



PORTUGAL National Report

UNESCO Man & the Biosphere Programme **2019**

National Committee of the UNESCO MAB Programme

April 2020

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1. Portugal and the UNESCO MaB Programme

The national authority for nature conservation and biodiversity (Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests – ICNF) of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action, is in charge of the coordination and promotion of the Man & the Biosphere Programme (MAB) in Portugal.

Portugal is associated with MaB since late 1981, when our first Biosphere Reserve - Paul do Boquilobo was classified. Currently contributes with 11 Biosphere Reserves (BR) to the total World Network of 701 reserves, three of which are transboundary – Gerês/Xurês, Meseta Ibérica and Tejo/Tajo Internacional, part of the 21 Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBR) , existing in 124 countries.

After Paul do Boquilobo designation, a first-generation Biosphere Reserve quite focused on nature conservation issues, Portugal stayed around 25 years without any application. The MaB Programme was boosted again around 2007 and since then ten other territories were classified by UNESCO, as Biosphere Reserves. Having now 11 biosphere reserves (the total Portuguese area is 1.312.565 ha, around 14, 23 % of the country total area, located in the mainland and in both Autonomous Regions of Azores and Madeira islands. It is considered a significant number, taking into account the geographical size of Portugal. It is also a good indicator of the recognition opportunities given by the UNESCO label, based in a management model that encourages innovation, conservation of nature and biodiversity, and cultural heritage, while working for the quality of life of local communities, users and visitors, therefore promoting a sustainable development. It is worth pointing out also the existing networking and close cooperation work made possible through better knowledge, dissemination, training and exchange of good practices.

The Portuguese Biosphere Reserves covers different types of ecosystems, from mainland (Atlantic and Mediterranean ecosystems) to the archipelagos of Azores and Madeira (Macaronesian ecosystems). These are territories where Man-Nature binomial reflects history, tradition and equitable, balanced and sustainable development territorial models.

In map 1 and table 1 it is possible to understand how these Biospheres Reserves are geographically distributed, while some figures features the Portuguese network of Biosphere Reserves.

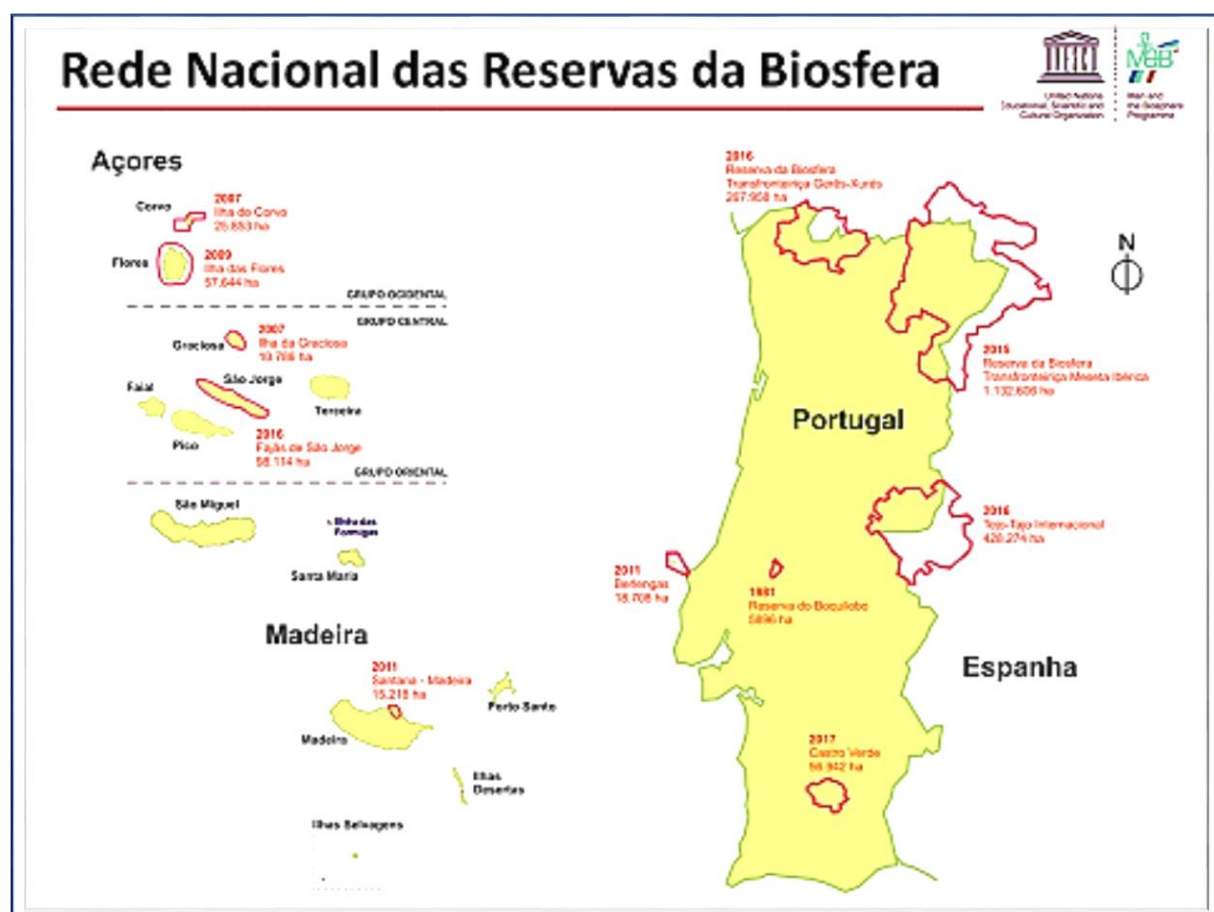


Fig. 1. The Portuguese Biosphere Reserves Network map (April 2020)

Biosphere Reserves	Year of Nomination	Total area (ha)	Land area (ha)	Marine area (ha)	Population (total)	Portugal (ha)	Spain (ha)	Zoning (% ou ha)
Boquilobo	1981	5896			8400			Núcleo- 13,8% Tampão- 17,50% Transição-68,7 %
Corvo	2007	25.853	1.713	24.141	430			Núcleo- 11,7% Tampão- 88% Transição-0,3%
Flores	2009	57.644	14.112	43.532	3793			Núcleo- 3% Tampão- 12% Transição-85%
Graciosa	2007	10.786	6.076	4.710	4391			Núcleo- 5% Tampão- 18% Transição-77%
Geres-Xurês	2009	267.958			76.301 total 66.177 PT 10.124 SP	196.838 (76%)	62.819 (24%)	Total Núcleo- 16% Tampão- 32% Transição-52%
Santana - Madeira	2011	15.218			7.795			
Berlengas	2011	18.708	701	18.007	70+27.752			Núcleo - 0,1% Tampão – 4,6% Transição - 95,3%
Meseta ibérica	2015	1.132.606			169.745 total 133.940 PT 35.805 SP	657.365 (58%)	475.241 (42%)	Total Núcleo- 9,29% Tampão- 56,36% Transição- 34,35%
Fajãs de S. Jorge	2016	98.114,17	24.382,77	73.731,40	9.171 total Núcleo 188 Tampão 767 Transição 8217			Núcleo-8.52% Tampão- 11.28% Transição- 80,2%
Tejo/Tajo Internacional	2016	428.274				169.201 (39,5%)	259.073 (60,5 %)	Total Núcleo-13,1% Tampão- 30,7% Transição-56,2%
Castro Verde	2017	56.942			7.276 total Núcleo 5 Tampão 784 Transição 6487			Núcleo-10.5% Tampão- 46.7% Transição- 42,8%

Table 1. Biosphere Reserves in figures (declaration year, area, population, zoning).

TBR – Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

Total area in Portugal: 1.312.565 ha

2. MaB National Committee

The MaB National Committee integrates in its composition the Institute for Conversation of Nature and Forests, I.P. (ICNF, IP), interlocutors of each of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, that comprehend both political and technical representatives, a representative of Turismo de Portugal, IP, given the tourist potential and visiting these areas classified with the seal of UNESCO, a representative of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNADS), for the importance of its action in the integration of the social, economic and environmental components involved, and also the National Commission of UNESCO (CNU) / Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as a facilitator for the development of joint actions.

It is chaired by the national authority for nature conservation and biodiversity (ICNF) which also carries out the functions of the Secretariat and coordination functions of the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves (RPRB). It also functions as a clearinghouse of information and external dissemination and generates an impulse of improvement in the biosphere reserves.

The Committee met twice in 2019. The first meeting (14th and 15th of May) took place in a Biosphere Reserve territory. Although this strategy involves a more complex organization, it allows all members of the Committee to visit the territory and promotes a direct contact with local stakeholders (Mayors, Parish Councils, social and local development key-actors, research institutions, schools, NGOs). It also allows a broad debate *in situ* about the Biosphere Reserves manager's challenges and opportunities they face as well as transfer of good practices to others BR.



This year, **the first meeting** took place in Tejo/Tajo International Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (RBTTTI). During two days it was possible to have an inside view of the territory (Portuguese and Spanish) of our third TBR, designated in 2016. The visit to the territory included the passage on different landscape through core, buffer and transition areas, and contact with innovative local actors committed to sustainable development

on tourism, agriculture and hunting (Herdade da Cubeira, Idanha-a- Nova tourism School, Live Seeds and Vale da Sarvinda).

The long-standing (over 25 years) and excellent technical relationship between the two sides of the borders were always been highlighted as well as the existence of a cross-border agreement for joint actions.

Throughout the two days, there were several moments of reflection and exchange of views and experiences on the management of Biosphere Reserves and in particular the specificity and complexity associated with cross-border management.

The second meeting (20th of November), the 9th National committee meeting, was held in Lisbon, at ICNF headquarters, and was attended by 24 people. There were representatives from all the eleven Biosphere Reserves.



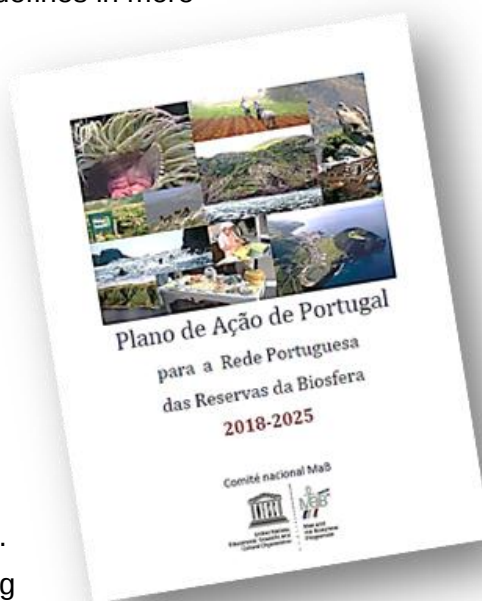
The National Committee, through the President or the Secretary also takes part in the governing bodies and advisory council of some Biosphere Reserves and also participates in public events and technical work meetings with stakeholders whenever is considered relevant.

