

Editorial note

A new path for *Zoologia Caboverdiana*

The idea of setting up a scientific society in Cabo Verde in the field of Zoology was born on the initiative of Dr Cornelis J. Hazevoet, a Dutch biologist living in Portugal who has been studying the biodiversity of the Cabo Verde Islands since the 1980s. Hazevoet's research has mainly focused on the phylogeography of avian fauna and marine mammals, and to a lesser extent in areas of Biogeography, Systematics and Evolution from a Paleontological framework. After the political opening in 1991, his enthusiasm about these Macaronesian islands played an important role in the conservation of some endemisms, particularly birds and reptiles. He called on the Cabo Verdean authorities to pay the due attention to the protection and dissemination of its unique species, while also extolling Cabo Verde as preferred nesting zone for certain birds, such as red-billed tropicbird and Cabo Verde shearwater, of reptiles such as the green turtle, and as reproduction site of marine cetaceans, such as the humpback whale. His legacy can be seen through the work he developed to raise awareness about the country's natural heritage. Particularly noteworthy is the representation of fauna and flora on the national bills, coins and stamps, the on-board magazine of the TACV (Cabo Verde airlines) named by him *Fragata* (the almost locally extinct frigatebird), the publication of brochures, reports and books on the birds of Cabo Verde, among other relevant contributions.

Cornelis J. Hazevoet encountered in the 1980s a country with little interest in the fields

of Earth and Life Sciences, experiencing and impelling a change to a country that now bets on the education of biologists in the areas of Health, Environment and Fisheries and Education. Thus, the creation of a scientific society came naturally with the aim of creating an organization with the mission of promoting research and science communication in the areas of Zoology and Palaeontology in the archipelago. After a first contact of C. J. Hazevoet with a group of biologists from the University of Cabo Verde (Uni-CV) in 2009, the constituent assembly of the Zoological Society of Cabo Verde (SCVZ) began on March 19th 2010, in the Department of Engineering and Marine Sciences in São Vicente, which would serve as a platform for the local zoologists involved in research.

The next stage, carried out as an editor, was the establishment of a new scientific journal, *Zoologia Caboverdiana*, the first peer review biannual journal in the country, available on the internet and freely accessible. Since April 2010, 47 scientific articles have been published in the journal, with a total of 497 pages edited in 5 volumes and 11 issues. The most published areas of research have focused on sea turtles, cetaceans, terrestrial arthropods and birds. In 2013, Cornelis J. Hazevoet, with the spirit of initiative that characterizes him, also introduced to the SCVZ another publication format, focused on science dissemination; a quarterly newsletter available on-line, *A Cagarra*, counting already with 13 editions. This newsletter is a platform to interesting or

noteworthy observations, zoological news, article abstracts, research information, and recent projects and other publications relevant to SCVZ. Although the periodicity of these publications has not been what was originally desired, the balance is positive, as both the journal and the newsletter remain active on-line.

In November 2015, Cornelis J. Hazevoet, until then Vice-President of SCVZ and editor of the journal and the newsletter, requested to be dismissed of all his activity related to SCVZ, as since the beginning of the Society he foresaw that his contribution would be only transitory. This posed new challenges for the Board that even opened the possibility of the journal's discontinuity. However, the Board decided in January 2016 to start a new era translated into a participatory process. In March of that year, a new Editorial Board of *Zoologia Caboverdiana* was expanded to 27 Cabo Verdean and European volunteers, all experts and interested in Cabo Verde's natural heritage, thus increasing the potential of the journal's internationalization. The process was also aimed at evaluating the possibility of opening the journal to new scientific and geographical areas, changing the periodicity and even a change in name. Based on an inquiry to the Committee, a new Editor-in-Chief was appointed, Raquel Vasconcelos, PhD (University of Porto, Portugal) directly supported by the permanent local editorial committee. Summarizing the changes that have taken place, the biannual journal currently accepts original research articles, review texts and brief notes on Zoology, Paleontology, Biogeography, Ethnzoology and Conservation of the Cabo Verde Islands. It also accepts original or review

articles from a wider geographic area since it focus on species that occur in this same archipelago. Some editorial instructions of the journal were also updated. It should also be noted that *A Cagarra* also has a new editor since February 2016, Elves Duarte, MSc (IGC/Uni-CV).

Over almost seven years, SCVZ's competencies have now expanded, and the publication in print and dissemination of technical-scientific materials related to the Natural History of Cabo Verde in the form of leaflets, books, minutes, bibliographical lists, among others is already a reality. From 2016 onwards, SCVZ also ensures the promotion of scientific research in Cabo Verde, through the first research grants awards, as well as technical and logistical support. Notwithstanding the growing internationalization, SCVZ still persists as a non-recognized scientific society in legal terms, which presents many challenges. I am convinced that the formalization of SCVZ could provide the basis for other scientific societies to emerge in the country and with them an increase of the national scientific critical mass.

This first edition of Volume 6 represents a new milestone that undoubtedly motivates us to continue the work begun by its pioneer, Cornelis J. Hazevoet (Kees), widely cited since 2010. I take this opportunity, on behalf of SCVZ, to thank his dedication and commitment. I would also like to encourage the vast scientific community to contribute to our newsletter and also to prepare and/ or submit original articles, synthesis or brief notes for the journal *Zoologia Caboverdiana*, which begins today under a new path.

Rui Freitas, MSc
President of the Zoological Society of Cabo Verde