FUNDAÇÃO
MAIO
BIODIVERSIDADE



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

INDEX

01 MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

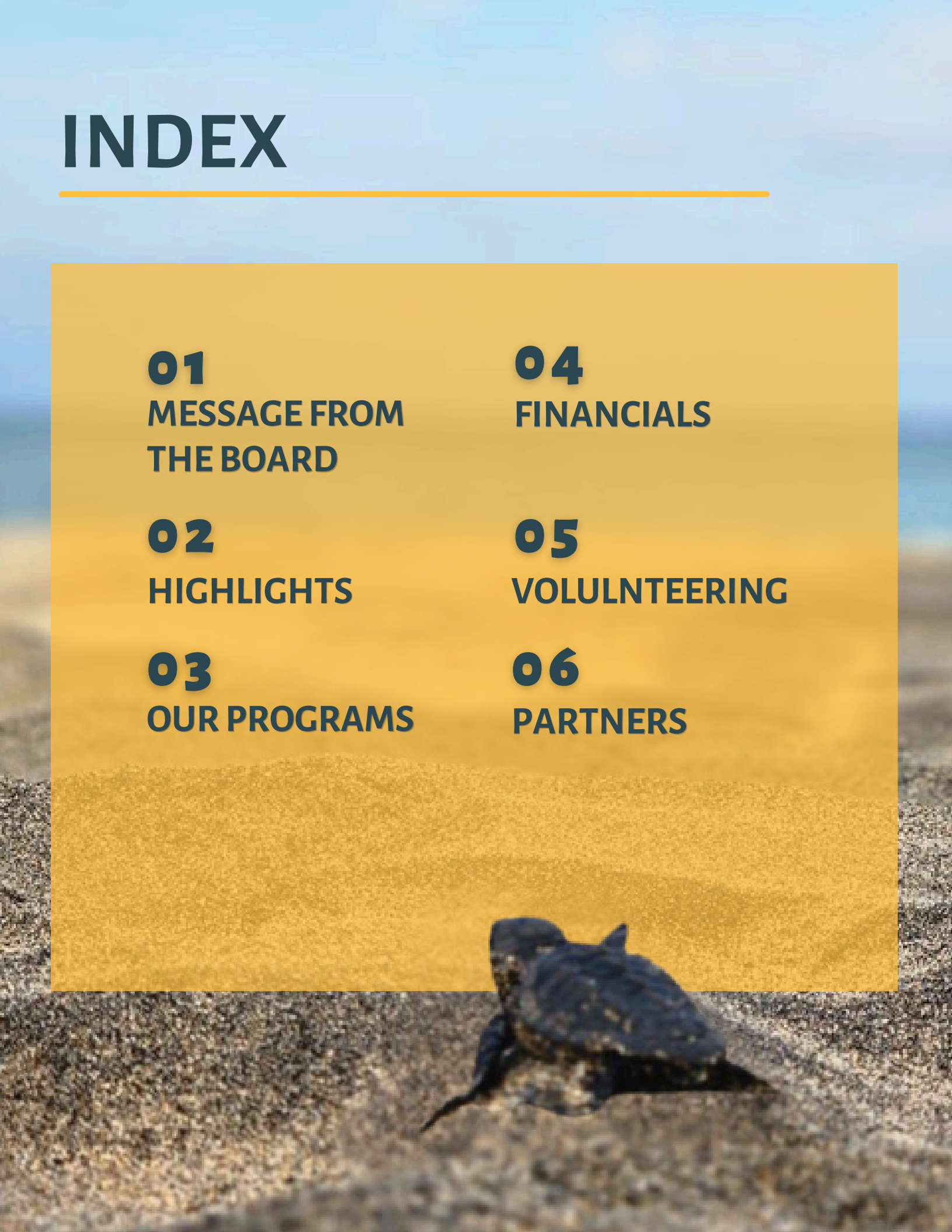
02 HIGHLIGHTS

03 OUR PROGRAMS

04 FINANCIALS

05 VOLULNTEERING

06 PARTNERS



01. MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear members, partners, funders, and friends of FMB,

With pride and gratitude, we present the 2025 Annual Report of the Maio Biodiversity Foundation — a reflection of our collective commitment to environmental preservation and the well-being of the communities of Maio Island.

