

Science-led Conservation of Turtles in Cape Verde

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Science-led conservation combines science and education to develop a programme for protecting loggerhead sea turtles in Cape Verde.

The project aims to create long term culture change by involving local students in education programmes and research.

This offers new opportunities to meaningfully reach local communities through their own peers, friends and relatives, protecting turtles on a long term basis.



To be fully honest, this training is entirely bilateral: many of us have learned from the experience those students have from living in Cape Verde and interacting with those phenomenal animals for decades!



Key aims:

- **Engagement.** To educate local students by actively involving them in research, acting as local ambassadors to create culture change.
- **Research.** Collecting real data with the help of local ambassadors to feed directly into research
- **Practice Sharing.** To develop a science-led conservation model and share this with Governments and NGOs.

Results so far:

- Local students have contributed to a dramatic rise in data sampling
- The work has attracted major press attention, with reports by the New York Times and Science Daily
- Last year the number of turtles found dead in Cape Verde was 100, down from 1000 in 2008 thanks to collaborative efforts with NGOs