3. Portugal Action Plan 2018-2025

With the approval of the Portuguese Action Plan 2018-2025, Portugal commits itself to UNESCO and with the adaptation of the Lima Action Plan (PAL), approved in March 2016, to the Portuguese context. This Action Plan defines in more detail the actions that will be carried out in our country, respecting the original scheme of the PAL and its main objectives and lines of action.

The document was prepared through a participatory process with the managers of the classified territories contribution and with all the elements of the National Committee.

An interim evaluation is planned for 2021 and the results will be indicative of the needs to reorient actions in order to meet the objectives set for 2025. A special template was built to facilitate the ongoing reporting.



4. Cooperation with Regional Networks, MaB Committees and Biosphere Reserves

During this year period, Portugal continued its international involvement in the MAB program and their Networks, aiming to promote the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves as laboratories of sustainable development.



- *Reception of the Luxembourg Mab committee in Portugal and visit to Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve*
- *Contacts with Norway Innovation and Norway MaB Committee to a week tour to three portuguese BR*
- *Participation on a first monitoring document of the implementation of the Lima Action Plan in Portugal| MaB Program Secretariat*
- *Data and material exchange for the preparation of a book (edition of the ABERTIS Foundation) on the Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Network.*

5. Cooperation with Portuguese-speaking African countries (PALOPS)

Portugal has been providing technical and financial support for the development of the applications of the Island of Fogo and the Island of Maio, in Cape Verde and Cacheu, Pecixe-Jecta in Guiné Bissau, as future BR, through a Protocol of cooperation between the Ministries of the Environment of both countries. The funding comes from the Environmental Fund of the Portuguese Ministry of the Environment.

6. Political involvement



Beyond others entities and individuals, we got two important presences on the 2019 first meeting of the National Committee. The Secretary of State for Spatial Planning and Nature Conservation opened the session and the Secretary of State for the Enhancement of the Interior Territory closed the meeting.

Another important milestone was the inclusion in the Program of the new (XXII) Portuguese constitutional government 2019 – 2023 in the chapter “Affirming Transboundary Territories”, of a programmatic action line named “Streamlining cooperation at the level of Transboundary Biosphere Reserves.

7. Periodic Review process: Gerês – Xurê and Flores island Biosphere Reserves

Both Gerês – Xures (our first transboundary biosphere reserve) and Flores Islands (Azores Autonomous Region, Portugal) where nominated as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in 2009, by the International Coordination Council (ICC).

According to the guidelines of the UNESCO MaB Program, Biosphere Reserves are projects of generations and the 10th anniversary of their inclusion in the World Biosphere Reserves Network corresponds to the first Periodic Review process. It is an important reflection milestone on achievements and what remains to be done in the classified territory, in compliance with the 3 axes of the MaB Program - Conservation of natural

and cultural diversity, promotion of sustainable development and development of monitoring, research, communication, education and environmental awareness.

The entire review process was carried out with the involvement of the relevant local socio-cultural and economic actors and the population.

The national committee evaluated both documents in a positive way and sent its technical opinion to the MaB Secretariat in Paris. We are waiting for the recommendation of the MaB Advisory board and the final decision of ICC.

8. Training and capacity building

A supporting note to the BR managers was prepared and discussed, concerning the relationship with local actors, which encompasses public participation process and encourages the involvement of partners and partnerships in the governance of Portuguese RB.

<http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/pn/biodiversidade/ei/resource/doc/mab/Nota-no3-envolvimento-dos-stakeholders-no-processo-de-candidatura-e-gestao.pdf>

9. Research activities

Master's and PhD theses related with Biosphere Reserves and sustainable development are currently being developed at the University Nova de Lisboa. The National Committee supports, whenever requested, students as well as teachers. Other academic support have been available through the Biosphere Reserves and till the moment many of them are connected with studies undergoing by regional and local Polytechnic University Institutes.

10. UNESCO Chair in Biodiversity and Conservation for Sustainable Development

Among the 12 UNESCO chairs in Portugal, the Biodiversity and Conservation for Sustainable Development chair, University of Coimbra, established in 2013 and renewed until 2021, is with whom the National MaB Committee has developed a greater partnership. The year 2019 was essentially devoted to a city science project on cultural heritage inside BR (Castro Verde BR as a pilot study).

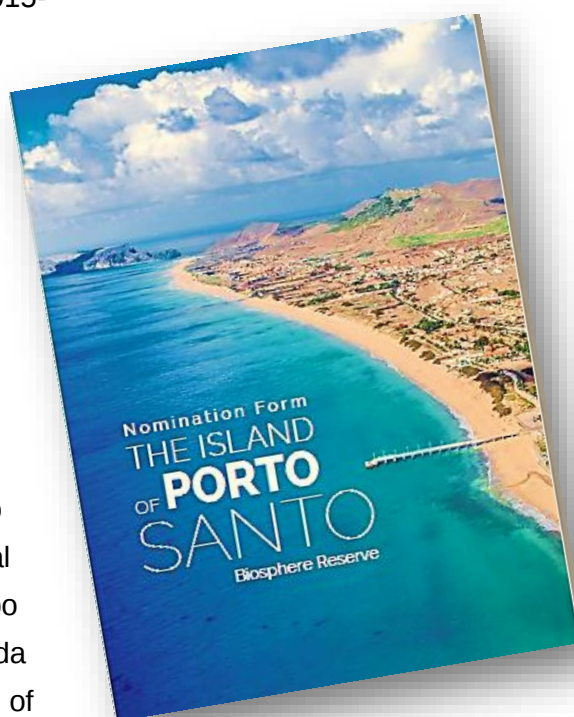
The UNESCO Chair is an active member of the National MaB Committee, participating in meetings and working groups.

11. Presentation of a new proposal of Biosphere Reserve applications forms - Porto Santo Island

During the period of time considered in this report, the Portuguese MaB Committee has reviewed and approved the submission of a proposal for a new Biosphere Reserve for analysis by the Advisory Committee and the ICC. It has also been providing technical support to a new application for BR, namely Arrábida (Mainland), taking part in technical meetings, public meetings, and clarification sessions and assisting documents review.

The proposal for the Porto Santo Island Biosphere Reserve (Madeira) is considered to be coherent and well structured following the guiding criteria of the MaB Program and especially the guidelines of the MAB Strategy (2015-2025) and the objectives of the Lima Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025). It is also in line with the “Plan of Ação de Portugal stops the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves (2018-2025) ”.

The proposal denotes maturity in its development process and is the result of the joint work of the promoter of the proposal (Porto Santo City Council) with the other 5 representatives of entities present, not a working group created to prepare the application (Direção Regional Agricultura of Porto Santo, Associação Grupo Folclore de Porto Santo, Instituto das Florestas e da Conservação da Natureza, Regional Secretary of Environment and Regional Agency for Energy and Environment of Madeira) and who have work deeply with and local economic and social development actors .



the population

This proposal has the support of the National Committee, considering that:

- Contributes to the conservation of natural values, favoring the conservation of landscapes and biodiversity in general and of the marine and terrestrial ecosystem of Macaronesia in particular. It has a high specific diversity and a very high percentage of local endemisms;
- It promotes the balance between human, economic, social, cultural and ecological development, while promoting sustainable development. It has an interesting project ("Porto Santo Smart Fossil Free Island") to mitigate the island's strong vulnerability to climate change through the gradual conversion of electricity production by renewable sources, providing electrical systems with smart grids, transition to electric mobility and energy efficiency in two buildings and public lighting. This project, of good sustainability practices, has the potential to be replicated in other Biosphere Reserves;
- The territory constitutes a fundamental support for research projects, permanent observation, education and information exchange on local, national and global issues of conservation and sustainable development. It presents a zoning consistent with the reality of the territory that guarantees the fulfillment of the 3 functions of a Biosphere Reserve.

It will have a Management Body, an Advisory Council and a Scientific Council, and an Action Plan that will guarantee the practical viability of this project. There are various declarations of commitment and support from public and private entities and documented participation of key local actors, public and private entities, and populations throughout the application process.

For all these reasons, the Portuguese MaB Program Committee strongly supports this proposal and its inclusion in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

12. "Enhance sustainable development in Biosphere Reserves " (EEA GRANT – MFEEE (EFTA Fund))

We developed an EEA Grants (Fundo EFTA) application to the promotion of the "Enhance sustainable development in Biosphere Reserves" project with €2.200.000 allocation that will enhance a deeper knowledge about the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves:

- (i) *to promote capacitation actions for public entities and managers of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves concerning the promotion of best practices on the use of endogenous resources;*

- (ii) *(ii) to implement actions to improve local information level about the value of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves;*
- (iii) *(iii) to adopt handbooks with common guidelines for the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves and*
- (iv) *(iv) to carried out campaigns to raise the perception and the knowledge of local communities regarding the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves values.*

The target group includes all the existing Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, in particular their management's entities, citizens and companies, as well as a comprehensive set of beneficiaries such as public institutes, municipalities and parishes associations, universities and environmental NGO.

The expected outcome is through the development of various categories of actions and materials that will serve as working tools for better management and implementation of Biosphere Reserves in the territory

- Increased awareness and appreciation of local populations for the natural and cultural values that lead to UNESCO's classification and distinction of the territory;
- Greater internal and external visibility of these territories;
- Greater knowledge and use of the sustainable development potential of these areas;
- Greater cooperation between different social sectors present in the Biosphere Reserves;
- Greater training in the management of these territories;
- Greater cooperation between Biosphere Reserves at national level.

The period for promoters entities (public or private, whether commercial or non-commercial, and non-governmental organizations) submitting applications was open on 30/11/2019, but the program contract will only be approved in mid-2020.

13. Other Funding sources

Berlengas Biosphere Reserves got a funding of € 130.000 by E.U. Regional Fund, related with the Fishing sector (GAL Pesca OESTE-MAR2020) . The project undergoing is related with the creation of an information and interpretation gate center in Peniche, called "Portas da Biosfera Berlengas".

Meseta Ibérica TBR together with other partners were involved on the development of the project "Cultural heritage, indigenous products, nature and tourism as an economic basis for the development of the Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve" co-financed by the POCTEP Program, whose objectives are to protect and enhance cultural

heritage and native of the Meseta Ibérica. It is intended to boost, through responsible and sustainable tourism and, provide the Meseta Ibérica with interpretive centres and road and city signage, in order to generate added value to the territory, to visitors and tourists with tourist itineraries. The creation of a corporate tourist brand for the territory, obtaining the Biosphere Destination Certification, the integrated management of resources and potential, as well as the search for synergies that will provide the project with a multiplier effect, as it is, the preparation of the application for Heritage of the Immaterial Humanity of the winter masks of the Iberian border in the old Zoela territory.

