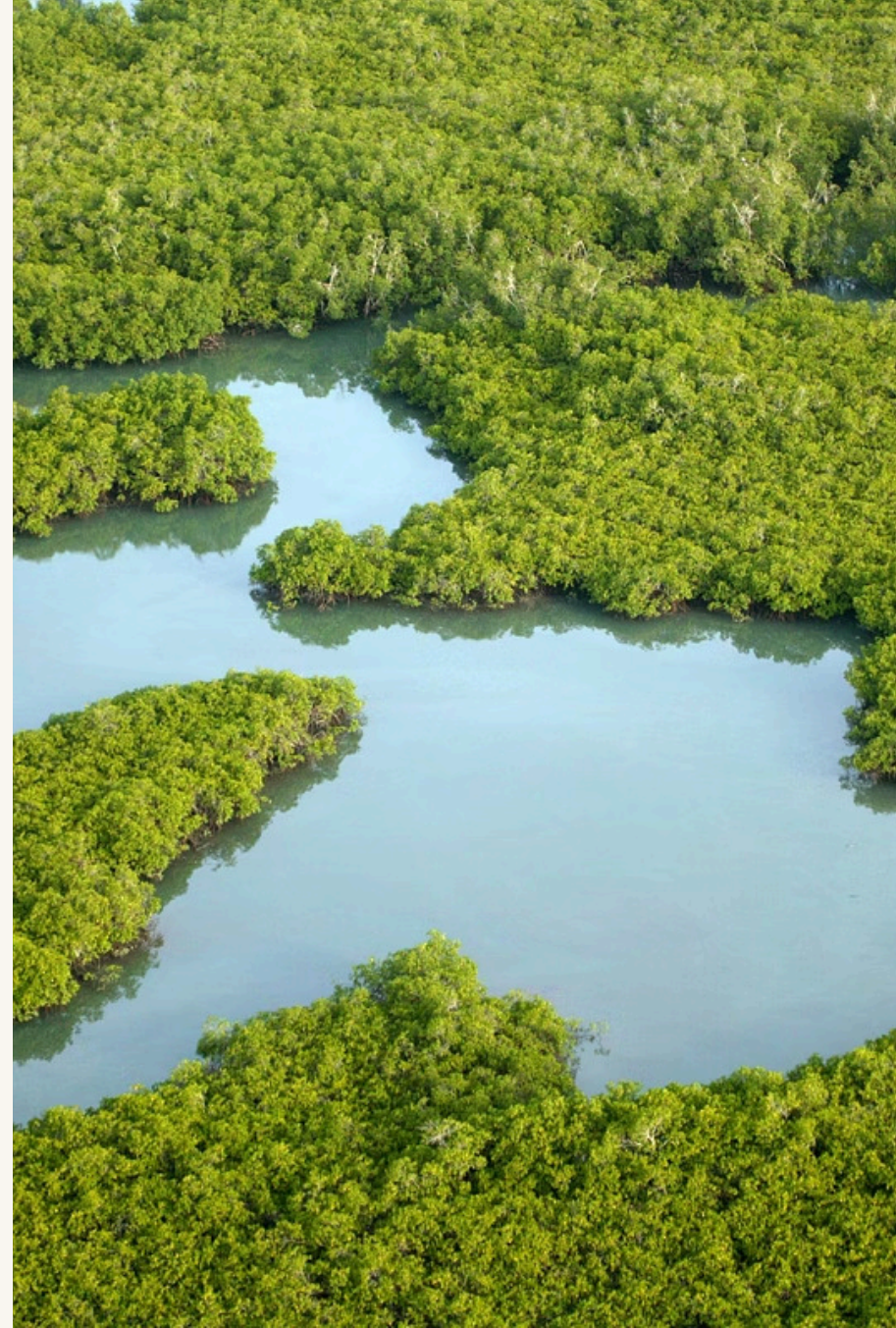


# Nature: A paradise in the Bijagós archipelago

The Bijagós archipelago, located in Guinea-Bissau, represents one of the most impressive and least explored natural treasures of West Africa. This group of islands offers a unique combination of intact ecosystems, exceptional biodiversity and traditional cultures that have preserved their ancestral customs.

It boasts natural wonders that make Bijagós an incomparable destination for nature lovers, from its pristine trails to its extraordinary fauna and flora, including unique experiences such as birdwatching and encounters with iconic species.







# Trekking: Exploring Unspoiled Nature



## Natural Trails

The archipelago offers a spectacular **natural environment** with a **diversity of ecosystems** to **go on hikes** through **virgin forests** and **unexplored beaches**.



## Orango Island

In **Orango**, the treks take you to see the **saltwater hippos** in their natural habitat, as you explore **tropical forests** and **savannas**.

