



NEWSLETTER 25 May 2008

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REPORT SIGHTINGS OF TURTLES OR TRACKS 974 5020



QUAD TRAILS AGREED

On Friday evening a meeting was held to present the new official quad trails. Chaired by Adalzira Marques Fernandes from the DGA (Dept of Environment) and attended by representatives of all quad rental companies, the participants agreed to adhere to guidelines designed to protect nesting beaches and other aspects of the fragile dune ecosystem. Sal made television headlines as the first CV island to introduce official trails. The trails will be marked with painted rocks and orange signs. Copies of the official map will be available soon.

VOLUNTEER MEETING

Thurs 5th June
6.30pm

Come along and see how you can get involved. Even if you have a small amount of time you can make a difference.

Everyone welcome.

Information given in English, Portuguese and Italian.
Venue to be confirmed

PROJECT LAUNCHED ON RADIO

New team leader, Betânia Ferreira joined Jacquie Cozens & Euclides Gonçalves from the Camara Municipal on CV Radio to launch the new turtle conservation programme. Euclides and Betânia explained that it was not just a job for scientists and conservationists and called for all residents to come forward and help to save these enigmatic creatures that are part of the CV national heritage.



TOURIST 'ATTRACTION' ILLEGAL

Turtles being held in a 'sanctuary' in Fontona, near Palmeira are to be removed. Unwitting tourists are taken there and told that the turtles have been rescued in order to be rehabilitated.

Unfortunately the turtles, such as the Hawksbill seen in the picture are kept in conditions that are detrimental to their health. This turtle is kept in a concrete tank in water so dirty that it must have a rope and a cork attached to it so it can be found and pulled out of the water for display. Tourists are charged €1 and are being given incorrect information about the biology of the captive turtles. Keeping turtles contravenes strict protection laws. SOS Tartarugas will launch an awareness campaign and instead offer visitors the chance to visit the hatchery free of charge. The hatchery opens on the 10th June on the beach outside the Riu hotel.

Other important dates

Sat 31st May : First training workshop for Wildlife Rangers. If you would like to be a part-time Ranger please contact 974 5020 to book your place. Turtle House 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Sun 1st Jun : Final push to clean Costa Fragata before the turtles start to arrive. 9am – 11am Meet at Turtle House.

Sun 8th Jun : World Ocean's Day. Public awareness event in Santa Maria to publicise the dangers caused to marine life by plastic bags.