

BOA VISTA (CABO VERDE):

THE EVALUATION OF MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF RESERVA NATURAL DAS TARTARUGAS USING THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS TOOL (IMET)

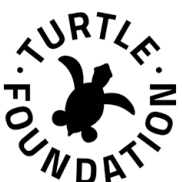
BY FUNDAÇÃO TARTARUGA



In partnership with:



Ministério da Agricultura
e Ambiente
Delegação da Boavista



Cabo Verde
Natura 2000



BIOPAMA



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ABOUT BIOPAMA:

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme aims to improve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, in protected areas and surrounding communities. It is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States financed by the European Union's 11th European Development Fund (EDF), jointly implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC). Building on the first five years of activities financed by the 10th EDF (2012-2017), BIOPAMA's second phase provides tools for data and information management, services for improving the knowledge and capacity for protected area planning and decision making, and funding opportunities for specific site-based actions.

www.biopama.org

RESERVA NATURAL DAS TARTARUGAS

**NAME OF PROTECTED AREA:**

Reserva Natural das Tartarugas (RNT)

WDPA ID: Non-existent

IUCN MANAGEMENT CATEGORY(IES):

IV Habitat/Species Management Area

IUCN GOVERNANCE TYPE:

Type A: Governance by government (at various levels)

DATE OF GAZETTING: 2003

INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATION[S]: Regional

MAIN VALUES FOR WHICH THE PROTECTED AREA HAS BEEN GAZETTED:

The justification for its declaration was to monitor and protect beaches as nesting areas of turtles, the wetlands and saltlands which serve as important areas for migratory birds and the colonies of seabirds of Ponta do Roque and the alcantilates of Morro Negro.

ECOREGION(S): There is little information on ecosystems, eco-system services, land cover, pressures and little available for species and conservation. The area is categorised as Cape Verdean Dry Forest Area. The islands are volcanic in origin and are dry and arid for the vast majority of the year except for erratic rainfall during the months of August and September. Agricultural practices are difficult to maintain due to the lack of rainfall.

PRIORITY LANDSCAPE(S):

Complex of protected areas in the east of Boa Vista

SURFACE: 148.75 km²

RESPONSIBLE NATIONAL SERVICE/AUTHORITY/CUSTODIAN:

Direção Nacional do Ambiente (DNA)

According to Decreto-Lei nº3/2003 de 24 de Fevereiro de 2003, Reserva Natural das Tartarugas was made with the following:

VISION: Provide “special protection” to natural spaces, landscapes, monuments, and places that because of their relevance to biodiversity, their natural resources, ecological function, socio-economic, cultural, tourist, or strategic interest contribute to the conservation of nature and the development of a self-sustained country.

MISSION: A society aware of the role of challenges linked to biodiversity convinced of its responsibilities towards future generations and is determined to use resources sustainably. The preservation of natural landscapes, conservation and maintenance of natural resources and processes, conservation of species and habitats, being a source of balanced development, which reduces poverty and improves the quality of life of residents, users or adjacent protected areas.

OBJECTIVES: Create a long-term plan including control strategies and mitigation of impacts of climate change. Conserving, protecting and/or restoring natural elements and processes with all their geological diversity, uniqueness and beauty. Protecting the wild state of species and ecosystem as well as the cultural element and values of local communities.



THE ASSESSMENT

DISCLAIMER

The IMET project was a participatory process in which all participants gave opinions and provided data. Accordingly, values were assigned to various aspects of the PAs, following the questionnaires of the IMET program. The evaluation results are then automatically generated by the IMET program.

The results generated are not the opinions of Fundação Tartaruga or any other participating stakeholder.

This evaluation can be used by anyone and should help Cabo Verde to be recognised on world protected areas databases, allow all stakeholders (governmental and NGOs) to apply for more funding to support the protected areas and to balance the needs of local communities with the needs of the biodiversity. It identified aspects to prioritise in the management and offers guidance on where to direct attention and resources.

