



Centro de Informação, Observação
e Monitorização de Aves – Lobito

Lobito Birdwatching, Information and Monitoring Centre



Celebrating World Migratory Bird Day with Lobito Community Project Activities Report



2023

Funded by:



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I. INTRODUCTION

To celebrate the World Migratory Bird Day in October, ADAMA requested financial support from The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) to carry out a series of CEPA activities aimed at migratory birds and their habitat conservation in Lobito, as well as promoting CIOMA, which is the wetland centre that is being developed with the institutional and financial support from The WSFI. The WSFI's response to ADAMA was immediate and positive, resulting in the signing of the contract reference K180_WP2 between the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) and ADAMA on October 17, 2023 and the consequent availability of funds to cover related activities expenses.

It should be remembered that the WSFI has been ADAMA's most important international partner in implementing projects aimed at conserving migratory waterbirds and coastal wetlands in the Lobito region, that is an important migratory stopover along the East Atlantic flyway.

II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

All activities foreseen in the contract were carried out successfully and each one was programmed to respond to each of the 4 specific objectives foreseen. Below we present a detailed description of each of the activities, following the chronological order in which they were carried out:

2.1. Awareness campaign

From a chronological point of view, the first activity that was carried out was the *awareness campaign on the sustainable use of Lobito lagoons resources*. This activity was planned with the aim of sensitizing 90 people involved in Lobito wetland site resources business; due to its complexity, this activity began to be prepared on October 23rd with the mobilization and training of volunteer sensitizers for 4 days.



Image 1: Orientation briefing with Platoon A, moments before the campaign.

On October 28th, the awareness campaign was carried out. 29 members from the Angolan Scouts Association and 9 volunteers from ADAMA were actively involved in the campaign, who were distributed into 2 platoons of 20 and 18 sensitizers each, having been designated platoon A and platoon B. Platoon A worked in the morning, i.e. is from 9 am to 12 pm and platoon B in the afternoon, from 2 pm to 5 pm. In turn, each platoon was subdivided into duos, making a total of 18 duos. Each duo was given 6 data collection forms (appendix 1) and

an equal number of information leaflets (appendix 2), with the responsibility of approaching and raising awareness of 6 individuals involved in Lobito wetland site resources business.



Map 1: Salt mining activity area in green colour background (map source: Google Earth)



Image 2: A duo of sensitizers raising awareness of a salt miner on the Lobito lagoons perimeter.



Image 3: A sensitizer raising awareness of a fisherman in Lobito lagoons.

Each of the 18 duos of sensitizers achieved the goal of sensitizing 6 individuals, totaling 108 people sensitized as seen in table 1. With these results, objective number 2, which provided for the sensitization of 90 people involved in Lobito wetland site resources business, was achieved with success.

Table of results number 1

Sensitized people area of activity	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Salt mining	23	65	88
Fishing	20	0	20
Total	43	65	108

2.2. Birdwatching and counting training

The activity that came next was the training session on birdwatching and counting for conservation; it took place on the 10th November and was planned to respond positively to the objective 1 according to the contract.

In statistical terms, 93 children participated in the training, among them 54 were female. To facilitate the process, the group was subdivided into 2 groups that had sessions at different shifts, one group in the morning shift and the other in the afternoon. The training was

facilitated by 2 ADAMA specialists assisted by 4 teachers from the institution where the students came from.



Image 4: ADAMA members facilitating the training.



Image 5: A trainee using binoculars during practical component.

In terms of content, the training had 2 components, one being theoretical and the other practical. The theoretical component dealt with 1) the importance of birding, 2) basic birding rules, 3) types of birdwatching and 4) bird counting techniques. In the practical component, all beneficiaries had the opportunity to practice birdwatching with binoculars and counting flocks of birds.



Image 6: A trainee receiving a participation certificate from a teacher.

The training ended with the granting of certificates of participation to all beneficiaries and celebration of the achievement. With these results, objective number 1 of the contact was fulfilled.