2025 was a year of achievements and recognition. We had the honor of welcoming to our headquarters the President of the Republic, Dr. José Maria Neves, and the First Lady, Mrs. Débora Carvalho, reaffirming the national relevance of our work. We also continue to proudly hold the 2nd Class Medal of Merit, awarded in 2023, which continues to inspire our mission.

We strengthened our institutional identity with the launch of a new logo, the website renewal, and the creation of a graphic standards manual — steps that reflect our organizational maturity and commitment to clearer, more coherent communication.

On the social front, we highlight the creation of the Saberes e Sabores de D'Jarmai Cooperative, the first cooperative in Maio for the production of sweets and liqueurs, bringing together 13 entrepreneurial women. More than an economic initiative, it represents a concrete advance in women's empowerment and in reducing pressure on natural resources, aligned with the principles of the blue and circular economy.

In the field, we intensified the control of invasive species, the restoration of degraded areas, and the monitoring of fauna and flora, while deepening engagement with local communities. Our land and marine teams continue on the front line, protecting Maio's natural heritage every day.

We express special recognition to our funders and partners — your support is fundamental to amplifying our impact, reaching more communities, and strengthening collective action for nature and a fairer, more resilient society.

We continue to build meaningful momentum in 2026. Together, we will create a greener, fairer, and more vibrant future.



JANETE AGUES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ANTÓNIO ARAÚJO
PRESIDENTE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

OUR VALUES

Maio Biodiversity Foundation is a local non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 2010 on Maio Island, Cabo Verde, that implements environmental conservation and sustainable development actions, with strong technical and financial support from national and international partners.

Our vision is for Maio to be a reference in Cabo Verde and worldwide, grounded in the djunta mon (joining hands) of biodiversity conservation and social progress based on respect for local culture and gender equality.

Our mission is to promote the protection of biodiversity and the social progress of Maio Island, through actions of conservation, empowerment, and economic sustainability of local communities.

Our values constitute the ethical and moral foundation of our organization, guiding our actions and decisions and ensuring the fulfillment of our mission in a responsible and meaningful way, promoting the well-being of communities and the protection of the environment.

