity. The lead partner is tasked to coordinate the delivery, monitor, and track progress of the relevant activity assigned to them based on the outputs and indicators defined in the logframe. In addition, each partner is leading or co-leading a working group, each has met around 6 times throughout the year as well as conducted an in-depth session in-person during the Steering Committee meeting in March 2024, and will continue to meet regularly to discuss, monitor and evaluate specific aspects ensuring a smooth project delivery. The working groups are: Data collection and management (Lead: SPEA), Labelling (Lead: Biosfera), Engagement of fishing communities / Guardians of the Seas (Lead: APB) and Social and behaviour change (Lead: University of Oxford).

Regular reporting, including quarterly and six-month progress reports in addition to the yearly reports contribute to the continuous monitoring of the implementation of the project activities tracking progress according to the relevant indicators identified in the logframe.

## 8.      Lessons learnt

The engagement and empowerment of fishers themselves in the GOS program has not only demonstrated the longevity of the program, but also the application of acquired knowledge. Their behavioural changes, proactivity and leadership in the protection and sustainability of fisheries resources and marine biodiversity overall are clear evidence of the program's successful implementation.

The challenges experienced due to the delay in implementing certain activities, particularly the labelling process and seabird bycatch mitigation measures, highlight a valuable lesson in terms of the importance of timely execution, proactive management and commitment of relevant external stakeholders to avoid setbacks that can impact both biodiversity and community livelihoods. By learning from these delays, future projects can better plan and allocate resources to ensure smoother implementation and more consistent progress toward objectives.

Despite the positive relationship and support from local authorities, weak enforcement hinders progress and contributes to the demotivation of fishers. This highlights the need for stronger enforcement and accountability mechanisms and consistent support from authorities to sustain motivation and effectively achieve project goals.

Regarding the behaviour change component, the challenge of achieving the desired sample size for the baseline questionnaire and the complexity of coordinating remotely, for some project sites, and align approaches among different partners, underscores the importance of having in-person field coordination. Dispatching a coordinator to the islands to lead the fieldwork on-site has been effective in other conservation projects in Cabo Verde.

With the hiring of a field coordinator this challenge is being alleviated going forward and the social marketing training in July and August last year that was attended by 9 partners was also helpful to strengthen their skills and align approaches in behaviour change research and activities.

Difficulties for GOS to collect data and properly record it through the self-reporting forms was highlighted as an issue and innovative approaches to mitigate this were applied such as using of voice recorders and photos to support adequate and sufficient data collection.

## 9.      Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report Review for 2023 (year 2)

Analysis and Identification of Actions to Consider for the Next Report and Project Implementation

The action plan regarding the previous feedback received and follow-up actions taken can be accessed here LINK .

## 10. Risk Management

No new risks arose in year 2 of the project. Nevertheless, we continue to monitor potential risks over the time horizon to effectively manage and address any potential future risks.

## 11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

NA

## 12. Sustainability and legacy

As outlined in the project proposal, the project benefits will be maintained by:
- Training local NGOs and community members using train-the-trainer sessions and other workshops.
- Increasing interest and engagement with communities throughout the second year has been observed and the trainings conducted to date have resulted in 27 new GOS members during year 2.
- Engagement with governmental authorities to take ownership over the continuation and maintenance of some of the efforts such as DNPA committing to conduct additional observer trainings as well as pilot excursions at sea in the upcoming year.
- Building stakeholder buy-in along the fisheries value-chain.
     Additional discussions were held with fisher communities, fish mongers, restaurants, government entities and other stakeholders to ensure commitment and buy-in.
- Providing institutions with the tools to sustain and expand the labelling scheme
     Biosfera developed a long-term code of conduct which they presented during the last Steering Committee meeting regarding the labelling process for restaurants. All the relevant institutions are involved in drawing up this instrument as well as in socialising and engaging the partners, namely IGQPI, the Ministry of the Sea, the Ministry of Tourism and all the project partners.

## 13. Darwin Initiative identity

Partners have consistently used the Darwin Initiative logo across various channels, including the production of project-related documents, communication materials for awareness-raising, presentations, Guardians of the Sea T-shirts, social media publications, and other mediums.

They use social media as a key channel for sharing knowledge and promoting awareness about the project, always considering the use of the project's logo, even on supporting documents of this report. Below are some examples of partners communication on social media: Biosfera – LINK      APB – LINK      APVito – LINK

## 14. Safeguarding

| | |
|---|---|
| Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months? | No |
| Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months | No |
| Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point? | Yes, the Legal and Risk Manager, ██████ is the Safeguarding Lead for BirdLife. Safeguarding contacts at project level would be the Project Lead, ██████ or a described set of alternates (Line Manager, Human Resources Manager, Member of the Global Leadership Team). ████████████ |
| Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months? | Yes, the Safeguarding Lead attended a training on Safeguarding delivered by the Field Managers in Emergencies Learning and Development (FIELD). A training for BirdLife Partners and BirdLife International staff was held on 19 January 2023 about BirdLife International's key social safeguard positions, policies, and guidance, in which experiences, challenges, and barriers to putting in place social safeguards for landscape conservation were shared. The training reflected on support needed by BirdLife Partners in operationalizing social safeguard frameworks. The Project Lead has not yet attended relevant trainings, but a safeguarding training is planned for staff and the BirdLife Partners in September 2024. |
| What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding? | Past: 71%, 15 out of 21 staff were trained. Planned: 100% |
| Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. | |
| No, the project has not experienced any challenges on Safeguarding during this past reporting period. | |
| Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. | |
| The project partners are required by their subcontract and encouraged to make sure any such issues are reported and dealt with in a timely and effective manner. Ensuring that these policies are understood and fully complied with requires cascading to staff, partners, volunteers etc. and training. | |

More members of the project team will receive formal training, including through the Safeguarding Training Resource developed by BirdLife's Partnership Team. A follow up session to the training held in January is going to be held this year to reach more of the project staff.

In addition, an updated Good Practice Guide for BirdLife Partners has been published by the RSPB and BirdLife International in 2022 and has been made available on Hatch (our capacity building, networking and knowledge sharing platform, https://birdlife-hatch.org/) and constitutes a great reference tool and training material that will be used.

BirdLife International plans to update its partner-facing safeguarding framework in 2024 to better align our internal safeguarding policy with the training and tools we provide to project partners. Once complete, additional training and tools will be provided to project partners to continue to build awareness of partner contracted responsibilities and integrate best practices into project implementation.

Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.

See activities 1.3.2 and 4.3.1 outlining the relevant sensitisation and awareness raising activities conducted.

Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved.

No

## 15. Project expenditure

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)**

| Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report | 2023/24 Grant (£) | 2023/24 Total Darwin Costs (£) | Variance % | Comments (please explain significant variances) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs (see below) | | | | |
| Consultancy costs | | | | During this year the training has been carried out without the need for external consultancy services. The costs related to the training have been moved to Operating costs |
| Overhead Costs | | | | |
| Travel and subsistence | | | | |
| Operating Costs | | | | |
| Capital items (see below) | | | | |
| Others (see below) | | | | |
| **TOTAL** | 196,105 | 196,104 | 0% | |

**Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)**

| | Secured to date | Expected by end of project | Sources |
|---|---|---|---|
| Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£) | | | |
| Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£) | | | |

## 16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here). N/A

**Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024**

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Impact:*<br>Marine biodiversity (seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, fish) is recovering around six islands in Cabo Verde and communities benefiting due to increased stewardship and improved fisheries management by artisanal fishing communities | | | |
| *Outcome:*<br>Fishing communities in 6 Cabo Verde islands engage in sustainable, locally defined labelling practices providing livelihood benefits to 1,200 people, reducing seabird bycatch by 25% and turtle unsafe release by 50%. | 0.1 By End of Project (EoP), three civil society organizations and 170 Guardians of the Sea (GOS) members have increased capacity for delivering conservation action and visibility as role models.<br><br>0.2 A local, pilot participatory labelling scheme is replicated in six islands of Cabo Verde engaging at least 240 fishers (M) and 130 fish mongers (F) and 50 restaurants and results inform wider uptake by EoP.<br><br>0.3 By EoP, at least 50% decrease in catch of under-sized blue-dotted seabass and lobster, caught by GOS and fishers who joined the labelling (n= 240) compared to year 1 baselines.<br><br>0.4 By EoP, at least 50% of fishers (GOS and fishers who joined the labelling (n=240)) report a decrease in waste discard against year 1 baselines.<br><br>0.5 By EoP, at least ~30% of fishers engaged around the 6 islands are actively performing behaviour changes to minimize unsustainable fishing practices.<br><br>0.6 By Y3 Q3, estimated total bycatch of seabirds is reduced by 25% and adherence to the guidelines for release of captured seabirds and turtles is at least 50%.<br><br>0.7 At least 70% of fishers and fish mongers engaged in the labelling program (n=370, including 240 fishers (M) and 130 fish mongers (F)) report an increase in income (compared to baseline) resulting from reduced fish waste through improved cold-storage facilities at sea and on land, | 0.1 Baseline condition: 1 NGO trained and 40 GOS engaged at 1 island (Sal)<br><br>All NGOs trained and 27 new fishers engaged in the GOS program in 2023 (17 in Sal and 10 in São Vicente Island) reaching a total of 150 fishers engaged so far. Additional fishers have already shown interest in joining the program, including 12 fishers in São Vicente who have already been identified.<br>Evidence document: (i) See Act 1.3.2. Training GOS report; (ii) See Act 1.3.2. GOS photos; (iii) Ind 1.4. list of new fishers engaged in GOS.<br><br>0.2 The code of conduct for the labelling of the restaurants is ready and has been presented and approved by the project partners during the project Steering Committee. On the other hand, the fisheries products formal labelling with IGQPI is underway, starting with the development of a normative document for labelling process for fishing products.<br><br>0.3 Biosfera already has a baseline on the amount of blue-dotted seabass captured by the fishers, including the GOS. 2020 data shows that around 2,820gr of blue-dotted seabass were caught below the minimum size required (27cm). However, the data gathered this far does not allow to confidently estimate the decrease in catch of under-sized fish. Anecdotal evidence and conversation with fishers allow us to assume that there has been in fact a reduction on the amount of undersized, blue-spotted seabass that will be certainly confirmed when we have more robust data collected.<br><br>0.4 Fishers that are part of the project, at least all the 150 GOS members currently, have been sensitized on marine pollution related issues and receive trainings on how they can reduce pollution at sea. We also have reports of one of our GOS collecting garbage he found at sea while fishing (https://fb.watch/rayxR7N1Jl/).<br><br>0.5 On all the islands where the GOS program is already being implemented, trainings have been taking place and the GOS show increased understanding, interest and willingness for marine conservation and sustainable fishing practices. | 0.1 Increase engagement of the fishing communities in sustainable, locally defined and agreed practices and increase communication and visibility to promote GOS.<br><br>0.2 After the socialization of the code of conduct with all stakeholders, including Ministry of Tourism, partners will continue the work on engaging restaurants on the different islands and sensitizing them on the importance of the sustainable fisheries labelling. As part of the labelling process and according to the project's communication plan, and aiming to further engage the restaurants, partners will place posters and mupis in the airport and ports, to promote the initiative and the restaurants that are partners of the project as well as online advertising campaigns.<br><br>0.3 Biosfera and other NGO partners are still carrying out strong information and sensibilisation campaigns with fishers on the importance of releasing under-sized fishes and with the general public on the importance of making more sustainable choices such as following the minimum landing size of the species and their closure period implemented by national management plan of the fisheries. Moreover, Biosfera is collecting the data to ensure robust information is available to show the decrease in catch of under-sized blue-dotted seabass and lobster.<br><br>0.4 During the last year of the project we will continue reinforcing the trainings and sensibilization work with the fishers to have a long-lasting impact and a change in their mindset and behaviour regarding plastic pollution. |

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| | increased fishing efficiency, higher market price for sustainably fished product.<br><br>0.8 By EoP, at least ~20% decrease in post-harvest loss of catch for 600 fishers and fish mongers within the 14 associations taking part in the project due to improved sanitary measures for the handling, cooling, and processing of fish along the value chain. | 0.6 Baseline condition: 62% of the fishers report bycatch<br><br>Bycatch data has been collected by GOS which give us an initial indication on bycatch trends including most affected species. However, we cannot yet show reduction as the mitigation trials have not yet been implemented. Trainings were conducted on safe release and handling as well as mitigation techniques in March 2024.<br>Evidence document:<br>See Act 1.2.4. Self-reporting forms on bycatch (APB, PV and Biosfera)<br><br>0.7 Baseline condition: Average salary: 150-350 GBP per month<br>Change recorded to date: 22 cooling boxes were provided in year 2 to fishers and fish mongers.<br>Beneficiary fishers have reported the added value of cooling boxes received above all for the hygiene and conservation of fish. They claim that this improvement in fish conservation conditions will have an impact on the quality and gradually on their income from the sale of fishery products. Efforts to install solar panels to power the cooling systems are underway and promise great impact for fishers and fish mongers.<br>Evidence document:<br>See Act 3.1.2. Survey bycatch (APB, PV and Biosfera)<br>See Act 5.4.2. Photos<br><br>0.8 A total of 33 fishers and fishmongers already have a cooling box and additional trainings on sanitary measures and processing were implemented in year 2 with the new 27 GOS members. Solar panels are being installed in Sal with two FAs to improve and increase cooling systems, specifically ice production.<br>Evidence document:<br>See Act 5.4.2. A manual of good practices | 0.5 Sensitisation, awareness raising, and trainings are being continued on all islands to foster behaviour change.<br><br>0.6 Mitigation trials are being implemented starting in year 3 and monitoring of bycatch will continue through the increasing members of GOS.<br><br>0.7 Actions to reduce fish waste, including trainings on safety and hygiene, improved cold-storing facilities, including solar panels, and increased fishing efficiency are being continuously implemented.<br><br>0.8 Trainings on safety, processing and cooling will be replicated in year 3 and additional cooling boxes as well as solar panels will be provided. |
| **Output 1.** Increased conservation capacity built amongst 3 civil society organizations and 170 Guardians of the Sea (GOS) members; including behaviour change, sustainable fisheries labelling, | 1.1 SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODS: Three NGOS conduct qualitative and quantitative social science research by Y1 Q1 in order to design messages, identify and prioritize target audiences, trusted influencers, channels of communication, and drivers of change by Y2 Q1.<br><br>1.2 LABELLING: Two NGOS are trained by Biosfera to replicate a local sustainable fishery labelling scheme by Y1 Q1. | 1.1 Social science research was conducted by the behaviour change team, in particular the field coordinator and relevant baseline analysis were shared (see act 1.1.1 and 2.2.1). In addition, the three NGO partners were involved in the application of the questionnaires in each of the target sites.<br><br>1.2 This activity has been successfully implemented and reported on in year 1. Both PV and APB were trained by Biosfera on the sustainable labelling approach during the inception workshop on Sal Island from October 4 –7 2022. Biosfera continue to support partners on the labelling process.<br><br>1.3 This activity has been successfully implemented and reported on in year 1. MOUs for GOS protocol and branding use was established by Fundação Maio Biodiversidade (FMB) and local partners, allowing then to continue to do awareness raising and engage more fishers. | |

