

COMMUNITY ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT



THE PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING ADAPTIVE MEASURES TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND STUDY OF PERCEPTION OF VULNERABILITY ON THE ISLAND OF SANTO ANTÃO



CONTEXT

The Project for Strengthening Adaptive Measures to Climate Change and Study of Perception of Vulnerability on the island of Santo Antão, in a total amount of approximately \$ 82,000, is undoubtedly a solution model for constraints facing rural communities in Cape Verde in the field of water resources.

This project responds to increase droughts effects on the island, and obviously lack of access of, and may indeed be considered evidence that water access challenges are solved using climate smart solutions and wise use of existing resources. The project goes even further, and responds to national priorities to climate change.

The concept of resilience and adaptation present in project design, encompass the idea of sustainability in crisis situations, and perfectly demonstrates a real revolution in thinking, and strong commitment by beneficiary communities, on rational use and management of water resources.

The initiative is co-funded by the AusAID, through the Community Based Adaptation (CBA) programme, being implemented by the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), and by the Association of Municipalities of Santo Antão, and the National Institute of Water Resources Management (INGRH).

PROJECTO DE GITEIRO-LOSÑÃ

A ÁGUA COMO FONTE DE BEM-ESTAR E DESENVOLVIMENTO

DESCRIPTION

The project for water mobilization will benefit nearly two thousand people, five times more than the initial concept, consists of water routing from a long distance, from the Losnã spring, located in the Valley of Ribeira da Torre, to a 200 ton reservoir, located at more than 1000 meters high, in the locality of Spongeiro, and its subsequent adduction, at a distance of 9 kilometers to smaller deposits and fountains in the local communities of Lagoa and Companhia.

BENEFICIARY COMMUNITIES

Communities in Lagoa and Companhia located in the buffer zone of the Park Natural of Moroços, and municipalities of Ribeira Grande and Porto Novo, on the island of Santo Antao, are the first to be favored by the adaptation and resilience project.

BACKGROUND

Water scarcity is a real tragedy for the people of these villages, whose economy is based on livestock. The water which the community currently has access is transported twice a week in pump trucks from municipalities of Ribeira Grande and Porto Novo, but it is clearly insufficient and expensive for local the consumption and its animals, since each family is entitled to no more than 50 liters, every three days. Hence the conclusion of the project is anxiously expected to make a dream come true.



IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of this project results from a joint partnership between two Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in Planalto Leste, the Associação Luz Viva and Associação Recreativa Mãos Unidas Companhia (ARMUC). The partnership includes as well the municipalities of Porto Novo and Ribeira Grande, through the Association of Municipalities of Santo Antão, the GEF Small Grants Programme, and the National Institute of Water Resources Management (INGRH), a governmental agency. The initiative is coordinated by the local structure of the Building Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in the Water Sector in Cape Verde, a GEF FSP Project. Additionally, the project is supported by the Consolidation of the Cape Verde Protected Areas System Project.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Expected environmental impacts of the project, will be intrinsically related to decrease pressures on natural resources, namely on forestry, and on unsustainable water uses. Best practices will be widely observed and felt, including increase awareness levels of local populations in regards to climate change adaptation mechanisms.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

With a substantial reduction of water fees, while increasing access, and empowerment of the general population, especially women, socio-economic impacts will be comprehensively noted. This objective will be achieved with the occurrence of probable new income-generating activities, particularly in agriculture, agri - business and residential tourism, which could also positively have an effect on job creation. Furthermore, as the communities learn and adapt to climate change, coupled with a substantial increase in water access, rural migration may eventually decrease, while quality of life will be expected to increase.





GENDER BALANCE, EMPOWERMENT, AND CHILDREN PROTECTION

The project will enable empowering conditions, which in turn can activate women's financial autonomy and well-being. These positive drivers can be a set stage for an increase in women overall self-esteem, and by extension children's education success. This can be achieved partially due to the fact that children usually assist their mother in water collection chores.

The project for water mobilization and pumping from the Losnã spring to the villages of Companhia and Lagoa will continuously provide at least 200 m³ of water to reservoirs and local fountains, exceeding by far the 4m³, which were previously carried by three water tankers every three days. According to the association leaders and local members of the two communities, for those who, like the people of these two villages, water has always been, as you can see, a scarce and precious asset, is like moving from a dream to the most auspicious of the realities.