DATE OF THE ASSESSMENT: 18-22nd October 2021

LOCATION: Sal Rei, Boa Vista

ORGANIZATIONS/STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED:

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Boa Vista (MAA-BV), Câmara Municipal da Boa Vista, Areas Protegidas Boa Vista, Society of Tourism Development in Boa Vista and Maio (SDTIMBV), National Police/Maritime Police, Instituto Marítimo Português, Turtle Foundation, BIOS CV, Cabo Verde Natura 2000, Associação Varandinha, and BIOPAMA.



RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMPILATION OF THE ASSESSMENT:

Kathryn Yeoman - Fundação Tartaruga

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED:

Challenges in sourcing data, more time needed between the online meeting and the actual workshop (only 8 working days) to gather data and pre-fill form.

No response to invitation from governing body DNA until after evaluation.

PREVIOUS PAME ASSESSMENTS UNDERTAKEN SO FAR:

None

ASSESSMENT SPONSORED BY:

BIOPAMA



KEY SPECIES

IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

1.
Caretta caretta /
Loggerhead turtle
(Global: Vulnerable,
North-East Atlantic population:
Endangered) +
potential for tourism through
turtle watching activities.



2.
Neophron percnopterus /
Egyptian vulture
(Endangered)



3.
Pandion haliaetus /
Osprey
(Least Concern)



4.
Phaethon aethereus /
Red-billed tropic bird
(Least Concern)



5.
Corvus ruficollis /
Brown-necked raven
(Least Concern)



© Samir Martins

6.
Sharks
(Various categories
of IUCN status)



© Terry Goss

7.
Tamarix senegalensis /
Tamarisk
(Least Concern)



8.
Phoenix atlantica /
Cape Verde Island date palm
(Endangered - Endemic)



9.
Mobula birostris /
Giant manta ray
(Endangered)



© Andrea Marshall

10.
Galeocerdo cuvier /
Tiger shark
(Near threatened)



© Klaus Jost

KEY ASPECTS

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE SITE

- Traditional fishing
- Important habitats – bird nesting sites, spawning sites and nursery habitat
- Ecotourism through turtle watching
- Education
- Science and Research
- Tourism and recreational activities



KEY ASPECTS AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

- Sea turtles
- Water
- Fishing
- Salinas
- Seabirds
- Beaches
- Dunes
- Tamarisk
- Date palm
- Coral community
- Marine animals (fish, cetaceans)



THREATS



THREATS TO TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE HABITATS

- Turtle nesting beaches - highly polluted, threatened by vehicle circulation and poaching.
- Rocks and mountains - free grazing unmonitored, extraction of inerts, poisoning of birds with carcasses of domestic animals, predation of bird nests by cats, rats and dogs.
- Lagoons - polluted and problems with circulation of vehicles.
- Dunes - pollution, circulation of vehicles, destruction of native plants and fulgurite.

TYPE OF THREAT

- Human-wildlife conflict:
 - o Turtle poaching (adults, eggs, meat and penis)
 - o Habitat degradation
 - o Fishing by-catch
- Droughts
- Waste that entangles wildlife
- Invasive diseases
- Dune erosion
- Recreational activities
- Damage and changes to habitat
- Touristic and recreational areas
- Roads



