

Community-Based Sea Turtle Conservation Project 2018



FMB International Volunteer Program

SEA TURTLE VOLUNTEERS

Villages and teams



Maio Biodiversity Foundation (FMB)

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VILLAGES AND TEAMS

1. Barreiro

Population: 535 / Patrol area: 2,3 km / Distance between community and patrol beaches: 2 to 3 km



The community of Barreiro consists of two zones: Banda Riba and Lém Varela, separated by the Ribeira of Barreiro. It is mainly formed by one-storey single-family houses, and has some facilities as follows: educational (primary school and kindergarten), religious (Catholic chapel and Christian rationalism church), leisure (square, multipurpose ground, multimedia center and sports club) and health (basic clinic). The last Sunday of the year is the Sagrada Família festival. Being an event held during the Christmas season, it always has a large number of participants, including residents of different communities and also visitors.

Barreiro has very important nesting beaches, with the highest rate of poaching on the island. It is the best spot, and has easiest access, for turtle watching – attracting tourists to the area. Due to the intense nesting activity and to protect the turtles from hunting pressure (mostly by young unemployed adults) it is necessary to have a large number of people in a protection team focused on, and motivated for, conservation.

Beach	Extension (km)	Nests		Tracks		Dead turtles		Poached nests	
		2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Djampadja	1,5	337	217	1206	697	12	10	0	0
Boca Lagoa	0,8	198	211	459	382	10	4	0	0

2. Figueira

Population: 529 / Patrol area: 1 km / Distance between community and patrol beach: 4 km



-This community, which includes the villages of Figueira Horta and Figueira Seca, stands out in Maio as the main agricultural area of the island, this being the main activity of its population. It is well known for its producers of “grogue”. The community has facilities as follows: educational (primary school and kindergarten), religious (Cristo Rei chapel), leisure (multimedia center, square and multipurpose ground) and health (basic clinic). At the end of November is the Cristo Rei festival, which includes religious, sports and cultural activities, with music and dance.

Figueira is an inland community and the nesting beaches are far from the settlement. It is likely that it is one of the main consumers of turtle meat on the island, and therefore the educational and awareness work is quite necessary and urgent.

Beach	Extension (km)	Nests		Tracks		Dead turtles		Poached nests	
		2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
João Martinho	0,7	29	25	231	46	11	4	0	0

3. Ribeira Dom João

Population: 203 / Patrol area: 2 km / Distance between community and patrol beaches: 4 km



Ribeira Dom João is located in the southeast of the island and it is an isolated village with turtle friendly people. The community has facilities as follows: educational (primary school and kindergarten), religious (chapel) and leisure (community club and sports area). It has the best goat cheese of the island and recently opened a factory for its production and trade. On June 24th the São João festival is celebrated. The patrol area consists of different nesting beaches, extending to Ponta dos Flamengos, one of the most remote places of Maio and integrated with the natural reserve of Lagoa Cimidor.

Beach	Extension (km)	Nests		Tracks		Dead turtles		Poached nests	
		2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Flamengo	0,8	253	197	893	909	11	5	1	0
Morro de Areia	0,3	27	4	120	68	2	1	0	0
Ribeira Funda	0,4	49	115	122	254	3	5	0	0
Porto de R.D.João	0,4	17	26	42	104	1	1	0	0
Beira	0,1	8	0	65	1	0	0	1	0

4. Pilão Cão

Population: 102 / Patrol area: 1,5 km / Distance between community and patrol beaches: 2,3 km



Pilão Cão is a small community with a growing sympathy for turtle conservation. In terms of urban layout, it has a linear structure along the main road with housing representing a traditional typology of family houses, one-storey high. Its proximity to the community of Alcatraz means that some of the facilities are shared between the two communities (primary school and kindergarten, church and community center).

The patrol is difficult and tricky, with several small beaches, separated by large chunks of rocks. If counted all together, this area has the highest turtle activity on the island

Beach	Extension (km)	Nests		Tracks		Dead turtles		Poached nests	
		2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Monte Branco	0,8	208	320	383	557	1	1	0	0
Calheta Dama	0,5	197	412	233	436	0	0	0	0
Ribeira Baía	0,2	446	424	324	442	2	0	0	0

5. Alcatraz

Population: 232 / Patrol area: 0,9 km / Distance between community and patrol beaches: 1,2 km



Alcatraz is located very close to Pilão Cão and opens up to the Monte Penoso, the highest peak of Maio island. The village was originally an open field, consisting of a few houses on the main road and developed further without forming a clear central area. This is a friendly community and open to new initiatives. It is famous for the traditional music group, Batuku, composed only by women. On October 7th the Nossa Senhora do Rosário festival is celebrated, organized by the communities of Alcatraz and Pilão Cão.