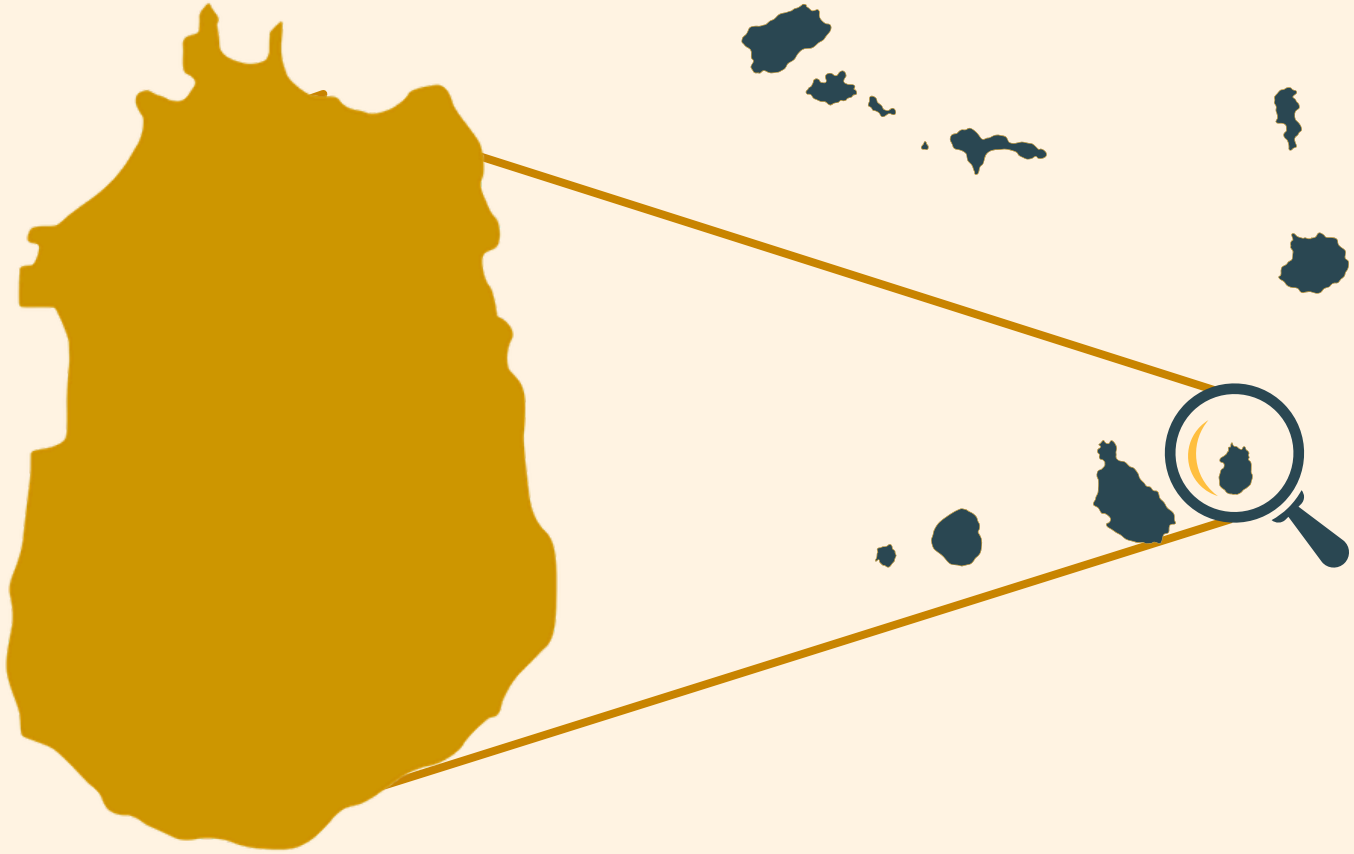




Photo: (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) with partial albinism

02

HIGHLIGHTS 2025

The President of the Republic's visit to Maio

Maio Biodiversity Foundation had the honor of receiving the President of the Republic, José Maria Neves, on the third day of his visit to Maio Island — a moment of significant recognition for the work developed by FMB in biodiversity conservation and the sustainable development of the island.

At the Foundation's headquarters, the Head of State learned about ongoing projects and FMB's role as a hub for biodiversity, tourist information, and technical support for environmental management. The Foundation also contributes to local job creation and to meeting national conservation targets, helping to secure Maio's designation as a Biosphere Reserve, a status granted in 2020.

The visit also included a trip to the Northern Natural Park, where the President followed up on ecological restoration initiatives, including replacing acacias with tarrafe trees, controlling invasive species, and reintroducing native vegetation. José Maria Neves encouraged the continuity of these actions, reaffirming the State's commitment to environmental preservation and the sustainable development of Maio.







The President also learned about the Community Monitoring project, led by eight local fishmongers who have been voluntarily collecting data on fishing activity since August 2024. In just one year, they recorded 46 species and identified relevant issues, such as the capture of groupers below the legal size, and highlighted the central role of women in the sustainable management of fishery resources. He also highlighted the work of the Guardians of the Sea, local fishermen who have contributed to reporting data on marine megafauna and illegal activities on the high seas.



Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Livelihoods

The inauguration of the Sweets and Liqueurs House, Saberes & Sabores de Djarmai Women's Cooperative on December 21, 2025, financed by the PaMAR project, marks a new stage in FMB's conservation strategy. By promoting livelihoods based on land and agricultural transformation, the initiative offers a sustainable alternative source of income, helping reduce pressure on the island's marine resources.

The project trained 13 women, transforming traditional knowledge into formal entrepreneurship, and supported product certification and the creation of their own brand with a seal of origin, aimed at the national market and the diaspora. This investment strengthens women's financial autonomy in rural areas and consolidates Maio's identity as a Biosphere Reserve, combining human prosperity with the protection of biodiversity.

Valuing Tourism and Natural Heritage

The requalification of 15 trails in the Northern Natural Park of Maio represents a concrete step in the convergence between conservation and sustainable tourism. With the installation of new directional signage, information panels, and blocking posts, the intervention protects sensitive habitats by channeling human presence into defined paths, while improving the visitor experience — making the park more accessible, safe, and attractive.

By investing in visitor infrastructure, Maio Island reinforces its positioning as an ecotourism destination, where the preservation of ecosystems and local development go hand in hand.

.





Guardians of the Sea and National Cooperation

For the first time, Maio Island hosted the National Workshop of the Guardians of the Sea Program, bringing together representatives from six islands of Cabo Verde — Santo Antão, São Vicente, Sal, Maio, Fogo, and Brava. The meeting was coordinated by the Maio Biodiversity Foundation, in partnership with the PaMAR project, and marked an important step in consolidating and harmonizing the program at the national level by validating the Code of Conduct and Standard Operating Procedures.

