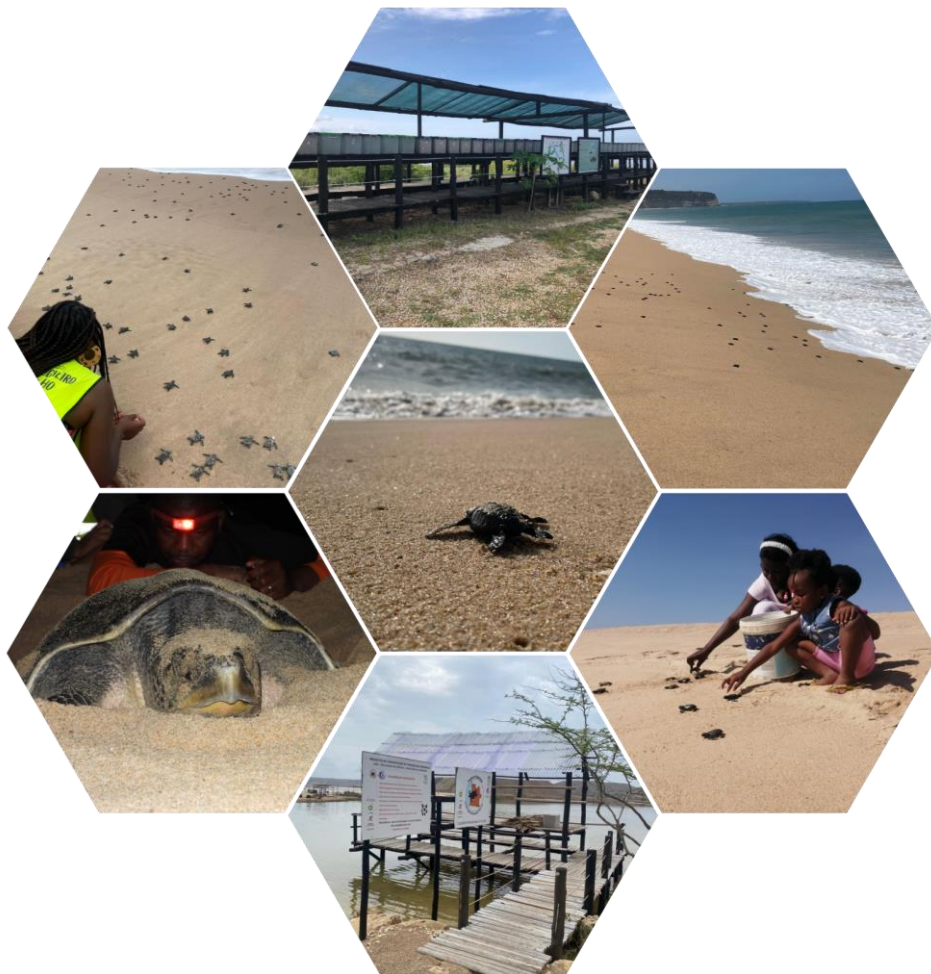# KITABANGA PROJECT

Study and Conservation of Sea Turtles in Angola

SEASON: 2023/2024

SEA TURTLE NEST ADOPTION PROGRAM IN ANGOLA

September 2023

KITABANGA PROJECT

Study and Conservation of Sea Turtles in Angola

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INTRODUCTION

The Kitabanga Project (*Projecto Kitabanga* in Portuguese) is a project for the study and conservation of sea turtles in Angola, whose main objective is to contribute for the knowledge and protection of these animals along the coast.

This Project has been implemented since 2003 by the Science Faculty at Agostinho Neto University (*Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade Agostinho Neto* in Portuguese), with the current partnership of the Kissama Foundation (*Fundação Kissama* in Portuguese) and Namibe University (*Universidade do Namibe* in Portuguese) and works in all coastal provinces of Angola. It has the collaboration of university teachers and students, as well as volunteers from different intervened areas and members of the coastal communities, called "Turtle Keepers", where the project is inserted. By 2023, the project protected more than 40,000 nests, and sent about 4,300,000 baby sea turtle hatchlings to the sea.

In order to increase participation and the extension of Kitabanga's work, the "Sea Turtle Nest Adoption Program" is part of the many different activities inherent to the implementation of the project, where anyone interested can contribute indirectly to the conservation of sea turtles, by helping to protect their nests, whether they are located *ex situ* (in the Incubation Centers/Maternities).