| and voluntary stewardship. | 1.3 GUARDIANS OF THE SEA (GOS): Two NGOS are trained by APB to replicate the GOS model promoting voluntary stewardship and target species and vulnerable non-target species monitoring (seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, rays) amongst fishers, and the GOS brand has agreed governance and communications strategy by Y1 Q1.<br><br>1.4 RECRUITMENT OF GOS: At least 170 new volunteer fishers join the GOS programme project sites and are trained to monitor key species and monitor fishing practices by Y2 Q1.<br>Baseline: 40 fishers in Sal. | 1.4 27 new fishers engaged in the GOS program in 2023 (17 in Sal and 10 in São Vicente Island) reaching a total of 150 fishers engaged so far. Additional fishers have already shown interest in joining the program, including 12 fishers in São Vicente who have already been identified. Those GOS have been trained in several topics, including first aids and safety at sea, marine pollution, safe handling and release of by-catch, legislation, the use of the monitoring kits and have also been provided with a simplified guide on identification of the most common marine megafauna species (including turtle, sharks, seabirds and mammals).<br><br>Evidence document: (i) See Act 1.3.2. Training GOS report; (ii) See Act 1.3.2. GOS photos; (iii) Ind 1.4. list of new fishers engaged in GOS | |
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| Activity 1.1.1: Behaviour change methodology: OU to build capacity of national NGOS via train-the-trainers sessions in Y1 Q2: identification of influencers, target audiences, barriers to change. Oxford | OU conducted a train the trainers session with partners on behaviour change during the inception workshop. In addition, 9 employees of partners participated in a regional social marketing training in July and August 2023. UO (behaviour change team) conducted an initial country wide questionnaire and are making use of a visit of the Behaviour Change Field Coordinator to the UO to strengthen the data analysis and plan the co-design workshops. The initial analysis of the baseline supported the identification of groups of influencers, namely groups that fishers trust and who are influential to them, such as teachers and NGOs, as well the media channels that were most used and trusted which are radio and TV. Furthermore, the behaviours that lead to seabird incidental fishing can be understood through the COM-B model. This theoretical model assesses the capabilities, opportunities, and motivations of different stakeholder groups, such as fishers, providing valuable insights for the development of effective interventions. Based on initial data analysis, the capability component refers to the physical and psychological ability of stakeholders to avoid certain behaviour (the general pattern was high averages of knowledge about the effects of fishing on bird populations and knowledge of aspects of birds (reproduction and migration) Sal and São Vicente presented lower averages related to the ability to prevent accidental capture), while the opportunity component addresses the external factors that influence this same behaviour (low access to tools and training to reduce catch) and finally the motivation component explores the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that encourage the group in question to adopt certain practices (recognized the importance of the species and their protection, in addition to expressing sadness for lost individuals). | The behaviour change team is conducting final analysis of data to inform the strategy which will be socialized with partners and other stakeholders during a co-design workshop in July/August 2024. |

| | Evidence documents: (i) Act 1.1.1. Report of the baseline questionnaires; (ii) Act 1.1.1. Questionnaire | |
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| Activity 1.2.1: Review existing labelling scheme, agree on guidelines, criteria, and benefits during Inception Workshop in Y1 Q2. Biosfera . | This activity has been carried out and reported on during the year 1 of the project. | |
| Activity 1.2.2: Biosfera to train APB and Projecto Vitó on labelling approach during Inception Workshop in Y1 Q2. Biosfera | This activity has been carried out during the first year of the project and all the participants (total: 20) who took part of the inception workshop benefited from this training, including particularly 3 participants from APB (2M/1F) and 3 from PV (1M/2F). The leaders and focal points of each NGO have been continuing their activities to raise awareness and engage fishing communities and restaurants in the labelling process. | Biosfera will continue to train the other NGO partners and provide assistance during the implementation of the labelling process regarding the code of conduct for restaurants that is already finished. In addition, they continue to involve and support NGO partners with the code of conduct for fisheries products led by IGQPI |
| Activity 1.2.3: Create database of species sizes, sampling sites, dates, fishers sampled in Y1 Q2. Establish baseline using weekly GOS self-reporting data and monitor 6 monthly. Biosfera | A database with all the relevant information was created and has been shared with all partners by Biosfera. The data was, however, collected by a Biosfera technician due to the time, effort and quality required and the amount of data to be collected (to be used in scientific articles and to be shared by local responsible authorities to adapt fishing management measures). Nevertheless, GOS have been trained and supported in all target islands to collect those data to populate the database, regarding marine megafauna in general. As data collection continues on all islands through self-reporting forms of the GOS, this database is being further populated as well as organised and harmonised by SPEA, which will allow for a better overall analysis of the project's data.

Evidence documents: (i) Act 1.2.3. Database of species (sizes, sampling sites, dates | Continued gathering of data to strengthen a robust database is ongoing, to enable partners to generate and share sufficient information with local authorities to update and improve fishing management measures. |
| Activity 1.2.4: Train fishers in using self-reporting forms on bycatch, monthly reporting by a selection of GOS to NGOS in Y1 Q2. Biosfera | All fishers that have joined the GOS program (currently 150 fishers) have been trained and are being supported in using the self-reporting forms on bycatch. GOS are collecting data in different project sites and continuously share the data with NGOs to populate the existing bycatch and incidents database.

Evidence documents: (i) Act 1.2.4. Self-reporting forms on bycatch | Keep reinforcing the trainings and continuously engaging the fishers to ensure that they use the forms. Continue to strengthen the way they ensure effective data collection, including the purchase and use of voice recorders to allow them to easily record data without wasting too much time on data collection. |
| Activity 1.3.1: Guardians of the Sea: Draft Terms of Reference, consult, agree and APB to train Partners at the Inception Workshop in Y1Q2 APB | MOUs for GOS protocol and branding use were established by Fundação Maio Biodiversidade (FMB) with local partners in year 1 and duly reported in year 1. For more details see 1.3.3. | Continue with awareness raising campaign to engage and recruit more fishers to join the GOS. |
| Activity 1.3.2: Build numbers of GOS - train to monitor target and non-target catch (seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, rays) from Y1 Q2, report & review 6 monthly. APB | Partners (APB, Biosfera, APV) have been continuously supporting the GOS in various aspects, including continuous trainings and | Partners continue supporting GOS including with training focusing on bycatch mitigation and handling and safe release for sea turtles |

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| | capacity buildings for all GOS including the 27 new recruits in 2023, relevant activities include:<br><br>- Data collection on marine megafauna sightings, accidental catch, and infractions in fishing areas, equipment uses and monitoring, safe handling and release of seabirds and sea turtles trainings for around 23 fishers from Brava and 42 fishers from Fogo, including providing equipment and trainings on the use of GPS, VHF radios, cameras, and binoculars.<br><br>- Acoustic sonars in fishing, importance of and how to use the safety materials, safe handling and release for seabirds and sea turtles involving 26 fishers from 3 communities and 5 technicians from APB in Sal.<br><br>- Impact of plastic pollution, proper disposal of fishing waste, and safe handling for seabirds, sharks and sea turtles, national legislations in fishery and MPAs, navigation with GPS and VHF radio, involving more than 30 fishers from the communities of São Pedro, Salamansa and Calhau in São Vicente Island.<br><br>- All the fishers from the GOS program received kits that include equipment for safety, safe handling, monitoring of marine megafauna, and navigation.<br><br>- APB has accompanied the GOS since its inception, with regular weekly visits to exchange the kits among the fishers, to check equipment's and collection of the data sheets, with reinforcement for the collection of bycatch data, as fishers still show a certain resistance to the collection of this data. In addition, they also join the GOS three days a week to support data registration and collection on conflicts with dolphins and sharks. Data on shark conflicts is being used to identify mitigation measures that reduce the impact on shark species and minimize disruptions for fishers. So far, they have identified one device from SharkGuard that will be tested to evaluate the benefits from using it. They encourage GOS to use different types of hooks, that provided, such circle hooks which may reduce the bycatch capture rate for sharks.<br><br>Evidence documents: (i) Act 1.3.2. Training/workshop GOS report (ii) Act 1.3.2. GOS photos with kits | and seabirds, safe-handling kits for new GOS, reinforce the data collections with the self-reporting forms for megafauna monitorization and bycatch, and other innovative approaches to encourage them to follow the sustainable and good practices. In addition, strengthen GOS engagement on the labelling scheme<br><br>Workshops to present the results and achievements of the program, specifically regarding the by-catch registered so far, data of fishing efforts, and any other relevant topic.<br><br>APB will continue working on the installation of solar panels in the fisher's associations and identifying other livelihood mechanisms for communities. |
| Activity 1.3.3: GOS Brand and Communications strategy agreed and rolled out by Y1 Q2 APB | Cabo Verdean Project partners, led by APB, participated in the creation of TAOLA+, the National Network for the Conservation of Nature. During 2023, APB secured funding to employ the first national coordinator of the network, who started in November 2023. | Implementation of the communication strategy through a new social media channel for GOS., among other initiatives. |

| | | In January 2024 APB employed the Communication Technician for the TAOLA+ network. She started to plan the general communication of TAOLA+ as well as the organisation of the annual meeting to be held in April 2024. The communication technician also leads the GOS communications strategy which will be implemented soon through a new social media channel for GOS, among other initiatives.<br>Evidence documents: (i) Act 1.3.3. GOS communications strategy. (ii) TAOLA+ official document of creation | |
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| **Output 2.** A pilot participatory local labelling scheme for sustainable fisheries is implemented by fisheries value chain stakeholders (fishers, fishmongers, restaurants, and consumers) in six islands (Sal, São Vicente, Santo Antão, São Nicolau, Fogo, and Brava). | 2.1 Barriers to implement social change, such as customary fishing practices, or material barriers, are identified by Y1 Q2 in workshops and through a participatory process involving stakeholders, barriers to change and potential behavioural change interventions to overcome them are agreed through co-design. Y1 Q4.<br><br>2.2 Local labelling guidelines and criteria (potentially minimum catch size, seasonality, bycatch mitigation, no discarded fishing gear) reviewed, consulted, and agreed by NGOS and fishing value chain stakeholders, as well as local authorities by Y1 Q4.<br><br>2.3 By Y1 Q4, at least 50 restaurants on 6 islands agree to participate in the labelling scheme.<br>Baseline 2021: 6 restaurants in São Vicente.<br><br>2.4 At least 240 Fishers and 130 fish mongers are engaged in the labelling program by Y2 Q3 and trained in the current legislation on fisheries and existing MPAs and their management plans.<br><br>2.5 Local labelling results are shared with appropriate government agencies and advocacy conducted to transition to formal compliance mechanisms by EoP. | 2.1 The behaviour change report on the baseline questionnaire analysed the data and identified capacities, opportunities and motivations to inform the strategy, which will be co-designed through workshops with stakeholder in July/August 2024 (see act 1.1.1, 2.2.1 and 3.4.3).<br><br>2.2 After meetings with IGQPI and the following decision to move forward with a two-pronged approach, the revised strategy was presented to the SEC and feedback was received for further consideration. This feedback fed into the subsequent development of the code of conduct which was discussed, reviewed, and agreed by the NGO partners including IGQPI. The next step involves a broad and reinforced consultation with local and government authorities, as well as creating links with all partners identified as important in this process and promoting the initiative.<br><br>2.3. Currently four restaurants have been engaged in the work with Biosfera and 2 fisher's association are actively participating on the GOS program. In addition, in Fogo 14 restaurants have expressed interest to engage in the process. More details on the activity 2.3.<br><br>2.4. Initial consultations have been conducted with fishers, restaurants and fish mongers on the labelling process and the recently developed code of conduct will be socialized among relevant stakeholders in May 2024 after which official engagement with and onboarding of the stakeholders will be launched. As for trainings on legislation on fisheries and existing MPAs see act 2.4.1.<br><br>2.5. This will be reported at the EoP. The code of conduct for restaurants is complete and will be shared and socialized with them in the coming weeks and months, followed by the labelling process. | |
| Activity 2.1.1: Baseline surveys and semi-structured interviews to determine barriers to social change in fishing practices identified and strategies to mitigate them are determined by Y1Q3 Oxford | | The behaviour change field coordinator was recruited and a baseline survey was carried out and the data analysis is completed. Questionnaire surveys were conducted across all inhabited islands of Cabo Verde. The final number of respondents was 356 (65 GOS), | Promote in depth statistical analysis of baseline surveys coupled with fishing data collected by partners regarding the audience groups and barriers of social change. |

| | with 99.7% being men (355) and a single woman 0.3% (1) and with an average age of 42 years. The majority of respondents completed up to the 6th grade of education (59.2%; N = 211) and did not declare a religion (44.6%; N = 159). Respondents had an average of 4 declared items per residence, relating to trusted means of communication. In terms of media, respondents seem to use television most frequently with 57.6% (N = 205) reporting daily use, followed by radio at 34.5% (N = 123). The least used media channels are posters, with 26.12% (N = 93) reporting annual use.<br>Evidence documents: Act 1.1.1. Report of the baseline questionnaires. | Co-design workshops with relevant stakeholders to finalize the behaviour change strategy. |
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| Activity 2.1.2: Social marketing strategy using most relevant communication channels implemented, monitored (see 3.4.4), reviewed, analysed.<br>Oxford | Based on the questionnaires and surveys conducted and currently still being continued regarding behaviour change, influencers and communication channels as well as insights regarding bycatch behaviour change such as capabilities, opportunities and motivations (see Act 1.1.1. and output 2.1.1.) were identified which inform the strategy which is currently being developed and will be implemented and monitored in year 3. | Implement the social marketing strategy using the most relevant communications channels based on the outcomes of the survey. After three months of implementation of the strategy an assessment will be conducted, and potential changes will be undertaken. Lastly, next steps include the finalization and administration of the impact evaluation plan. |
| Activity 2.2.1: Hold a workshop with fishery value chain stakeholders to agree on pilot labelling criteria in Y1 Q4, reporting on these outcomes. Biosfera | After the development of initial criteria and stakeholder consultations in year 1, various meetings and conversations were held between partners and government entities, in particular, IGQPI in October 2023 regarding the labelling process, which led to the decision to move forward with a two pronged approach: (1) the development of a normative document for labelling for the restaurants that aims to establish a set of criteria that restaurants must meet to receive a sustainability label (more details see 2.5.1); (2) the development of a normative document for labelling process for fishing products. The second task is led by IGQPI, with the support of a technical committee including IMar, DNPA, and IGP. The agreed criteria are to be included in the code of conduct for the labelling of fisheries products that is being developed with IGQPI in the coming months.<br><br>Evidence documents: (i) Act 2.2.1. Field visit report | Monitor and ensure agreed criteria is included in the code of conduct for the labelling for fisheries products to be developed and led by IGQPI. |
| Activity 2.3: Recruit restaurants, fishers' associations, and fish mongers by Y1 Q4, with 6 monthly monitoring. BLI | Four restaurants have been engaged in the labelling process in São Vicente so far and 2 fisher's association (400 members) are actively participating on the GOS and sustainable fishing program. In Fogo around 14 restaurants were approached and showed interest in joining the labelling process. | Socialize the code of conduct for restaurants and finalize the labelling process and then formally engage the restaurants and reach out to fish mongers. |
| Activity 2.4.1: Train fishers in waste reduction, measurement, need to release undersized fish, and existing applicable MPA legislations in Y1 Q3 and annually. BLI | On the different target islands including São Vicente, Sal, Fogo, and Brava, several activities including trainings (more details in section 1.3.2.) in waste reduction, need to release undersized fish, legislations about MPAs and fishing areas, were conducted involving local fishers especially GOS. In addition, Biosfera conducted workshops in fishers' associations in different communities to promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge among them, | Replicate and reinforce these workshops among the project partners and strengthen impact assessments. |

