



Centro de Informação, Observação
e Monitorização de Aves – Lobito

Lobito Birdwatching, Information and Monitoring Centre



Catumbela Community for Birds

Activities Report



2024

Funded by



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I. INTRODUCTION

“Catumbela Community for Birds” project arose based on the need to expand CIOMA’s range of action, transforming more wetland areas in this region of Angola into safe havens for migratory waterbirds, therefore contributing to the national and international efforts for conservation of migratory birds and their habitats along the flyway. The implementation of this project was possible thanks to the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) support and financing that on the basis of the contract Ref K185_WP2_Cat signed between representatives of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) and ADAMA, four main activities were carried out involving Catumbela municipality community in Angola, with emphasis on local authorities, school boys, peasants and fishermen. The main site GPS is “-12.44557964731294, 13.485021335589304”.

Each of the activities represented a great challenge for the team of volunteers who operated the project given the hard access to the area and the sociocultural and economic context found in the field.

Below is a brief report of the activities as well as the presentation of the results.

II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

All the planned activities were carried out successfully, complying with objectives mentioned in the contract signed between the parties. Below we present a detailed description of each of the activities, following the chronological order in which they were carried out:

2.1. Presentation of the Project to local authorities

As “Catumbela Community for Birds” project is a new initiative, considering that it is the first time that ADAMA team has carried out activities in this area and there was a need to involve all of the municipality stakeholders, with emphasis on local authorities to support the project, the official presentation of the project session to the local authorities of the municipality took place On November 15, 2024. The session was attended by members of the local administration, traditional chiefs, religious leaders, political party leaders and coordinators of the villages of the area.



Image 1: Local authorities attending the project presentation session.

The session took place according to the agenda in Annex 1 and there was a great receptivity from the participants who spoke with thanks, sharing crucial information about the state of the lagoons that form the estuary in the past and present. The receptivity was so great that

the leaders, who participated in this session asked the project to be extended to more villages, cover more rural schools and last longer so that the community actually has a more positive attitude towards migratory water birds. It is clear that with this activity the doors were opened for the project and the attitude demonstrated by local leaders toward the project presentation makes us conclude that objective 1 which is to “mobilize local authorities so that they can support institutionally conservation activities” was successfully achieved.



Image 2: Family photo after the project presentation session.

2.2. Awareness campaign about sustainable fishing and agriculture practices

With the objective of raising awareness among 75 artisanal fishermen and peasants who carry out subsistence activities in the Catumbela estuary, the campaign was carried out on the 15th and 16th of November.



Image 3: A couple of volunteers interacting with a fisherman who is making an artisanal fishing canoe.

The campaign was possible thanks to the collaboration of 20 students from a rural high school who know very well the area and voluntarily joined the project and followed paths with the aim of finding and raising awareness among farmers and fishermen for the conservation of migratory birds. Campaign volunteers benefited from prior guidance, were identified with sensitizer’s cards and provided with information leaflets and data collection forms.



To speed up the process, the sensitizers worked in teams made up of 2 individuals, a team leader who had the task of approaching the subjects and another secretary responsible for recording the data. At the end of the 2 working days, achieved results are summarized in the following table:

Image 4: A sensitizer talking to a group of farmer women.

Sensitized people area of activity	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Farming	13	44	57
Artisanal fishing	38	3	41
Total	51	47	98

Table 1: Awareness campaign results.

2.3. Basic training in bird observation and identification for conservation

Familiarity with migratory birds and their identification by the community is essential for conservation efforts; that is why within the scope of this project we promoted on the 22nd November a training session in bird observation and identification with the target audience being students from one of the rural schools located in the area of Catumbela estuary.



Image 5: Training participants taking notes.

In terms of content, the training had two parts, one theoretical and the other practical. In the theoretical component, participants began by obtaining basic information about the project and the organizations involved in the process, followed by the module on observation, which focused on the procedures and types of bird observation; then the bird identification module focusing on the most common in the region. In the practical component, participants had the opportunity to practice observation with the help of remote observation instruments. It is worth mentioning that all students who took part in this training received certificates of participation.