The adoption of a nest, in this case, is a way to contribute, to learn and collaborate in the preservation of sea turtles. The so-called "Godfather" or "Godmother" thus becomes a member to boost the recovery of the sea turtle population. With this program, the project aims to increase the number of turtles born and protected, as well as to raise awareness for the largest possible number of citizens about the conservation of sea turtles in Angola.

SEA TURTLE NEST ADOPTION PROGRAM

The "Sea Turtle Nest Adoption Program" is an initiative of the Kitabanga Project, which aims to seek resources to help support the monitoring of sea turtles' nests and their protection, with a wider coverage in the intervention areas, and thus forward the highest number of newborn turtles to the sea. It also aims to promote the involvement of society in the conservation process of these animals, by giving the opportunity to those who adopt to visit and accompany their adopted nests in the chosen base or beach, and even, when possible, to help guide the baby sea turtle hatchlings to the sea.

The idea of this campaign is to inform people, so they can be aware of the sea turtles' conservation, have the opportunity to feel closer to these animals and leave a positive environmental footprint through activities carried out by the Kitabanga Project.

There are many people who would like to contribute more for the conservation of sea turtles in Angola, but, due to the lack of opportunity, not having the time, knowledge, or the necessary means, they end up missing the noble role that is contributing to these animals' conservation. Through this perspective, the Kitabanga Project, with the "Nest Adoption Program", will allow all interested parties to interact more with sea turtles, participate in their conservation and gather information, valuing more and more the efforts in favour of conservation.

The "Sea Turtle Nest Adoption Program" period will be open between September and April of each season, and the beach arrangements will be available for consultation on the Kitabanga Project's website, in the "Adoptions" section, by contact via email or WhatsApp.

What is the adoption of sea turtle nest?

Adopting a nest means contributing indirectly to its protection and maintenance. Through this process, whoever adopts will cover part of the work allowance and maintenance of the equipment inherent to the protection of the nests.

🐢 Which nests are available for "Adoption"?

Any nest in the intervention area of the Kitabanga Project can be adopted, whether it is located on the incubation/maternity center. The nests that are transferred to the incubation center are those that are subject to dangers in the nesting area *in situ*. The Kitabanga Project, although currently having several bases along the coast, will prioritize, the beaches that will be available for the adoption of nests in incubation centers during the 2023/2024 season will be, Bocolo in Soyo (Zaire) Cuanza and Cabo Ledo (Luanda), Longa (Cuanza Sul), Caxiva and Cuio (Benguela) and Baía das Pipas (Namibe). The Praia dos Pobres maternity in Soyo will also be available, but it will be exclusive to Angola LNG workers.

🐢 How to adopt a sea turtle nest?

The Adoption will be made on the Kitabanga Project website (www.kitabanga.org), in the "Adoption" menu. After reading the description of the Adoption Program, the user will follow the instructions and will be redirected to the page where the Nest Adoption Table is located. This table contains the basic information about each nest in the program, such as: status (adopt and adopted), species, nesting date, nest identification, number of eggs, base, probable hatching[1] date and the respective adoption value.

To adopt a nest:

1. The user must register on the Kitabanga website.
2. The user will receive an email with a link to confirm the account.
3. After activating your account, you can choose the nest you want to adopt by clicking on the "Adopt" button.
4. Once the choice is made, the user will confirm his data and the reference of the nest he wants to adopt in the confirmation table and click on "Confirm Adoption".
5. Afterwards, the user will see a table with instructions for the payment of the adoption fee, as well as receive an email from the Kitabanga Project team, with the nest data, the adoption fee and the bank details for making the adoption value transfer.
6. After making the transfer, the user must send proof of transfer of the adoption value to the email info@kitabanga.org.
7. As soon as the Kitabanga Project team receives the proof, the user will receive a confirmation e-mail and will have access to the nest that he adopted, thus becoming a Godfather/Godmother.

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[1] ATTENTION: this date is a forecast, the nest can hatch days before or after, depending on the weather conditions of the place.

Rua 60, Casa 560, Urbanização Harmonia, Lar do Patriota. Telefones: 923 410 186; 939 401 303
e-mail: info@kitabanga.org; Website: http://www.kitabanga.org; WhatsApp: 923 737 920

NOTE: The user can adopt as many nests as he wishes, however, he must adopt one at a time.

- ▪ If the user has already registered on the Kitabanga website, to make the adoption they only have to login and then perform the adoption. You do not need to register again.