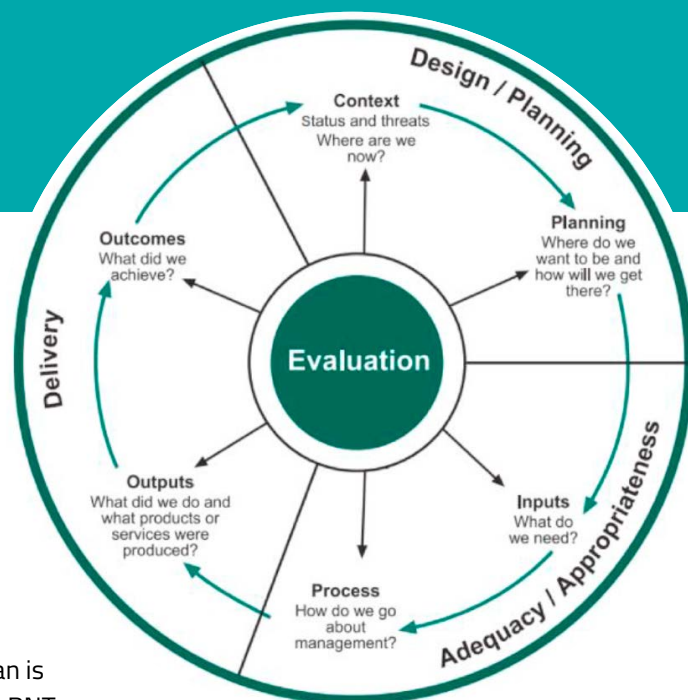
THE EVALUATION PROCESS

PLANNING

The legal policies governing the management of the PAs are sound and extensive in theory. There are many laws, plans and articles on paper, but they have not been translated into the work plan or into physical applications.

The work plan and the management plan are not aligned. This has been achieved in the technical report.

The plans are not site specific to the park. The management plan is applicable to the 7 PAs in the east of Boa Vista whereas the action plan is applicable to all 14 PAs in Boa Vista. Some objectives are irrelevant to RNT.



Planning					
Planning					
P1	Adequacy of legal and regulatory provisions	63.3	0%	63.3%	100%
P2	Design and layout of the protected area	72.2	0%	72.2%	100%
P3	Demarcation of the protected area	41.7	0%	41.7%	100%
P4	Management plan	60.0	0%	60.0%	100%
P5	Work/Action plan	60.0	0%	60.0%	100%
P6	Objectives of the protected area	57.1	0%	57.1%	100%
<hr/>					
	SYNTHETIC INDICATOR	59.1	0%	59.1%	100%

INPUTS:

The human resources represent only 16.7% of what is actually necessary to effectively manage the reserve. This means that the essential patrols are not being performed.

Furthermore, the funding received by the government represents only 12.5% of what is suggested as necessary in the business plan. As a result the PA is lacking in terms of equipment and vehicles, training, monitoring and law enforcement.

The budget security is equally very poor at on 16.7%. This value indicates that the little that is received, it isn't secured and additional/alternative sources of funding are required.

Inputs					
Inputs					
I1	Basic information	31.0	0%	31.0%	100%
I2	Staff	16.7	0%	16.7%	100%
I3	Current budget	12.5	0%	12.5%	100%
I4	Securing the budget	16.7	0%	16.7%	100%
I5	Infrastructure, equipment and facilities	27.7	0%	27.7%	100%
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	SYNTHETIC INDICATOR	20.9	0%	20.9%	100%

THE EVALUATION PROCESS

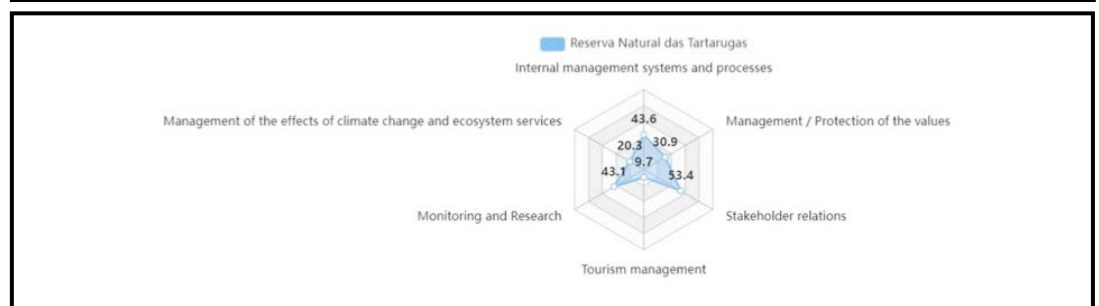
PROCESSES

In general processes were evaluated to be 36.7% effectively managed

All areas can be improved if inputs are increased.



The visual representation emphasises the significant need for tourism management followed by the management of the effects of climate change and ecosystem services.