All the **4 Biosphere Reserves of Azorean** archipelago will also benefit from an overall E.U. LIFE funded project called LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA - Active protection and integrated management of Natura 2000 Network in Azores, a joint programming conservation programming lead by the Direção Regional de Ambiente of the Azores Autonomous Government having as partners S.A. Portugal Fundación Canaria – Reserva Mundial de la Biosfera La Palma. Spain Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves (SPEA). Portugal Direção Regional dos Assuntos do Mar (DRAM). Portugal Sociedade de Gestão e Conservação da Natureza – AZORINA with a total budget of € 19,087,522.00 and a lifespan from January 2019 till December 2017.



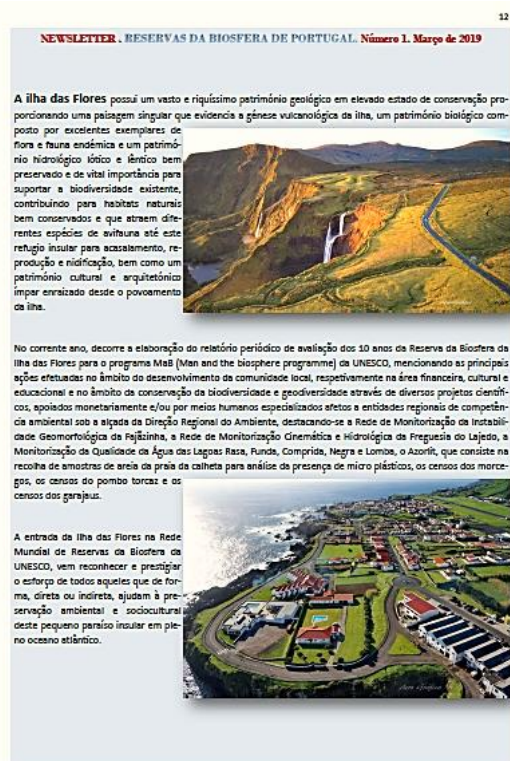
More projects are detailed in each Biosphere Reserve chapter later on the report.

The National MaB Committee continues to analyse other funding sources that may support Biosphere Reserves territories, such as the E.U. Regional Funds under the framework Portugal 2020 overall mechanism, as well as Interreg European Union regional funding. In this sense there is continuous information dissemination sent to Biosphere Reserves Management coordinators, to further analyse these funding in order to deepen the support for existing and proposed sustainable development activities in the Biosphere Reserves territories.

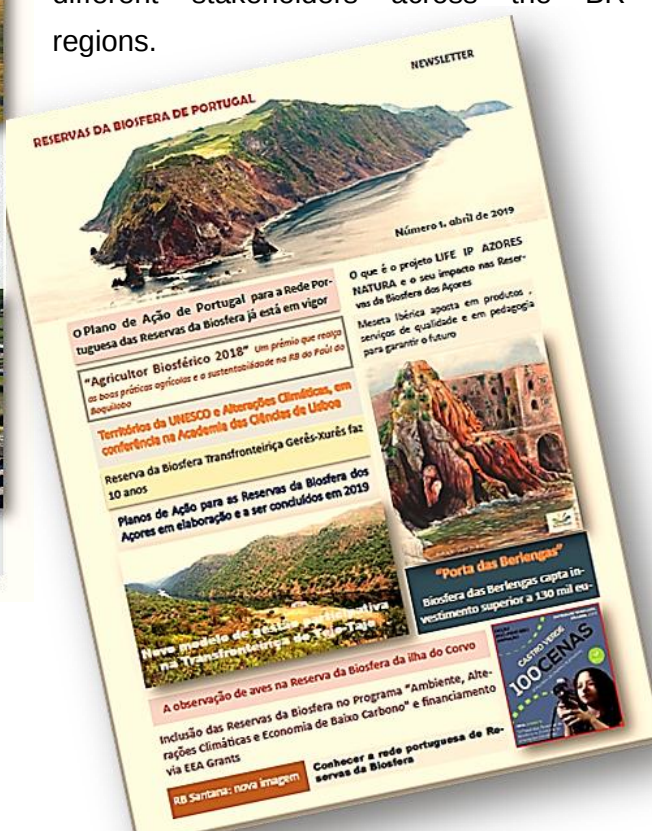
14. Communication and information dissemination on Biosphere Reserves

Updating of the contents on the website of the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves and the MAB Programme. <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/pn/biodiversidade/ei/MaB>

This website consists of a public space with information about the MAB Programme, the Portuguese MAB Committee and the BR.



A first Newsletter on the state of art of the Portuguese Network of Biosphere reserves was also edited and disseminated to different stakeholders across the BR regions.



https://issuu.com/galegazancha/docs/newsletter_rb_1_abril_19

Despite the actions taken in each BR, described in section 15 of this report, it is worth mention activities in the Media (local and national news) and participation in Seminars, workshops and conferences, highlighting some relevant initiatives were MaB National

Committee is present in order to disseminate and promote the MaB Program as well as the visibility of the National Network of Biosphere Reserves to different target audiences.

Conference “UNESCO Territories and climate change: challenges and solutions| 25 jan; This event was promoted by the Portuguese national Commission for UNESCO in partnership with the Lisbon Academy of Sciences. It was inserted in the activities of dissemination and implementation of the Sustainable Development Objective (SDG) 13 “Climate Action” of the 2030 Agenda. This event allowed the approach and debate of topics such as: UNESCO and Climate Change; UNESCO Territories - Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves - Challenges and Solutions, among others. The event's program included the participation of specialists linked to the Biosphere Reserves area and other entities related to them.



Festival 100 Cenas, in which students present cinema and audiovisual schools works on “The Role of Biosphere Reserves in Climate Change”

“Biospheric Farmer 2018”: An important milestone on the relationship between economic activities and recognition of merit and value on the works developed by one BR farmer (Paul do Boquilobo BR)

<https://omirante.pt/sociedade/2019-02-28-Agromais-Plus-comemora-20-anos-e-distingue-agricultores>)

Territory with Life - Project in the transboundary Tejo/Tajo International Biosphere Reserve, which aims to involve local actors in concrete initiatives to raise awareness and enhance the territory

Biosphere School - Project in the Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve where the Schools Group, district of Beja, created within the scope of the project of autonomy and curricular flexibility of basic and secondary education, the discipline Biosphere dedicated to classified territory

Itinerant exhibition on the "Portuguese Biosphere Reserves Network" exposed in Municipal library of Silves (An initiative of the Portuguese national Commission for UNESCO)