Created in 2016 by local fishermen and the Maio Biodiversity Foundation, the Guardians of the Sea program has become a national reference for community monitoring, promoting surveillance of fishing areas, reporting of illegal activities, and recording of marine megafauna.

The workshop strengthened cooperation between fishing communities, NGOs, and public institutions, highlighting the central role of communities in protecting the ocean and laying the foundations for regular national meetings and for increasingly inclusive and representative participation, including women from the fishing sector.

Science for Sustainable Decisions

For four consecutive seasons, we monitored 31 female loggerhead turtles with high-resolution GPS between nestings. The results reveal a clear pattern: the concentration areas coincide with key zones for community subsistence. By cross-referencing this data with GPS records from 136 artisanal vessels, we identified, for the first time in Cabo Verde, the main overlap zones between biodiversity and human activity in the marine space.

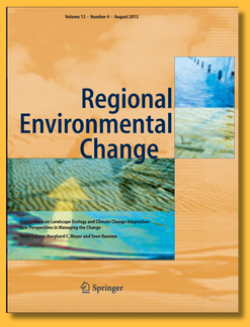


SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The Science and Conservation Program of the Maio Biodiversity Foundation has consolidated nine consecutive seasons of research oriented toward producing knowledge directly applicable to marine territory management. The use of underwater video on 9 turtles deepened understanding of population behavior. In parallel, the consolidation of 10 years of incubation-temperature monitoring across different beaches allows us to understand the effects of global warming on species' reproduction.

The work on Maio Island has crossed borders: the open-source technology has been adopted by conservation programs in Costa Rica and French Guiana, and presented to 27 international specialists at ICTC 2026, positioning Maio as a reference in the Atlantic. The Arribada Club, as an extracurricular activity, engaged 79 young people in direct contact with local science and biodiversity, helping to shape the next generation of guardians of Maio's natural heritage.

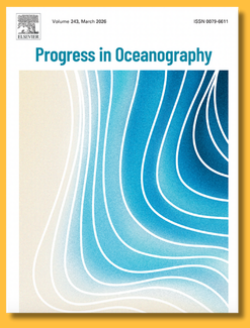
PUBLISHED ARTICLES



How vulnerable are the nesting sites of loggerhead turtles in Cabo Verde?

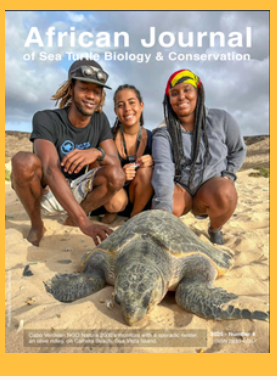
Lipid and carotenoid quantification in leatherback turtle eggs: insights into reproductive success and conservation





Seamounts of Cabo Verde: A review of their ecological and economic significance, anthropogenic impacts, and conservation needs

What Darwin Didn't Say About the Turtles Of Maio



03

OUR PROGRAMS



Photo: Grey-headed Kingfishe (*Halcyon leucocephala*)

PROTECTED AREAS



33 Joint Inspection Trips (NFC)	**97** People benefiting from Ecosystem Restoration
7.000 Plants produced in nurseries	**2.500** Fruit trees distributed to 13 communities
2.985 Purslane plants planted on 8.85 hectares (Lomba Greija)	**120** Species of flora recorded (12 endemic)
1.700 Bird species recorded (38 species)	**15** Rehabilitated trails in the PNNM (Natural Park of Madeira).
300 Endemic reptiles monitored (T. maioensis and C. s. maioensis)	**580** Invasive acacia (P. juliflora) plants removed at Salinas de Porto Inglês (100%)

Within the framework of the management and conservation of the Protected Areas of Maio Island, the year was marked by significant advances in three essential domains. The Joint Inspection Unit carried out 33 field outings, identifying and mitigating pressures on ecosystems — namely the illegal extraction of inert materials, the improper circulation of motorized vehicles, and waste disposal — while also requalifying 15 trails in the Northern Natural Park of Maio.

In terms of ecological restoration, approximately 7,000 plants were produced in nurseries, all invasive acacias were removed from the Porto Inglês Salt Flats Protected Landscape, and the forest perimeter of Lomba Greija was expanded by 8.85 hectares, in an effort that directly involved 97 people and benefited 13 local communities.