| | | involving around 45 fishers. APV conducted similar training sessions on Fogo and Brava islands, involving 22 fishers on Fogo and 28 fishers on Brava. These sessions covered important subjects related to fishing practices and marine conservation.<br>Evidence documents: (i) Act 2.4.1. Training/workshop report | |
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| Activity 2.4.2: Improve the process by iteration of socialising, reporting results to stakeholders, adjusting if needed in Y2 Q2, report 6 monthly. BLI | | The labelling process has shown to be a challenge and is slowly advancing due to the complicated and often bureaucratic approach of governments and their role in such processes, however IGQPI has been engaged actively during year 2 which should support this process. In addition, some stakeholders are losing interest due to the slow advancements and there is a need to dynamize this process to ensure the active engagement of restaurants and fishers during this last year. The code of conduct which were recently developed as well as the engagement of IGQPI should help to ensure that this process will advance and generate new interest from stakeholders. See Act 2.2.1 and 2.5.1. | Continue to improve the labelling process by iteration of socialising, reporting results to stakeholders, as well as strengthening restaurants and fishmongers' engagement. |
| Activity 2.5.1: Prepare a Code of conduct with adjusted criteria in Y2 Q2. Biosfera | | The code of conduct for the restaurants is already finished and servers as a guide to the NGOs that will provide the sustainable fisheries labels but also has the requirements for the restaurants must follow to receive that label. Another code of conduct for the fisheries products is being developed with IGQPI for the fishermen and fishmongers.<br><br>Evidence documents:<br>See Act 2.5.1 | Socialize the code of conduct with the restaurants and engage/recruit restaurants for the labelling process. On the other hand, partners will continue with the development of the labelling process for the fisheries products with IGQPI. |
| Activity 2.5.2: Analyse results and conduct advocacy with IQGPI to local authorities, government, and fishers' associations to determine formal compliance mechanisms in Y3 Q3 BLI | | This activity is planned for the year 3. | Promote meetings and advocacy approach with local authorities and government in partnership with IGQPI, to discuss the results and identify compliance mechanisms in particular for the labelling process for the fisheries products.<br>Provide awareness raising ang training and support to fishers to adhere to these regulations/code of conduct. |
| **Output 3.** Bycatch mitigation measures, including safe release, protecting seabirds and sea turtles and that do not adversely affect other vulnerable species (sharks, rays) are deployed by 600 artisanal | 3.1 BYCATCH ESTIMATION: The nature, extent, and intention behind current bycatch is characterized for different species/taxa within specific project sites by Y1 Q2 and at EoP to compare with baseline estimates (% of fishers catching birds, turtles and sharks). 2019 Baseline for handline bycatch: seabirds (77%), sea turtles (55%), sharks (86%). For gillnets, turtles (77%), sharks (86%) and no seabirds. More detailed catch statistics are established through weekly surveys and estimated total catch of target | 3.1 Baseline (from the survey):<br>62% of fishermen interviewed by the 3 NGOS (Biosfera, APB and PV) confirmed bycatch.<br>40% of fishers caught seabirds, 13% sea turtles and 46% sharks.<br><br>Bycatch data from the self-reporting forms show the number of bycatches per species in the different islands. From September 2023 to February 2024, a total of 198 bycatches have been reported by the GOS in the project target sites. According to these data, sharks appear to be the most bycaught (96) followed by seabirds (68), sea turtles (26), and Rays (8) by fishers. Additional number of trips, of days at sea, and of vessels are being collected and analysed to determine the bycatch rates. This fine-scale analysis will be available shortly.<br><br>Evidence document:<br>See Act 1.2.4. Self-reporting form (PV, APB and Biosfera) | |

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| fishers around 6 islands and show a 25% reduction of estimated total bycatch of seabirds (compared to Y1 baseline), and 50% of fishers safely release captured seabirds and turtles by Y3 Q3. | and vulnerable species is estimated from GOS 6-monthly.<br><br>3.2 MITIGATION: Tailored bycatch mitigation options targeted at reducing seabird and turtle bycatch (bird-scaring devices, line weighting, hook types, offal management, bait thawing, net lights (LEDs)) are explored and assessed by Y1 Q4 and rolled out by Y2 Q4.<br><br>3.3 SAFE HANDLING: At least 1,200 fishers trained to safely handle and release seabirds, sea turtles, when entangled/hooked by Y1 Q3 to increase chances of survival for released animals and at least 50% report using the safe release methods by EOP.<br><br>3.4 BEHAVIOUR CHANGE: A social marketing campaign shifting social norms and influencing behavioural patterns is implemented and, by EoP, an increasing number of fishers actively performing behaviours aimed at minimizing bycatch by 30% (n=1,200) compared to baseline and control.<br><br>3.5 SPATIO TEMPORAL ANALYSIS: By Y3 Q2, Analysis of spatio-temporal overlap between artisanal boats, seabirds and sea turtles is informing future bycatch-mitigation decision-making to determine the seasonality, fishery types and species involved in bycatch risk.<br><br>3.6 MITIGATION AGREED: By Y3 Q3, effective mitigation measures, including reduction target, use of specified best practice mitigation for each specific fishing method are agreed with fishers' associations.<br><br>3.7 AUDIT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED: By EoP, audit system on bycatch prevention is | 3.2 Based on previous projects and studies carried out at the fisheries level, two main measures for Cabo Verde are identified (bird scaring and line weighting); and additional techniques were identified with the SEC namely night setting and bait changing. Scary bird devices were already acquired, 14 were already delivered to partners and an additional 50 are awaiting arrival. Mitigation trials are therefore staring in May 2024.<br>Evidence document:<br>Ind 3.2. Invoice of purchase<br><br>3.3 Training on safe handling and release of seabirds and sea turtles bycaught by lines and hooks fishers was delivered to all the partners and GOS members. More than 45 participants were part of the online training in September 2023 and around 18 participants benefited from the on-site (train-the-trainers) training during the second Steering Committee meeting in March 2024.<br>Evidence document:<br>See Act 1.1.1.<br><br>3.4 Baseline condition: no fishermen or fishermen's association are aware of these methods to minimize bycatch.<br><br>The behaviour change questionnaire was administered to 356 participants and has been analysed which is informing the strategy which is being finalized through a co-design workshop in July/August 2024 and then implemented.<br>Evidence document:<br>See Act 3.1.1. Report of the baselines questionnaires<br><br>3.5 The negotiation with the selected consortium is in its final stages and the methodology and approach of the study was already presented to the Steering Committee in March 2024.<br><br>Evidence document:<br>Ind 3.5. TORs Consultancy - Cabo Verde sea-based threats<br><br>3.6 Based on previous research and projects, and consultation with the SEC various mitigation techniques were identified and scary bird devices were selected as the most relevant and needed equipment, in addition to line weighting, bait change, night setting which are already being implemented by GOS. For the scary bird devices 14 were purchased and already distributed and 50 additional ones are about to arrive with the partners. These techniques will be validated with FAs after the mitigation trials.<br><br>3.7 To be reported on in year 3. |

| | implemented and integrated into the local labelling on sustainable fisheries. | |
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| Activity 3.1.1: Review bycatch self-reporting methods in Y1 Q1 and define methodology for sampling fishers re intentional catch & unintended catch rates by Y1 Q2. BLI | After the development and validation of the bycatch self-reporting form, a data manager for each partner has been identified and the databases used by each partner were validated and harmonised, assuring all partners are using the same database structure and codification. The methodologies used to sample and estimate bycatch rates are planned to be further discussed within the data management working group and the SEC based on the initial data collected during year 2 as this showed differences in sample size among islands, highlighting limitations in the methodology including regarding seasonality (data were collected non evenly among all months of the year or islands).

Evidence document: (i) See Act 1.2.4 Self-reporting form; Act 3.2.2. SCM Cabo Verde Conservation Projects 2024_report. | Continue supporting GOS in all target islands to use and report data on the self-reporting forms. Enhance data systematization and improve database and data collection methodology. |
| Activity 3.1.2: Establish a baseline level of birds and turtles caught, released alive or landed dead through weekly self-reporting surveys by GOS and report monthly for Y1Q2. BLI | A baseline level of birds and sea turtles caught has been established through the questionnaires performed to fishers in the different islands covered by the project. The table 1 (see Act 3.1.2) shows these rates. This analysis shows that the most affected species regarding bycatch were the Cape Verde Shearwater, the Red-billed Tropicbird, and the Brown Booby. Most of the species bycaught were released alive. Regarding the bycatch data from the self-reporting forms show the number of bycatches per species in the different islands. From September 2023 to February 2024, a total of 198 bycatches have been reported by the GOS in the project target sites. According to these data, sharks appear to be the most bycaught (96) followed by seabirds (68), sea turtles (26), and Rays (8). See table 2 Act 3.1.1. | Continue to support GOS and monitor the data collection on bycatch |
| Activity 3.1.3: Analyse the changes in catch rate by season, area, and fishing method and estimate the reduction in catch. BLI | The self-reporting form has been administered since the beginning of 2023. Data collection has been ongoing through the self-reporting form and more recently, SPEA began the process of standardizing and validating with partners the existing database. However, more time is needed for a comprehensive analysis of seasonality to allow the GOS to gather data consistently throughout the year and across different islands. | Continue to build capacity of the GOS, supporting and monitoring them in data collection and analysis of the data received. |
| Activity 3.1.4: In Y2 Q2, review method of catch recording and adjust, if necessary, in relation to species definition, sampling intensity across fishing methods. BLI | Learning from the initial data obtained from the self-reporting forms in the various islands, a review was carried out and adjustments made to the content of the forms and the collection methods. For example, the use of audio recorders instead of forms have been introduced for those GOS who have raised difficulties in using the forms correctly. Also, using cell phones to get pictures that can help identify species bycaught has been identified as a method to improve species definition which has been flagged as a challenge in the self-reporting forms. In addition, the first section of the safe handling manual addresses species identification which should support fishers in the identification process. | Continue supporting data collection by GOS and if necessary, review the method of catch recording and adjust, in relation to species definition, sampling intensity across fishing methods. Support species identification. |
| Activity 3.2.1: Introduce the topic at Inception workshop and seek volunteers to contribute/test. BLI | This activity has been carried out and reported on during the year 1 of the project. | |

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| Activity 3.2.2: Review mitigation methods via workshop with Scientific Expert Committee in Y1 Q2. BLI | The mitigation trials are starting in May 2024. Currently a protocol is being developed to support the partners in these trials together with the local fishers. Regarding the sea turtle mitigations identified, fishers are already using fish as bait. This will be emphasized, and appropriate safe handling and release trainings will continue to be delivered to fishers and impacts will be reviewed. See output 3.3 for more info on safe handling.<br><br>Evidence documents: (i) Act 3.2.2. SCM Cabo Verde Conservation Projects 2024_report; Scary birds devices. | Continue to seek necessary support from the Scientific Expert Committee, including regarding the mitigation trials that will be shortly applied |
| Activity 3.2.3: With fishery associations, determine adaptations / test in fisheries in Y1 Q4 with a minimum 5 deployments of each at 6 sites by Y2 Q1 BLI | A bycatch mitigation training session was given by SPEA and BirdLife International in March 2024 in São Vicente. The training included an in-room session and a trial at sea aboard a local fishing boat to simulate the use of the scary bird as mitigation measure for seabird bycatch. Knowledge on the methodologies, logistics and main constrains to trial and implement mitigation measures were given to the project partners. Factsheets on the use of the scary bird in lines and hooks (attached to the boats or to mark buoys) as well as in other fishing gears (namely purse seine and set nets) were shared with the project partners. Also, a detailed user guide was shared. Regarding the mitigation devices, 24 scary birds are already with project partner to trial the mitigation measure with fishers. In addition, 50 more scary birds have been purchased and will be distributed shortly for the same purpose.<br><br>Evidence documents: (i) Act 3.2.2. SCM Cabo Verde Conservation Projects 2024_report; | Continue to engage fishers in adopting and testing the mitigation methods and commencing trials. |
| Activity 3.2.4: Monitor and review outcomes of bycatch mitigation trials with Scientific Expert Committee and define the most effective measures. BLI | The bycatch mitigation trials are starting in May 2024. Once sufficient data has been collected from July onwards, the data will be analysed, and outcomes reviewed including with the SEC to discuss the efficacy of these measures.<br>Evidence documents: (i) See Act 3.2.2. | Finalize the trial protocol and conduct the mitigation trials. |
| Activity 3.3.1 Create training module for use at Inception workshop and NGOS capacitated by train-the-trainer. BLI | This was completed in year 1. Additional training on safe handling and release of seabirds and sea turtles bycaught by lines and hooks fishers was delivered to all the partners and GOS members. More than 45 participants were part of the online training in September 2023 and around 18 participants benefited from the on-site (train-the-trainers) training during the second Steering Committee meeting in March 20240. Participants unanimously indicated that the training met their expectations, with a clear and evident focus on turtles and birds, but some suggested that it could also address other species of marine megafauna that fishers encounter in their fishing activities. In addition, training modules as well as a laminated one-pager on seabirds and sea-turtle safe handling and release were provided to project partners and GOS.<br><br>Evidence documents: (i) See Act 3.2.2.; Photos; Training modules; Act 3.2.2. Safe handling manual and One-pager. | Continue to support partners to replicate the trainings and strengthen GOS on their activities focusing on reducing the impact of bycatch. |

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| Activity 3.3.2: Adapt SPEA (Portuguese) materials for safe handling guides and seek Scientific Expert Committee inputs in Y1 Q2. BLI | A manual on safe handling and release of seabirds and sea turtles in line fisheries was produced by SPEA under the guidance of the Scientific Expert Committee. The manual included a section on identification of the most common species of seabird in Cabo Verde to be bycaught and all sea turtle species present in the archipelagos. In addition, a short format (one pager) has been produced and shared during the second Steering Committee meeting to be carried at-sea by fishers.<br><br>Evidence documents: (i) Act 3.3.2. Safe handling manual and One-pager. | Print and share the manual with all fishers and partners. |
| Activity 3.3.3: Train fishers via workshops in Y1 Q2, monitor using information provided in 3.1, analyse and report. BLI | Fishers are being engaged on all target sites, equipped and trained with useful skills aiming to strengthen data collection and reporting. | Continue training the fishers to strengthen data collection, analyses and report bycatch. |
| Activity 3.4.1: Conduct quantitative and qualitative surveys and semi-structured interviews to get insight on motivations, social norms, context of behavioural patterns underpinning fishing activities by Y1 Q2. Oxford | The field coordinator was recruited, an initial baseline survey was carried out and data was analysed (see act 1.1.1 and output 2.1.1). Based on the statistical analysis of the surveys which have been and will continue to be conducted, the strategy is currently being drafted and will be refined and validated during stakeholder workshops before it will be implemented in the coming months. 9 participants among all project partners also took part in a regional social marketing training in July and August 2023, to exchange experiences, lessons and solidify approaches and methodologies for behaviour change activities. The training was divided in two phases: (1) Introduction to social marketing, Use of SM in conservation, Stakeholder mapping, Theory of Change (includes Results Chains and SMART objectives), Introduction to Research for SM (Qualitative Research: methods, section in Research Plan, Qualitative Research: data analysis) and (2) Target Audience segmentation, Preliminary SMART objectives, Quantitative research: protocols, section of Research Plan.<br>Evidence document: (i) Act 3.4.1 Social Marketing Training Timetable | This was completed. |
| Activity 3.4.2 University of Oxford to co-design culturally sensitive behaviour change strategy with national NGOS and impact evaluation plan in Y1Q2. Oxford | This is currently being planned. | University of Oxford to co-design culturally sensitive behaviour change strategy with national NGOS and impact evaluation in July/August 2024. |
| Activity 3.4.3: Implement behaviour change/social marketing strategy linked to 2.1.2 in Y1 Q3. Oxford | This activity has not yet started. Distilling of insights from audience survey and of fisheries data on bycatch to support intervention design is underway. The finalization of the strategy will be informed by the codesign workshops which will take place in July/August 2024. The implementation of the strategy will be of a duration of a minimum of six months followed by an impact evaluation. | Finalize the strategy based on the baseline data and the co-design workshop and implement the behaviour change/social marketing strategy. In addition, a mid-evaluation of the implementation after three months will be conducted. |
| Activity 3.4.4 Measure intervention causal impacts by Y3 Q3 through 6-monthly surveys at target and comparison sites and actual behaviours to overcome limitations of self-reported indicators. Oxford | Measures for causal impacts and actual behaviours as well as the identification of target and comparison sites are being defined as part of the behaviour change strategy and impact evaluation plan. | Design and validate the impact evaluation. |