The voice of the





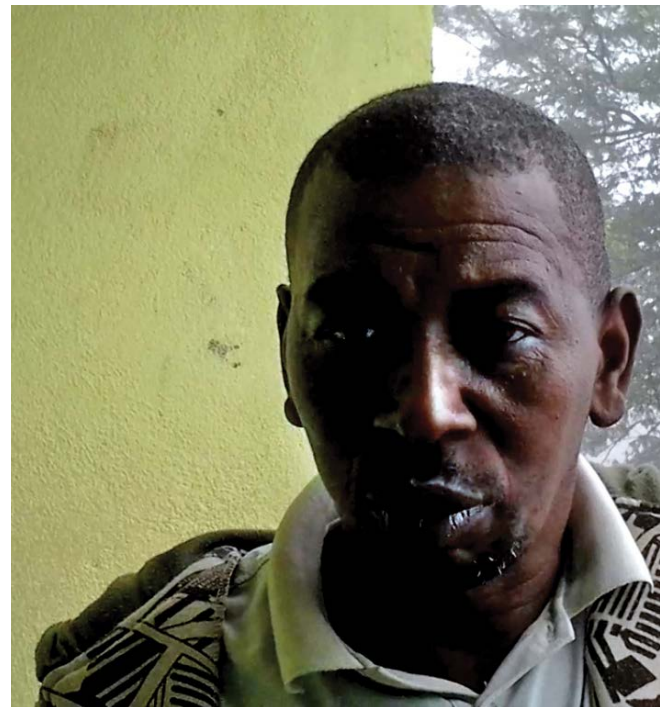
SUSTAINABILITY

This is one of the main objectives underlying the project rationale, designed to raise awareness of populations for a proper water management and maintenance of infrastructures and equipment. Beneficiaries will be responsible for repairing pumping and storage areas, and the water distribution network, in any event of degradation and breakdown. The income derived from water fees will revert to create a small fund to support future repairs.

Beneficiaries

ALCÍDIO PINTO:
President of Luz Viva
Lagoa Association

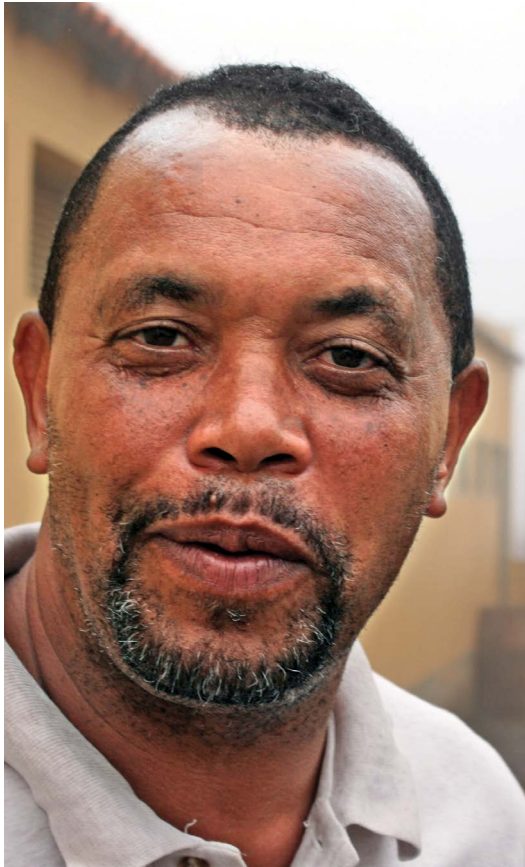
Lagoa and Companhia have been over the years systematically affected by droughts, and therefore lack of water has been a major issue. The implementation of the project will be guided to solve one of the major concerns of our communities. This is the reason why our association sees the project an added value asset. Our association has in past promoted some activities to minimize the problem, but obviously insufficient, i.e. rainwater catchment, which we sell at symbolic prices for animals. The price of water, transported from tankers, although beneficial in a way, but quite expensive for us. It costs approximately US \$9 per m³, when transported from Cova, and is intended solely for human consumption. So in a sense, water for our animals is quite scarce, expensive, and consequently, has an impact on our livelihoods. Therefore, I believe the project will bring great relief for the communities of Lagoa and Companhia. It will be a great burden taken off the communities' shoulders.



PEDRO ANDRADE:
President of Mãos Unidas de Companhia Association

The water supply project to Lagoa and Companhia from the Losnã spring, is priceless. It will substantially value our communities and make life much easier. This is one of the driest regions in Santo Antão Island, and populations face dramatic situations during certain times of the year. It is so intense, that at times we do not have water to even drink, needless to say for personal hygiene. There are cases where animals die; and this is obviously extremely painful because livestock is basis of our livelihoods. Here, in addition to be scarce, water which arrives on tankers is very expensive. Each family is only entitled to a few gallons of water per week, and my hope is that the project will put an end to this situation.