Nesting beaches in this area are small, sloping and easily flooded, and largely composed of dark colored sand. It has one of the lowest poaching rates of females and nests.

Beach	Extensão (km)	Nests		Tracks		Dead turtles		Poached nests	
		2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Praia da Guarda	0,2	125	174	56	74	0	2	0	0
Santa Clara	0,4	70	112	29	69	1	1	0	0
Ribeira de Alcatraz	0,3	40	70	45	84	5	1	0	0

6. Pedro Vaz

Population: 166 / Patrol area: 1,3 km / Distance between community and patrol beaches: 2 km



The community of Pedro Vaz is located in the northeast of the island, in a beautiful green valley. It is formed by two settlements connected to the road that circulates the island, made of one-storey single-family houses. Facilities include educational (primary school and kindergarten), religious (chapel), health (health center) and leisure (sports field). The festive season in this community takes place on June 29th, with a religious ceremony, sports activities and a cultural night. It has a small and slightly shy community that will require more effort to get people involved in the turtle conservation program. The protection team patrols 4 nesting beaches; one of them is used as a landing site by fishermen from the capital island of Santiago, known for poaching a considerable number of turtles on land and sea.

Beach	Extension (km)	Nests		Tracks		Dead turtles		Nest poached	
		2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Praiona	0,5	124	123	114	184	0	1	1	1
Prainha	0,3	130	179	126	250	1	0	2	0
Pajoana	0,2	38	57	50	142	0	0	2	0
Boca Ribeira	0,3	152	201	206	213	0	3	1	0

7. Praia Gonçalo and Santo António

Population: 67 / Patrol area: 2,7 km / Distance between community and patrol beaches: 2,2 km



Santo António is the smallest village on the island, neighboring the traditional fishing community of Praia Gonçalo. These villages consist of several one-storey individual houses, clustered along the main road. In June, there is the Santo António celebration, which includes football games, a religious ceremony and music and dance.

Close to the beach with highest number of nests on the whole island and also due to its geographical isolation, the nesting beaches of this area have high levels of turtle poaching for the meat trade. It is essential to have motivated members on the protection team to face the intense night patrols and the daily challenges of living in this isolated and peculiar area of the island.

Beach	Extension (km)	Nests		Tracks		Dead turtles		Poached nests	
		2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Santo António	1,5	512	1229	548	763	2	4	0	0
Tupim	1,2	22	23	21	14	0	0	0	0

8. Cascabulho

Population: 204 / Patrol area: 6 km / Distance between community and patrol beaches: 5 km



Cascabulho is located in the north of the island, between the village of Morrinho and Pedro Vaz. According to popular sources, the origin of its name came from the mounds of peels (cascas in Portuguese) of corn and beans that could be found there. Some facilities available include: primary school and kindergarten, catholic chapel, sports area and community center. The first event of the year, Nossa Senhora do Socorro festival, is celebrated here, on January 6th.

Cascabulho has the longest and one of the most isolated walks between village and patrol beaches, inside the Natural Parque Norte da Ilha do Maio (PNNM). Possibly for this reason and associated with the fact that is one of the areas with lowest turtle activity, the capture of females and eggs is almost non-existent. Protection team members in this community must be quite motivated and dynamic.

Beach	Extension (km)	Nests		Tracks		Dead turtles		Poached nests	
		2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Galeão	2,4	38	79	55	119	0	2	0	0
Laja Branca	1,8	18	18	6	16	2	0	0	0
Praia Real	1,5	2	1	4	1	0	0	1	0

9. Morrinho

Population: 444 / Patrol area: 5 km / Distance between community and patrol beaches: 2,5 km



Morrinho is located on the northwest side of Maio and is a busy village, with a festive and participatory population in conservation projects.