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## Traditional Communities

On islands like **Canhabaque**, **Soga**, **Bubaque** and **Rubane**, you can venture into the jungle to discover the **tabankas** (traditional communities) and the **moranzas** (temporary villages).



# Life in the Tabankas: Bijagó Culture

## Tabankas

The **tabankas** are **small communities** where the Bijagós maintain their **traditional way of life**, preserving ancestral customs and a harmonious relationship with nature.

## Moranzas

The **moranzas** are **temporary villages** where the Bijagós **sleep** when they go to **hunt, fish or cultivate** on other islands, following sustainable living patterns adapted to the environment.

## Cultural Significance

The **treks** allow you to discover these **villages** and **sites** with profound **cultural significance**, offering a unique window into traditions that have survived for centuries.



# Bird Watching: An Ornithological Paradise

## Migratory Birds

During the **migration** months, the islands become a vital **resting** point for species such as the **Audouin's gull** and the **African spoonbill**.

## Birds of Prey

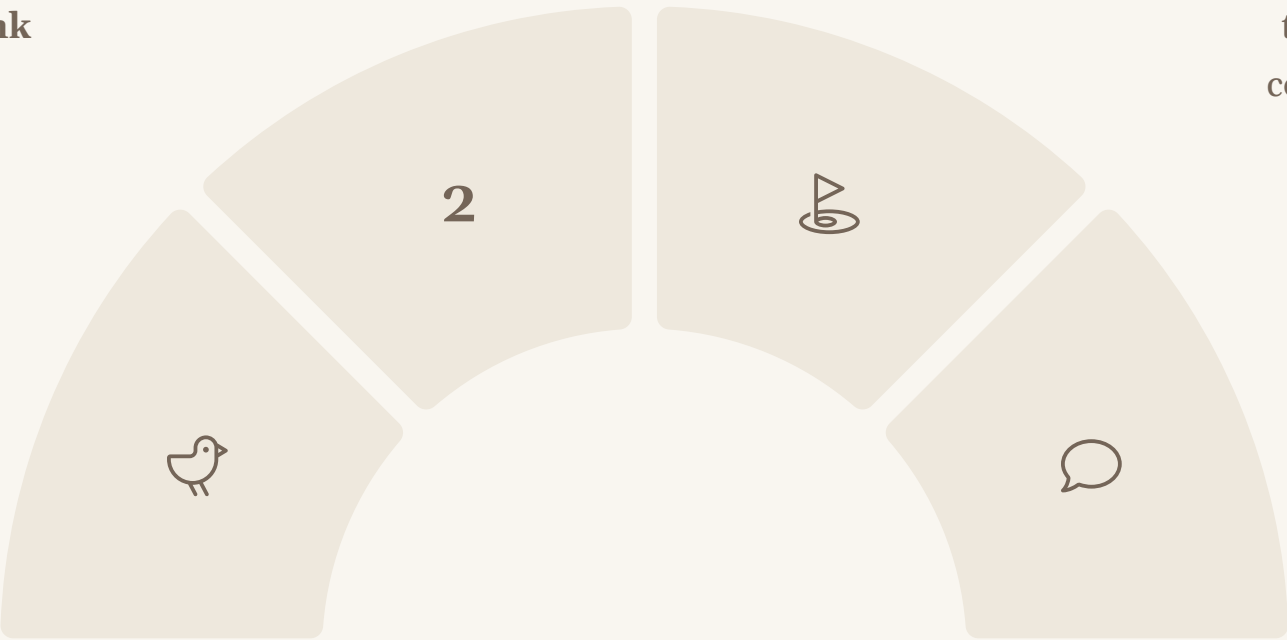
Species such as the **osprey**, the **common kestrel** and the **fishing owl** find an ideal habitat for their development in Bijagós.

## Resident Species

The archipelago **hosts** an impressive **diversity** of resident birds such as the **brown pelican**, the **pink flamingo** and various **species of herons**.

## Protected Area

The designation as a **protected area** has allowed the **bird** populations to continue **thriving** in this **natural paradise**.





# Flora: Adaptation and Endemism

## Mangrove Ecosystems

Species such as the mangroves ***Rhizophora mangle*** and ***Avicennia marina*** are essential for **protecting coastlines**, improving **water quality** and serving as **habitats** for diverse species.



## Coastal Plants

Species such as ***Atriplex halimus*** help stabilise **dunes** and protect **intertidal zones**, adapting to extreme conditions like **salinity** and **tidal fluctuations**.



## Unique Endemism

**Geographical isolation** has allowed the **existence of rare and adapted plant species**, some of them endemic, turning the archipelago into a **vital sanctuary** for **conservation**.

# Terrestrial Fauna: Diversity and Adaptation



## Endemic Primates

The **green monkey** and the **red colobus monkey** are examples of primates that have thrived in the archipelago thanks to their adaptation to the specific **conditions** of the islands.