| Activity 3.4.5: Review and adjust methodology following feedback by Y2 Q3. Oxford | A review process of the implementation of the behaviour change strategy is planned after three months of implementation | Review of the strategy based on monitoring data after three months. |
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| Activity 3.5.1: Review existing data on spatiotemporal overlap between vessels and seabirds to find hotspots for interactions and target data gathering and mitigation efforts by Y1 Q4. BLI | The consultancy process for studying the interactions between seabirds, marine turtles, and fishing activities is in its final stages of negotiation with a consortium of consultants, allowing work to begin in the coming weeks. This study will provide deeper insights into these interactions and offer recommendations to national authorities on reducing bycatch and enhancing legislation in this area. An initial outline of the study and methodology was presented during the second Steering Committee meeting.<br><br>Evidence documents: (i) Act 3.5.1. Presentation of the study, methodology, approach and timeline. | Develop the study and continue data collection and conduct further analysis to measure mitigation efforts. |
| Activity 3.5.2: Deploy GPSs on artisanal boats on 6 islands, monitor, analyze, report to understand the seasonality and spatial spread of fishing activity to determine mitigation strategies. BLI | On the islands of Fogo and Brava, 26 GPS are currently actively collecting data, enabling the tracking of navigation patterns and interactions areas of seabird and sea turtles. Biosfera has leveraged this technology to collect data on the spatial distribution of fishing activity across the Santa Luzia marine reserve complex. This data is crucial not only for understanding local fishing practices but also for ensuring the sustainability of marine reserves, particularly in areas important for bird and marine turtle habitats. Additional 60 GPS for the vessel tracking have already been acquired and shared with partners during the Steering Committee meeting held in March 2024, to be deployed on the artisanal vessels and improve data collection on the interactions between fishing activities areas and seabird and sea turtles. By monitoring interactions between fishing activities and sensitive zones, such as those inhabited by birds and marine turtles, conservation efforts and mitigation techniques to reduce impact on the bycatch can be more effectively targeted and managed to protect these vulnerable species. This information will be collected through reports and shared with relevant authorities, partners and GOS to inform mitigation measures such as temporal closure, change in fishing practices etc. | Partners to engage and support GOS with the additional GPS for installation on artisanal boats on the 6 islands and monitoring. In addition, data collected will contribute to the study mentioned in Act 3.5.1. |
| Activity 3.6.1 Using outputs from 3.2, socialise effective mitigation methods with FAs, including changes to target fish catch and target reduction levels (Y3) Biosfera | Birds scaring devices have been acquired by BirdLife and shared with all NGOs. Partners learnt through the first onsite training during the Steering Committee meeting how to use them and to replicate the trainings with the partner fishers and GOS. Further trainings for the GOS on how to use the scary bird devices are scheduled for May 2024. The devices will be deployed in 74 artisanal fishing boats across the project sites from May 2024 to evaluate their effectiveness and further devices will be acquired and deployed if proven useful for reducing seabird bycatch. See output 3.2.2. | Finalize the trail protocol for the scary birds and provide assessment of these trails with the partners to socialise the results with FAs. |

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| Activity 3.6.2 Advocacy with government parties/ local authorities, throughout contributing to policies on bycatch reduction a) seabirds; b) turtles; c) MPA implementation; d) fishery sustainability; e) labelling. Biosfera | Biosfera has been continuously working on its advocacy and lobbing with government parties, especially the ministry of the sea in different topics such as fisheries management, creation of OECMs, bycatch reduction and labelling process. Additional activities include a meeting with representatives from DNPA regarding available bycatch mitigation legislation in the region and a meeting with DNA to discuss remaining steps for the adoption and implementation of the Cabo Verde Seabirds Conservation Action Plan which identified bycatch as one of the major threats to seabirds in the country. In addition, the results of a previous bycatch project in Cabo Verde industrial fisheries are showing the impact of fishing activities especially pelagic longlines on the Cabo Verde sea turtle population was presented with representatives of DNPA. Various meetings were held with authorities such as IGQPI, IGP and IMar regarding the labelling process (see act 2.5.1). Evidence document: (i) Act 3.6.2. | Continue advocacy with government parties/local authorities, contributing to policies to reduce bycatch (seabirds, turtles), implementation of the MPA, fishing sustainability and particularly the labelling process (IGQPI, DNPA, FAO) |
| Activity 3.7.1: Development of audit scheme based on existing modes in Y1 Q2. Biosfera | The audit scheme has been created and was discussed during the project inception workshop on Sal Island. This audit scheme will be part of the fisheries products labelling process that is being carried out together with IGQPI. | Revise and establish the audit scheme, based on the labelling process, including the code of conduct for restaurants already finished and to be socialize and applied shortly. In addition, the same approach to applied on the code of conduct to the fisheries products let by IGQPI. |
| Activity 3.7.2: Hold a workshop with IGQPI, FAs, local authorities to identify means of delivery in Y1 Q3. Biosfera | This workshop was delayed due to the preparation of the code of conduct. A workshop is scheduled for May 2024 with IGQPI, restaurants, local authorities, fishing associations and fishers to present the code of conduct for restaurants labelling which outlines the criteria to be followed and the advantages for restaurants. This document also presents some advantages for fishers and fishmongers, namely the extra 50 CVE that restaurants will need to pay for the sustainable fish. Another workshop on the fisheries product certification involving the same stakeholders is scheduled for August 2024 (once this code of conduct is developed) | Workshop on the restaurants and fisheries product involving all stakeholders is scheduled for May and August 2024 respectively, to socialize and engage and involving partners. |
| 3.7.3 Trial of the audit scheme, monitor in Y2 Q4 and Y3 Q2, analyse in Y3 Q3, and deliver results to stakeholders & government in Y3 Q4. Biosfera | An audit scheme has been created and previously applied as a trial for 6 restaurants in São Vicente. With the new approach and the already developed code of conduct (Guide to awarding the 'sustainable, from sea to plate' label to the catering sector in Cabo Verde), a revised audit and monitoring system has been developed to verify whether certified restaurants continue to meet the criteria set during the process of obtaining the label.<br><br>Evidence document: (i) Act 2.5.1. Guide for awarding the Sustainable, from the sea to plate label for restaurants. | Start trials of the revised audit scheme. |
| **Output 4.** Knowledge on nature and extent of interactions between seabirds | 4.1 By Y1 Q1, an external scientific expert committee is established to provide guidance to the project, foster knowledge-exchange, and ensure cutting-edge practices are implemented. | 4.1 The scientific expert committee (SEC) has been established in June 2023 with the aim to support the implementation of the conservation projects in Cabo Verde through the provision of scientific insights, data analyses, experiences, comprehensive reviews, and advice. The SEC consists of 14 experts with diverse expertise and meets twice a year virtually. Evidence document: (i) See Act 4.1.1. SEC - List of experts; TOR. |

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| and sea turtles in artisanal fisheries is improved and informs bycatch mitigation policies and solutions being used by artisanal fishers in Cabo Verde and in the wider West Africa region by EoP. | 4.2 Starting from Y1 Q4, species population monitoring is reviewed using baseline population data (number of individuals, species, seasonality, among others) and information from GOS on the occurrence and distribution of indicator species at sea is collated, analysed, and reported. Bycatch reduction is observed in addition to bycatch reporting (3.2 above).<br><br>4.3 Awareness of the value and benefits of adopting more responsible fishing practices and protecting seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, rays, and juvenile fish increases amongst fisheries value chain stakeholders (fishers, fish mongers, restauranteurs, restaurant patrons, government agencies managing fisheries). The campaign reaches at least 60% of the population in target communities at the six islands.<br><br>4.4 Report on social marketing outcomes and the opportunities /barriers to upscaling to national coverage is shared with local authorities on 6 islands and government agencies at national level, regional (West African), international levels.<br><br>4.5 Advocacy is conducted at EOP and post-project on inclusion artisanal bycatch mitigation measures into Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plans and national policies.<br><br>4.6 Lessons learned, mitigation bycatch fact sheets, Guardians of the Sea development protocol, and scientific papers produced during this project are shared with policymakers, BirdLife Partners and NGOS in West Africa and to the wider public by EoP. | 4.2 Baseline condition: species population monitoring is reviewed.<br><br>The partners have been collecting data related to the monitoring of the species and systematized in a database for a defined period of at least 1 year, to carry out the analysis and report the evidence, variations, and trends. According to the monitoring results for 2023, both sea turtles and seabirds at the various project sites and as monitored by the partners, show a trend of recovery and population growth. For more details, see Act 4.2.1. Monitoring data (seabirds and sea turtles).<br>Evidence document: (i) Ind 4.2. Data from monitoring<br><br>4.3 Awareness of the value and benefits of adopting more responsible fishing practices and protecting seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, rays, and juvenile fish increases amongst fisheries value chain stakeholders (fishers, fish mongers, restauranteurs, restaurant patrons, government agencies managing fisheries). The campaign reaches at least 60% of the population in target communities on the six islands.<br><br>The awareness raising activities have been conducted by all project partners including billboards, TV series and publications. See output 4.3.1. In addition, there will be further engagement and awareness raising as part of the labelling process.<br><br>4.4 Behaviour change questionnaires were conducted to define and inform the social marketing/behaviour change strategy. The behaviour change strategy has not yet been implemented as it is being finalized through a co-design workshop. However, 9 participants among all project partners took part in a regional social marketing training in July and August 2023 to exchange experiences and solidify relevant approaches and methods for behaviour change in conservation projects.<br><br>4.5 To be reported from the year 3 or end of the project.<br><br>4.6 Various outreach and communication products were developed, and lessons and facts were shared within Cabo Verde as well as regionally. For more info see Act 4.6.5 and 3.6.2. | |
| Activity 4.1.1 Scientific Expert Committee established in Y1 Q2, quarterly meetings held virtually, minuted with regular inputs on outputs, noted. BLI & Vito | The SEC has been established in June 2023 with the aim to support the implementation of the conservation projects in Cabo Verde through the provision of scientific insights, data analyses, experiences, | Maintain close collaboration with SEC by sharing project implementation updates and actively seeking support and advice from them as needed to ensure the |

| | comprehensive reviews, and advice. The SEC consists of 14 experts with diverse expertise and meets twice a year virtually.<br>Evidence document: (i) Act 4.1.1. Minutes of the SEC meeting; TOR; List of experts | successful and effective implementation of the project |
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| Activity 4.1.2 Get Committee's advice on extension of activities to West Africa during Y3. BLI & Vito | This will be reported on in year 3. | Activity to be done in year 3. |
| Activity 4.2.1: Agree indicator populations (seabirds and turtles) for monitoring, based on pre project data and planned activities of local NGOS during the project by Y1 Q2. Vito | Indicator populations (seabirds and sea turtles) were agreed upon for monitoring. Partners collected and compiled the monitoring information for seabirds and sea turtles on the islands of Fogo, Brava, Santiago, São Nicolau, Santo Antão, São Vicente, Sal, Santa Luzia and Ilhéu de Cima (2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023).<br><br>Evidence document: (i) Act 4.2.1. Monitoring data (seabirds and sea turtles). | Continuation of species monitoring in the different sites target by the project.<br><br>Seabird monitoring at Ilhéu de Cima, including *Calonectris edwardsii* population monitoring campaign on Brava Island by APV.<br>Sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) monitoring campaign on the island of Fogo and Ilhéu de Cima by APV, São Vicente and Santa Luzia by Biosfera and on Sal by APB; |
| Activity 4.2.2 Use bird and turtle population monitoring data from NGOs to compare to 2019/2020 baselines to identify population changes in indicator populations across the archipelago annually. BLI | Baseline: Number of active nests monitored in 2019/2020<br>According to the monitoring results for 2023, it can be seen that both sea turtles and seabirds at the various project sites and as monitored by the partners, show a trend of recovery and population growth.<br><br>Evidence document: (i) See Act 4.2.1. Monitoring data (seabirds and sea turtles) | Continue to collect data for analysis and identify changes regarding trend of population – monitoring and evaluation of the measures. |
| Activity 4.2.3: Train Guardians of the Sea to conduct species and bycatch monitoring at sea and socialize methods in Y1. BLI | Various trainings were successfully conducted and continued support to GOS on the monitoring of marine megafauna is being implemented. More details on training activities are mentioned under the activity 1.3.2. | Continue close collaboration and work with GOS in handling and safe-release of seabirds and sea turtles, equip them with a kit for this safe-release and mitigations methods to reduce the bycatch incidences. |
| Activity 4.3.1: Three NGOS conduct awareness raising campaigns of fishing communities throughout 6 islands e.g. fish market information tools, posters in buses, radio interviews, television, and newspapers. BLI | This is an ongoing activity. A billboard and rulers (for measuring minimum fish size) have been installed in the fish market informing the consumer what choices to make in order to buy a sustainable fish, which is caught in accordance with the relevant management plans. Five billboards are installed in all fishing communities in São Vicente and Santo Antão to inform the fishers and wider population of fishing legislation in Cabo Verde and management measures in place. There is also an ongoing campaign on social media (Biosfera) to inform and sensitize people on how they can be more sustainable and help conserve the environment in Cabo Verde. Various activities have been carried out in Sal with awareness-raising posters in the communities, the Mundo Sustentável television programme which has been broadcast on local television on the island of Sal and Boa vista (12 episodes). On the APB's social networks, several posts have been made promoting the project and awareness-raising campaigns on good fishing practices. 10 banners on minimum catch size and commercialisation have already been | NGOs continue to raise awareness in the 6 target islands and measures impact. |

