

AZLera's Projecto Oceano: Monthly Report – May 2014



May has gone by particularly fast as we've had a lot going on at the Project. First, Freddie Brunt (AZLera's Project Manager) visited us on the Island during the first week of May. We had a series of constructive meetings with myself and other partners, during which we discussed some of the changes that we wanted to implement at Projecto Oceano. We also took this opportunity to seek to build closer ties between management and Project members by taking a trip to Carrusca, a beautiful beach an hour boat ride from the island. It was a fun and productive trip and it was great to be able to socialise outside of a work environment.

This month we have also been working on the organisation of the Dia da Crianças. We set a couple of days aside for children to register for the event and had an incredible turn out with nearly 600 children signing up. I arrived one morning to see a crowd of nearly one hundred children waiting impatiently in front of Projecto Oceano to register. It never ceases to amaze me how many children there are on the island. Everywhere you go you see kids playing in the street. This is one of the reasons for which I think the work we do at Projecto Oceano is crucial. Children in Mozambique only attend school for a couple of hours daily meaning that rest of the day they are left with little to do. Projecto Oceano gives them the opportunity to use that time constructively through extra-curricular classes and further educational activities.



I have now been on Ilha de Moçambique for over 6 months and it still feels like it's only been a few weeks. Time seems to fly once you settle in to a routine and there's always plenty to do at the Project. It's been great having the help and support of Carolina, who's been working with us as a volunteer over the last couple of months. Sadly, she will be leaving at the end of June. She has been a great help and will be sorely missed. On a more positive note however we will be adding a new member to our management team with the arrival of Coman. Coman is a former project member who will be helping with the daily management of activities at Oceano and help improve the academic support offered to our members. He was given the wonderful opportunity of partaking in an exchange program in Canada last year and we believe he will be a great addition to our team.