## Sea Turtles

A key location for the nesting of sea turtles such as the green, leatherback and hawksbill. Each year, between July and October, thousands of turtles arrive at their pristine beaches to lay eggs.



## Saltwater Hippos

One of the most surprising species in the region, these **hippos** represent a unique adaptation that can only be found in this **natural treasure** of Guinea-Bissau.



# Marine Fauna: An Aquatic Sanctuary



## Sea Turtles

The **green and hawksbill turtles**, endangered species, find in the protected **beaches** of the archipelago ideal places to nest, contributing to the conservation of these threatened species.



## Marine Mammals

The surrounding **waters**, extremely nutritious, attract marine species such as **bottlenose dolphins and manatees**, which find abundant food in this almost intact marine ecosystem.



## Aquatic Diversity

The richness of the marine ecosystems of Bijagós provides habitat for numerous species of fish, crustaceans and other aquatic organisms, creating a unique ecological balance.

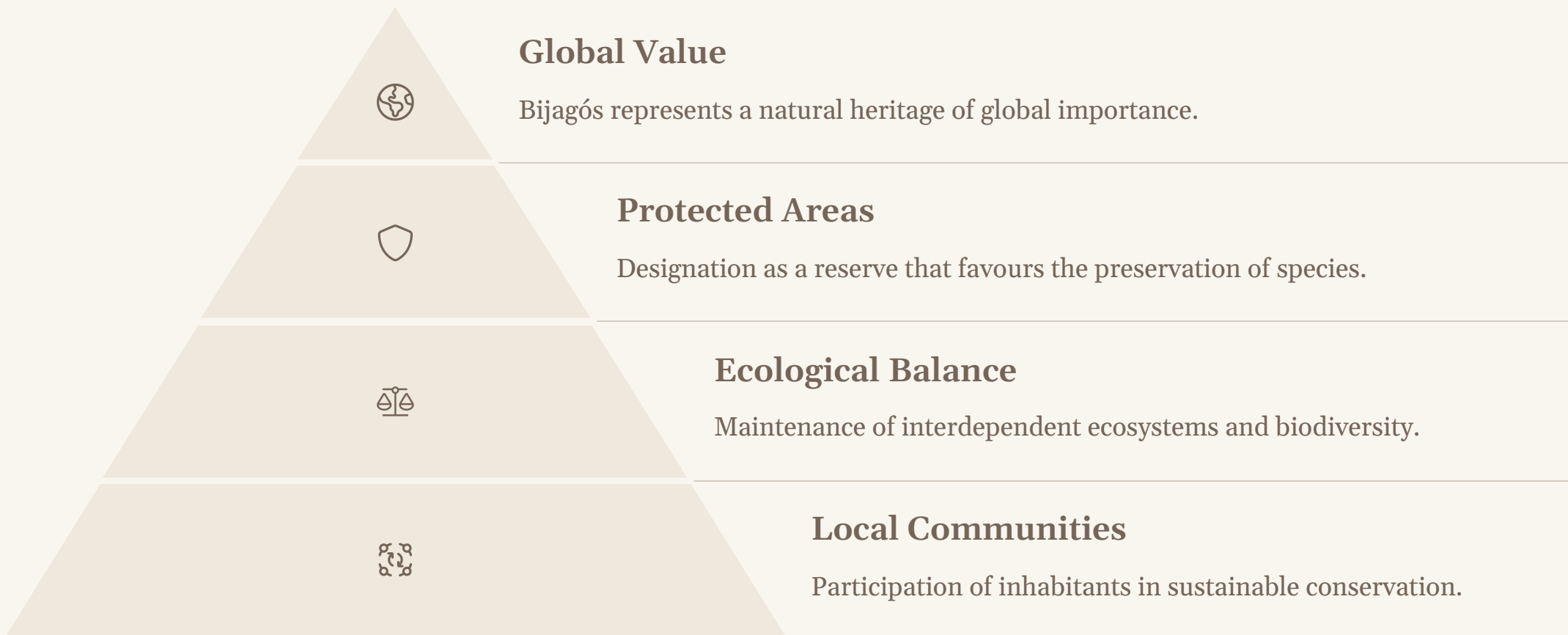


## Marine Conservation

The protection of the **islands** has favoured the conservation of this marine environment, allowing threatened species to find refuge in these protected waters.



# Conservation: Protecting the Natural Legacy



The Bijagós archipelago represents one of the last virtually intact natural sanctuaries in West Africa. Its **geographical isolation** has allowed the preservation of unique ecosystems and the development of endemic species that are not found anywhere else on the planet.

Current conservation efforts seek to balance the protection of this **natural treasure** with the sustainable development of local communities, ensuring that future generations can continue to marvel at the extraordinary natural wealth of Bijagós.