Table of results number 2

	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Birdwatching and counting training participats	39	54	93

2.3. Cleaning Campaign

On November 18th, a cleaning campaign took place in the Lobito wetland site area. The focus of the campaign aimed to rid around 4 hectares of area of urban solid waste, especially the southeastern part of the lagoon, which had a lot of solid waste on its banks, mainly plastic bags and bottles.



Image 7: ADAMA secretary-general talking to one of the hired team before the beginning of the work.

The campaign was made possible thanks to the hiring of an experienced team from Lobito's community services and young volunteers from the Universal Church in Angola, led by ADAMA volunteers. The community services team hired was made up of 40 women, each equipped with their own work tools and 3 men as drivers.



Map 2: Cleaned area during the campaign in green colour background (map source: Google Earth)



Image 8: One of the teams cleaning the lagoon west bank.

The team was supported by 3 motorized waste collection means. As a result of the campaign, an area of approximately 5 hectares was cleaned, with emphasis on the southwest, south and north of the main Lobito lagoon, thus fulfilling objective number 3.

2.4. Workshop on ecotourism opportunities through the development of a reference wetland center in Lobito.

A Workshop on ecotourism opportunities through the development of a reference wetland center in Lobito was held on November 28th with the aim of getting inputs for ecotourism opportunities through the development of Lobito wetland centre. ADAMA had the direct collaboration of the local government through the Lobito Municipal Administration and the Provincial Department of the Environment of Benguela, as well as the Catholic Polytechnic Institute of Benguela.



Image 9: ADAMA Secretary-general and two others panelists on the stage.

The Workshop took place in the Lobito municipal administration auditorium and was attended by 164 participants, including politicians, businesspeople, academics, similar non-governmental organizations, biology and chemistry students from the Lobito Technical Institute and other guests.



Image 10: Some workshop attendants taking notes.

The workshop was conducted according to the program in the appendix... and lived up to expectations as all event participants left the site with a clear understanding of what a wetland center is and how the development of a wetland center With everyone's collaboration, you can contribute to the conservation of the fauna and flora of the Lobito wetland site and contribute to the promotion of ecotourism in the city.

In terms of workshop content, there were two panels:

1) Presentation of the project “Bird Information, Observation and Monitoring Center in Lobito – this panel was merely informative and had the specific objective of contextualizing and framing ADAMA’s perspective regarding the project that is intended to be installed, as well as collecting ideas that aim to improve the initial project, with a view to adopting a participatory model from the beginning of the project. Valuable contributions were collected in this panel and it was recommended on the initiative of the Municipal Administrator of Lobito that the technical area of the Municipal Administration should monitor the development of the project and offer all institutional and technical support for the materialization of subsequent steps.

2) Ecotourism opportunities through the development of a reference wetlands center in the city of Lobito - this second panel aimed mainly to awaken the political, business and academic classes, especially about local, national and international ecotourism that can develop in Lobito due to the development of the wetland site. After lively debates on the subject, it was recommended that a) the Municipal Administration should provide a strategically advantageous and accessible space to facilitate access for visitors, b) the project to be developed should be integrated in order to include other services that will support the environmental and tourist component.

In short, the workshop generated the expected results and contributed significantly to raising awareness among participants regarding the vision of developing the wetland center and collecting contributions from them from the perspective of developing an inclusive, participatory and integrated project.

III. Conclusions

The project “celebrating World Migratory Bird Day with the Lobito community”, funded by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat , was an incredible experience and contributed positively to the efforts that have been made towards the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats along the East Atlantic Flyway, with highlight the Lobito lagoons, which are an important refuge for water birds.

The methodology applied in carrying out the activities was inclusive and participatory, as a result of which Lobito residents participated in all activities in numbers greater than expected.

In terms of results, it is important to say that the specific objectives were achieved by carrying out successfully each activity and the goal was achieved throughout the execution of the project, in other words, the immediate results are already being felt and we are sure that in the medium term, conservation conditions will be better because nowadays as our work result, more people are aware of and mobilized for migratory birds conservation and their habitats protection.

