



**Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2021)**

Project reference	26-025
Project title	Eco-village approach to enhance socio-ecological resilience in Cabo Verde
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Cabo Verde
Lead organisation	University of Cabo Verde - UNICV
Partner(s)	Cabo Verdean Ecotourism Association ECOCV National Directorate of Environment DNA Bangor University, Ocean Science School Association for the Development of São Francisco ADSF Civil Movement '350 Cabo Verde' ViaggieMiraggi
Project leader	Adilson Filomeno Carvalho Semedo
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	Facebook @raizazulcabo Verde Youtube @Raiz Azul Instagram @raizazul_ecoturismo_cv

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

Output 1 (implemented and reported by ECOCV and partners)

A1.1 Completed in Y1

A1.2 April-September, as a result of the campaign (A1.3), glass waste separation also started in Praia in collaboration with Tambake (eco-shop and restaurant) where the eco-point was set up for general public to deliver glass bottles. These were transported to eco-center in Rincão. In April, the community of Fonte Lima (Municipality of Santa Catarina) collected almost 1 tone of glass waste during the clean-up campaign and took to Rincão for recycling. The talk with Municipality of Santa Catarina continued for the regular transportation of glass waste from the municipal capital Assomada. In May, over 20 scouts of Sao Francisco joined plastic recycling at the ecocenter. They were introduced to the process of recycling and consequences of plastic pollution. In August, in Sao Francisco, the plastic recycling machines (produced by CERMI), unfortunately broke due to the producers' fault and are currently with CERMI for maintenance. This caused delays for the community level plastic recycling. We plan to resume active campaign from January 2022 (according to producers the machines will be fixed) since currently there is no space for storage of plastic. Glass recycling machine in Rincão operates on a regular basis. In the last 6 months over 9,000 bottles were recycled that produced over 2 tones of recycled glass sand.

A1.3 Regular updates were communicated on project Facebook, Youtube and Instagram pages, partner website and social media sites of various collaborators. Responsible waste disposal and recycling are always included in general presentations of the project/national communication. In August over 40 children and 6 teachers from Safende (Praia) led by the member of 350 Cabo Verde visited the ecocenter of Sao Francisco for the session on plastic pollution and climate change, as part of their environmental education week. Overall, there is high preparedness of civil society, especially in capital Praia, for recycling. In September we had a meeting with the Municipality of Praia. They expressed interested to install at least 2 glass recycling machines in zones of Jamaica and Safende, and replicate recycling model of Rincão led by community members. We received requests from islands of Sao Vicente, Brava, Sal and Boa vista to recycle their glass waste but at this stage this is not feasible due to the limited capacity of the machines and costs of transportation. In May, Inforpress published an article about the plastic recycling and small business development at the Eco-center of Sao Francisco. In September the national news agency A Nacão published a video reportage about women recycling glass at the eco-center of Rincão.

A 1.4 Continues from Y2. In April, the collaboration with Cavibel (the representative of Coca Cola in Cabo Verde) was reinitiated as part of their social and environmental responsibility program. They transported 14 tones of glass bottles to the Eco-center Rincão for recycling and agreed to continue delivering glass bottles for recycling. Currently, the proposal is in preparation for one more glass recycling machine that will be submitted to Cavibel to finance. In September Tecnical (one of the major producers of plastic packaging/bottles in Cabo Verde) agreed to finance the production of more powerful plastic shredding machine (100kg/h) that will be installed in the Eco-center of Sao Francisco. The talks were reinitiated with JMD Metal Trade to confirm their commitment to buy and export shredded PET plastic granules. 600kg of recycled sand and 10kg of shredded PET plastic were delivered to SoPlacas to produce more bricks with the mixture of shredded plastic this time. The bricks will be tested in LEC in Q3.

A 1.5 July- August, with the co-financing from the Embassy of the Netherlands in Senegal and The Cooperation of Portugal in Cabo Verde, solar panels have been installed in the Eco-centres of Rincão and Sao Francisco. The company Electrosol delivered the installation and training on maintenance in both communities. The energy is sufficient to operate all the machines. The cleaning of the panels is done by teams of the eco-centres.

A1.6 Implemented and reported by UNI-CV: Due to the changes and the installation of laboratory equipment on the new Uni-CV campus, we have rescheduled this activity for the month of November.