Terrestrial biodiversity monitoring confirmed the stable presence of endemic species of reptiles, flora, and avifauna, with the recording of 120 plant species, approximately 1,700 individuals of 38 bird species, and healthy reptile populations, reinforcing the importance of integrated landscape management for long-term conservation.





EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In the Education for Sustainable Development program, the year stood out for a comprehensive effort of awareness-raising, training, and community mobilization throughout Maio Island. 32 environmental awareness sessions were held, involving 578 students and teachers in visits to the Protected Areas and the marine turtle hatchery, covering 11 communities and several educational institutions.

Beach clean-up campaigns mobilized approximately 198 participants across 10 beaches, resulting in the collection of 1,784 kg of waste, and 5 beaches were integrated into a systematic study of coastal litter typologies. In terms of training, 42 participants — including Homestay program hosts and community youth — benefited from training in cooperativism, governance, and environmental entrepreneurship.

The year culminated in the 4th edition of the "Greenest Zone" contest, which mobilized approximately 1,300 people across 5 communities through 70 themed activities, consolidating it as one of the main drivers of civic and environmental engagement on the island.

1.784 kg Trash collected from 10 beaches on the island.	**~198** Participants in beach cleanup campaigns
1.300 People involved in the "Zona + Amiga do Ambiente" contest	**42** Participants in training courses
578 Students and teachers visiting Protected Areas and nurseries.	**32** Community awareness sessions held
8 Communities involved in the sessions about the Biosphere Reserve	**11** Communities involved in visits to Protected Areas



MARINE AND SUSTAINABLE FISHING



In 2025, the Marine and Sustainable Fisheries Program registered significant advances in protecting marine ecosystems and engaging Maio Island's coastal communities. The Guardians of the Sea Program, replicated at the national level, held its first National Workshop in Maio and, in 2025, mobilized 20 active members across 6 communities, recording 36 illegal fishing infractions and 305 sightings of marine megafauna, including 1,340 sharks and 334 turtles during aerial censuses in Praia Real. Also, data collected by drones at Porto Cais included 198 turtle sightings and 44 shark sightings.

In terms of scientific monitoring, 35 hours of underwater recordings (BRUVs) identified up to 27 commercial fish species in the protected areas, while landing records at Calheta documented 12,491 kg of fish from 46 species, with a total income of more than 4.5 million ECV.

In parallel, community monitoring led by 8 fishmongers from Calheta — a pioneering initiative in Cabo Verde — and the training of 26 fishmongers in fish processing strengthened local capacity for more sustainable and inclusive management of marine resources.

36 Illegal fishing activities recorded (Jan–Nov)	**305** Sightings of marine megafauna
1.340 Sharks recorded at Praia Real (aerial census)	**334** Sea turtles recorded at Praia Real.
20 Sea Guardians active in 6 communities	**26** Fishmongers trained in fish processing.
46 Fish species identified during landing	**12.491 kg** Registered fish (Aug 2024 – Dec 2025)