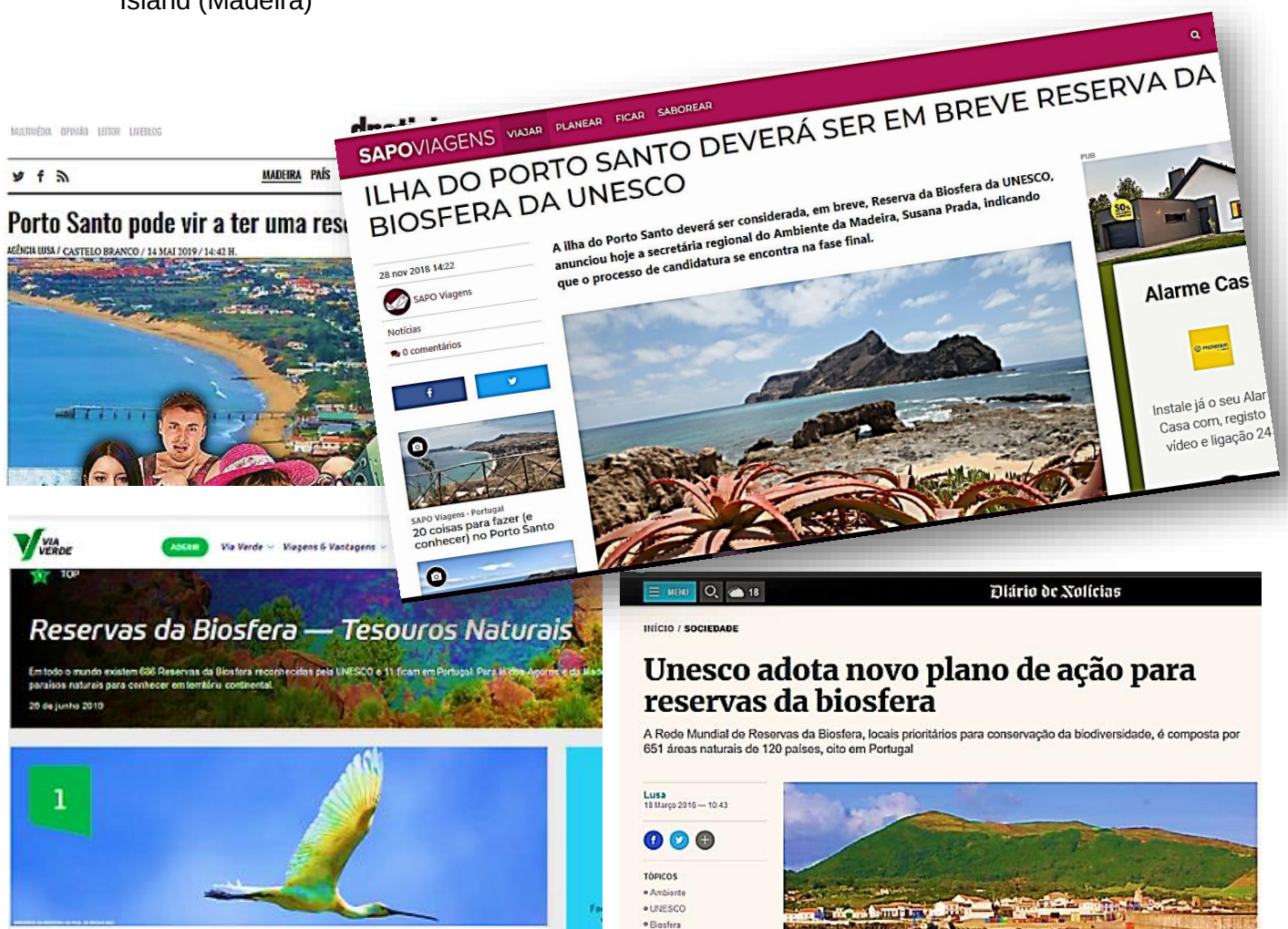


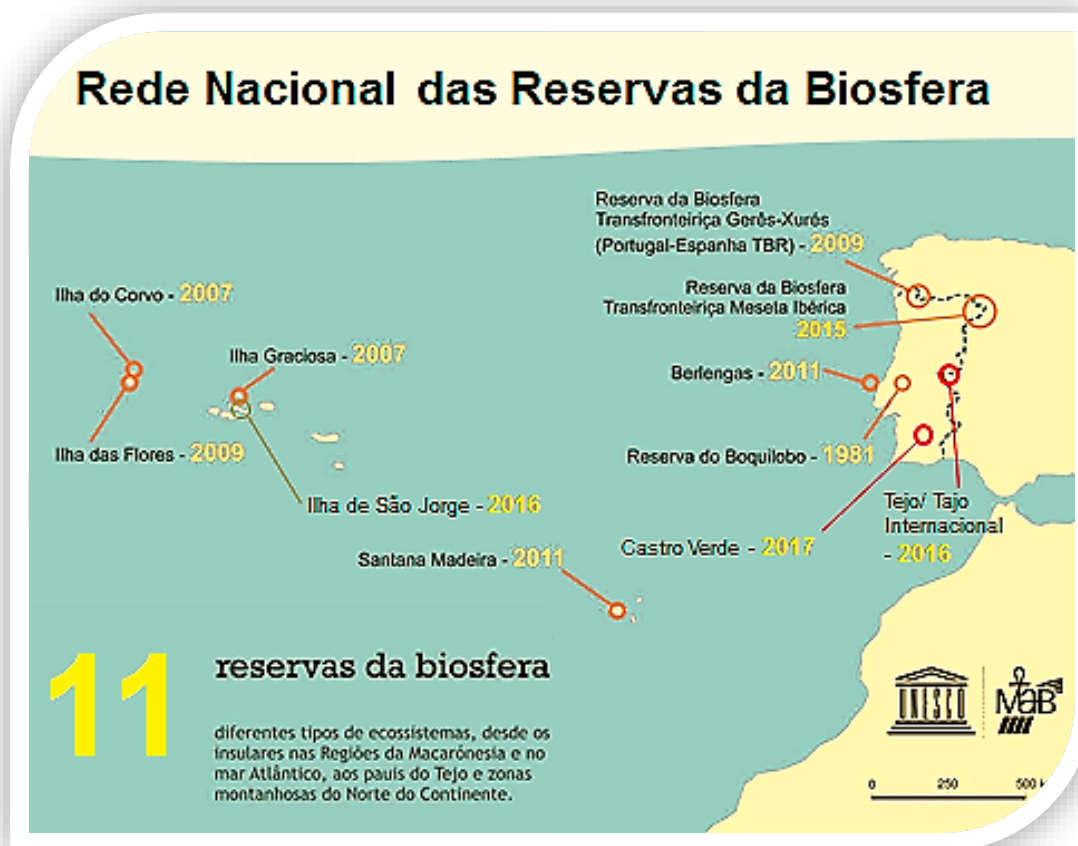
News on the ICNF website and facebook about various activities of the National MaB Committee

Interviews - Agrotejo magazine - "EEA Grants - Uma oportunidade para as Reservas da Biosfera"



Social media and newspaper news, including on the new BR proposal – Porto Santo Island (Madeira)





15. Main Initiatives of the 11 Portuguese Biosphere Reserves

MAINLAND

PAUL DO BOQUILOBO

GERÊS-XURÉS (TRANSBOUNDARY BIOSPHERE RESERVE)

BERLENGAS

MESETA IBERICA (TRANSBOUNDARY BIOSPHERE RESERVE)

TEJO/TAJO INTERNACIONAL (TRANSBOUNDARY BIOSPHERE RESERVE)

CASTRO VERDE

AZORES ARCHIPELAGO

CORVO ISLAND

GRACIOSA ISLAND

FLORES ISLAND

FAJÃS OF SÃO JORGE

MADEIRA ARCHIPELAGO

SANTANA

Each of the Biosphere Reserves develops their own planning and annual programming. Herewith is a short report of relevant activities during 2019¹:

¹ The following report texts are responsibility of each Biosphere Reserve

INTRODUCTION

In 2019, we continued to reinforce a set of activities and strategies implementation and development considered important, of which we highlight here those that most contributed to the objectives of the MaB Program.

GOVERNANCE

During 2019 a series of periodic management body meetings were held to discuss and develop the strategy for the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve (PBBR).

Possible sources of financial participation were identified and promoted with various partners in view of the economic sustainability of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve.

The objectives and development strategy for PBBR was disclosed to various entities.

A PBBR own budget was implemented, with donations from the Municipalities, to cover some of the current expenses.



The Management Body's participation in meetings and working groups was effective, and we highlight the following:

- *Participation in Working Groups / Collaboration Networks, such as the Portuguese and Mediterranean Biosphere Reserve Networks and the MaB Committee;*
- *Participation in technical meetings with the National MaB Committee and with other National Biosphere Reserves;*
- *Participation in the Torres Novas Municipal Tourism Council and other regional forums;*
- *Adherence, as an effective member, to the National Competence Center for Climate Change in the Agroforestry Sector (CNCACSA);*
- *Participation in the EEA Grants event on circular economy.*

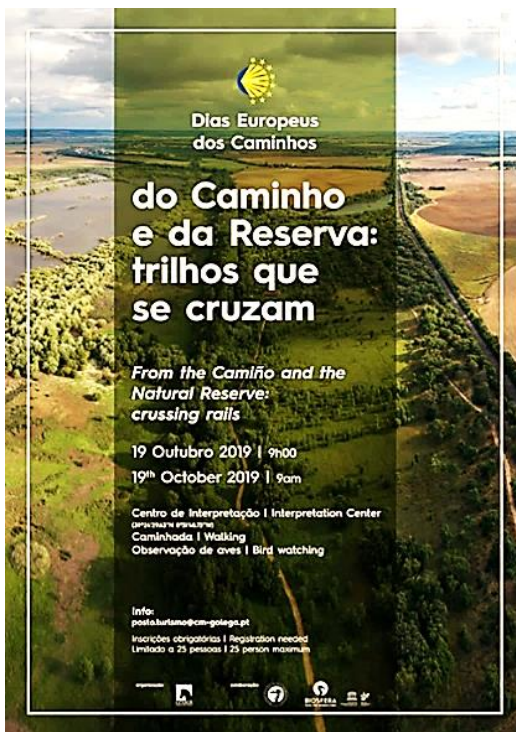
Financing Sources

In 2019 a number of community funds applications were identified and promoted for the development of the strategy investments, necessary for the of Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve.

It was also decided by the municipalities of Golegã and Torres Novas the fund transfer to cover current communication and promotion expenses.

Within the scope of CIM Tejo, the municipality of Torres Novas saw the final application for the rehabilitation of surrounding spaces approved in the Paul do Boquilobo Nature Reserve – Almonda route;

Investments

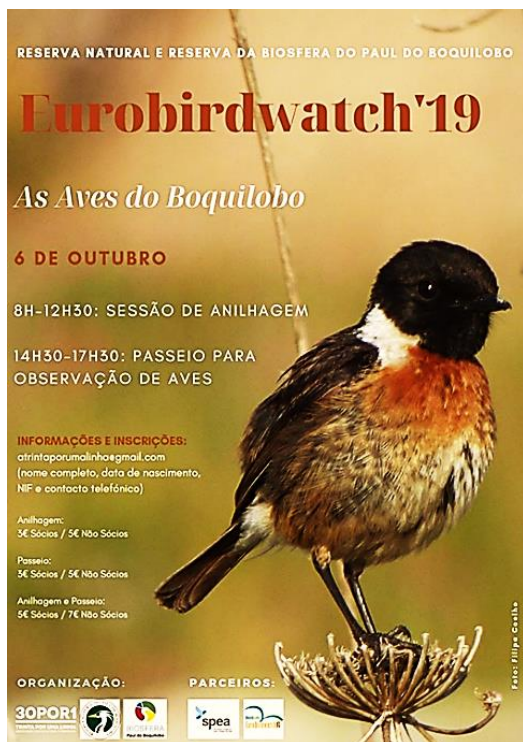


A set of investments were developed and executed by the Management Board's partners with a view to improve and revitalize conservation, observation and leisure spaces, namely:

- By the ICNF, conservation works on trails and signs of the Paul do Boquilobo Nature Reserve;
- By the Management Body's partners, several dissemination and promotion materials were developed;
- By the Alentejo and Ribatejo Tourism Region, the execution of trails and guides in the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve.

CONSERVATION FUNCTION

A set of RBPB nature conservation activities were carried out in 2019, which we highlight the following:



- By ICNF, the maintenance of the constant effort ringing station under the terms of EURING;
- Continuation of conservation actions on the *Narcissus fernandesii*;
- The recovery of water lily áreas;
- Certification maintenance of ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) populations;
- Conducting regular bird censuses with an emphasis on water birds and colonial species;
- Implementing a monitoring program of existing species of fish in the reserve
- Mapping areas of occurrence of weed and important flora species;
- Continued implementation of a nature conservation and surveillance program;
- Monitoring of climate and water levels in the RBPB;
- Installation of visits and visitors counters.

DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

2019 was a year in which a set of development and sustainability actions were carried out that deserve to be mentioned:

- Participation in the Optimus Prime project,
- Participation in the pilot project for energy certification developed by ADENE;
- Promotion of local food products from the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve;
- Accompaniment of guided visits, with environmental education actions;
- Carrying out several awareness and solidarity actions, under the stubble program.

LOGISTIC FUNCTION

Several actions were developed in the scientific research, monitoring, education and environmental awareness areas with the community and the different local agents, of which the following are highlighted:



- Raising awareness among farmers about a set of measures that they must carry out in terms of environmental sustainability, namely the use of plant protection products and the use of fresh water control resources;
- Awareness raising for the maintenance of ecological interest areas in agriculture;
- Awareness raising for the prevention of rural fires;
- Promotion and information of the Paul do Boquilobo fauna through the dissemination of the chronicles published on mediotejo.pt;
- Actions to raise awareness / denounce water quality in the Almonda River;
- Collaboration with ICNF on the Paul do Boquilobo Nature Reserve Anniversary.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

In the activities developed in the scope of communication and dissemination of RBPB to third parties, we highlight:

- Update of online publications on the website - www.pauldoboquilobo.pt;
- Disclosure of news and all activities developed at PBBR on the Facebook;
- Promotion of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve on the RB Mediterranean Network;
- Promotion of PBBR in cultural and sporting events;
- PBBR news integration in the editorial line of 2019 AGROTEJO magazine;
- Photography contest and exhibition about Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve

“BIOSPHERIC FARMER” AWARD

AGROTEJO and AGROMAIS are two farmer’s organizations based in the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve and which are part of their management model.