A 1.7 Over the last 2 years due to the evident necessity, the campaign was expanded to include glass waste recycling. See A1.3 for more details. The project progress, educational materials

and call to recycle plastic and glass were shared by various collaborators including: movement against pollution in CV, embassies of Portugal and Netherlands, Municipality of Santa Catarina, private business such as Tambake, Impar, Girassol Tours. In September we had a meeting with the representatives of UN in Cabo Verde who visited the eco-centre of Rincão. We discussed the collaboration to establish the eco-point at UN headquarters in Praia; materials produced by the project were shared to facilitate that process. The Eco-centres' education program on glass and plastic recycling, pollution and solutions for local schools and community members was prepared. The teams of Eco-centres are in training to deliver it. In June, the eco-centre of Rincão received over 25 children with hearing deficiency and their teachers. They were introduced to the process of glass recycling, and later shared their experience in drawings. On the Oceans Day (8 June) over 30 children and representatives of Municipality of Santa Catarina visited eco-centre of Rincão for educational program; they were also introduced to marine biodiversity in the coastal waters through interactive games and quizzes. April to September 44 posts of our activities were published on project social media sites that included topics on biodiversity, waste management, ecotourism.

Output 2. (Implemented and reported by Uni-CV and partners)

A2.1 Done in Y1 and Y2, in progress Y3Q3Q4

A2.2 Initially, we agreed with the partners that the workshop would take place in September, but due to the changes and the installations in the new Campus of the University of Cabo Verde, which took place during the months of August and September, it was rescheduled to December (Y3Q3).

A2.3 In June, as part of the commemorations of Biodiversity and Environment day, the 3rd year graduation students in Biological Sciences, accompanied by the UniCV team of the ECOVILA project, gave lectures to 25 students, 13 girls and 12 boys, from the 1st to the 6th grade of Basic Schools of the fishing communities of Porto Mosquito and Porto Rincão. Environmental Education and the dissemination of the first marine protected area on the island of Santiago (PNBIMA - Natural Park of Baía do Inferno and Monte Angra) were central themes of these presentations. They addressed topics such as: The problem of garbage/types of waste/decomposition time; Microplastics/marine environment and food chain; The importance of green spaces and the preservation of marine and coastal species.

In September, in partnership with the NGO Lantuna, we carried out the cleaning campaign in Rincão, which involved the members of the Uni-CV project, 10 undergraduated students from the Social Sciences, Biological Sciences and Statistics courses, and 50 elements from the community, 20 women and 30 men.

A2.4 In July and August, The University of Cape Verde, in partnership with the NGO Lantuna and the Instituto Marítimo Portuário, joined forces and organized training actions on sustainable fishing and safety at sea in the community of Porto Mosquito and in the community of Porto Rincão. The training took place on the 31st of July and the 1st of August and on the 7th and 8th of August. In Porto Mosquito thirteen fishermen and a fish seller took part, while in Porto Rincão twenty-three fishermen were involved in the two days of work.

A2.5 Link to 2.4. The training actions were framed in the promotion of participatory monitoring and diversification of income-generating activities introduced to improve the self-management of fishing practices and reduce pressure on over-exploited marine resources. A discussion was also opened about the list of cetaceans, seabirds and sharks that fishermen observe, and the common name they use to designate them was collected.

A2.6 We are still working with partners and with the implementation of the Guardiões do Mar project in Santiago. Till it becomes real, with the activities carried out in points 2.4 and 2.5, we started a program called «Voices and Faces of Sustainable Fishing» involving all the participants in training actions related in 2.4 and 2.5. We are in the process of seeking funds to ensure the continuity of these activities in the post-project phase.

Output 3. (Implemented and reported by Uni-CV and partners)

A3.1 Complete.

A3.2 Complete

A3.3 Complete

A3.4 Complete.

A3.5 In June, Professor Adilson Semedo, project leader, participated in the I Webinar Conservation in Territory; Territory in Conservation, carried out by the Network for Environmental Studies of Portuguese Speaking Countries (REALP). He presented the paper entitled «Conservation in Conservation Territories and Territories - From the Baía do Inferno to the Baía do Inferno and Monte Angra Natural Park (PNBIMA)». The event was broadcast live on REALP's Youtube and Facebook.