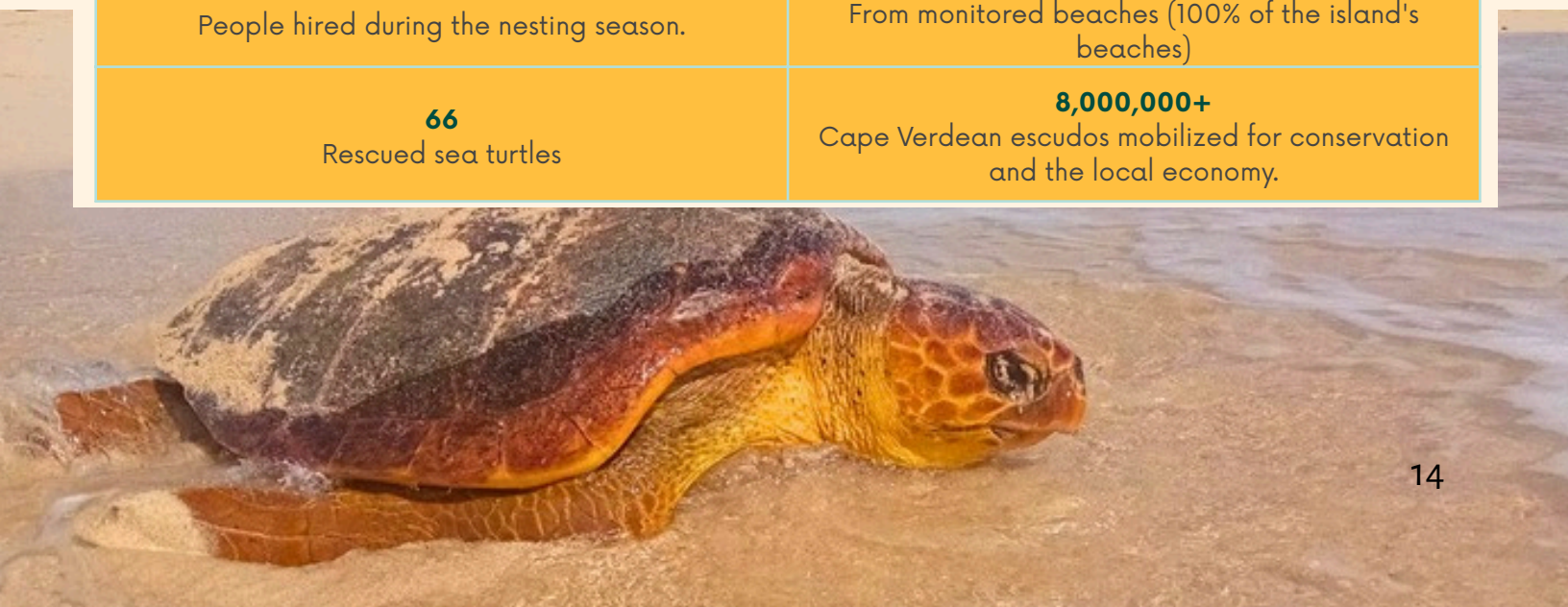


MARINE TURTLES

During the 2025 nesting season, our Community-Based Sea Turtle Conservation program monitored 38 km of coast and recorded 14,149 nests from 3,144 nesting loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*). We relocated 36 at-risk nests at the Bitxe Rocha hatchery, resulting in the release of 2,056 hatchlings into the sea and a hatching success rate of 86%. In addition to its protection and conservation functions, the hatchery served as an important environmental education tool, developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education, and welcomed more than 248 students from the Integrated Basic Education (EBI) program.

The program mobilized 91 people — including monitors, technicians, volunteers, and Homestay hosts — generating a local economic impact of more than 8,000,000 Cape Verdean Escudos. It also strengthened the involvement of new generations through the Arribada Club, which currently has 79 young people developing scientific and technological skills applied to the conservation of the island's biodiversity.

14.149 Loggerhead turtle nests recorded	**1.778** Nesting females recorded
2.056 Hatchlings rescued and released into the sea by the hatchery.	**86%** Hatching success rate in the Bitxe Rotxa hatchery
91 People hired during the nesting season.	**38 km** From monitored beaches (100% of the island's beaches)
66 Rescued sea turtles	**8,000,000+** Cape Verdean escudos mobilized for conservation and the local economy.



VOLUNTEERING



The volunteer program plays a fundamental role in fulfilling FMB's mission, serving as an essential pillar in supporting conservation actions and strengthening connections between the local community and the environment. In addition to reinforcing technical teams in monitoring, research, and species and habitat protection activities, the program promotes knowledge exchange, cultural experiences, and sustainability values, thereby contributing to the preservation of biodiversity.

The presence of volunteers on the island generates a direct and visible impact: it increases operational capacity in critical periods, such as the sea turtle nesting season; drives environmental education actions; values community work; and strengthens collaboration networks with national and international partners. Furthermore, active engagement with schools, local associations, and community initiatives reinforces social participation, inspires young people and adults, and promotes a culture of preservation, reflected in the protection of natural resources and the adoption of sustainable practices.



17

International interns and volunteers

22

national interns and volunteers

6769€

mobilized for conservation



"I'm 22 years old and I spent three weeks on Maio Island as a volunteer with FMB in the turtle conservation program. It was a demanding but profoundly enriching experience, from the night patrols on the beaches to integrating into the Morrinho community and the welcoming stay at Ricardina and Alexandre's homestay. I take with me unique memories and immense gratitude."