They technically support farmers on their farms and promote a set of actions to raise awareness of good agricultural and environmental practices. They are also concerned with the sustainable development of this territory, in its various aspects, going far beyond agricultural issues.



Social responsibility, innovation, diversification of activities in rural areas and the protection of natural resources are some of the themes promoted by these organizations. In this context, they annually award merit awards to farmers on various topics, namely and among others "the best producer by culture", the "prize for the best young farmer", "prize for the farmer with the greatest social responsibility", "career award", etc.

In 2018, the "Biospheric Farmer" award was also instituted. It aims to recognize the farmer who, during the year, developed actions of recognized merit, within the scope of the activities and objectives of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve.

OTHER ACTIVITIES / OTHER PROJECTS / PARTNERS

The RBPB participated or promoted a set of other projects in the scope of nature conservation, agriculture, tourism, namely:

- ✓ RESTOLHO– www.restolho.org
- ✓ CERTAGRI project – <https://www.adene.pt/certagri-rotulo-de-produto-circular-no-setor-agroalimentar/>
- ✓ SmartCrop project – <https://www.smartcrop.info/>
- ✓ ENTOVALOR project – <http://www.inia.vpt/menu-lateral-geral/projetos-de-investigacao/entovalor>
- ✓ MaisSolo project – <https://maissolo.webnode.pt/>

INTRODUCTION

The Gerês-Xurês Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (GXTBR) completed the first decade of existence during 2019. With this milestone arose the need to report implemented actions and their results, carrying out qualitative surveys and evaluating progress made and targets achievement. It was the moment to discuss and assess weak points, aiming for the improvement of a quality management and refocus on efficient approaches targeting sustainable development. All of this was done during the year, stirred by the preparation of the Periodic Review of the decade. The edition of this important report, started in March and lasted until September, when it was submitted to UNESCO MAB evaluation secretariat.

Both countries (Portugal and Spain) through national and local administrations, communities and stakeholders were involved. Management policies and communication strategies were discussed. Some of the important conclusion of the task were:

- i) A very good public awareness of the existence and importance of the Biosphere Reserve was noticed, although
- ii) A better communication and updated report of activities is needed.

GOVERNANCE

The preparation and edition of the Periodic Review report started early 2019. Each country prepared its own National report gathering information from all existent sources and stakeholders using a common template and agreed structure. Final versions of the national reports were subject to cross review before the submission to both National MAB comities. Gerês-Xurês Transboundary Biosphere Reserve's joint final report, to complete the required Periodic Review, was prepared after two face-to-face meetings and numerous chats and exchanged drafts and documents. The final report edition was submitted to the National MAB committee and then to UNESCO MAB secretariat at the due date.

The management plan of the biosphere reserve, sanctioned in 2016 for the period of 2015-2020 includes an estimated total budget of 13.334.607€ and the last actions and projects, to be implemented in 2020, were prepared during 2019.

The 7th meeting of the MaB national committee was held in Lisbon and Gerês Xurêš Biosphere Reserve managers were present.

CONSERVATION FUNCTION

Relevant conservation projects were implemented and continued during 2019, namely:

- i) Conservation of *Taxus baccata* forests: native forests of Yew continues in the area of the Biosphere Reserve – Improved cooperation occurred around the LIFE project “Bacatta”.
- ii) Endangered habitats restoration of areas destroyed by forest fires: seeding and plantation of native species was carried out not only through public contracts and staff but also with the help of volunteers.
- iii) Conservation of autochthonous forests of Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*); *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation efforts resulted in a significant increase of the occurrence extension of the native populations.
- iv) Invasive species (*Acacia dealbata*) control in the core area of the Biosphere Reserve.
- v) Monitoring programs of priority species (e.g. Wolf, Iberian Ibex) were carried out as in previous years.
- vi) Seeds of rare tree species were collected restoration projects in the Biosphere Reserve.

Conservation and restitution of informative signs and structures in the core area was carried out, namely in the Total Protection Area in Peneda-Gerês National Park. This action significantly enhance the management and control of visitors and, consequently, the conservation of natural patrimony.





A Seminar about “Natural Habitats Restoration in Peneda-Gerês National Park” took place in December 4th, 2019.

During this Seminar all conservation projects which include restoration procedures for degraded natural habitats were discussed by a group of international experts.



Conservation of indigenous populations of scots pine / Yew nursery

DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

Important measures here implemented ensuring economic development and welfare for those who live in the Biosphere Reserve, namely:



✓ The collection of life stories of older residents, these stories being registered in text and video, leading to the creation a repository of ways of life and cultural habits. These stories reflect the history of the Reserve since the recordings were made in villages within the five municipalities of the PNPG.

✓ A survey of the needs of the inhabitants of the Biosphere Reserve (within the National Park), by holding meetings in all the parishes of the PNPG. In these meetings, using active participation methods,

residents discussed their most pressing needs and then ranked them (from the most urgent/necessary to the least urgent/least necessary). This grading identified needs such as improving farm tracks, forestry cleaning, recovery of cultural heritage (granaries, mills, chapels, shrines) and technical support for farmers.



- ✓ Implementation of a vocational training program preferentially aimed for the National Park residents. This training focused on themes like tourism (foreign languages, receiving clients, catering, touring routes and guides), handicrafts and beekeeping.



- ✓ Implementation of a Long Distance Path: there was a remarkable involvement of resident populations (small local entrepreneurs, parish councils and common land management bodies) drawing the path. This Long Distance Path aims, in addition to allowing the visitor to enjoy the PNPG Terrain, to contribute to the social and economic development of residents

since it encourages local consumption and overnight stays in existing rural tourist accommodation.



- ✓ Development of initiatives in environmental education among school populations, thereby allowing the dissemination of good practice in nature conservation and biodiversity.

LOGISTIC FUNCTION

The existing partnerships with research institutions (e.g. Oporto University and Santiago de Compostela University) allowed the increase of capacity for technology transfer and also enhanced monitoring programs (e.g. remote sensing monitoring and restoration strategies). In parallel citizen science and community involvement are undoubtedly

growing both in number of participants as well as in excellence. NGO's and Regional Development Agencies, like ADERE – Peneda-Gerês (<http://www.adere-pg.pt/>) also ensure the increase of number and quality of visitors in the biosphere reserve, among local communities but also internationally through the tourism promotion agency.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

The main actions and activities were disclosed on Facebook. ICNF's central services also publicize this type of action on Instagram and in the Weekly Newsletter disseminated by its Communication Office.



✓ 40 activities were carried out to disseminate the natural and cultural values of the RBTGX territory, involving 4143 participants.

✓ The 14 information centers in the Portuguese territory of RBTGX, registered 85.855 visitors (who went there to collect information or carry out activities in the various existing reception structures). Under the guidance of PGNP took place two guided tours, mainly related to the observation and interpretation of natural values, but also with the cultural heritage of the Portuguese territory of RBTGX



✓ 272 activities conditioned by PGNP land management plan took place (through the environmental and tourist animation companies operating in this Territory, associations or informal groups: Walking tours / interpretive observation of fauna and flora routes, overflights with drone (associated with visitation / leisure), Filming / Photography (publicity or professional), above all, involving 9.441 participants.



✓ The licensed environmental animation companies reported 125 activities, regarding their daily offer to PGNP visitors, involving 1052 persons. From their reports we can say that the most frequent activities are walking tours (43 activities with 356 participants). Canyoning, being conditioned at certain times of the year, presents,

however, a greater number of activities and participants (64 activities with 650 participants).

Volunteering



✓ Five Volunteer activities were carried out involving 102 persons who collaborated in the planting of native trees, in the control of invasive plants, in the improvement of the Wild Fauna Recovery Center and in the surveillance and prevention of forest fires.

Other

A significant part of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Peneda-Gerês National Park) established with the National Park Service in USA, specifically with North Cascade National Park, an important twinning relationship.

Both parks became Sister Parks. This Sister Park relationship will enhance green diplomacy as well as international cooperation that clearly aligns with UNESCO goals for Biosphere Reserves. Sharing management concepts and strategies, exchanging information to communicate the value of biodiversity and increasing the exchange of visitors between USA and Gerês- Xurê Biosphere Reserve are important goals to achieve.





Berlengas Biosphere Reserve

GOVERNANCE

In 2019, the permanent working group of Berlengas Biosphere Reserve (BBR) concluded the review process of the management structure in order to address the main challenges listed on the Lima Action Plan/ Portugal BR Action Plan of the MAB program.

The proposed management body will include Municipality of Peniche, ICNF – Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests, School of Tourism and Maritime Technology – Polytechnic Institute of Leiria and Smart Ocean - Marine Science and Technology Park of Peniche (Portugal).



The installation of a Marine Science and Technology Park in the Biosphere Reserve territory will create opportunities to promote collaborative practices and put science and innovation for a sustainable biosphere.

CONSERVATION FUNCTION

A significant contribution to nature conservation in the territory of Berlengas Biosphere Reserve (BBR) was given by the project LIFE Berlengas. This project finished on



December 2019 and was coordinated by the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA; Portuguese BirdLife partner), in partnership with the national Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF), Peniche Municipal Council (CMP), the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities from Universidade Nova

de Lisboa (FCSH) and, as an external observer, the School of Tourism and Maritime Technology from Polytechnic Institute of Leiria. This project has the support of Berlengas Biosphere Reserve and is a valuable contribution for the achievements of the program Man and Biosphere.



The project ran between 2014 and 2019 in the Berlengas Islands Special Protection Area (SPA) – core and buffer zone of the Biosphere Reserve. It aimed to understand the main threats affecting Berlengas' natural heritage, both at land and sea, and to implement strategies to minimize and eliminate those threats. To ensure a sustainable use of this territory, several agents from the main areas of activity, such as fishing and tourism, were involved. The project also

concluded the Management Plan – a fundamental tool for the conservation and monitoring of this SPA's natural heritage. The different actions of LIFE Berlengas that were developed can be consulted at: <https://www.berlengas.eu/en/results>

In order to follow the evolution of Berlenga Island and better understand the long-term benefits brought by the project to this habitat, an After-LIFE Conservation Plan was established, identifying the priority actions to be carried out by the partners in the 5-year period after the project's end, namely:

- Controlling and preventing the spread of non-native species
- Controlling the population of Yellow-legged Gull
- Maintaining seabird populations
- Raising awareness and informing visitors
- Promoting the conservation of other native species
- Reducing seabird bycatch in fishing gear
- Raising awareness in the school community

To carry out post-LIFE actions at Berlenga, the project «LIFE Volunteer Escapes» has been running from 2018 to 2020, implemented by SPEA with the support of ICNF.



