



topuito isles
mozambique

The Topuito Isles
Northern Mozambique
Fact sheet: Conservation and Community Programmes

The people of the villages around Topuito have welcomed us into their homes, allowing us to develop the Topuito Isles Retreat with their support. In return, we are helping them to develop themselves and their communities so that they can live better, more fulfilling lives.

We have committed ourselves to the following programmes to help the people of Larde Village community, a village on the banks of the Larde River with some 8000 people.

Improvements to school infrastructures:

The school at Larde has no roof and children sit on the floor for the duration of their lessons. Fresh Limitada, the development and logistics company working on the Topuito development will offer a number of materials and staff time to build the roof and school furniture such as desks and chairs. The Fresh Limitada carpentry will also be responsible for making new windows and doors for the school. In the name of good eco practice offcuts and scrap wood from the Topuito project will be used.

Formation and facilitation of a community association:

Together with ORAM, an NGO based in Nampula, we are helping the people of Larde to form a community association through which all social and other issues are dealt with. This empowers the people of Larde to take responsibility for their own lives and circumstances. Fresh Limitada will support the association financially.

Natural resource education:

Also working with ORAM, we hope to set up a programme by which the people of Larde and its surrounds can learn more about what natural resources they available and how to care for those resources.

The chicken and egg project:

A very successful community project throughout Nampula province, we aim to help willing local entrepreneurs to set up successful chicken businesses. People in the programme receive initial financial aid and help in setting up their own chicken business with the provision of chicks, feed and the materials for chicken houses.

Some interested parties may choose to raise hen layers and start an egg business which will work in much the same way with initial financial support in acquiring materials and chicks and also some basic training.

Clinic infrastructure improvements:

The clinic at Larde provides medical treatment for all the people of Larde. The clinic also has a dispensary. At the moment the clinic buildings are in a state of disrepair and some not even useable. In consultation with the community and Mozmed, we aim to provide repairs to the existing buildings, repair the water pump, construct additional working toilets, provide extra mattresses and maternity beds.

Football pitch improvements:

Sport plays a major role in the wellbeing of any community. Football is the most common sport played in this part of Mozambique and there are many football teams in the Larde community. In order to help the Larde football leagues to continue to provide entertainment, sense of belonging and goodwill in the community we have offered to help improve the football pitch. This will include repairing and upgrading the nets, construction of secondary seating and provision of sporting equipment such as balls, whistles etc.

Skills training:

In order to meet our objective of giving all local people the equal opportunity to find employment and personal capacity growth through the Topuito Isles development we are committed to providing skills training in such areas as English language, carpentry, plumbing, construction, and hospitality.

Coconut by-products programme:

It is known that coconut by-products like milk, oil and flesh can be valuable. It is also possible to manufacture cosmetics like soaps, lotions from the coconut by-products. There are plenty of coconut palms growing in the Larde community area and with correct techniques and knowledge there is a wonderful opportunity for extra income from these by products.

Assistance to the elderly:

The elderly find it difficult to receive the care and food they often need. It has been decided that we can form an association within the community through which we can collect money to prepare meals, while we will also donate food from which at least one good meal a day can be prepared for the elderly.

Conservation:

The Primeras and Segundas Archipelago is a very special place. A string of 8 islands of which the Topuitos Isles are part, it is home to some of the most spectacular and untouched coral reefs in the Indian Ocean. Whales, dolphins, turtles and myriad colourful reef fish also think this is a very special place, that's why they come here. We want to make sure they have something to keep coming back to and a safe haven for them to breed and live in.

To this end we are busy creating a Marine Protection Area in the waters surrounding Caldeira and Nejovo Islands. This means that fishing activities will be prohibited within the Marine Protection Area so that sealife species have a chance to grow and thrive. This also aims at protecting the coral reefs surrounding the islands. Good boating practice, restriction on moorings and anchoring and education on how to snorkel and scuba dive without disturbing the corals and fish are essential in keeping these wild waters pristine.

Local Employment:

We follow a policy of employing a majority local staff. This ensures that the Topuito Isles is generating an income and opportunity for those who have always lived here. Employment is not only a means to feed a family, it is also a gift of empowerment.

Fresh Limitada, the development and logistics company for the Topuito Isles now employs over 100 local staff, of which 15% are women.