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| | produced and will be installed at landing ports and fish markets on both Fogo and Brava islands to inform fishers and the general public about fishing legislation.<br><br>Evidence document: (i) Act 4.3.1. Ruler for measuring fish size; (ii) Act 4.3.1. Photos of billboard; Radio.TV.Web Program contract; Posters; Link of the different posts on social networks from partners. | |
| Activity 4.3.2: Report on reach of the campaigns in Y3 Q1-Q2, sample feedback from fishers including pre and post workshop test of participants knowledge of key workshop messages. BLI | This will be done and reported on in year 3. | Prepare a report on the reach of the campaigns, including sample feedback from fishers and pre- and post-workshop tests of participants' knowledge of key workshop messages |
| Activity 4.4: Compile results and lessons learned from behaviour change campaign, suggest opportunities in a report for replication at national, regional and global level in Y3 Q2. Oxford | This will be done and reported on in year 3. | Compile lessons learned and results from the behaviour change marketing campaign. In addition, prepare a report with suggestions for opportunities to replicate the campaign nationally, regionally, and globally. |
| Activity 4.5: Share recommendations with national policymakers (DNA, Ministry of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries, IQGPI) through meetings and events in Cabo Verde in Y3 Q4. BLI | All these entities have demonstrated their commitment to the project through their active participation in the Steering Committee, sharing updates on progress, challenges, and future plans. Recommendations from these and other discussions in coordination meetings, are being considered for further implementation. Additionally, various other collaborative efforts have helped to strengthen synergies across the project. This engagement and exchange will continue throughout the project and recommendations will be shared in year 3. | Continue the exchange and provide recommendations to share with national policymakers and strengthen synergies among stakeholders. |
| Activity 4.6.1: Develop communications strategy for the project linked to 1.3.3 identifying key target audiences and channels by Y1 Q2. Biosfera | This activity has been successfully concluded. The communication plan has been elaborated and approved among all partners. Communications tools are being implemented. The focus during the next coming months will be to advertise the sustainable fishing label and promote restaurants that are adhering to the initiative.<br>Evidence document: (i) Act 4.6.1. Communications strategy. | Continue the communication campaign focus mostly the sustainable fishing activities, including labelling process. |
| Activity 4.6.2: Develop dissemination materials on project results, mitigation fact sheets, and lessons learned in easy to access formats in Y3 Q2. BLI & Biosfera | This will be implemented and reported on in year 3. | Develop dissemination materials on project results, mitigation fact sheets, and lessons learned in easy to access formats |
| Activity 4.6.3: Write and publish a scientific article on bycatch mitigation results and uptake of measures through social marketing in Y3 Q3. BLI | This will be implemented and reported on in year 3. | Write and publish a scientific article on bycatch mitigation results and uptake of measures through social marketing campaign. |
| Activity 4.6.4: Create interactive forum for uptake & response in WA countries on Hatch platform in Y3 Q4. BLI | Lessons and experiences from this project were shared during a regional workshop in Ghana among members of the Coalition for Fisheries Transparency in February 2024. During the International Scientific Symposium on the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) efforts regarding understanding and addressing bycatch of vulnerable species of marine megafauna (seabirds and sea turtles) in West African fisheries were presented in Guinea Bissau in November 2023. In | Continue to share lessons learned and create interactive forum for uptake & response in WA countries on Hatch platform. |

| | | addition, the approach of the GOS program was shared during the ICCB in Kigali - an innovative citizen science approach to mitigate bycatch by empowering members of the local artisanal fishing community to act, monitor and report bycatch incidences on marine megafauna in fisheries activities.<br>Evidence documents: (i) Act 4.6.4. Symposium CCLME; (ii) Act 4.6.4. ICCB2023 Bycatch presentation Kigali | |
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| | Activity 4.6.5: Share recommendations with policymakers and with fisheries stakeholders in West Africa at regional meetings with governments, and at global conferences in Y3. BLI | This will be done and reported on in year 3. | Share recommendations with policymakers and fisheries stakeholders in West Africa at regional meetings with governments and at global conferences. |
| **Output 5**. At least 70% (n=370) of pilot participatory sustainable fisheries labelling scheme participants (260 people, ~35% women) directly benefit from a 10% increase in income (compared to baseline) by joining the scheme a and co-create livelihood benefits, shared amongst the communities for approx.1,200 people with increasing equitability across genders. | 5.1 14 fishers (M) and fish monger (F) associations (memberships of 1,200 fishers and 130 fish mongers respectively) have improved structure, and governance by Y1 Q3.<br><br>5.2 At least 70% of fishers and fish mongers engaged in the labelling program (n=370, including 240 fishers (M) and 130 fish mongers (F)) report a 10% increase in income resulting from reduced waste, increased fishing efficiency, higher market price for sustainably fished product, better food storage.<br>Baseline: 57 fishers and 40 fish mongers in São Vicente and Sal. Average salary: 150-350 GBP per month.<br><br>5.3 By Y1 Q4, safety equipment is provided to the 170 fishers engaged in GOS and the labelling, during the first year.<br><br>5.4 By Y3 Q4, ~20% decrease in post-harvest loss of catch for 600 fishers and fish mongers within the 14 associations taking part in the project due to improved sanitary measures for the handling and cooling of fish along the value chain.<br><br>5.5 At least 370 people (~35% women) attend workshops explaining social benefits related to taxes and insurance and are supported with follow-up administrative support by Y2 Q4. | 5.1 Baseline condition: fishermen and fishermen's association are not very well organized.<br><br>This has been done and reported on. Continued support is provided to improve governance in FAs.<br><br>Evidence document:<br>See Act 5.1.1. Guiding plan<br><br>5.2 Baseline: 57 fishers and 40 fish mongers in São Vicente and Sal. Average salary: 150-350 GBP per month.<br><br>Change recorded to date:<br>Regarding the labelling scheme, code of conduct for the restaurants is developed and will be socialized in the coming weeks and months with the stakeholders. Another code of conduct for the fisheries products is currently being developed with IGQPI for the fishers and fishmongers, ensuring, for both, necessary involvement from government authorities and stakeholders (see Act 2.5.1)<br><br>5.3 In the last months the 3 NGOs facilitated training to 88 fishers in how to use the safety equipment that was acquired for the GOS, in particular safety kits for emergencies situations. In addition, safe handling equipment was purchased shared with 100 fishers and relevant training of trainers were conducted.<br><br>Evidence document: (i) Ind 5.3. Training report<br><br>5.4. An additional 22 fishers who are part of the GOS in Fogo received cooling boxes. In Sal solar panels are being installed to support the efficiency and reduction of costs for fishers of cooling systems to improve sanitary measures (see Act 5.4.3) | |

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| Activity 5.1.1 Governance structure models for fisheries associations to be developed by APB and shared at Inception Workshop. APB to train other partners. APB | This activity has been successfully implemented and reported in year 1 | Partners will continue to train local partners such as fishers and fisher mongers. |
| Activity 5.1.2 NGOS to train fisheries associations on 6 islands through workshops in Y1 Q2, monitor and support strengthening throughout project. BLI | This activity has been successfully implemented and reported in year 1. | Partners to monitor and continue train fisheries associations on 6 islands through workshops, monitor and support strengthening throughout project. |
| Activity 5.2.1 Define communities' income and non-financial benefits & costs via Baseline and end line surveys disaggregated by gender and age, analysis for equitable distribution. BLI | This activity has been successfully implemented and reported in year 1. | Promote end-line surveys to assess communities' income and non-financial benefits and costs, disaggregated by gender and age, aiming for equitable distribution analysis |
| Activity 5.3.1 Assess the safety equipment needs during Y1, identify and implement most equitable distribution across parties with FAs. APB | Meetings with the fishermen's associations were held by Biosfera and APB with the aim of identifying the needs and opportunities for improving the associations' capacity. With the data from the SWOT analysis, Biosfera is implementing work plan with the fishermen's associations according to priority needs already identified (i.e. lifejackets, communication equipment, GPS, first aid kits).<br><br>Evidence document: (i) Act 5.3.1. Pictures of delivery of safety equipment | Biosfera continues working with de fishermen's associations according to the priority needs identify by the swot analysis, improving FAs capacity through the best practices on the fishing activities. APB continues to work with the fishermen's associations to install solar panels to reduce the costs of producing and selling ice to benefit fishermen and fishmongers. |
| Activity 5.3.2 Training workshop at 6 islands to train participants in use of safety equipment in Y1 Q4. APB | In the last months the 3 NGOs facilitated trainings to 88 fishers in how to use the safety equipment that was acquired for the GOS including safety kits for emergencies situations.<br><br>Evidence documents: (i) Act 5.3.2. purchase kits evidence; (ii) See Act 1.3.2. GOS trainings. | Continue to monitor through fishers and partners the use of the equipment and support them as needed. |
| Activity 5.3.3 Monitor use of equipment, ensure photos/records are kept, gather commentary (links to comms strategy) APB | Regular visits to the fishing communities to follow up with the active GOS, revise equipment, collect data and continue the work to identify their needs and how we can support, in 4 islands (Sal, São Vicente, Fogo e Brava).<br><br>Evidence documents: (i) Act 5.3.3. Photos of equipment's monitored. | Continue with the regular and weekly follow ups with the different GOS. Provide support to GOS in data collection, addressing or overcoming challenges related to low education levels and understanding of self-report forms, among others. |
| Activity 5.4.1 Define baseline and EOP post-harvest loss through surveys in Y1 Q2 and Y3 Q2. Biosfera | The survey is currently being finalized to be administered. | Biosfera to finalise the survey EOP post-harvest loss and get it approved by the partners to ensure effective application. |
| Activity 5.4.2 Define the need and distribution of measures that improve fish handling practices across 6 sites in Y1 Q2. Biosfera | The training workshops that were carried out with the fishers in year 1 informed by the needs outlined in the manual of good practices shared in year 1 report will be replicated across 6 sites to reinforce the need to correctly handle and conserve the fish products to keep their quality. | Continue building capacities and replicate training workshops to reinforce the need to correctly handle and conserve the fish products to keep their quality. |

| | Evidence document: Act 5.4.2. A manual of good practices | |
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| Activity 5.4.3 Deliver materials and training for sanitary and cooling to FAs (fishers and fish mongers) in Y1 Q4. Biosfera | This activity has been successfully implemented and reported on in year 1. In addition, due to the challenges identified with fisher's associations on Sal Island, specifically the high electricity consumption of ice production machines making them unsustainable, APB is partnering with Águas Ponta Preta to create a renewable energy solution using solar panels. APB is collaborating with the fisher's associations to install solar panels, reducing the costs of ice production and sale to benefit fishers and fishmongers.<br>Evidence document:<br>See Act 5.4.3. Photovoltaic proposal Palmeira Fishermen's Association. | Continuously monitor the performance of the installed solar panels and their impact on reducing ice production costs. In addition, partners to support FAs and replicate trainings on sanitary and cooling among the project target sites. |
| Activity 5.5.1: Inception workshop - train the trainers from APB to other NGOS on social benefits applicable to fishing communities. BLI | This activity has been successfully implemented and reported on in year 1. | |
| 5.5.2 Training workshops on tax/insurance aspects with FAs on benefits of involvement, post-workshop surveys to monitor uptake of measures quarterly and adjust/support in Y1 Q3. BLI | Additional meetings were held with the national institute for social security (INPS) and DNPA to further efforts to include informal sectors such as fisheries in the social security system. The relevant national authorities will work with the FAs on this going forward. In addition, Biosfera is building a partnership with the fishmonger association in São Vicente to develop actions for a new project among others on the formalization of the fishmongers' selling activities so they will have to pay tax/insurance, and therefore be part of the social security system. A training workshop with fishers on financial education and importance of paying taxes/insurances will take place in the coming months. | Support and promote training workshops to fishers and fishmongers with focus on financial education and the importance of paying taxes and insurance to encourage formalization and inclusion in the social security system. |

**Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)**

| Project Summary | SMART Indicators | Means of Verification | Important Assumptions |
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| **Impact:** Marine biodiversity (seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, fish) is recovering around six islands in Cabo Verde and communities benefiting due to increased stewardship and improved fisheries management by artisanal fishing communities.<br>30 words | | | |
| **Outcome:**<br><br>Fishing communities in 6 Cabo Verde islands engage in sustainable, locally defined labelling practices providing livelihood benefits to 1,200 people, reducing seabird bycatch by 25% and turtle unsafe release by 50%. | 0.1 By End of Project (EoP), three civil society organizations and 170 Guardians of the Sea (GOS) members have increased capacity for delivering conservation action and visibility as role models.<br><br>0.2 A local, pilot participatory labelling scheme is replicated in six islands of Cabo Verde engaging at least 240 fishers (M) and 130 fish mongers (F) and 50 restaurants and results inform wider uptake by EoP.<br><br>0.3 By EoP, at least 50% decrease in catch of under-sized, blue-dotted seabass and lobster, caught by GOS and fishers who joined the labelling (n= 240) compared to year 1 baselines.<br><br>0.4 By EoP, at least 50% of fishers (GOS and fishers who joined the labelling (n=240)) report a decrease in waste discard against year 1 baselines.<br><br>0.5 By EoP, at least ~30% of fishers engaged around the 6 islands are actively performing behaviour changes to minimize unsustainable fishing practices.<br><br>0.6 By Y3 Q3, estimated total bycatch of seabirds is reduced by 25% and adherence to the guidelines for release of captured seabirds and turtles is at least 50%.<br><br>0.7 At least 70% of fishers and fish mongers engaged in the labelling program (n=370, including 240 fishers (M) and 130 fish mongers (F)) report an increase in income (compared to baseline) resulting from reduced fish waste through improved cold-storage facilities at sea and on land, increased fishing efficiency, higher market price for sustainably fished product.<br><br>0.8 By EoP, at least ~20% decrease in post-harvest loss of catch for 600 fishers and fish mongers within | 0.1 Inception workshop report. Guardians of the Sea Terms of Reference, exchange visit reports, GOS website. List of GOS members at start and end of project. Number of NGO staff trained and actively engaged in the programme post-training project.<br><br>0.2 Agreed guidelines and criteria, List of fishers, fish mongers' associations, restaurants and local authorities signed up to the labelling scheme at project sites, Code of Conduct, proposed compliance mechanisms.<br><br>0.3 Reports on fishers' logbook data (fishers use measuring tape/rulers on boats; fish mongers use seabass shaped rulers on markets). Qualitative estimates of fish wastage and release of undersized fish established through surveys. Baseline surveys at landing sites weekly for 2 months Y1Q2, monitored 6 monthly for 1 month (same month each year). Sample feedback before and after awareness campaign.<br><br>0.4 Baseline and EoP surveys. Insulation box systems delivered and other equipment in use at the end of the project and stats on discarded fishing gear. Awareness raising workshop reports with fishers' associations, reports on reach of and sampling of feedback from the awareness campaigns including pre and post workshop test of participants knowledge of key workshop messages.<br><br>0.5 Questionnaire survey and semi-structured interviews with fishers, community members, self-reporting forms. | 0.1 The assumption is that more members of the fishing communities wish to engage as GOS. As Associação Projeto Biodiversidade (APB) has successfully engaged 40 fishers on Sal Island to join the GOS program showing high commitment to protecting marine biodiversity and more fishers are waiting to enrol in the program, we are confident that sufficient numbers of fishers will enroll and play an active part.<br><br>0.2. and 0.3 Members of the communities in Cabo Verde are willing to join the labelling program, as demonstrated by Biosfera's successful engagement with 150 fishers in São Vicente.<br><br>0.4 Fishers who currently use plastic water bottles as ice cube/cooling system will be willing to use the insulation box systems and dispose of fishing gear appropriately on land rather than at sea. As the proposed insulation box systems will protect valuable catch, we anticipate full uptake of this system. Awareness raising workshops will highlight the negative impact of discarding fishing gear at sea, so we expect full compliance.<br><br>0.5 Self-reporting is reasonably accurate and consistent between baseline and EoP. GOS are already acting as observers and members of the NGOS will be |