The electric Portuguese company EDP invested 350 k€ on the installation of a solar power plant (150 kw) in Berlenga island. The photovoltaic panels will substitute the diesel generators that presently supplies the electric energy, reducing the carbon emissions and promoting Berlenga island as a Zero emission territory.

DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

One of the main economic activities of BBR is fisheries. In Berlengas archipelago, goose barnacle harvesting has a long tradition and supports the existence of an important fishermen community. For the sustainability of this activity, a consortium headed by the Polytechnic of Leiria is developing the project CoPesca2 (MAR2020).

Designação do Projeto Project Title CO-PESCA 2	Entidade Promotora Promoting Entity INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO DE LEIRIA
Despesa Pública Public Expense 594m€	FEAMP FEAMP 445m€

Objetivos

- Implementação de um grupo de co-gestão para a apanha do percebe na Reserva Natural das Berlengas;
- Estudo de rastreabilidade e perfil nutricional;
- Monitorização da pesca do percebe;
- Valorização da espécie enquanto recurso marinho;
- Capacitação e formação dos apanhadores de percebe.

"O que se pretende é colocar o conhecimento científico ao serviço dos marisqueiros, ao serviço daqueles que têm perdido os recursos do mar, sob o ponto de vista de criar mecanismos de sustentabilidade dessa mesma atividade. Queremos que esta atividade continue no futuro, mas que seja uma atividade que tenha a sua sustentabilidade, sob o ponto de vista económico, social e também da parte ambiental."

— Sérgio Leandro, Saldemtor Escola Superior de Turismo e Tecnologia do Mar — Instituto Politécnico de Leiria

CoPesca2 is a project that aims to implement for the first time in Portugal a co-management system applied to *P. pollicipes* exploitation at the Berlengas Nature Reserve (BNR), classified by UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve. BNR is where regulation for professional goose barnacle harvesting

has first begun in Portugal.

Here, recreational harvesting is not allowed and there is a maximum of 40 harvesting licenses. In order to implement this co-management system in BNR a participatory process is being developed since 2018, based in a co-management model in practice in Barcelona for the “sonso” fishery with the facilitation of World Wild Fund For Nature (WWF).

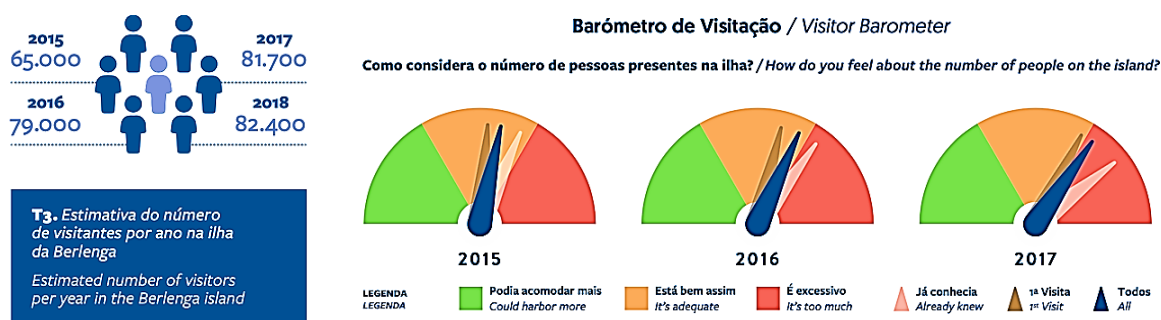
The first step of this implementation was the definition of the committee for this fishery that includes different groups of stakeholders: fishermen, scientists; NGOs; and authorities responsible for the fishery and conservation of this resource and for its surveillance and trade. One of the biggest aims in this co-management process is the opportunity to have an adaptative management based on the discussion among

stakeholders and on data from the monitorization of this fishery and state of resource towards the sustainability of this fishery in this marine protected area.

Another project is also being developed in the BR aiming to achieve an equilibrium between human activities (fishing) and marine resources conservation. The project Anzol + funded by MAR2020, has started on 2019 and is coordinated by SPEA focusing on line fishing (ie; hook and line). This fishing method operated in the marine area of the Berlengas Biosphere Reserve, is a traditional activity with strong roots in the fishing community of Peniche.

In Portugal, these fishing gears account for a large percentage of fishing activity. Even so, there are several difficulties in the management of this sector, such as the difficulty of assessing its activity and its impact on fish stocks and non-target species. It is necessary to create an appropriate management system in order to promote the sustainable exploitation of resources.

In addition to the visitors monitoring action performed by the project Life Berlengas, the Municipality of Peniche has been performing the rehabilitation of tourism support infrastructures. These actions are extremely important to increase the visitor satisfaction and also to protect the natural heritage of BBR.



ICNF is working on implementing BERLENGAS GATE – Promotion and diffusion of Berlengas Biosphere Reserve natural values through a E.U. Regional Funding - GAL PESCA MAR2020.

With the aim of maintaining the equilibrium between nature conservation and tourism activity, the Portuguese Government published the legislation concerning the human carrying capacity of Berlengas (Portaria n.º 355/2019), which established a maximum limit of 550 people simultaneously on the island.

LOGISTIC FUNCTION

During 2019, Berlengas Biosphere Reserve promoted or supported several activities to achieve a balance between conservation activities with sustainable development. Continuing the strategic approach adopted in 2015 - (1) Monitoring, research and

education; (2) Ecosystems conservation and (3) Cultural, economic and social development, a set of activities were developed and are listed on table 1.

1 - Monitoring, research and education		
Semana Tanto Mar Environmental activities for students, with the presence of the Portuguese Prime-Minister	3 Sept 2019	ESTM-IPLeiria, Municipality of Peniche and Forum Estudante
Visitors monitoring Assessment of the visitors number to Berlenga island during summer season	Jul-Sept 2018	LIFE Project
Volunteer program for young students Development of conservation actions and visitor surveys	2014-2019	LIFE Project
Volunteer program for young students Pós LIFE Berlenga conservation actions	2018-2020	LIFE Volunteer Escapes (SPEA)
AMALIA Adding value to marine invasive seaweeds of the Iberian northwest	Started on 2017	ESTM
Berlengas watch Monitoring of plankton communities and hydrological parameters.	2013-	ESTM-IPLeiria, IPMA and ICNF
Jellyfisheries R&D project aiming to evaluate the impact of jellyfish on the planktonic	2016-	ESTM, MARE-IPLeiria, ICNF, IPMA, CIIMAR, CCMAR
2 - Ecosystems conservation		
LIFE project and Pos-LIFE actions Eradication of plant invasive species and control of exotic mammals	2014-2019 2019-2024	SPEA, ICNF, Municipality of Peniche, ESTM, FCSH-UL
Seagull population control Annual control actions of seagull population on the berlenga island by egg destruction.	2019-	ICNF
3 - Cultural, economic and social development		
CoPesca2 Implementation of a Co-management Comittee for <i>Pollicipes pollicipes</i> artisanal harvesting	2018-	ESTM-IPLeiria, WWF, ICNF, UEvora
ANZOL + Fisheries management	2019-	SPEA
Natural heritage brochures Electronic and physical distribution of brochures for supporting the natural heritage of RBB	Ongoing	ESTM, ICNF, Municipality of Peniche



**MESETA
IBÉRICA**
RESERVA DA BIOSFERA

**Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere
Reserve**

INTRODUCTION

The Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve is focused on the development of the project "Cultural heritage, indigenous products, nature and tourism as an economic basis for the development of the Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve" co-financed by the POCTEP Program, whose objectives are to protect and enhance cultural heritage and native of the Meseta Ibérica. It is intended to boost, through responsible and sustainable tourism and, provide the Meseta Ibérica with interpretive centres and road and city signage, in order to generate added value to the territory, to visitors and tourists with tourist itineraries. The creation of a corporate tourist brand for the territory, obtaining the Biosphere Destination Certification, the integrated management of resources and potential, as well as the search for synergies that will provide the project with a multiplier effect, as it is, the preparation of the application for Heritage of the Immaterial Humanity of the winter masks of the Iberian border in the old Zoela territory.

GOVERNANCE

The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation ZASNET EGTC has established cooperation networks between several entities, namely with local and regional entities for the management of RBT Meseta Ibérica, among them the cooperation with other EGTCs, the State Secretariat for the Valorisation of the Interior, CIM TTM (Intermunicipal Community Terras de Trás-os-Montes), IPB (Polytechnic Institute of Bragança) and its Mountain Research Center (CIMO), EDP, GAL (Local Action Groups), Product Associations and local services and NGO's, Turismo Porto and Norte de Portugal, the Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros, The Dr. Oliveira Salazar Workplace - Patronato de Santo António (Social Solidarity Foundation). Working meetings were established with all of these bodies and the activities in which ZASNET EGTC participates and / or is represented are promoted, in order to achieve the best governance posture, as well as to involve the community in this governance and to promote and value the territory.

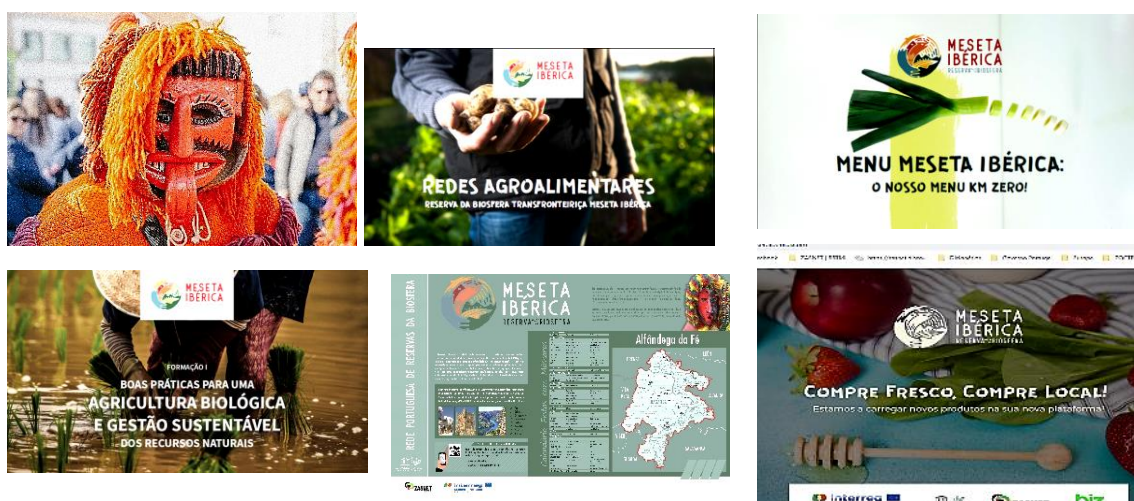
CONSERVATION FUNCTION

RBT Meseta Ibérica, through its management entity, ZASNET EGTC, participates in the application for the SUDOE program, of the PATRIMPASTO project - Improving the sustainability of collective mountain pasture spaces, as an associated partner, of the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança. This project intends to work in the herding activity, in what is its aspect of socio-environmental sustainability. Grazing is an essential activity in the mountains of southern Europe. The landscapes and their biodiversity are largely the result of the sustainable use of extensive livestock over time. The resulting ecosystems have been protected within natural spaces, housing numerous species and habitats of great value. However, grazing and its community management decrease in the SUDOE space, causing the progressive loss of open mountain ecosystems. In the context of climate change, grazing is an opportunity for sustainable development and the revitalization of rural areas. The project will bring together all the actors in the territory to propose grazing management solutions that promote sustainable extensive livestock farming in natural spaces and the enhancement of their products. Thanks to the collaboration of the project partners, their innovative proposals will be implemented and their results disseminated.

DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

ZASNET, the managing body of RBT Meseta Ibérica, is developing a project in the area of quality and responsible tourism, mentioned above. This project aims to: Create an innovative tourist quality brand for the ZASNET and RBT Meseta Ibérica territory to increase the number of visitors: obtain the BIOSPHERE Certification of Tourist Destination through the Responsible Tourism Institute; The integrated management of resources and potential is a clear international projection: declaration as Heritage of the Immaterial Humanity of the winter masks of the Iberian border in the old Zoela territory; The valorisation and economic improvement of the services associated with the natural and cultural heritage in a logic of participative sustainable development: joint themed tourist itineraries and the Valorisation of agricultural products: the creation of the gastronomic itinerary of products and flavours to increase the number of visitors and consumers.

This project aims to value the territory and its natural and economic ecosystems in a transversal way, because this is the only way we can value people and the natural environment.



LOGISTIC FUNCTION

The ZASNET_Meseta Ibérica project, already mentioned, also includes training actions for agents in the territory, so that they can do more and better within their activities.

RBT Meseta Ibérica, together with all the activities already described, joined a program, promoted by EDP and in conjunction with various agents of the territory, namely NGOs, municipalities and schools, whose objective is to educate the 8th grade youth schooling. The Junto à Terra (JaT) (Next to the earth) Program is an education project for sustainability, where the importance of biodiversity is communicated in a conceptual line that starts from global thinking for local action. However, it participates in other environmental education actions in partnership with other partners in the territory.

Boosting the 'Environmental Educational Projects: Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica' training course for teachers in the territory (Teachers in Groups 200, 230, 420 and 520), accredited by the Scientific-Pedagogical Council.

Integration of the consortium of the project “Collaborative Laboratory: Research Mountains”, whose leader is the Mountain Research Centre (CIMO), of the IPB Polytechnic Institute of Bragança.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

Communication actions have been part of ZASNET's actions for several years, namely boosting the activities it develops individually or with partners, whether they are

publications in specialized magazines, in local newspapers, social networks (Facebook and Twitter). Alongside, RBT Meseta Ibérica participates in fairs, inside and outside the territory, namely it participates and also promotes seminars, inside and outside doors, in order to communicate the territory and its heritage.



**MÁSCARAS E RITUAIS DE INVERNO NA RESERVA
DA BIOSFERA TRANSFRONTEIRIÇA MESETA IBÉRICA**

PERSPETIVAS E OPORTUNIDADES

29 DE NOVEMBRO - 10H00

BRAGANÇA: CONSERVATÓRIO DE MÚSICA E DANÇA



<https://www.facebook.com/reservabiosferatransfronteiricamesetaiberica/>



Reserva da Biosfera Transfronteiriça
Tejo/Tajo Internacional

Tejo/Tajo International Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

GOVERNANCE

During 2019 the Tejo/Tajo International Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TTITBR) started a path of methodological organization that consolidated its functioning structure – Governing Body and Advisory Board – this last one sub-divided into different thematic groups which integrate the different partners by area of action.

The Governing Body and Advisory Board met three times, in order to approve their respective functioning regulations, as well as to define the implementation of a territorial strategy of action for 2020, of which the outlining and conception of the Territory with Life Project was part.

TERRITORIAL ACTION

Alongside this organizational component the TTITBR implemented, with the support of different partners, some physical actions framed within the following domains:



LOGISTICS/KNOWLEDGE/TRAINING

Awareness-raising actions in the civil parishes of the area of influence of the TTITBR

- ✓ What is a Biosphere Reserve?
- ✓ Which are its added values?
- ✓ Natural heritage of the TTITBR.

Pedagogical projects fostered in educational establishments.



The pedagogical project “Lets plant Water” is aimed at pre-scholar and primary school students of the municipality of Castelo Branco. Its main theme is the water cycle and aims to make the younger people more conscious of the important role trees play in the occurrence of rain.

INITIATIVES



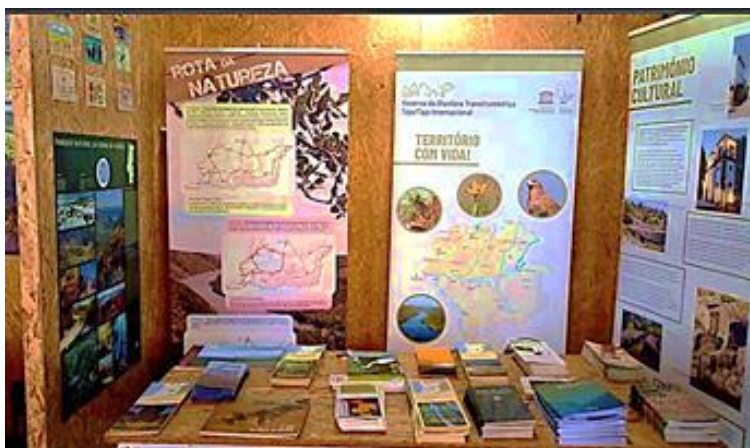
Visit of the MAB Committee
– 14 and 15 May 2019

Cubeira Estate

Sustainable hunting tourism

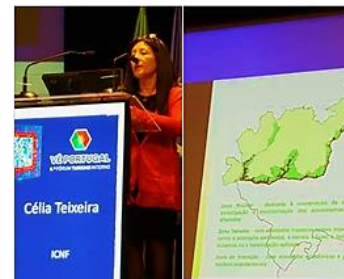
2019 MAB Committee Visit

PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS



Observanatura 2019

See Portugal – VI Internal
Tourism Forum



DISSEMINATION DISPLAY SYSTEMS



Roll screen banners stand about the TTITBR



INVESTMENT PROJECTS

Territory with Life Project – submission of the application to the Support Line for the Tourist Appreciation of the Hinterlands

Projetos de Investimento

Número: Medida: (Todas) Designação: Apenas em curso: ☐ Estado: (Todos) Procurar Limpar

Todos (1) Candidaturas incompletas (0)

Número	Medida	Designação	Investimento Aprovado	Incentivo Aprovado	Incentivo Pago	Estado	Opções
P034119	Linha de Apoio à Valorização Turística do Interior - (Aviso nº2)	TERRITÓRIO COM VIDA				Análise	

1 registo



Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve

INTRODUCTION

Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve (CVRB) is located in Portugal mainland, in the Baixo Alentejo region, with an area of 569 km² that is coincident with Castro Verde municipality limits. The vast plains of the CVRB harbours a high natural and cultural diversity, which results from the millenary human-nature relationship that characterizes this human shaped ecosystem of high natural value.

Amongst the activities carried out in the CVRB in 2019, the visit of two foreign delegations deserve mention:



A Delegation from Toyota Europe and Toyota Japan visit the CVRB on the 23rd January, during a visit to the south of Portugal aiming to better understand the challenges and best practices faced by inland territories and, in particular, the reasons that led to the UNESCO designation. Sustainability, tourism, economic development, employment, transports and future projects were subjects discussed during the visit;



A Delegation from the Luxembourg UNESCO National Commission, including Simone Beck (President of the Luxembourg UNESCO Commission), Roberto Traversini (President of the Commission for the Prosud Application for Biosphere Reserve) and



Gaëlle Tavernier (Coordinator of the Prosud Application) and Eduardo Carqueijeiro (Portuguese National MAB Committee), on the 11th and 12th of September.

During these visits, the three organizations responsible for the CVRB management (LPN, MCV and AACB) had the opportunity to present the natural and cultural values of this

UNESCO territory and the challenges faced by this territory in the promotion of a sustainable development.

GOVERNANCE ACTIONS

The Management Council, constituted by the three organizations responsible for the CVRB management (MCV - Município de Castro Verde, AACB - Associação de Agricultores do Campo Branco e LPN – Liga para a Protecção da Natureza).had coordination meetings during 2019.

CVRB funding is provided by the budgets of the organizations responsible for the CVRB management (MCV, AACB and LPN) and the partners budgets that are present in the Advisory Council and that implemented actions foreseen in the CVRB Action Plan (Agrupamento de Escolas de Castro Verde, ICNF, Futebol Clube Castrense, Associação Cortiçol, amongst others). Activities carried out for the Iberian-imperial-eagle had funding from the European Union LIFE Programme and LPN activities in powerline monitoring had private funding. Agro-environmental supports for farmers to implement friendly bird farming activities are supported by the Rural Development Plan of the Common Agriculture Policy and national funds.

On June 14th celebrations of the 2nd CVRB anniversary was carried out in a public presentation for the urban rehabilitation of Castro Verde Village.

CONSERVATION FUNCTION

AACB and LPN followed the implementation of the Agro-environmental Measures, such as the Castro Verde Zonal Plan that supports farmers to implement farming activities

which promotes the conservation of the endangered steppe bird populations and their habitats in good environmental conditions, as well as the traditional landscape.

Before breeding season started, LPN made maintenance activities in several Lesser Kestrel colonies. Under the LIFE Imperial project, LPN carried out activities to identify wildlife poisoning, namely in Red Kite dormitories, and GNR made canine searches to detect illegal use of poison in wildlife. Also under the LIFE Imperial Project scope LPN provided artificial nests for the Iberian Imperial Eagle and carried out surveillances during the breeding season to mitigate disturbance and increase population breeding success.

DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

Concerning agriculture, AACB Experimentation Trials, in partnership with IPBeja, to promote demonstration and applied research in farming cultures adapted to the region were carried out.

During 2019, CVRB product promotion focused mainly on lamb, with the implementation of the II Festival “Sabores do Borrego” (29th to 31st March) and with the promotion of lamb meat trade in local restaurants and butchers in a partnership between MCV and the Agrupamento de Produtores de Carnes do Campo Branco (meat producers association), following the Collaboration Agreement established in November 2018.