In July, a study visit was carried out to the Baía do Inferno and Monte Angra Natural Park (PNBIMA) with a delegation of seven professors and researchers from different areas, from Biological Sciences, Economics, Nursing, Civil Engineering, Mathematics, and Sociology, among which the President of the Faculty of Science and Technology (FCT). A group of eleven students from Biological Sciences and Social Sciences and two technicians, one from the Financial Administrative Services and the other from the Communication and Image Office, also took part in the visit. The program included a visit by boat to the PNBIMA, duly authorized by the maritime authority COSMAR, in vessels registered and directed by fishermen carrying up-to-date marine documents. In the afternoon, there was an open conversation with the Eco-center team and with the community leaders and social references about the impacts of the ECO-VILA project. A report was made about the visit, which was published on the University's website and on its social networks.

Output 4 (implemented and reported by ECOCV and partners)

4.1 Completed in Y1

4.2 Due to restrictions and consequences of COVID 19 pandemics, a final evaluation workshop for the development of eco-network Raiz Azul and visit of the international partner ViaggioMiraggi (Italy) is planned in February 2022 (Q4 Y3).

4.3.In April, the experience exchange of the community guides from Praia (project Xalabas) visited Rincão. Our community guides had opportunity to practice guiding skills and present their community to visitors. In June the project was presented to the World Bank representative as part of the diagnostics of the Blue Economy in Cabo Verde. In August we took part in the presentation of the development plan for Rincão (25 year plan). We stressed the importance of the new MPA that includes part of Rincão and better inclusion of community in the development plans, especially linked to tourism. June-August, the professional tour guide together with community guides in Sao Francisco and Rincão run the evaluation of the trails. The tour packages for target travellers will be finalized in Q4 during the work visit of ViaggioMiraggi.

4.4 The three eco-centres (Gouveia, Rincão and Sao Francisco) are in the final stages of completion. In June, a new space for the extension of eco-centre in Gouveia 'Kaza panu di Tera' was identified. The set-up has started with an installation of windows, roof, painting. Together with Municipality of Ribeira Grande of Santiago it was decided to use that space as a centre for the local ecotourism and promote the production of the national fabric' panu di tera'. The eco-centre will be managed by women's cooperative Sulada (that produce the fabric) and Municipality. To manage the eco-centre in Sao Francisco, the small-scale business venture 'Ekonatura' was registered in September. This business will be run by community members and will facilitate the sale of various products and service of the eco-centre and ecotourism. The management plan for the eco-centre of Rincão is currently in preparation.

4.5 The Eco-centres in Rincão and Sao Francisco serve several purposes: as recycling centres and as ecotourism/ eco-network info hubs. To ensure the sustainability in the long-term we started testing various products that can be produced from recycled glass and plastic. One of them are vases made from cement and 100% of recycled sand. April to August, a number of training sessions were delivered in both eco-centres to produce vases and other products such as mini tables or stools. April-September, participatory monitoring training of marine biodiversity with local fishers continued with rare sightings of marine megafauna recorded: leatherback turtle, pygmy killer whales, and dwarf sperm whales being the first live confirmed sighting of this species in Cabo Verde. In June, with the grant of the WCS/SofarOcean, we received the underwater drone ROV Trident. Project locations in Gouveia, Rincão and Baía do Inferno (MPA) were explored. Fishers-collaborators and ECOCV project staff had opportunity to test

new equipment. In September, the second round of beach cleanliness assessment (Clean Coast Index) was completed on the beach of Sao Francisco. Community guides and team of the eco-centre strengthen skills in using this methodology. Participants were also introduced to snorkelling techniques for marine biodiversity monitoring in the bay of Sao Francisco. June-July, the professional tour guide joined the team to train and evaluate the progress of community guides in Sao Francisco and Rincão, including the assessment of trails. The results are summarised in the report. In September on World Tourism Day, we joined community guides in Sao Francisco and they had opportunity to practice their trail guiding and hospitality skills. In September, the training on micro-business management and leadership was delivered by UniCV lecturer (School of Business and Governance) to the community members of Sao Francisco as a preparation to register small scale business to manage the local eco-centre.