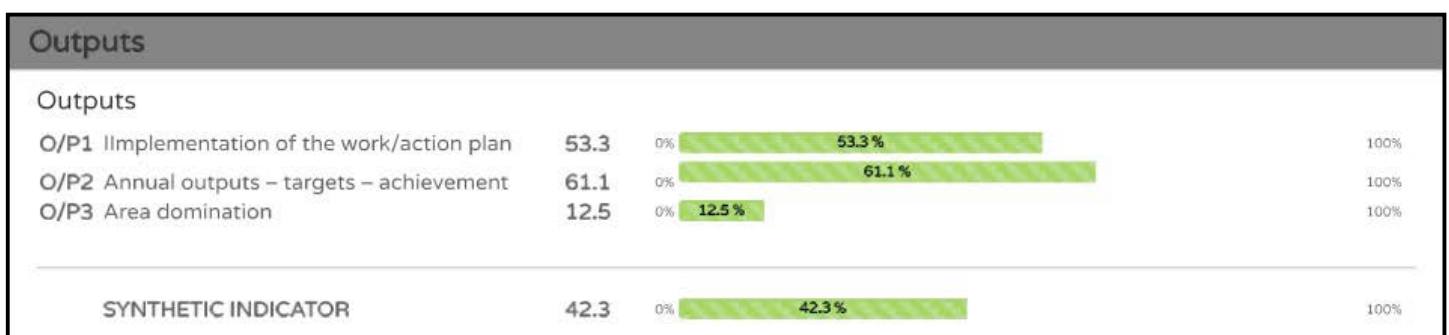


OUTPUTS

MAA-BV has five categories of activities in their work plan. They are as follows:

1. Biodiversity conservation: 8/15 implemented
2. Environmental quality: 5/8 implemented
3. Establishment of collaboration mechanisms and participatory management: 4/4 implemented
4. Information, communication and education: 1/2 implemented
5. Socio-economic improvements in the communities: 0/3 implemented

Considering the ministry received only 12.5% of the budget it requires, it has been able to perform 16/28 (57%) of the activities in the management plan. These have been widely supported by the NGOs



THE EVALUATION PROCESS



OUTCOMES

a) *Conservation, management and valorisation of natural resources:*

- Turtle populations are increasing in Cabo Verde In general and this trend has been seen in RNT. No other species, key habitats or natural resources are being actively managed or monitored in the annual work plan.
- IMET assessment workshop highlighted the need to actually identify which natural resources are present within the reserve as this remains widely unknown.

b) *Protect the wild state of species and ecosystems marine species through the establishment of an action plan for the conservation of sea turtles;*

- The protection of sea turtles is present within the annual action plan for the reserve and is actively implemented.

c) *Rational management of natural resources, promoting sustainable development, improving the quality of life of the populations is a priority;*

- It is still widely unknown as to what natural resources are present within the reserve.
- There are plans to implement improved roads and pathways within the action plan. The implementation of an ecotourism business plan where locals are employed would improve the quality of life of populations.

d) *Order and discipline human activities to avoid the degradation of the natural, semi- natural and scenic, aesthetic and cultural values of the region, enabling the exercise of compatible activities, namely nature tourism or ecotourism;*

- Law enforcement and regulation is severely lacking and severely needed. This should be made a management priority.

e) *Increase scientific knowledge, dissemination and information on the values of the Protected Area, as well as its present and future monitoring;*

- The NGOs actively conduct monitoring of nesting logger-head turtles and some nesting birds.
- This should be expanded to include more species and habitats in a long-term project.

f) *Establish a shared management structure that ensure the functioning of the Protected Area, the implementation of this plan, through forms of sustainable financing.*

- Creation of a co-management plan involving other stakeholders and implementation of an ecotourism business plan would be highly beneficial to the future of the protected area.



CONCLUSIONS

There is a very **good framework of policies and guidelines** on which the management plan should be implemented. All regulations and good practices are already defined.

Integration of the action plan and management plan has been completed – see full technical report.

The current action and management plans are not **site specific** and include objectives which are irrelevant to this site.

Lack of involvement at site-level and of this evaluation by governing body **DNA** causes difficulties and delays in decision-making, policy implementation and ultimately attainment of results and achieving the objectives of the PA.

The **current budget provided by the government is an estimate** as it is a proportion taken from the overall budget for all 14 PAs on the island.