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| | the 14 associations taking part in the project due to improved sanitary measures for the handling, cooling, and processing of fish along the value chain. | 0.6 Monthly bycatch figures are collated based on fishers' surveys recorded in a one-week survey, and estimates produced 6 monthly on numbers of individuals of vulnerable species taken, including species, seasons, release rates, impacts on fishing efficiency. Numbers are extrapolated for all areas sampled with >10% of fleet coverage by surveys.<br><br>0.7 Baseline and EoP surveys. Photographs and video of material/equipment in use. Reports on quantity and type of material distributed.<br><br>0.8 Start and end of project surveys. Photographs and video of material/equipment in use. Reports on quantity and type of material distributed and in active use. | ground truthing reported information.<br><br>0.6 Bycatch rates follow the expected binomial distribution, and the data are representative of the whole artisanal fleet in the populations of fishers sampled.<br><br>0.7 and 0.8 Suggested livelihood improvements for the associations were consulted with communities in the three areas during ongoing projects and may vary depending on local context (see output 5). |
| **Outputs:**<br>**1**. Increased conservation capacity built amongst 3 civil society organizations and 170 Guardians of the Sea (GOS) members; including behaviour change, sustainable fisheries labelling, and voluntary stewardship. | 1.1 SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODS: Three NGOS conduct qualitative and quantitative social science research by Y1 Q1 in order to design messages, identify and prioritize target audiences, trusted influencers, channels of communication, and drivers of change by Y2 Q1.<br><br>1.2 LABELLING: Two NGOS are trained by Biosfera to replicate a local sustainable fishery labelling scheme by Y1 Q1.<br><br>1.3 GUARDIANS OF THE SEA (GOS): Two NGOS are trained by APB to replicate the GOS model promoting voluntary stewardship and target species and vulnerable non-target species monitoring (seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, rays) amongst fishers, and the GOS brand has agreed governance and communications strategy by Y1 Q1.<br><br>1.4 RECRUITMENT OF GOS: At least 170 new volunteer fishers join the GOS programme project sites and are trained to monitor key species and monitor fishing practices by Y2 Q1.<br>Baseline: 40 fishers in Sal. | 1.1 Questionnaire survey and Semi-structured Interview guide for data collection with fishers, community members, summary results uploaded to preprint server.<br><br>1.2 Inception workshop report, Number of trained staff replicating local labelling scheme.<br><br>1.3 Inception workshop report, Terms of reference agreed with fishing cooperatives, number of staff trained, website, t-shirts. Number of staff actively engaged with programme post training.<br><br>1.4 List of fishers enrolled in GOS, workshop reports, photos. Review of numbers of fishers enrolled in GOS at the start and actively involved at end of the project. | 1.1 Fishers are open to disclosing information about fishing practices. This should be enabled by strong ongoing engagement by all 3 NGOS.<br><br>1.4 Fishers in other islands than Sal are willing to become volunteer GOS members. Members become early adopters/influencers of behaviour change for the wider community (see Outcome 1 assumption). |

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| **2**. A pilot participatory local labelling scheme for sustainable fisheries is implemented by fisheries value chain stakeholders (fishers, fishmongers, restaurants, and consumers) in six islands (Sal, São Vicente, Santo Antão, São Nicolau, Fogo, and Brava). | 2.1 Barriers to implement social change, such as customary fishing practices, or material barriers, are identified by Y1 Q2 in workshops and through a participatory process involving stakeholders, barriers to change and potential behavioural change interventions to overcome them are agreed through co-design. Y1 Q4. | 2.1 Baseline questionnaire survey report identifying barriers and Social Marketing Campaign implementation plan. | 2.1 The three NGOS will be able to design and implement effective behavioural change. The project will increase capacity to design and implement social marketing campaigns. |
| | 2.2 Local labelling guidelines and criteria (potentially minimum catch size, seasonality, bycatch mitigation, no discarded fishing gear) reviewed, consulted, and agreed by NGOS and fishing value chain stakeholders, as well as local authorities by Y1 Q4. | 2.2 Local Labelling Report providing agreed guidelines and criteria, MoUs and listing number of fishers, fish mongers' associations, restaurants and local authorities signing up to take part in the local labelling scheme at project sites, Code of Conduct. | 2.2 Initiatives in this project complement and strengthen existing MPAs and their management planning. They provide examples of management actions which will broaden and strengthen MPA management. |
| | 2.3 By Y1 Q4, at least 50 restaurants on 6 islands agree to participate in the labelling scheme. Baseline 2021: 6 restaurants in São Vicente. | 2.3 List of restaurants of each island adopting the labelling scheme, signed MoUs. | 2.3.1 Not all restaurants are likely to accept charging the premium onto customers. Based on Biosfera's experience, we are confident that middle-class to high-end restaurants will be willing to engage in the labelling scheme. 2.3.2 Artisanal fishers are currently unable to sell their catch to hotels due to hygiene concerns. Improved fish handling may result in new market opportunities and income. |
| | 2.4 At least 240 Fishers and 130 fish mongers are engaged in the labelling program by Y2 Q3 and trained in the current legislation on fisheries and existing MPAs and their management plans. | 2.4 List of fishers and fish mongers adopting the labelling scheme. | 2.4 Fishers and fish mongers are willing to participate. We think this will hold true if the added value is clear and the scheme is not too difficult to administer. |
| | 2.5 Local labelling results are shared with appropriate government agencies and advocacy conducted to transition to formal compliance mechanisms by EoP | 2.5 Policy document, Code of Conduct, proposed compliance mechanism, roles and responsibilities and any responses thereto. | 2.5 The Instituto de Gestão de Qualidade e Propriedade Intelectual (IGQPI) showed interest in formalising the local labelling scheme. Buy-in from the Ministry of the Sea will be necessary to ensure sustainability and wider uptake of the labelling post-project. We believe this will hold true due to ongoing engagement with both |

| | | | agencies in ongoing (industrial) bycatch mitigation project. |
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| **3**. Bycatch mitigation measures, including safe release, protecting seabirds and sea turtles and that do not adversely affect other vulnerable species (sharks, rays) are deployed by 600 artisanal fishers around 6 islands and show a 25% reduction of estimated total bycatch of seabirds (compared to Y1 baseline), and 50% of fishers safely release captured seabirds and turtles by Y3 Q3. | 3.1 BYCATCH ESTIMATION: The nature, extent, and intention behind current bycatch is characterized for different species/taxa within specific project sites by Y1 Q2 and at EoP to compare with baseline estimates (% of fishers catching birds, turtles and sharks). 2019 Baseline for handline bycatch: seabirds (77%), sea turtles (55%), sharks (86%). For gillnets, turtles (77%), sharks (86%) and no seabirds. More detailed catch statistics are established through weekly surveys and estimated total catch of target and vulnerable species is estimated from GOS 6-monthly. | 3.1 Baseline surveys (Gilson, 2019), Questionnaire surveys, weekly self-reporting from selected GOS at each site, on numbers of birds, turtles, sharks and rays taken at specific sites, species, seasons, impacts on fishing efficiency, workshop with fishers' associations reports. Bycatch figures are reported 6 monthly to track changes over time. Numbers are extrapolated for all sites sampled with >10% of fleet coverage by surveys. | 3.1. Past relationship between fishers and NGOS have built enough trust to engage transparently in surveys.

3.1.2 Fishers are willing to use mitigation measures and understand the benefits of reducing bycatch on fishing efficiency and biodiversity.

3.1.3 Bycatch rates follow the expected binomial distribution, and the data are representative of the whole artisanal fleet in the populations of fishers sampled.

3.2.1 Measures will be monitored to ensure that they do not adversely affect other vulnerable species such as sharks and rays, nor target fish catch are deployed.

3.2.2 Bycatch in industrial and semi-industrial fisheries is being addressed in other projects, including starting an observer programme and supporting the Fisheries Department mitigating the impact of their upcoming national fleet.

3.3 Available information suggest most bycatch incidents for seabirds and sea turtles is unintentional.

3.4 We are drawing on social marketing principles that have been tested and found to be effective in influencing behaviour for biodiversity conservation.

3.7 Buy-in from the Ministry of the Sea and National Fisheries Agency |
| | 3.2 MITIGATION: Tailored bycatch mitigation options targeted at reducing seabird and turtle bycatch (bird-scaring devices, line weighting, hook types, offal management, bait thawing, net lights (LEDs)) are explored and assessed by Y1 Q4 and rolled out by Y2 Q4. | 3.2 Reports providing overview of mitigation measures tried on specific fishing boats and detailing results from mitigation method assessments and uptake of selected methods. Reports on quarterly meeting with fishing associations integrating feedback about the effectiveness of the measures and troubleshoot issues about deployment and fishing efficiency. | |
| | 3.3 SAFE HANDLING: At least 1,200 fishers trained to safely handle and release seabirds, sea turtles, when entangled/hooked by Y1 Q3 to increase chances of survival for released animals and at least 50% report using the safe release methods by EOP. | 3.3 Training reports, fishers' evaluations, surveys and photographic archive. | |
| | 3.4 BEHAVIOUR CHANGE: A social marketing campaign shifting social norms and influencing behavioral patterns is implemented and, by EoP, an increasing number of fishers actively performing behaviours aimed at minimizing bycatch by 30% (n=1,200) compared to baseline and control. | 3.4 Social marketing campaign materials. Final report on social marketing campaign activities implementation and reach. Peer-reviewed publication in scientific journal. | |
| | 3.5 SPATIO TEMPORAL ANALYSIS: By Y3 Q2, Analysis of spatio-temporal overlap between artisanal boats, seabirds and sea turtles is informing future bycatch-mitigation decision-making to determine the seasonality, fishery types and species involved in bycatch risk. | 3.5 Results report with the spatiotemporal overlap analysis showcasing areas of potential interaction between vessels, seabirds and sea turtles, which are then transformed into targeted management actions, and used to inform approaches across West Africa. | |
| | 3.6 MITIGATION AGREED: By Y3 Q3, effective mitigation measures, including reduction target, use of specified best practice mitigation for each | 3.6 Meeting minutes. | |

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| | specific fishing method are agreed with fishers' associations.<br><br>3.7 AUDIT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED: By EoP, audit system on bycatch prevention is implemented and integrated into the local labelling on sustainable fisheries. | 3.7 Verification through documentation of activities and port-based surveys of compliance and knowledge of the systems required. | will be necessary to ensure sustainability and wider uptake of the labelling post-project. We believe this will hold true due to ongoing engagement with both agencies in MAVA-funded (industrial) bycatch mitigation project where they expressed interest in using best available mitigation technologies for their national fleet. |
| **4.** Knowledge on nature and extent of interactions between seabirds and sea turtles in artisanal fisheries is improved and informs bycatch mitigation policies and solutions being used by artisanal fishers in Cabo Verde and in the wider West Africa region by EoP. | 4.1 By Y1 Q1, an external scientific expert committee is established to provide guidance to the project, foster knowledge-exchange, and ensure cutting-edge practices are implemented.<br><br>4.2 Starting from Y1 Q4, species population monitoring is reviewed using baseline population data (number of individuals, species, seasonality, among others) and information from GOS on the occurrence and distribution of indicator species at sea is collated, analysed and reported. Bycatch reduction is observed in addition to bycatch reporting (3.2 above).<br><br>4.3 Awareness of the value and benefits of adopting more responsible fishing practices and protecting seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, rays, and juvenile fish increases amongst fisheries value chain stakeholders (fishers, fish mongers, restauranteurs, restaurant patrons, government agencies managing fisheries). The campaign reaches at least 60% of the population in target communities at the six islands.<br><br>4.4 Report on social marketing outcomes and the opportunities /barriers to upscaling to national coverage is shared with local authorities on 6 islands and government agencies at national level, regional (West African), international levels.<br><br>4.5 Advocacy is conducted at EOP and post-project on inclusion artisanal bycatch mitigation measures into Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plans and national policies. | 4.1 Committee members list, quarterly meeting reports, reports on guidance provided.<br><br>4.2 Species population surveys are conducted on indicator sites and combined with information about their occurrence and distribution at sea to indicate the state of their populations and their interactions with study fisheries.<br><br>4.3 Number of people in the target audience reached during social marketing campaigns and sampled feedback before and after campaigns.<br><br>4.4 Social marketing results report. Lessons learned from the different communities are used to adapt the approach to achieve benefit in all the areas of the programme.<br><br>4.5 Recommendations on the National Seabird Action Plan revision, National Sea turtle Conservation Plan, MPA plans, National fisheries management plan and any responses thereto.<br><br>4.6 Scientific paper, recorded webinars are shared on the BirdLife 'Hatch' platform, a capacity building social platform. Recommendations are shared with Departments of Fisheries, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (e.g., | 4.1 Best practices are constantly developed and improved. The scientific committee guidance allows adaption and improvement if needed.<br><br>4.2 National NGOS (Biosfera, Projecto Vitó, APB) have a close relationship with fishing communities enabling the rapid expansion and adoption of Guardians of the Sea programme. GOS in Sal took 1 year to set up.<br><br>4.3 Seabirds and sea turtles have wide home ranges including other West African countries where lessons learned will be relevant to replicate the project (e.g., Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, and The Gambia).<br><br>4.6 BirdLife has established relationships with Ministry of fisheries and relevant national |

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| | 4.6 Lessons learned, mitigation bycatch fact sheets, Guardians of the Sea development protocol, and scientific papers produced during this project are shared with policymakers, BirdLife Partners and NGOS in West Africa and to the wider public by EoP. | RFMOs and intergovernmental agencies) in West African countries. | departments in all West African countries from Mauritania to Sierra Leone due to ongoing collaboration in MAVA-funded bycatch mitigation project in industrial fisheries. |
| **5**. At least 70% (n=370) of pilot participatory sustainable fisheries labelling scheme participants (260 people, ~35% women) directly benefit from a 10% increase in income (compared to baseline) by joining the scheme a and co-create livelihood benefits, shared amongst the communities for approx.1,200 people with increasing equitability across genders. | 5.1 14 fishers (M) and fish monger (F) associations (memberships of 1,200 fishers and 130 fish mongers respectively) have improved structure, and governance by Y1 Q3.

5.2 At least 70% of fishers and fish mongers engaged in the labelling program (n=370, including 240 fishers (M) and 130 fish mongers (F)) report a 10% increase in income resulting from reduced waste, increased fishing efficiency, higher market price for sustainably fished product, better food storage.
Baseline: 57 fishers and 40 fish mongers in São Vicente and Sal. Average salary: 150-350 GBP per month.

5.3 By Y1 Q4, safety equipment is provided to the 170 fishers engaged in GOS and the labelling, during the first year.

5.4 By Y3 Q4, ~20% decrease in post-harvest loss of catch for 600 fishers and fish mongers within the 14 associations taking part in the project due to improved sanitary measures for the handling and cooling of fish along the value chain.

5.5 At least 370 people (~35% women) attend workshops explaining social benefits related to taxes and insurance and are supported with follow-up administrative support by Y2 Q4. | 5.1 Fishers' associations SWOT Analyses, Terms of Reference, governance structure and membership disaggregated by location, profession, and gender, training workshop materials.

5.2 Baseline and end line surveys disaggregated by gender and age, analysis for equitable distribution.

5.3 Photographs and video of material/equipment in use. Reports on quantity and type of material distributed (e.g., life jackets, VHF radio)

5.4 Baseline and end line surveys, Photographs and video of material/equipment in use. Reports on quantity and type of material distributed (e.g., ice making machines, trays on the boat, durable insulation containers, barrows, fish-preservation and processing facilities, storage place, aluminium tables for improved food hygiene in handling catch at quay and at markets).

5.5 Workshop attendance records and feedback. Surveys on number of fishers and fish mongers who followed relevant administrative procedures. | 5. The assumption is that there are 5 people per household in Cabo Verde and that resources are shared within a household.

5.1 In all three areas, fishers' associations exist but most of them are poorly structured and non-functional.

5.1 In Sal, women fish mongers were recently integrated within existing fishing associations. Where appropriate, women will be supported to form independent fish monger associations.

5.2 and 5.4 Suggested livelihood improvements for the associations were consulted with communities in the three areas during ongoing projects and may vary depending on local context. E.g., On Sal, GOS members were supported to have a small shop with basic supplies as there wasn't any in that community and they had to travel long distances.

5.5 Fishing is not recognised as a 'formal' profession in Cabo Verde, so there is currently no social safety net in place. |

**Activities** (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

**Output 1. Increased conservation capacity built amongst 3 civil society organizations and 170 Guardians of the Sea (GOS) members; including behaviour change, sustainable fisheries labelling, and voluntary stewardship.**

1.1.1    Behaviour change methodology: OU to build capacity of national NGOS via train-the-trainers sessions in Y1 Q2: identification of influencers, target audiences, barriers to change.
1.2.1    Review existing labelling scheme, agree on guidelines, criteria, benefits during Inception Workshop in Y1 Q2.
1.2.2    Biosfera to train APB and Projecto Vitó on labelling approach during Inception Workshop in Y1 Q2.
1.2.3    Create database of species sizes, sampling sites, dates, fishers sampled in Y1 Q2. Establish baseline using weekly GOS self-reporting data and monitor 6 monthly.
1.2.4    Train fishers in using self-reporting forms on bycatch, monthly reporting by a selection of GOS to NGOS in Y1 Q2.
1.3.1 Guardians of the Sea: Draft Terms of Reference, consult, agree and APB to train Partners at the Inception Workshop in Y1Q2
1.3.2 Build numbers of GOS - train to monitor target and non-target catch (seabirds, sea turtles, sharks, rays) from Y1 Q2, report & review 6 monthly.
1.3.3 GOS Brand and Communications strategy agreed and rolled out by Y1 Q2.


