

Project Update: June 2023

Implementation of main project activities.

Regional forum of the local protected areas (PAs).

On May 20th 2023 we brought together the stakeholders involved in PA management at a local forum. Using as background the celebration of the 18th anniversary of the creation of these PAs, the event evaluated and discussed the enhancement of the areas. It was the first event aimed at building capacity regarding the history of PA creation, its importance and operation and responsibilities among stakeholders. Overall the forum brought together 136 participants from 17 organisations, representing local communities, municipalities, state government, federal government, universities and NGOs. At this event we presented some preliminary results of the research project and discussed possible communication activities that can enhance collaboration between the actor groups investigated. The participants shared some proposals to achieve these enhancement:

- Improving communication and integration among the PAs via councils.
- Creating a group with local stakeholders to improve best practices around PA management.
- Organising other exchange events, specially at community level.
- Promoting exchange of practices among councils and local associations.
- Enhancing women and youth protagonism.



Figure 1. Local government leaders present at the forum. © Mariana Trindade (project partner).



Figure 2. Capacity building activity conducted at the forum. © Rodolpho Bastos (forum participant).



Figure 3. An overview of the forum. © Ana Célia Costa (project collaborator).