4.6 In April the video story was produced summarising the project progress over the last 2 years. In addition to Facebook and Youtube, the Instagram page was created https://www.instagram.com/raizazul_ecoturismo_cv/ with regular posts promoting new destinations in development. In April, the project was presented at the international conference “Sub-Saharan Africa and Sustainable Development Goals’ organised by the University of Porto (Portugal). The emphasis was on the eco-network development and plastic/glass waste management prototypes. In July, the special video was produced and published on project and partner social media sites introducing the potential of eco-network ‘Raiz Azul ‘and the communities of the project. The products of the recycled plastic and glass were identified as one of the most feasible means to generate income on community level. This includes: vases and other household items; souvenirs to tourists (recycled plastic and artisanal crafts of Coop Sulada); bricks and recycled glass sand targeted at the civil construction industry. The demand nationally was already identified with shops in Praia and Sal. Currently, we are in the process to certify recycled glass sand with the National Institute of Quality Control, since it is a new product in the national market. Other income generating options include: excursions led by community guides, local cuisine and educational sessions at the eco-centres. The ecotourism panels for 3 villages were produced and will be installed in Q3. The banners for the eco-centres were designed and printed, and will be installed in Q3-Q4.

4.7 The community guide’s sets / backpacks and boat boxes (marine tours) were prepared that include biodiversity monitoring guides, health and safety guidelines on the boat and first aid. In July-August we supported and facilitated the participation of four community guides (Rincão and Sao Francisco) in the nature tour guide training program organised by the Institute of Tourism and Project BIO-TUR (National Directorate of Environment). The guides received training and certificates in H&S adaptation to Covid 19 pandemics, protected areas, Code of Conduct, observation of biodiversity. The professional tour guide’s training (See 4.5) with community guides in Sao Francisco and Rincão also included sections on behaviour with tourists. The refresher courses are planned in Q4.

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

UNICV and partners: 2a. No such problems have been identified. All activities are on track as planned.

2b. One of the key lessons learnt was that when we talk about sustainable fishing, the actors involved find themselves in a dilemma. They understand the need for conservation in light of the financial pressures they experienced on a daily basis.

ECOCV and partners: 2a. One of our main objectives is focused on the development of eco-network and new offers of ecotours for national and international travellers. Due to the global pandemics the number of tourists was reduced, thus, the community guides did not have opportunities to practice their skills. The refresher/training sessions helped, however, hands on independent experience is necessary to strengthen skills. The visit of international tourism

partner was postponed to Q4. The production and maintenance of the recycling machines is also delayed as producers experience delays in importing necessary electrical parts.

2b. We anticipate that the machines will be completed by Jan-Feb 2022; details of the visit of international partners will be clearer in Q4. Alternatively, some workshops and consultations will be conducted online, and the final evaluation of the eco-network will be led by local tourism partners. At this stage we do not foresee changes in the budget or timetable (if the transfer of funds will be done on time). The renewal of tourism activities in Cabo Verde allows to hope for more active travel in Q4. However, we foresee the more in intense input of the project team to complete the planned activities.

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

One of the key issues is limiting the number of people in activities. Thus, the participants of education/training sessions were divided in smaller groups, and whenever possible activities were taken outside. The official openings of the Eco-centres were postponed to Q4 of Y3 hoping for the re-start of tourism to generate more interest, promotion and participation. At the same time, we adapted to various restrictions well and focused more on setting up eco-centres, testing the potential products for sale, production of promotional and info materials for the eco-network.

Overall, the implementation of Outputs 1 and 4 is affected more by delays of transfers of funds than by local impacts of COVID-19. If the Q3-Q4 transfers of Y3 will be delayed again as it was in Y2, we will have difficulty to implement activities in time. The situation is especially sensitive in the final two quarters of the project.

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

Discussed with LTS: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

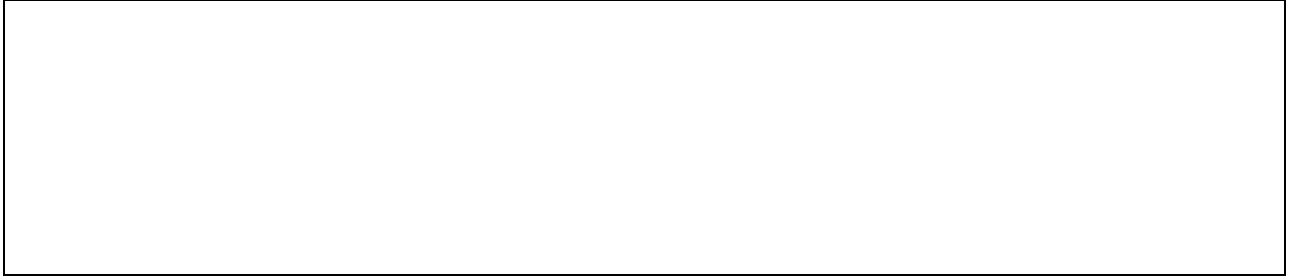
3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

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

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

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



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

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

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