Experts an



MANUEL PINTO: Resident in Lagoa

For us, the project is of imperative importance in terms of water availability and distribution. For decades we have been putting pressure on the municipalities of Ribeira Grande and Porto Novo in order to solve this problem, but so far we have not been successful, as it is easily observed. Our situation is terrible, and it becomes even dramatic when a tanker supply is interrupted for some reason or another, which is quite common. That is why we are all eagerly anxious to have water arriving straight to our community soon. If by any chance later in the process, water is either directly routed into each house, and or to be used in agriculture, with the installation of drip irrigation systems, it will be a fulfilling dream.

According to experts and other environmental project managers in the region, the impacts of the Losnã project will be felt in all aspects of life of the local communities of Lagoa and Companhia, with particular emphasis on productive capacity, welfare, health and self-esteem of local women and children.



and managers opinion



EMITÉRIO RAMOS: Regional Coordinator of Cape Verde Protected Areas Project

This project is important regardless of the fact that it will promote natural resources protection and implementing adaptation measures. It is essential as well for other reasons, namely because its actions are directly guided to meet specific needs of local populations, particularly the ones affected by water shortages, due to either drought or financial means to acquire it.

Communities in Lagoa and Companhia live mainly of livestock, for which water is essential, and this project will provide real means towards an increase safety net on food security and other livelihood means. Another expected impact is reduced pressure on natural resources within the protected area, since animal «confinement» will be much easier.

PAULA DIAS MONTEIRO: Community Development Technician at the Resilience and Adaptation Project

The water catchment, pumping and supply project from the Losnã spring to Lagoa and Companhia will have a very strong impact on the local populations, especially at gender empowerment level. Women, whom are traditionally responsible for water collection, and almost completely dependent on men in financial terms, will have more time to dedicate to other tasks, especially income generating activities, children education and self-care. Children will also significantly benefit since they are often required to assist in collecting water for their families. Without this task, they will have more time to study and play, which makes them happy and fulfilled. Both girls and boys in Lagoa and Companhia dream of opening the tap and fill a glass of water to drink or take a shower.



ORLANDO FREITAS: Regional Coordinator of Resilience and Adaptation Project

The original initiative, which aimed to bring water from the Losnã spring onto Planalto Leste, consisted of 4 pumping stations and construction of a large reservoir, of 200 ton capacity. These facilities are already completed and running, and now we are working on the installation of water supply network from Espongeiro to Lagoa and Companhia, covering 9 kilometers. We are aware that the project is of utmost importance for these communities. Over the years we have been in contact with communities, and noticed enormous difficulties they face with regards to water supply, both for their own consumption, and for their herds, on which the vast majority of families' livelihood depend on.

The satisfaction of the Local Authorities



ORLANDO DELGADO:
Mayor of Ribeira Grande

In our view, this project is highly important, iconic, and I would say, strategic for Ribeira Grande and Porto Novo because, as you may notice. These are communities living exclusively of rain fed agriculture and livestock. Continued droughts and water scarcity is therefore a serious problem. So far the water consumed in the area is transported by tankers from Ribeira Grande and Porto Novo, but this supply is only a fraction of a way to minimize the problem. The effort made by local municipalities, obviously is still not enough to properly feed populations with a minimum acceptable quality and quantity of water. But with the project Guiteiro-Losnã, I am quite sure we will mark an important milestone in reversing the status quo and, consequently re-directing human and economic development process of Lagoa and Companhia

Local authorities have been from the onset very committed with the Strengthening Measures to Climate Change and Adaptive Study of Perceived Vulnerability island of Santo Antão Project. The commitment and satisfaction of municipality leaders of Ribeira Grande and Porto Novo were translated on the level of technical engagement and financial resources provided.

It is a project of great importance not only for the communities in Lagoa and Companhia, but also for the municipality of Porto Novo. For communities the importance is related to solving drought related problems and water accessibility issues. And for the leaders of this municipality, is the satisfaction of helping to bring water to a very needy community. In this case specifically it will entail increases in quality of life and enhanced abilities of beneficiaries to explore other livelihood options, such as tourism. The impact of the project will be also felt at the financial resources level of the municipality, since it will no longer be needed to transport water to Lagoa and Companhia. This means that the municipality can gear much needed resources to other communities to respond to other issues.



DJON FONSECA:
Deputy-Mayor of Porto Novo

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COMMUNITY ACTION, GLOBAL IMPACT

The GEF Small Grants Programme
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