04

FINANCIAL REPORT



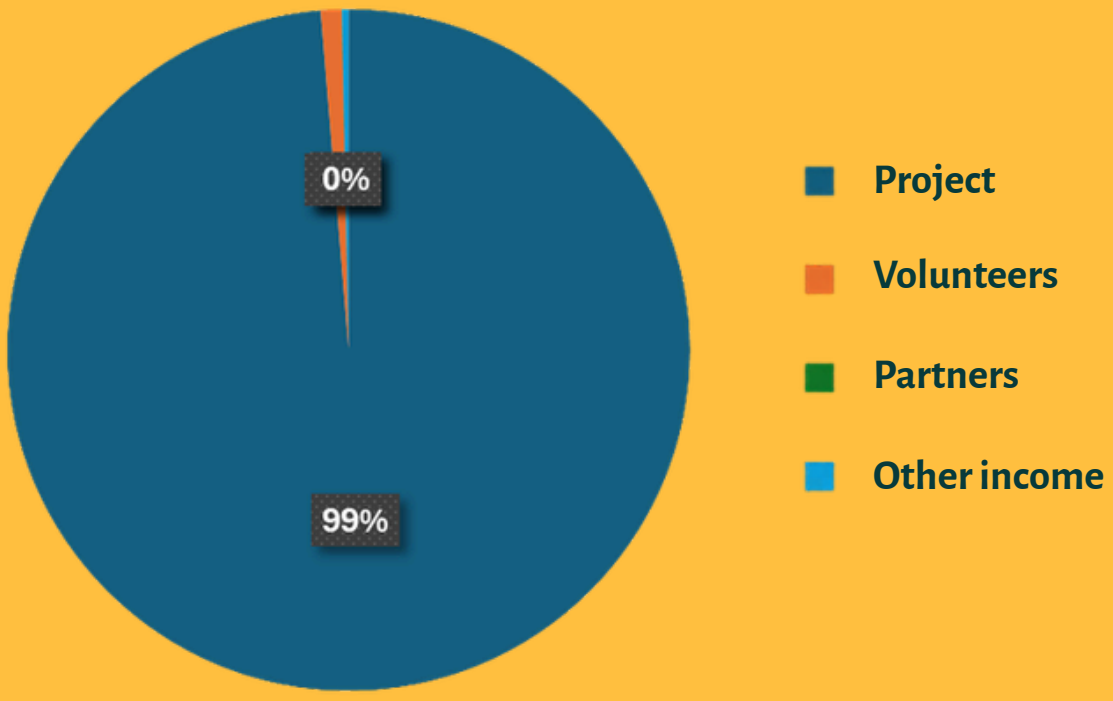
Photo: Salt Mines of Porto Inglês

REVENUE

Continued financial support is essential to ensure the sustainability of FMB's programs and to promote a balance between development and environmental preservation on the island of Maio.

In 2025, FMB mobilized a total of 59,889,120S00, consolidating its role in environmental conservation and sustainable development on the island. Approximately 98.69% of these resources enabled the Turtle, Marine, Education for Sustainable Development, Protected Areas, and Scientific programs. The total budget allocated to conservation was 9,453,152S00 Cape Verdean escudos, of which 8,035,179S85 were allocated to the local community through the creation of blue jobs.

A detailed breakdown of revenues is presented below.



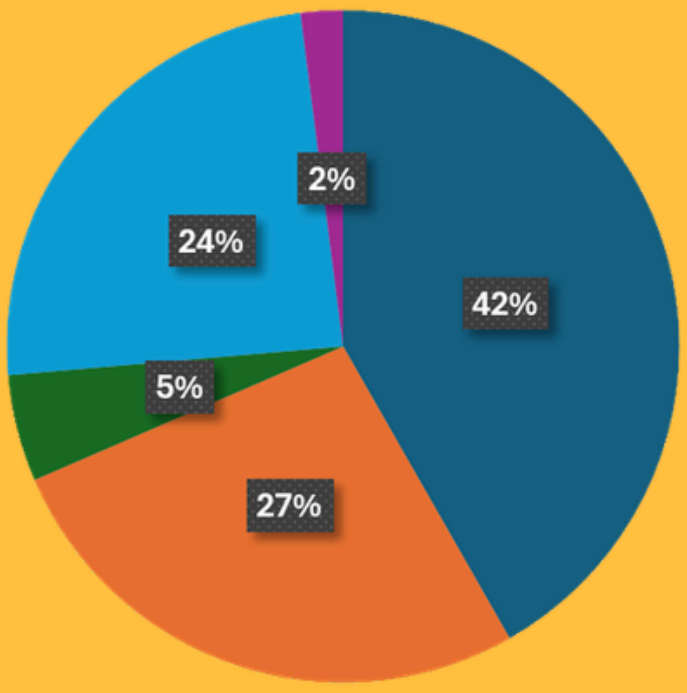
Revenue 2025 ($9,889,120.00)	Projetos	Voluntários	Sócios	Outros rendimentos
Values in Cape Verdean escudos.	59 101 832 (98,69%)	586 630 (0,98%)	13 816 (0,02%)	186 842 (0,31%)

