

VAMIZI NEWS

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FISHING FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Tagging fish is a good way to follow their movements. If a fish is tagged inside the sanctuary and caught by a fishermen outside it, we know the sanctuary is not only protecting the fish that live in it...

but it is also helping improve catches outside its boundaries, highlighting the importance of having closed areas for the overall improvement of a reef area.

It is never easy to convince a fishing community to close off a large area of their fishing grounds. In order to help the community understand the advantages of having a sanctuary, we need them to see how it works for themselves. For this reason, the conservation team recently started a catch and release tagging project with the support of the CCP and through workshops with the local fishermen. Fish are caught inside the sanctuary, tagged,

measured and released back into the water. The next time the fish is caught, the fisherman will see the tag and know to record its measurements and report them to the CCP.

By tracking this data over time, we can show the fishermen how fish sizes are increasing from having a safe breeding and nursery ground inside the sanctuary, and that once the fish reach maturity they will move outside of the sanctuary. This demonstrates the direct benefits of the no-take zone on livelihoods and the marine environment. ■



A HOUSE CALLED TARTARUGA

Vamizi Island's private villa "Tartaruga" meaning Turtle in Portuguese was opened for guests late last year. Designed to "touch the earth lightly", the villa has several unique features to reduce its environmental footprint. The main living area has a striking palm thatch roof, supported by magnificent pillars of locally collected casuarina driftwood. The local coral limestone walls and hand-carved windows and doors are a distinctive feature of this beautiful villa. The villa uses solar water heaters for hot water and has herbs, salads and vegetables growing in its own garden. ■

MEET RAUFO

Rafo was born in Quissengue, in Olumbe, and has been working for the Vamizi Conservation project for 10 years. Rafo enjoys being a conservation monitor because by doing so, he helps protect all of the species found on the island. He likes living and working on Vamizi because of all the marine animals and coral reefs that can be experienced by everyone including our guests. In his free time, Rafo likes reading about nature and educates his fellow community members about conservation. He also loves diving. His favourite animals are sea turtles and whales. ■



VAMIZI CONSERVATION PROJECT GOES TO TURKEY

One of the best ways to keep our work fresh and updated is to share with other organizations and researchers with similar projects. We are delighted that Vamizi will be represented at the 35th International Sea Turtle Symposium by our Conservation and Community Manager, Joana Trindade, which takes place this month in Turkey. This unique event draws participants from around the world, from across disciplines and cultures to a common interest and objective: the conservation of sea turtles and their environment. We are looking forward to the new ideas and inspiration that Joana will bring back to Vamizi. ■



35TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON
SEA TURTLE
BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

COMMUNITY MATTERS



José Paulo Martins is the new headmaster of the Vamizi Primary School. Mr Martins is from Montepuez, and moved to Vamizi at the start of the new school year in January. He chose to be a teacher in order to fight illiteracy and serve his society. He is enjoying being on the island, and is happy with the progress in the school. He hopes to add more grades to the school (currently it provides first to fifth grades), and make sure every child in Vamizi learns to read and write. He also plans to engage the children in cultural and agricultural activities, as well as sports and health education, and instil in the children a love for nature, so that they will help conserve their environment. ■