Image 6: Training participants practicing bird watching using binoculars.

The initially set objective was to reach 90 students, but in practice the number of students who joined exceeded the planned number, as shown in the following results table:

Basic training in bird observation and identification for conservation participants	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
	57	46	103

2.4. Cleaning campaign

One of the biggest threats to birds in the Catumbela estuary is urban waste spread at different points throughout the area resulting from the lack of a functional waste

management mechanism in the municipality; Therefore, the project included a cleaning campaign in critical points, covering an area of approximately 5 discontinued hectares.



Image 7: Cleaning campaign in progress

This achievement was accomplished on November 22nd and was made possible thanks to the hiring of a cleaning service company and the valuable participation of volunteer residents who, together with the ADAMA team, carried out this noble mission. As it is an area without roads and difficult to access, it was not possible to work with heavy equipment, having limited us to small working means that allowed us to transport the collected garbage.



Image 8: Cleaning campaign participants celebrating the achievement

During the cleaning, dangerous objects to bird life were identified collected, such as synthetic hair and discarded fishing nets, which actually represent a great threat to birds.

III. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

“Catumbela Community for Birds” project was a success and at the same time an extraordinary experience for both ADAMA members and the local community. The positive way in which the community welcomed the project and got involved in the activities reveals an urgent need to develop a community-based organization in the area capable of taking pro-birds initiatives on a regular basis.

The training activity, focused on schoolboys, had results above expectations, as many of the participants showed interest in joining ADAMA to become the organization's correspondents in that area and continue to carry out awareness campaigns for the conservation of migratory water birds.

The meeting with local leaders also exceeded expectations, as the local administration opened doors to the project and invited the project team to continue working in that area as there are more challenges to overcome.

Based on the considerations above, we conclude by saying that the contractual timings were met, all established objectives were achieved, the project is over but the conservation work in the Catumbela estuary has only just begun; so we understand that there is need for additional support that allows us to carry out more activities to consolidate the work we have started and be able to produce information and awareness materials in the Umbundu language, which is the most spoken African language in the region, especially among peasants and fishermen.

IV. ANNEXES

Annex 1 – Presentation of the project to local authorities' agenda.



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APRESENTAÇÃO À COMUNIDADE DO PROJECTO "CATUMBELA EM PROL DAS AVES MIGRATÓRIAS"