**Output 2. A pilot participatory local labelling scheme for sustainable fisheries is implemented by fisheries value chain stakeholders (fishers, fishmongers, restaurants, and consumers) in six islands (Sal, São Vicente, Santo Antão, São Nicolau, Fogo, and Brava).**

2.1.1 Baseline surveys and semi-structured interviews to determine barriers to social change in fishing practices identified and strategies to mitigate them are determined by Y1Q3
2.1.2    Social marketing strategy using most relevant communication channels implemented, monitored (see 3.4.4), reviewed, analysed.
2.2.1 Hold a workshop with fishery value chain stakeholders to agree on pilot labelling criteria in Y1 Q4, reporting on these outcomes.
2.3 Recruit restaurants, fishers' associations, fish mongers by Y1 Q4, with 6 monthly monitoring.
2.4.1 Train fishers in waste reduction, measurement, need to release undersized fish, and existing applicable MPA legislations in Y1 Q3 and annually.
2.4.2 Improve the process by iteration of socialising, reporting results to stakeholders, adjusting if needed in Y2 Q2, report 6 monthly.
2.5.1 Prepare a Code of conduct with adjusted criteria in Y2 Q2.
2.5.2 Analyse results and conduct advocacy with IQGPI to local authorities, government, and fishers' associations to determine formal compliance mechanisms in Y3 Q3.


**Output 3.   Bycatch mitigation measures, including safe release, protecting seabirds and sea turtles and that do not adversely affect other vulnerable species (sharks, rays) are deployed by 600 artisanal fishers around 6 islands and show a 25% reduction of estimated total bycatch of seabirds (compared to Y1 baseline) by Y3 Q3, and 50% of fishers safely release captured seabirds and turtles by Y3 Q3.**

**3.1 BYCATCH ESTIMATION**
3.1.1 Review bycatch self-reporting methods in Y1 Q1 and define methodology for sampling fishers re intentional catch & unintended catch rates by Y1 Q2.
3.1.2 Establish a baseline level of birds and turtles caught, released alive or landed dead through weekly self-reporting surveys by GOS and report monthly for Y1Q2.
3.1.3 Analyse the changes in catch rate by season, area, and fishing method and estimate the reduction in catch.
3.1.4 In Y2Q2, review method of catch recording and adjust, if necessary, in relation to species definition, sampling intensity across fishing methods.


**3.2 MITIGATION**
3.2.1 Introduce the topic at Inception workshop and seek volunteers to contribute/test.
3.2.2 Review mitigation methods via workshop with Scientific Expert Committee in Y1 Q2.
3.2.3 With fishery associations, determine adaptations / test in fisheries in Y1 Q4 with a minimum 5 deployments of each at 6 sites by Y2 Q1
3.2.4 Monitor and review outcomes of bycatch mitigation trials with Scientific Expert Committee and define the most effective measures.


**3.3 SAFE HANDLING**
3.3.1 Create training module for use at Inception workshop and NGOS capacitated by train-the-trainer.
3.3.2 Adapt SPEA (Portuguese) materials for safe handling guides and seek Scientific Expert Committee inputs in Y1 Q2.
3.3.3 Train fishers via workshops in Y1 Q2, monitor using information provided in 3.1, analyse and report.


**3.4 BEHAVIOUR CHANGE**
3.4.1 Conduct quantitative and qualitative surveys and semi-structured interviews to get insight on motivations, social norms, context of behavioural patterns underpinning fishing activities by Y1 Q2.

3.4.2 University of Oxford to co-design culturally sensitive behaviour change strategy with national NGOS and impact evaluation plan in Y1Q2.
3.4.3 Implement behaviour change/social marketing strategy linked to 2.1.2 in Y1 Q3.
3.4.4 Measure intervention causal impacts by Y3 Q3 through 6-monthly surveys at target and comparison sites and actual behaviours to overcome limitations of self-reported indicators.
3.4.5 Review and adjust methodology following feedback by Y2Q3.

**3.5 SPATIO TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF EXISTING DATA**
3.5.1 Review existing data on spatiotemporal overlap between vessels and seabirds to find hotspots for interactions and target data gathering and mitigation efforts by Y1 Q4.
3.5.2 Deploy GPSs on artisanal boats on 6 islands, monitor, analyze, report to understand the seasonality and spatial spread of fishing activity to determine mitigation strategies.

**3.6 AGREEMENT ON MITIGATION MEASURES**
3.6.1 Using outputs from 3.2, socialise effective mitigation methods with FAs, including changes to target fish catch and target reduction levels (Y3)
3.6.2 Advocacy with government parties/ local authorities, throughout contributing to policies on bycatch reduction a) seabirds; b) turtles; c) MPA implementation; d) fishery sustainability; e) labelling.

**3.7 AUDIT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED**
3.8.1 Development of audit scheme based on existing modes in Y1 Q2.
3.8.2 Hold a workshop with IGQPI, FAs, local authorities to identify means of delivery in Y1 Q3.
3.8.3 Trial of the audit scheme, monitor in Y2 Q4 and Y3 Q2, analyse in Y3 Q3, and deliver results to stakeholders & government in Y3 Q4.

**Output 4. Knowledge on nature and extent of interactions between seabirds and sea turtles in artisanal fisheries is improved and informs bycatch mitigation policies and solutions being used by artisanal fishers in Cabo Verde and in the wider West Africa region by EoP.**
4.1.1 Scientific Expert Committee established in Y1 Q2, quarterly meetings held virtually, minuted with regular inputs on outputs, noted.
4.1.2 Get Committee's advice on extension of activities to West Africa during Y3.
4.2.1 Agree indicator populations (seabirds and turtles) for monitoring, based on pre project data and planned activities of local NGOS during the project by Y1 Q2.
4.2.2 Use bird and turtle population monitoring data from NGOS to compare to 2019/2020 baselines to identify population changes in indicator populations across the archipelago annually.
4.2.3 Train Guardians of the Sea to conduct species and bycatch monitoring at sea and socialize methods in Y1.
4.3.1 Three NGOS conduct awareness raising campaigns of fishing communities throughout 6 islands e.g. fish market information tools, posters in buses, radio interviews, television, and newspapers.
4.3.2 Report on reach of the campaigns in Y3 Q1-Q2, sample feedback from fishers including pre and post workshop test of participants knowledge of key workshop messages.
4.4 Compile results and lessons learned from behaviour change campaign, suggest opportunities in a report for replication at national, regional and global level in Y3 Q2.
4.5 Share recommendations with national policymakers (DNA, Ministry of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries, IQGPI) through meetings and events in Cabo Verde in Y3 Q4.
4.6.1 Develop communications strategy for the project linked to 1.3.3 identifying key target audiences and channels by Y1 Q2.
4.6.2 Develop dissemination materials on project results, mitigation fact sheets, and lessons learned in easy to access formats in Y3 Q2.
4.6.3 Write and publish a scientific article on bycatch mitigation results and uptake of measures through social marketing in Y3 Q3.
4.6.4 Create interactive forum for uptake & response in WA countries on Hatch platform in Y3 Q4.
4.6.5 Share recommendations with policymakers and with fisheries stakeholders in West Africa at regional meetings with governments, and at global conferences in Y3.

**Output 5. At least 70% (n=370) of pilot participatory sustainable fisheries labelling scheme participants (260 people, ~35% women) directly benefit from a 10% increase in income (compared to baseline) by joining the scheme a and co-create livelihood benefits, shared amongst the communities for approx.1,200 people with increasing equitability across genders**
5.1.1 Governance structure models for fisheries associations to be developed by APB and shared at Inception Workshop. APB to train other partners.
5.1.2 NGOS to train fisheries associations on 6 islands through workshops in Y1 Q2, monitor and support strengthening throughout project.
5.2.1 Define communities' income and non-financial benefits & costs via Baseline and end line surveys disaggregated by gender and age, analysis for equitable distribution.
5.3.1 Assess the safety equipment needs during Y1, identify and implement most equitable distribution across parties with FAs.
5.3.2 Training workshop at 6 islands to train participants in use of safety equipment in Y1 Q4.
5.3.3 Monitor use of equipment, ensure photos/records are kept, gather commentary (links to comms strategy).

5.4.1 Define baseline and EOP post-harvest loss through surveys in Y1 Q2 and Y3 Q2.
5.4.2 Define the need and distribution of measures that improve fish handling practices across 6 sites in Y1 Q2.
5.4.3 Deliver materials and training for sanitary and cooling to FAs (fishers and fish mongers) in Y1 Q4.
5.5.1 Inception workshop - train the trainers from APB to other NGOS on social benefits applicable to fishing communities.
5.5.2 Training workshops on tax/insurance aspects with FAs on benefits of involvement, post-workshop surveys to monitor uptake of measures quarterly and adjust/support in Y1 Q3.

**Annex 3: Standard Indicators**

**Table 1:**  **Project Standard Indicators**

| DI Indicator number | Name of indicator using original wording | Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators | Units | Disaggregation | Year 1 Total | Year 2 total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DI-A03 | 0.1 By End of Project (EoP), three civil society organizations have increased capacity for delivering conservation action. | Number of local/national CSOs with improved capability and capacity as a result of project | Number of organisations | Local CSOs | 3 | 0 | | 3 | 3 |
| DI-A04 | 0.1 0.1 By End of Project (EoP), 170 Guardians of the Sea (GOS) members have increased capacity for delivering conservation action and visibility as role models. | Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training | People | Gender, Stakeholder group: Local communities | 83 men; 0 women | 27 men; 0 women | | 150 | 170 |
| DI-B09 | 3.4 BEHAVIOUR CHANGE: A social marketing campaign shifting social norms and influencing behavioral patterns is implemented and, by EoP, an increasing number of fishers actively performing behaviours aimed at minimizing bycatch by 30% (n=1,200) compared to baseline and control. | Number of individuals / households reporting a decrease in unsustainable practices as a result of project activities. | People/percentage of shift in behaviour | Number of fishers | 0 | | | 0 | 400 |
| DI-C01 | 4.6 Lessons learned, mitigation bycatch fact sheets, Guardians of the Sea development protocol, and scientific papers produced during this project are shared with policymakers, BirdLife Partners and | Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed | Number | Knowledge/practice area, product typology. | 0 | 3 | | 3 | 3 |

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| | NGOS in West Africa and to the wider public by EoP. | | | | | | | | | |
| DI-C05 | 4.5 Advocacy is conducted at EOP and post-project on inclusion artisanal bycatch mitigation measures into Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plans and national policies. | Number of projects contributing data, insights, and case studies to national Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related reporting processes and calls for evidence. | Number | MEA, Information typology (data, insights | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| DI-D03 | 3.7 AUDIT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED: By EoP, audit system on bycatch prevention is implemented and integrated into the local certification on sustainable fisheries. | Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended. | Number of instruments | Local policy | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 1 | |

| Table 2  Publications | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Title** | **Type**<br>(e.g. journals, manual, CDs) | **Detail**<br>(authors, year) | **Gender of Lead Author** | **Nationality of Lead Author** | **Publishers**<br>(name, city) | **Available from**<br>(e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online) |
| **Mindelo acolhe a reunião do Comité de Pilotagem dos programas de conservação em Cabo Verde** | Web media article | E.C, 12 March 2024 | - | Cape Verdean | Notícias do Norte, Mindelo Cabo Verde - https://noticiasdonorte.publ.cv | Mindelo acolhe a reunião do Comité de Pilotagem dos programas de conservação em Cabo Verde - Notícias do Norte (publ.cv) |
| **Programas de conservação das aves marinhas em África Rever quer rever objetivos da BirdLife Internacional no continente** | TV report | 11 March 2024 | Female | Cape Verdean | RTC - Rádiotelevisão Caboverdiana | Programas de conservação das aves marinhas em África Rever quer rever objetivos da Birdlife Internacional no continente (rtc.cv) |
| PROJECTOVITÓ Newsletter J a n - M a r c h 2 0 2 4 | Newsletter | Januaryr – March 2024 | | Cape Verdean | Associacion Prejecto | https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CpwanLwa KPCu7B0CQHVQEoT7-rfiut3x/view?usp=sharing |
| **Presidente da República sugere inclusão da gestão dos ilhéus na nova divisão administrativa do país** | TV report | Anabela Varela – 9 March 2023 | Female | Cape Verdean | RTC - Rádiotelevisão Caboverdiana | Presidente da República sugere inclusão da gestão dos ilhéus na nova divisão administrativa do país (youtube.com) |
| **Projeto Vitó inaugura sua primeira embarcação para trabalhos de preservação ambiental** | TV report | Anabela Varela - 9 March 2023 | Female | Cape Verdean | RTC - Rádiotelevisão Caboverdiana | Presidente da República sugere inclusão da gestão dos ilhéus na nova divisão administrativa do país (youtube.com) |

## Table 2  Publications

| Title | Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs) | Detail (authors, year) | Gender of Lead Author | Nationality of Lead Author | Publishers (name, city) | Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Understanding and addressing bycatch of vulnerable species of marine megafauna (seabirds and sea turtles) in West African fisheries** | CCLME Scientific symposium report (to be published soon) | **Jacob González-Solís** (University of Barcelona); **David March** (University of Barcelona & University of València); **Leia Navarro-Herrero** (University of Barcelona & University of València); **Michael Roast** (University of Barcelona); **Luís Cardona** (University of Barcelona); **Iderlindo Santos** (BirdLife International); and Ahmed Diame (BirdLife International) | - | Spanish | CCLME – FAO, Dakar Senegal | CCLME_Article_Understanding and addressing bycatch of vulnerable species in WA fisheries .docx.pdf - Google Drive |
| **Guardians of the Seas: Putting communities on the frontline of Safeguarding Marine resources** | BirdLife Africa Newsletter – Issue 9 (October 2023) | Iderlindo Santos – October 2023 | Male | Cape Verdean | BirdLife Africa, Nairobi – Kenya | October-2023-Newsletter-9-EN-1.pdf (birdlife.org) |
| **BirdLife launches Seabird Conservation Handbook for West Africa** | Web article | Mr. Gaye - September 7, 2023 | Male | Gambian | Voice of Gambia, Banjul, The Gambia | BirdLife launches Seabird Conservation Handbook for West Africa  - (voicegambia.com) |
| **Semaine de la mégafaune marine de la Côte atlantique de l'Afrique: 30% des oiseaux de mer menacés** | Newspaper | *Le Quotidien* | Male | Senegalese | *Le Quotidien*, Dakar Senegal | Mbour - Semaine de la mégafaune marine de la Côte atlantique de l'Afrique : 30% des oiseaux de mer menacés - Lequotidien - Journal d'information Générale |