In case of difficulties, you can contact the Kitabanga Project team by e-mail or WhatsApp for more information and problem solving.

What is the value for each adoption?

The contribution for adoption is in the value of 10.000 kz for nests transfered to incubation centers (maternity).

NOTE: It is important to mention that the maintenance of a nest by the Kitabanga Project has a higher cost than the one presented, therefore it is considered that this value is the minimum necessary for the adoption process.

What are the duties of those who adopt?

There is no obligation on the person who sponsors one or more nests. Let us say that the adoption is a moral commitment that every individual that adopts has with sea turtles. It is a way of helping with conservation and at the same time a benefit as an incentive for the communities where the project is located.

The godparents, despite having no obligations, are welcome to visit and or participate in project activities and are also welcomed to visit the adopted nest or nests whenever the project team is in the field.

What are the rights of the adopter?

The godfather or godmother of a nest has the right to all the information about that nest, from the initial date, until the end of the incubation, the number of eggs (Available at Kitabanga's website) and the respective hatching success, sent by e-mail after data collection, at the end of every month.

The name of the godparents will be included in the registration form of the adopted nest, in the Incubation Center. There will also be a nominal record of who adopted on the Kitabanga Project's website, in the menu of the Adoption Program.

The godparents will be notified about the baby sea turtle birth forecast in advance, in order to make it possible to schedule the visit and the respective departure of the baby sea turtle hatchlings to the sea. The godparents will also

be able to receive photos/videos about the evolution of the nest and the route of newborns to the sea.

Note: The trip to the Bases of Kitabanga and all associated logistics will be the responsibility of the godparents.

How to pay?

To make the contribution for adoption, it will be through deposit or transfer to the following bank details:

Account Name	Fundação Kissama
Account Number	000564070 10 002
IBAN	AO06 0040 0000 0056 4070 1022 6
Bank Name	Banco Africano de Investimentos (BAI)
SWIFT	BAIPAOLUI

NOTE1: It is important to send proof of payment to the Kitabanga Project team, via email (info@kitabanga.org), with the identification of the godparent (name), contact (phone) and the respective reference of the nest you would like to adopt.

NOTE2: The adoption of the nest will only be processed after sending proof of payment.

NOTE3: If two or more users make the payment for the same nest, within a short period of time, **THE FIRST USER TO SEND THE PROOF OF PAYMENT WILL BE PRIORITIZED.** And to the rest, the following options will be presented:

1. Adopt another nest.
2. Cancellation of the adoption and refund of the amount.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

There are many ways to help the Kitabanga Project in the process of conserving sea turtles in Angola, through:

- Monthly or annual financial contribution through deposits or bank transfers to the Kissama Foundation account in the amount you wish, contributing to the Project's financial capacity for the resolution and implementation of different activities.
- Donation of books and other educational materials for environmental education activities, carried out by the Kitabanga Project.
- Volunteering in field and environmental education activities carried out in coastal communities.
- Disclosure of the Kitabanga Project and, at the same time, the importance of conservation of sea turtles, with photographs or videos collected in the Kitabanga Bases, through social networks, always marking the link with #ProjectoKitabanga or @Kitabanga Project in the description.

Sea turtle nest monitoring

During the sea turtle nesting season, which occurs between the months of September and April, the technicians, volunteers, and the "Turtle Keepers" of the Kitabanga Project carry out field and environmental education activities in the coastal provinces where the project is located. The monitoring is done daily until the moment of hatching.

The transfer of postures to the incubation centers

The nests that are in risk areas, are transferred to the respective Incubation Centers (*ex situ* conservation), where they can be incubated in boxes, in an adequate structure, and will be monitored daily until the eggs hatch. Only qualified and authorized personnel may conduct this type of work.

Routing baby sea turtles to the sea

After the eggs hatch, data will be collected for each nest and the baby sea turtle hatchlings will be sent to the sea. The godparents and other visitors will be able to participate in this process and enjoy a wonderful moment in nature.

IMPORTANCE OF THE ADOPTION PROGRAM

The importance of this program aims to reinforce the participation of community members in the process of protection and conservation of sea turtle nests, and thereby contribute to increasing the results of the Kitabanga Project. On the other hand, the involvement of all those who can and express interest in participating directly or indirectly in the process of conservation of sea turtles in Angola is enhanced.

The benefits are thus seen in a holistic perspective, as potentiated conservation indexes and greater engagement of community members in the defense of nature.