PROGRAMA

Local: Sala de conferências da Praia Bebé

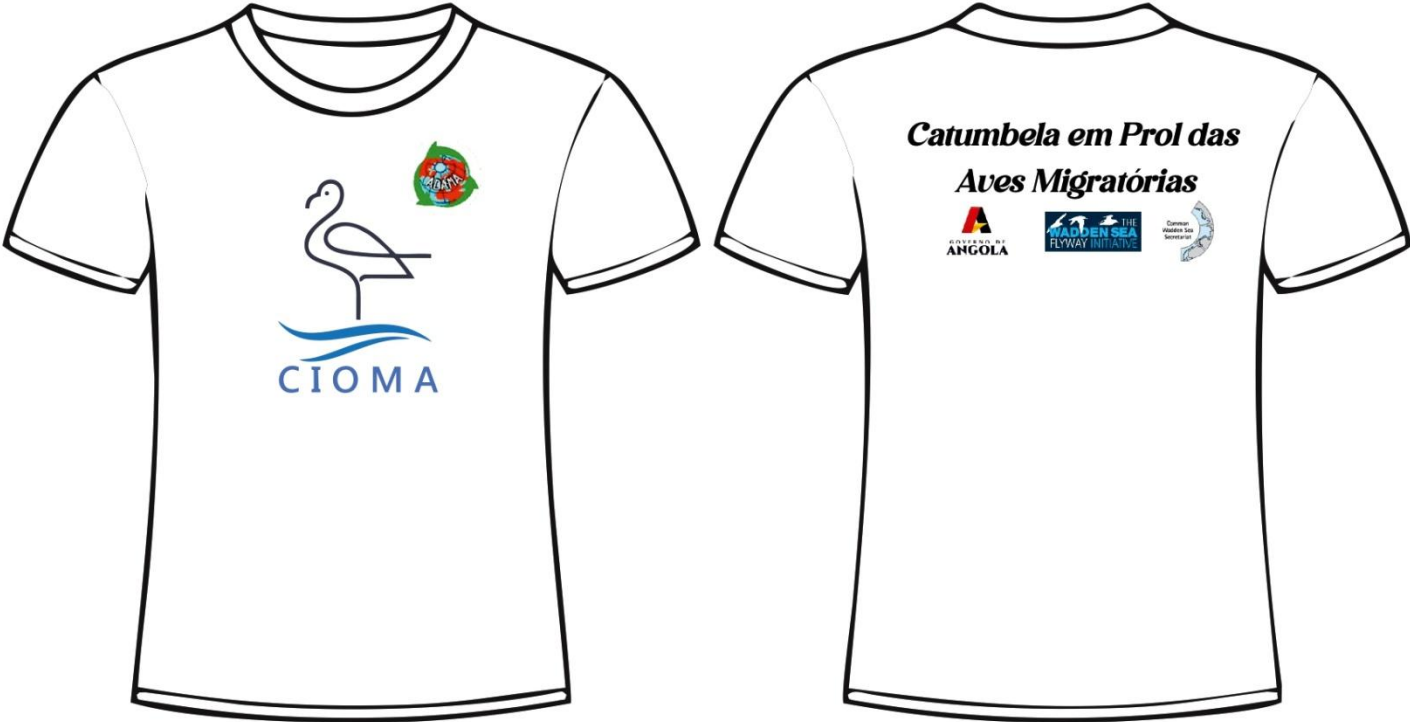
Dia: 15 de Novembro de 2024

Horário: 09:00 – 11:30

Ordem	Hora	Actividade	Responsável
1	09:00	Acomodação dos convidados	Protocolo
2	09:15	Sessão de abertura e palavras de boas-vindas	Administrador Comunal
3	09:30	Apresentação dos objectivos	Moderador
4	09:45	Breve apresentação da ADAMA	Secretário-geral da ADAMA
5	10:00	Apresentação do projecto "Catumbela em Prol da Aves Migratórias"	Coordenador do CIOMA
6	10:45	Sessão de recolha de contribuições, perguntas e respostas	Moderador
7	11:20	Encerramento	Administração Comunal
8	11:30	Café	Protocolo

ADAMA – 31 anos em prol do ambiente e das comunidades.

Annex 2 – Sample of the t-shirts distributed to local authorities and other participants



Annex 3 – Awareness campaign data collecting form sample.



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**CAMPANHA DE SENSIBILIZAÇÃO SOBRE AGRICULTURA E PESCA SUSTENTÁVEIS
ESTUÁRIO DO RIO CATUMBELA**

Ficha de Recolha de Dados

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

Data: ____/ ____/ _____



Assinaturas dos membros da equipa

1. _____

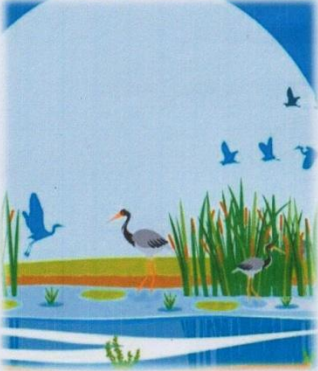
2. _____

3. _____

Annex 4 – Sample of the flyers distributed during the awareness campaign




PROTEJA O ESTUÁRIO DA CATUMBELA




As Lagoas da Catumbela como parte do estuário do rio Catumbela representam uma importante *zona húmida* ao longo da faixa litoral de Benguela que formam 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 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 Lagoas do estuário da Catumbela devem ser protegidas por todos nós.*



Para a protecção efectiva das Lagoas da Praia Bebê devemos cumprir rigorosamente com as seguintes regras de ouro:

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



Annex 5 – Basic training in bird observation and identification for conservation participant’s certificate sample



Annex 6 – Additional activities photos









Lobito. 11th December. 2024

Elaborated by

Madaleno Satumbo Constantino

Executive Secretary

Aproved by

Joaquim Pedro Teixeira

General-secretary