**Annex 4: Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)**

**Annex 5: Assumptions**

| Assumptions | Comments (including evidence) |
|---|---|
| 0.1 The assumption is that more members of the fishing communities wish to engage as GOS. As Associação Projeto Biodiversidade (APB) has successfully engaged 40 fishers on Sal Island to join the GOS program showing high commitment to protecting marine biodiversity and more fishers are waiting to enroll in the program, we are confident that sufficient numbers of fishers will enroll and play an active part.<br><br>0.2. and 0.3 Members of the communities in Cabo Verde are willing to join the labelling program, as demonstrated by Biosfera's successful engagement with 150 fishers in São Vicente.<br><br>0.4 Fishers who currently use plastic water bottles as ice cube/cooling system will be willing to use the insulation box systems and dispose of fishing gear appropriately on land rather than at sea. As the proposed insulation box systems will protect valuable catch, we anticipate full uptake of this system. Awareness raising workshops will highlight the negative impact of discarding fishing gear at sea, so we expect full compliance.<br><br>0.5 Self-reporting is reasonably accurate and consistent between baseline and EoP. GOS are already acting as observers and members of the NGOS will be ground truthing reported information.<br><br>0.6 Bycatch rates follow the expected binomial distribution, and the data are representative of the whole artisanal fleet in the populations of fishers sampled.<br><br>0.7 and 0.8 Suggested livelihood improvements for the associations were consulted with communities in the three areas during ongoing projects and may vary depending on local context (see output 5). | 0.1 This assumption still holds true. Since the beginning of the project more fishers around the country, including in areas where there was no GOS programme, have shown interest to play a more active role in the protection of the marine biodiversity of their locality. As evidence, since the previous report, 27 new members have joined the GOS programmes showing their continuous and growing interest to this initiative. Many other fishermen have already shown openness and willingness to join the program, including precisely 12 fishermen in São Vicente who have already been identified.<br>Evidence document:<br>See Ind 1.4. list of participants GOS training<br>See Act 1.3.2. Training GOS report - Fogo<br><br>0.2 and 0.3 This assumption still holds true. Fishing communities have seen the benefits of being part of such a labelling program as they can increase their livelihoods and at the same time play a key role in the preservation of the resource.<br><br>As evidence, a group of 10 fishers from Sal Island have taken part in an exchange visit to São Vicente to learn from the Biosfera labelling experience and to meet with local fisheries authorities to better understand the requirements behind a labelling process.<br>As evidence, to date, 2 fishers associations with a number of about 400 fishers have joined the labelling initiative and are actively working with Biosfera in São Vicente.<br><br>Evidence document: report of the exchange visit to São Vicente, list of fishermen who take part in the visit); See Act 1.3.2. GOS exchange visit report; See also Act 1.3.2. GOS photos.<br><br>0.4 Fishermen have experienced the limits of using bottles as ice cube/cooling system as they defrost quickly. Consequently, this affects the quality of their catch and therefore the price. By having and using the proposed improved insulation box systems from the project, it will increase the value and the quality of their catch which will lead to a higher selling price. Thus, this acceptance of these boxes by fishers, despite the adoption of more responsible management practices regarding damage to fishing gear at the sea, will be evaluated towards the end of the project, but objectively it should have a positive impact on the sea and on the fishermen's income.<br><br>0.5 Assumption still holds true. The first phase of data collection through the self-reporting forms by GOS, indicated the need for further alignment between different islands to ensure harmonized data methodologies and comparability. The data continues to be gathered and systematically reviewed and analysed to inform bycatch rates.<br><br>0.6 This assumption still holds true. Data collected by GOS sampled have been analyzed to inform bycatch rates distribution. The bycatch data from the self-reporting forms show the number of bycatches per species in the different islands. From September 2023 to February 2024, a total of 198 bycatches have been reported by the GOS in the project target sites. According to these data, sharks appear to be the most bycaught (96) followed by seabirds (68), sea turtles (26), and Rays (8) by fishers.<br><br>0.7 and 0.8 this assumption still holds true. Consultations with communities have/ will lead to various propositions based on the characteristics of the local social, economic, and cultural factors. |
| 1.1 Fishers are open to disclosing information about fishing practices. This should be enabled by strong ongoing engagement by all 3 NGOS. | 1.1 This assumption still holds true. The ongoing engagement actions developed by the 3 NGOS in their respective areas have shown interesting outcomes. As a direct consequence of such engagement, sensitive information such as illegal fishing activities and or bad practices are being shared by some GOS (oral, videos, pictures). |

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| 1.4 Fishers in other islands than Sal are willing to become volunteer GOS members. Members become early adopters/influencers of behaviour change for the wider community (see Outcome 1 assumption). | 1.4 This assumption still holds true. During the year 2 of the project 27 new fishers jointed the GOS program and 12 more showed interest to join soon. This indicates the willingness of fishers to join the GOS program. Once onboard, the newly enrolled GOS members become very active and like to be seen as role models in their respective communities. |
| 2.1 The three NGOS will be able to design and implement effective behavioural change. The project will increase capacity to design and implement social marketing campaigns.

2.2 Initiatives in this project complement and strengthen existing MPAs and their management planning. They provide examples of management actions which will broaden and strengthen MPA management.

2.3.1 Not all restaurants are likely to accept charging the premium onto customers. Based on Biosfera's experience, we are confident that middle-class to high-end restaurants will be willing to engage in the labelling scheme.

2.3.2 Artisanal fishers are currently unable to sell their catch to hotels due to hygiene concerns. Improved fish handling may result in new market opportunities and income.

2.4 Fishers and fish mongers are willing to participate. We think this will hold true if the added value is clear and the scheme is not too difficult to administer.

2.5 The Instituto de Gestão de Qualidade e Propriedade Intelectual (IGQPI) showed interest in formalising the local labelling scheme. Buy-in from the Ministry of the Sea will be necessary to ensure sustainability and wider uptake of the labelling post-project. We believe this will hold true due to ongoing engagement with both agencies in ongoing (industrial) bycatch mitigation project. | 2.1 Yes. By closely working with Social Behaviour Change experts involved in the project, the NGOs members are gaining experiences and knowledge on the different steps and tools for the designing and implementation of an effective behaviour change campaign. As an example, in addition to being initiated during the inception workshop in the development of the TOC (theory of change) by the social behaviour expert, the NGOs involved had the opportunities to build their capacity in conducting interviews with the support of the behaviour change coordinator who has started their work. This will be reinforced in year 3 with the development and implementation of the behaviour change strategy.
In addition, the NGOs partners have also been part of the social marketing training workshop organised by the BirdLife Africa Vulture team. This workshop provided them with various tools to design, implement, and monitor a behaviour change campaign on conservation.

2.2 This Assumption still holds true. Planned initiatives within the project such as the GOS program, the local labelling scheme, the social and behavior change campaign will contribute to complement and strengthen existing MPAs and their management by bringing additional independent resources (financial, human, technical, and physical) that are crucial. For example, the participation of fishers in the monitoring of fishing activities (GOS), and of technicians and researchers from NGOs and Universities is contributing to balancing the lack of enforcement due to understaffing of DNA park officers. Also, the proposed methods to minimise the bycatch of megafauna and the catch of undersized fish species in some MPAs such as Fogo (Reserva Natural Integral dos Ilhéus do Rombo) covered could be adopted by the local authorities and broadened to other MPAs of the countries as management tools.

2.3.1 This assumption still holds true. To date, the project has approached a few restaurants in the different islands to join the labelling scheme. The outcomes of these meetings already reinforce this assumption.
For example, if in some islands (i.e., Mindelo) restaurants are more willing to join the labelling scheme, in others such as Sal, the outcomes of the meetings seem to show that restaurants are less willing to be part and doubt advancements on this matter. This might be improved once the national institutes such as IGQP starts implementing their activities in the scheme.

2.3.2 This assumption still holds true. One of the main obstacles for fishers to sell their products to hotels and high-end restaurants is the lack of proper hygiene in the way they store the fish. After providing cooling boxes to fishers and training them on food safety and hygiene during year 2, we believe that they will gain more access to relevant establishments in the near future.

2.4 This assumption still holds true. Initial discussions with various fishers' associations involved in the project have shown an interest in them joining the project.

2.5 The assumption still holds true. The ongoing discussions with the authorities from the National Direction of Fisheries and Aquaculture, IGP, and IGQP have shown their willingness to support and extend the initiative at the national level as they have appointed different persons to be part of the project steering group to better strengthen their engagement within these discussions. |
| 3.1. Past relationship between fishers and NGOS have built enough trust to engage transparently in surveys.

3.1.2 Fishers are willing to use mitigation measures and understand the benefits of | 3.1 This assumption holds true. Relationships built between fishers and NGOS through various projects and continuous engagement have been determinant during the data collection process. This has led to the possibility to apply questionnaires in the three areas of the project and to get sensitive information on bycatch, IUU fishing, etc.

3.1.2 This assumption is still true. The results of the discussions during training and fieldwork have shown the willingness of fishers to understand more about bycatch and existing solution to reduce its impacts on fisheries. |

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| reducing bycatch on fishing efficiency and biodiversity. | The additional trainings on safe handling and bycatch mitigation techniques, and the devices shared with them recently have reinforced this assumption. |
| 3.1.3 Bycatch rates follow the expected binomial distribution, and the data are representative of the whole artisanal fleet in the populations of fishers sampled. | 3.1.3 This assumption still holds true. However, considering the bycatch data that is collected, it is still early to draw a conclusion.

3.2.1 This assumption still holds true. Some mitigation measures developed for some species can adversely affect other vulnerable species. Measures that are identified are proven not to impact other species. Additionally, the bycatch self-report forms are designed and reviewed to monitor such impacts. |
| 3.2.1 Measures will be monitored to ensure that they do not adversely affect other vulnerable species such as sharks and rays, nor target fish catch are deployed. | |
| 3.2.2 Bycatch in industrial and semi-industrial fisheries is being addressed in other projects, including starting an observer programme and supporting the Fisheries Department mitigating the impact of their upcoming national fleet. | 3.2.2 This assumption still holds true. Cabo Verdean government has been engaged in various initiatives in addressing the bycatch of marine megafauna in industrial and semi-industrial fisheries (e.g., the seabird and sea turtle industrial bycatch project, the establishment of a new observer programme, etc.). Also, the REDUCE (Reducing Bycatch of Threatened Marine Megafauna in the Central-East Atlantic) project that has been launched this year is another initiative where the government of Cabo Verde through the Ministry of the Sea is involved. |
| 3.3 Available information suggest most bycatch incidents for seabirds and sea turtles is unintentional. | 3.3. This assumption still holds true. Fishers are concerned by the catch of seabirds or sea turtles which in addition to causing a significant loss of time during their activities at sea, contributes to the degradation of their fishing gear. |
| 3.4 We are drawing on social marketing principles that have been tested and found to be effective in influencing behaviour for biodiversity conservation. | 3.4 This assumption still holds true. Various ongoing efforts to influence fishers' behaviours that are currently being studied by the project are based on social marketing principles that have been tested and found to be effective for biodiversity conservation in many places around the world. One of the project's partners identified to facilitate the process has strong experience in designing and applying such approaches in different regions in the world including Africa. In addition, various partners took part in a regional social marketing training to share experiences and solidify approaches to ensure behaviour change in conservation efforts in July and August 2023. |
| 3.7 Buy-in from the Ministry of the Sea and National Fisheries Agency will be necessary to ensure sustainability and wider uptake of the labelling post-project. We believe this will hold true due to ongoing engagement with both agencies in MAVA-funded (industrial) bycatch mitigation project where they expressed interest in using best available mitigation technologies for their national fleet. | 3.7 This assumption still holds true. Cabo Verdean government has been engaged in various initiatives in addressing the bycatch of marine megafauna in industrial and semi-industrial fisheries (e.g., the seabird and sea turtle industrial bycatch project, the establishment of a new observer programme, etc.). Also, the REDUCE (Reducing Bycatch of Threatened Marine Megafauna in the Central-East Atlantic) project that has been launched this year is another initiative where the government of Cabo Verde through the Ministry of the Sea is involved. |
| 4.1 Best practices are constantly developed and improved. The scientific committee guidance allows adaption and improvement if needed. | 4.1 This assumption still holds true. Available bycatch mitigation techniques are subject to constant review for their improvement. The scientific committee has amongst other mandates the responsibility to provide guidance on the adoption/ improvement of the chosen techniques. |
| 4.2 National NGOS (Biosfera, Projecto Vitó, APB) have a close relationship with fishing communities enabling the rapid expansion and adoption of Guardians of the Sea programme. GOS in Sal took 1 year to set up. | 4.2. This assumption still holds true. The existing relationship, which has been strengthened over several years, between the national NGOs involved in the project and the targeted fishing communities is crucial in gaining their trust and engagement. To date, the NGOS have successfully set up new GOS programmes in São Vicente, Fogo, and Brava while In Sal, the GOS number has been increased by 150. |
| 4.3 Seabirds and sea turtles have wide home ranges including other West African countries where lessons learned will be relevant to replicate the project (e.g., Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, and The Gambia). | 4.3 This assumption still holds true. Some seabird and all sea turtle species occurring in Cabo Verde are known to migrate to other West African coastal countries where they face similar threats. At the same time, the conservation efforts led by partners in Cabo Verde, and their results can be easily replicated in these areas to deliver similar outcomes. Efforts within this project are among others to stimulate experience exchange between Cabo Verde and the rest of the continent.

4.6 This assumption still holds true. BirdLife has continuously engaged with West African Fisheries authorities since the Mava bycatch project. This |

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| 4.6 BirdLife has established relationships with Ministry of fisheries and relevant national departments in all West African countries from Mauritania to Sierra Leone due to ongoing collaboration in MAVA-funded bycatch mitigation project in industrial fisheries. | engagement is still ongoing through the identification and development of relevant joint project proposals. Furthermore, the REDUCE (Reducing Bycatch of Threatened Marine Megafauna in the Central-East Atlantic) project that has been approved by the EU Horizon programme is one of these initiatives. |
| 5. The assumption is that there are 5 people per household in Cabo Verde and that resources are shared within a household.<br><br>5.1 In all three areas, fishers' associations exist but most of them are poorly structured and non-functional.<br><br>5.2 In Sal, women fish mongers were recently integrated within existing fishing associations. Where appropriate, women will be supported to form independent fish monger associations.<br><br>5.3 and 5.4 Suggested livelihood improvements for the associations were consulted with communities in the three areas during ongoing projects and may vary depending on local context. E.g., On Sal, GOS members were supported to have a small shop with basic supplies as there wasn't any in that community and they had to travel long distances.<br><br>5.5 Fishing is not recognised as a 'formal' profession in Cabo Verde, so there is currently no social safety net in place. | 5. This assumption has been reviewed in the previous report as follows: "The assumption is that there are 3.3 people per household in Cabo Verde and that resources are shared within a household". 5.1 This assumption still holds true. In Cabo Verde in general and on the three islands covered by the project, fishers' associations are relatively new and poorly structured. Consequently, these associations are still facing some limitations and are mostly too weak to efficiently handle fishers' demands.<br><br>5.2 This assumption still holds true. Contrary to other West African countries where women fishmongers have their own association and are strong enough to push their demands at the national level, in Cabo Verde they are inexistent. Supporting women to have their own structured association can make a big difference especially when it comes to undertaking actions for the improvement of their specific needs: working conditions, access to funds, etc.<br><br>5.3 and 4.4 this assumption is still holds true. With this dynamic engagement of fishermen and fishmongers in the GOS, the partner NGOs continue to support them closely and also ensure that the change in behavior is gradual with extremely positive impacts in the short medium term.<br><br>5.5 This assumption has been reviewed as follows: "Artisanal fishing is not recognized as a 'formal' profession in Cabo Verde, so there is no social safety net in place. Contrary to the industrial fishing sector, the artisanal sector is often not included in government reforms. |

**Checklist for submission**

|  | Check |
|---|---|
| Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission? |  |
| **Is the report less than 10MB?** If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line. |  |
| **Is your report more than 10MB?** If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. |  |
| **Have you included means of verification?** You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report. |  |
| **Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report?** If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic. |  |
| If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)? |  |
| Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors |  |
| Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully? |  |
| Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report. |  |