IV. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Sample of data collection form used during the awareness campaign



Associação dos Defensores e Amigos do Ambiente

Sede (Provisória): Apto Nº 115, Rua 15 de Agosto, Lobito - Angola

E-mail: adama_angola@outlook.com | Tel: +244 923 758724

CAMPANHA DE SENSIBILIZAÇÃO SOBRE O USO SUSTENTÁVEL DOS RECURSOS DAS LAGUNAS DO LOBITO

Ficha de Recolha de Dados

Nº de ordem das abordagens	Tipo de actividade que o sujeito abordado pratica	Género	
		M	F

Data: ___/___/_____

Assinaturas dos mebros da equipa

1. _____

2. _____

Appendix 2 – Information Leaflet sample

PROTEJA AS LAGUNAS DO LOBITO

As *lagunas do Lobito* popularmente conhecidas por “mangais” constituem uma importante *zona húmida* ao longo da faixa litoral de Benguela, formando um raro ecossistema e habitat de várias espécies aquáticas e não só.

As zonas húmidas são importantes para a conservação da biodiversidade e para a regulação do clima. Constituem habitat para uma grande variedade de animais e plantas, incluindo muitas espécies ameaçadas ou em perigo de extinção, e armazenam ou transportam nutrientes que sustentam a cadeia alimentar. Para além da sua grande capacidade de retenção de carbono, que faz com que desempenhem um papel crucial na mitigação das alterações climáticas, as zonas húmidas constituem-se verdadeiras defesas naturais e agentes de combate a essas alterações, actuando como um “amortecedor” de variações bruscas causadas por fenómenos climáticos extremos, protegendo-nos de tempestades ao longo da costa, reduzindo e atrasando inundações ou mitigando o efeito de secas, ajudando a proteger as áreas adjacentes.

Tendo em conta esta e outras razões, *as lagunas do Lobito (mangais) devem ser protegidas por todos nós.*

Para a protecção efectiva das lagunas do Lobito (Mangais) devemos cumprir rigorosamente com as seguintes regras de ouro:

- 1. Não deitar lixo;**
- 2. Não pescar;**
- 3. Não caçar aves nem colocar armadilhas;**
- 4. Não entulhar;**
- 5. Não perturbar as aves;**
- 6. Fazer uso sustentável dos recursos;**
- 7. Conservar as lagunas;**
- 8. Restaurar os espaços usurpados.**

Appendix 3 – Workshop program (in Portuguese)



ASSOCIAÇÃO DOS DEFENSORES E AMIGOS DO AMBIENTE

Tel: 923758724 /E-mail: adama_angola@outlook.com/Sede Provisória: Rua 15 de Agosto–Apto nº114, Lobito - Benguela

Programa do workshop sobre oportunidades de ecoturismo através do desenvolvimento de um centro de zonas húmidas de referência na cidade do Lobito

Local: Salão Nobre da AML

Dia: 28 de Novembro de 2023

Horário: 08:30 – 11:30

Programa			
Ordem	Hora	Actividade	Responsável
1	08:30	Chegada dos convidados	Protocolo
2	09:00	Sessão de abertura e apresentação dos objectivos	Moderador
3	09:10	Boas-vindas e palavras de circunstâncias	Administração Municipal do Lobito
4	09:25	Momento cultural	Grupo teatral
5	09:35	I Painel: Apresentação do projecto “Centro de Informação, Observação e Monitorização de Aves – Lobito)	ADAMA
6	10:15	II Painel: Oportunidades de ecoturismo através do desenvolvimento de um centro de zonas húmidas de referência na cidade do Lobito	Gabinete Provincial do Turismo
7	10:45	Sessão de recolha de subsídios, perguntas e respostas	Moderador
8	11:20	Encerramento	Administração Municipal do Lobito
9	11:30	Café	Protocolo

Appendix 3 – Additional photos of the activities



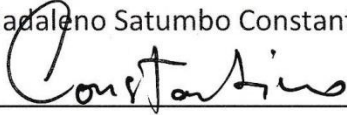




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