Its inhabitants are mostly involved in primary activities, particularly the production of charcoal. The community has the following facilities: educational (primary school and kindergarten), religious (chapel), leisure (community center, square and sports ground) and health (basic health center). The Santa Ana festival is celebrated at the end of July and it is one of the events that gather together a lot of people from other communities, in a great festival held in the central square of Morrinho. Includes sport, cultural and religious activities.

It has one of the most beautiful nesting beaches on the island, frequented by young people and fishermen to camp during the weekend. This community is known for intense harvesting of turtle eggs, although the FMB has managed to fight this tendency during the 2015 season. Morrinho requires a team committed to publicising the importance of sea turtles among the local community groups,

encouraging its members to participate more actively in our project.

Beach	Extension (km)	Nests		Tracks		Dead turtles		Poached nests	
		2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Santana	3,7	180	187	189	223	5	2	5	4
Cadjetinha	1,2	89	77	89	78	1	2	6	4

10. Calheta

Population: 1156 / Patrol area: 3,2 km / Distance between community and patrol beaches: 0,4 km



Calheta has the second largest population of the island and is composed by four different areas: Ribona, Lém Tavares, Baxona and Ribinha. It is a social coastal village, with youth and a strong fishing activity, especially the consumption and trade of moray, buzio and octopus. It has the following facilities: leisure (square, community center, sports ground and artisan center), religious (S. José chapel), educational (primary school and kindergarten) and health (health center). In addition, with the proximity to the beach, tourism services such as bars and terraces can be found. The celebration in this community happens in March, the São José festival.

Calheta has slightly lower nesting activity but the egg harvesting and turtle meat trade and consumption are very high. Considering the high number of inhabitants, it is a village that should be included in educational and awareness activities, where the community involvement on night patrols is very important.

Beaches	Extension (km)	Nests		Tracks		Dead turtles		Poached nests	
		2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Kau di Pal, Kau Fidjim, Soca, Soquinha, Areia Preta, Barquelona, Baxona, Ribinha, Cadjetinha	3,2	148	286	196	312	3	3	11	4

11. Morro

Population: 310 / Patrol area: 6 km / Distance between community and patrol beaches: 1 km



Morro is the closest village to the island's capital and is influenced by its proximity. It contains some facilities such as supermarket, kindergarten, primary school, square, chapel, community center and sports area. The festival in this community is on May 13th, Nossa Senhora de Fátima festival.

It has been a very receptive community during the last seasons of turtle protection, with no mortality registered in 2014 and 2015, although in 2016 we registered 2 dead turtles and in 2017 1 dead turtle. The patrol area is composed of two extensive beaches of white and mixed sand (Morro beach and Salina). In 2015, the first hatchery on the island was implemented, in Morro beach. This experimental initiative showed very good results of high hatching success rate (average of 79%) as well as in

terms of community involvement and awareness achieved. In 2016 and 2017 we continued with the hatchery and we had the same satisfactory result as in 2015; this season we will continue with the initiative.

Beach	Extension (km)	Nests		Tracks		Dead turtles		Poached nests	
		2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Praia do Morro	4,5	248	220	327	296	1	1	0	0
Salina Norte	1,5	120	132	180	177	1	0	0	0

12. Vila do Maio

Population: 2971 / Patrol area: 7,6 km / Distance between community and patrol beaches: 0,5 km



Parish seat and capital of the island, Cidade do Porto Inglês or Vila do Maio, is located in the southwest of the island. It hosts much of the island's services such as transport and logistics, trade, tourism and public services, among others. In addition to the different activities carried out throughout the year (sports, religious, social and cultural events), the great celebration occurs on 8th of September, with a festival on Bitche Rotcha with games, dance, DJs and guest artists. It is an event that attracts people from all communities of Maio and also from other islands.

The size of the patrol area is high and the level of turtle activity is low but considering that this is the central area of the island and has the

largest number of people, including residents, emigrants and tourists, it presents a high pressure of poaching as well as intense trade and consumption of turtle meat. It is necessary to have a sound and dynamic working team, which in addition to the night patrols, conduct educational and awareness activities with the population, involving local authorities.

Beach	Extension (km)	Nests		Tracks		Dead turtles		Poached nests	
		2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Ponta Preta / Casas Velhas	4,6	123	148	296	223	3	10	0	4
Salina Sul	2,2	69	87	132	107	0	0	1	1
Bitche Rotcha	0,8	2	12	1	8	0	1	0	0