

## Activity 18: Migratory birds of Cabo Verde

### Cabo Verde and Migratory Birds: Significance and Safeguards



**Objective:** Significance of Cabo Verde for migratory birds and the protectionary measures it has in place for them

**Learning outcomes:** Students will be able to analyze scientific information they find during Internet research, evaluate the significance of Cabo Verde for migratory birds, and discuss protectionary safeguards the nation has in place.

**Previous knowledge:** General knowledge of migratory birds and their routes

**Duration:** ca. 90 min.

**Materials / Conditions:** Internet access

**Methods / Techniques:** analysis, evaluation, discussion, partner or group work (optional)

**Learning subject:** Biodiversity / Module I: Introduction to biodiversity / Level: Expert Learning

#### Introduction:

Some migratory birds use Cabo Verde as a stop during their journey south.

#### Instruction:

Search on the Internet for answers to the following questions:

1. Evaluate how significant Cabo Verde is for migratory birds.
2. Discuss protectionary measures that have been put in place for migratory birds.

#### Resources:

Internet research

#### Possible results / Results:

To 1: First, fewer birds live on islands than on mainland, both from the spectrum of species as well as the absolute number. This is one reason why only a small number of migratory birds have their wintering grounds on islands in Cabo Verde. Many birds either rest or spend the entire winter on the African mainland, for example the large lagoons in Mauritania. But strong winds at this latitude means that many migratory birds also rest and take breaks from their journeys on Cabo Verde. Waterfowl, who can rest while floating, have an advantage over other migratory birds that can only rest on land. One special case are the pelagic seabirds such as petrels (Procellariidae), Leach's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*), tropicbirds (Phaethontidae), etc. that often spend all year living on the open ocean and only come to land to breed on small, uninhabited islands off the coasts of Cabo Verde.

To 2: Protectionary measures for migratory birds are:

- Designating sanctuaries and other protected areas. Special knowledge about the flora and fauna for bird habitats is necessary.
- Regular surveys of important stopover locations. This allows us to monitor the effectiveness of protectionary measures and take counter measures early against negative developments

- Prohibiting bird hunting
- Educational work to help win the support of the local population

Collectively, migratory birds' entire habitat must be protected by international cooperation including resting or stopover, molting, feeding and wintering grounds. Having protectionary measures in just one of these locations would be useless.

### **Related activities:**

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Aus dem Deutschen übersetzt von Kevin Frac

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