

AZLera's Projecto Oceano: Monthly Report – March 2014

I was forced to leave Ilha do Moçambique for a few weeks in March to renew my visa. Due to a lot of bad luck and some very unhelpful immigration officials, what was supposed to be a 4-day trip to the border ended up taking two weeks and involved going to three different Mozambican consulates in two different countries! Although the members we were able to continue with some of our classes, our activities were slightly disrupted during this time.



I returned just in time to welcome Carolina Menezes, our new volunteer who will be with us for the next couple of months. Carolina has worked in investment banking both in Brazil and abroad and is a great addition to the team. She will be giving business and economics classes at the project and will work with our members to look into local fundraising opportunities to help take our project forward and become more self-sufficient. She will also be looking at international scholarships and other opportunities available to our members once they complete high school.

This month we also organized a debate on “rites of passage to adulthood” in the Northern Region of Mozambique. This is a fairly controversial topic and we heard many interesting opinions on the subject. Thanks to efforts of Bassma, our member in charge of the debates, a number of people from the community took part. A summary report of the debate can be read through the following [link](#) (in Portuguese) or on our website.

We have also had classes on current events. In our most recent class we talked about the recent adoption of a law legalising child euthanasia in Belgium. Students gave their opinions on the subject and we had a general discussion about the issue. We will be screening a film, ‘the diving bell and the butterfly’, which relates to this issue as part of the Projecto Oceano’s ‘Film Club’ this weekend.

We have finalised the selection process for our new members. We will have four new members, Agiria, Egidia, Sergio and Zibia who will be starting at the project shortly. They will be on a trial period this month during which they will receive training and start getting involved in the different activities on offer at Projecto Oceano. We look forward to start working with these talented youth and help them achieve academic success.



Finally, be sure to take a look at the latest editions of [Voz Jovem](#) up on our website. Our members have been working hard this month researching and writing articles on local, national and international issues. One article investigates the water shortages on the Island and ensuing health problems affecting the local population while another looks into the outbreak of cholera in the region and effects on the local population. Please also follow us on the [AZLera Facebook page](#) where we post regular updates on Projecto Oceano activities and events! Many thanks for your interest in our work.