The PA management team of **3 people have 14 protected areas to manage**. This is beyond human capabilities. **More people need to be employed** to be able to monitor the management of the PAs effectively. Which requires more funding

There is **no consultative platform** to enable the different partners or stakeholders to discuss the PA management. The lack of coordination between stakeholders and weak management of the protected areas are constraints which should be focussed on by promoting participatory management of the PA in which locals and stakeholders are all involved in its management.

On-site **NGOs have the capacity and resources** to be able to implement many of the monitoring activities and to aid in evidence and intelligence collection to aid local law enforcement agents.

The NGOs have provided 93% of the operational funding for this PA (as of 2019) and this is **not a secured budget**. **Other funding sources need to be found**.

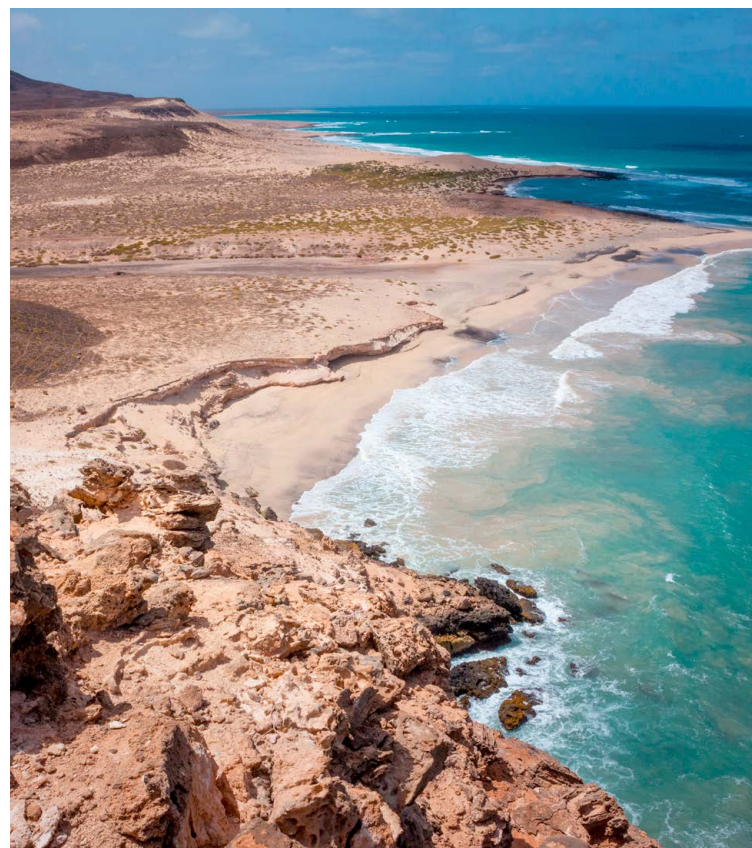
There is an obvious source of sustainable **funding through eco-tourism (turtle-watching)** but this will require strict management and constant evaluation to monitor the impacts and the economic outputs. Financial income from this activity should be regulated and should contribute to the wages of guards, investment into vital resources, provision of signage and information for tourists, enforcement of good practices, maintenance of roads and pathways etc.

Reinforcement of research on emblematic species and strengthen partnerships between entities is needed. It is necessary to **implement scientific monitoring and a research program** for almost all species mentioned with the exception of *Caretta caretta* who already has a well-developed program. This will increase the level of knowledge available and the reliability of the data collected.

There is **insufficient data to understand if climatic changes are occurring**. Monitoring and research needs to be implemented to understand the long-term effects.

There is a **lack of data related to identification of resources**, this could be improved by mapping ecosystem resources and services.

Lack of international recognition for Cabo Verde's protected areas. International databases need updating.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of Fundação Tartaruga, I would like to thank all participants for contributing to this process.

We would like to thank BIOPAMA for funding this opportunity. We would also like to thank Câmara Municipal da Boa Vista for providing us with a meeting space in CAC to complete the workshop.

A special thank you goes to trainer Bertille Mayen for making the process enjoyable and very informative.

Kathryn Yeoman

For more details or to access the full technical report, please contact:

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