EXPENSES

Total expenses incurred in 2025 amounted to $54,561,820.00. Of this amount, 26.75% corresponded to expenses for the FMB team, 24.34% to operational costs of the headquarters (water, electricity, communications, rent, materials, vehicles and administrative support, including external auditing and accounting), 5.13% to education and sustainable development activities, and 41.75% to biodiversity conservation actions on Maio Island, within the scope of the Turtle, Marine and Protected Areas Programs. The remaining 2.03% was allocated to communication, visibility and organizational development.

FMB has a structured team, composed of local, national and international professionals, who work in an integrated way to promote sustainable development and the conservation of biodiversity on the island of Maio — work that is recognized nationally and internationally.

We appreciate the essential support of our partners and funders, which makes it possible to continue this work for the benefit of biodiversity and the communities of Maio.



Expenses 2025 ($4,561,820.00)	Conservation	FMB Team	Environmental Education	Headquarter Operations	Communication, Visibility and Development of the Headquarters
Values in Cape Verdean escudos.	22 780 325 (41,75%)	14 593 295 (26,75%)	2 797 804 (5,13%)	13 280 987 (24,34%)	1 109 409 (2,03%)

06

PARTNERS



Photo: Director Janete Agues with staff in the field

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

The work of the Maio Biodiversity Foundation is based on a diverse network of partners who support conservation, scientific research, and sustainable development initiatives on the island of Maio. In 2025, philanthropic foundations, international conservation funds, public institutions, and technical organizations continued to contribute to different dimensions of the organization's work, enabling the consolidation of participatory management programs for protected areas, marine conservation, scientific research, and sustainable economy initiatives in local communities.

Key funders and program partners include the Fondation Audemars-Watkins, Blue Action Fund, Arcadia, Oceans 5, PEW Charitable Trusts, the Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation in West Africa (PRCM), the Programme de Petites Initiatives (PPI), Blue Ventures, Blue Connect, the European Union, and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF). The Foundation also collaborates closely with organizations specializing in the conservation and management of marine resources, including Fauna & Flora.

At the national level, the Foundation works closely with various public institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, the National Directorate for the Environment, the National Directorate for Maritime Economy, the Maritime Authority, the National Police, the Delegation of the Ministry of Education of Maio, the Municipality of Maio and the Institute of the Sea (IMAR), as well as with community organizations and conservation networks, such as TAOLA+.

These partnerships enable the implementation of initiatives such as strengthening the management of protected areas, monitoring marine and terrestrial biodiversity, conserving sea turtles, participatory fisheries management, and community development projects.

The Foundation also benefits from collaboration with universities and scientific institutions, which strengthen the applied research base of its programs. These partners include the University of Aveiro, the University of Lisbon, the University of Algarve, the University of Exeter, the University of Oxford (through the Arribada Initiative), Queen Mary University of London, and the University of Cape Verde.

Our team at Maio Biodiversity Foundation thanks all institutional partners, funders, and collaborating organizations, whose support has been fundamental to the development of conservation work and community engagement on the island of Maio.

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS



JOIN US!

- **Make a donation:** Every contribution strengthens the maintenance of FMB's material and human resources, offering essential support for biodiversity conservation and the people of Maio. Make your transfer to Banco Comercial do Atlântico, in the name of Fundação Maio Biodiversidade (IBAN: CV64 0003 0000 80115793101 76; SWIFT/BIC: BCATCVCV).

- **Come and volunteer:** FMB welcomes national and international volunteers who support the protection of local wildlife, especially loggerhead turtles that nest on the island's beaches.

- **Become a member:** For just 100 escudos a year, you can join us and have a voice within our community.

- For more information, you can visit www.fmb-maio.org or contact the foundation at info@fmb-maio.org.

+238 255 2123

Follow us on our social media channels for more news and stay tuned for upcoming editions!