MCV also organized on Saturday biweekly basis a market entitled “Mercadinho na Praça”, to promote local products trades and short market chains. In December a “Christmas Fair” was organized with local handicraftsmen and producers, as well as a campaign to buy locally.

In 2019 took place the “Purple Carrot Fair” (20th January), “Entrudanças Festival” having water as the main theme (1st to 3rd March) and the secular “Castro Fair” (18th to 21st October), besides the monthly traditional markets.

Somincor Mining Company organized meetings and field visits under the scope of their project for the Promotion of Nature Tourism, which included the participation of the MCV and LPN. In this context, a Famtrip with international tourism officers also took place to promote the Alentejo region under the brand “Portugal Wildscapes”

LPN's Vale do Gonçálinho Environmental Education Centre and MCV Tourism Office maintained the support for visitors (individual and groups), providing visitation counselling about CVRB. LPN also organized guided birdwatching visits.

LOGISTIC FUNCTION

In education several activities to promote environmental and cultural awareness concerning the CVRB were carried out by the Agrupamento de Escolas de Castro Verde (School Organization). The Biosphere Reserve was integrated as a transversal thematic of the Castro Verde School Plan. For pre-school students (3 to 5 years) the activity "Once upon... in the Biosphere Reserve" has implemented. To promote "Cante Alentejano" UNESCO World Intangible Heritage, which is the traditional singing in the CVRB, weekly classes were provided to children from 3 to 9 years.

Under the scope of flexibility given by the Education Administration to the schools to promote local subjects, Castro Verde School Organization defined a subject entitled "Biosphere" for 1st grade students (1st, 2nd and 3rd school years), with 3 hours/week to teach the natural, cultural and socio-economics behind the CVRB designation.

The video Festival "100 Cenas", organized by the Castro Verde School Organization, with the support of the MCV and LPN, included the theme "Biosphere Reserves and climate change combat", which included the participation of videos from pre-school and 1st grade students.

In September began the school Project "Passport of the Biosphere Guide", that provide a Passport delivered to all pre-school and 1st grade students of the Castro Verde Schools. This Passport was developed by the School Organization during 2018 with the financial support of Somincor Mining Company and the institutional support of several local organizations, namely the MCV, LPN, AACB, Cortiçol Association and the Parishes of Castro Verde e Casével, S. Marcos da Ataboeira, Santa Barbara de Padrões e Entradas.

During school breaks (Easter, Summer and Christmas) MCV promote "Leisure Activities" that also included the CVRB thematic.

LPN's Vale do Gonçálinho Environmental Education Centre provided several environmental awareness activities, including birdwatching and reconnecting with nature

and cultural traditions, besides activities for school students (from pre-school to university graduates).

Natural values monitoring included actions to determine the population of several priority species of the CVRB, namely: Great Bustard (LPN e ICNF), Red-kite (LPN e SPEA), Crane (LPN e ICNF), Iberian-imperial-eagle (LPN e ICNF), Sandgrouse (ICNF), Lesser Kestrel and Roller (ISA/CEABN), Iberian-lynx (ICNF) and wild rabbit (LPN and ICNF). Breeding season monitoring was also carried out for Iberian-imperial-eagle (LPN e ICNF), Lesser Kestrel and Roller (LPN, ICNF e CEABN).

Under the scope of the traditional Castro Festivities, held from 28th to 30th June, the MCV encouraged the use of recycled cups. This initiative had the objective of promoting sustainable environmental practices in the CVRB, by reducing the production of plastic through cup reuse.

In November, from the 14th until the 16th, LPN and MCV organized the Seminar “Conservation of Birds of Prey”, under the scope of the LIFE Project, which gathered more than 100 experts from several different areas of knowledge focused on promoting the conservation of birds of prey.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

CVRB uses Facebook social network (<https://www.facebook.com/castroverdebiosfera/>), where 16 posts were made during 2019 and reached 1748 followers in 2019. As CVRB does not have a website, information has been provided at LPN's and MCV's websites.

To promote environmental subject matters awareness LPN promotes a weekly programme at the local Castrense Radio, in collaboration with the Cortiçol Association (27 broadcasts in 2019).

Several MCV's institutional participations under the CVRB scope were held in several events, namely: (i) 31st Lisbon Tourism Fair (BTL) in Lisbon; (ii) Ovibeja in Beja; (iii) Noites de Santiago in Entradas; (iv) Traditional Festivities in Santa Bárbara de Padrões.

In 2019 several marketing materials were produced namely merchandising such as cups, pencils, lanyards and t-shirts. An information leaflet about the CVRB in Portuguese and English was also produced.

During the traditional Castro Fair, held annually in October, a television program in a general Portuguese TV Chanel (TVI) was conducted having the Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve as the main theme (6 hours of broadcasting with high audience rates).

Also deserves mention the recordings for other television program of the Porto Canal TV entitled “Alentejo caiado de fresco”, devoted to UNESCO Heritages.



Public Presentation Session of the “Passport of the Biosphere Guide”.



II Festival “Sabores do Borrego” in Castro Verde to promote local lamb production.

Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve Stand in the 36th Ovibeja



Stand at the 31st Bolsa de Turismo de Lisboa

passatempobtl CASTRO VERDE

RESERVA DA BIOSFERA DA UNESCO



O SEU COPO. REUTILIZE-O!

Nas Festas de Castro'19, os copos são reutilizáveis.

Como funciona?

Peça o seu copo!
BAR OU TASQUINHA

1€

Comemore o São Pedro!

Guarde e leve de recordação ou peça o seu € de volta.

Festas de Castro'19
Ajude a cuidar do Ambiente



BIOSFERA CASTRO VERDE

Reusable cup initiative in the 2019 Castro Festivities.



Bilingual Leaflet of the Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve.

INTRODUCTION

Among the various actions developed in the last year, the following deserve special mention:



- Following the last statutory visit by the Regional Government of the Azores to Corvo, the Regional Secretary for Energy, Environment and Tourism visited, in the presence of the President of the Government, the requalification work of the Interpretation Center for Wild Birds of Corvo (CIASC), important contribution to the dynamism

of the island, which is based on the theme of bird watching, reconciling in an extraordinary way the tourist interest with the environmental issue. In addition to the opening of the new CIASC exhibition, the expansion and requalification works of the Wild Birds Rehabilitation Center of Corvo were completed, namely the creation of a recovery room, the expansion and improvement of the aviaries, as well as the installation of a new one furniture and diverse equipment.

- Within the scope of contracting with the municipalities, aiming at the installation of charging points for electric vehicles, the Government of the Azores, through the Regional Secretary for Energy, Environment and Tourism, signed a cooperation protocol with the Corvo municipality which aims at implementing awareness-raising actions and positive discrimination measures for electric vehicle users, such as spaces reserved for their parking, thus encouraging the population to adhere to electric mobility.

GOVERNANCE

- On October 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th, at the invitation of the SMILO (Small Islands Organization) association, I participated in the 3rd Annual Conference, held in the Porquerolles Islands - France. The French Fund for the World Environment, the Agency of the Coast, among others, promote the program. This aims to promote sustainability on small islands. The choice of Corvo was the result of a preliminary assessment worldwide.



- In addition to the two ordinary meetings of the Management Council for the Corvo Island Biosphere Reserve, advocated in paragraph 4 of article 54 of Regional Legislative Decree No. 15/2012 / A, of April 2, , in the scope of the elaboration of the action plans, several work meetings, between the 4 Biosphere Reserves of the Azores and, SIMBIENTE Azores, company that coordinates the elaboration of the Action Plans of these Reserves.

- Participation in the International Custody of Territory and Ecotourism Conference on Biosphere Reserves and Macaronesian Island Territories. In which we present the communication - "Custody of the Territory in the Azores". The Conference held under the Interreg CdTEcoTUR - MAC 2014-2020 program, took place between May 27 and 29, in La Palma - Canary Islands.



- Between May 14th and 15th, I participated, as Chairman of the Management Board of the Corvo Island Biosphere Reserve (PCGRBIC), in the first annual meeting of the MaB National Committee, which took place in the Tejo / Tajo Transboundary Biosphere Reserve International. During the meeting, a public session was held for the signing of the Protocol between the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Transition, the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (which chairs the MaB National Committee) and the eleven Reserves of the Portuguese Biosphere. This aims to implement the project "Promote the Development of the Territories of Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, as living sustainability laboratories, co-financed by EEAGrants.

During the aforementioned public session, the Corvo Biosphere Reserve, made a presentation, entitled “Biosphere Reserves - Testimonies”.

CONSERVATION FUNCTION

- Implementation of the Regional Plan for the Eradication and Control of Invasive Flora Species in Sensitive Areas - with particular focus on the protected areas of the Corvo Natural Park.



- Throughout 2019, as part of the LIXAZ project, the monitoring of marine litter that reaches the Azores was continued in order to follow the evolution of the litter that appears along the region's coastline, with the purpose of making a reference base for the future, in the sense of assessing whether marine waste is increasing or decreasing, and what is the real impact it has on the Azores.

- Provision of material and logistical support to the Discover AZORES Project, which takes place in Lagoons of Caldeirão, financed by the Foundation for Science and Technology, which aims to determine when the first settlers arrived in the Azores and in what climatic conditions this settlement occurred from the study of lake sediments. Researchers lead the project from CIBIO-Azores, also involving European and American researchers and universities and research centers.

- Collection of information for later availability to CIBIO / UAc, with a view to preparing the report on the Birds Directive, on the application of the provisions adopted under this directive. The objective was to create a map that represents the real distribution of each species in Corvo.

DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

- In 2019, the second “Participatory Budget of the Azores” (OP Azores) implemented was. The thematic areas chosen were Environment, Social Inclusion, Youth and Tourism. The island of Corvo was allocated the amount of € 27,000.00.



- The Regional Secretary for Energy, Environment and Tourism, delivered the first award this year, to the tourism enterprise 'Joe & Vera's Vintage Place', on the first day of the Government's statutory visit to Corvo Island. The importance of the award aims to raise awareness not only of customers, but also of employees and owners, in terms of product

selection, waste management, resource use and local consumption, which shows a more active environmental awareness, contributing to a balanced tourism development.

- Inserted in the certification process of the Azores, as a Sustainable Destination, the Natural Park of Corvo participated in September in the Forum for Monitoring the Sustainability of the Tourist Destination, as a member of the Green Team of Corvo. Last December, the Azores became the first and only archipelago in the world to certify be by EarthCheck as a sustainable tourist destination, according to the criteria of the GSTC - Global Sustainable Tourism Council Disclosure.

LOGISTIC FUNCTION



- Promotion and monitoring of the "ECO Freguesia, parish clean" competition, organized by the Regional Secretariat for Energy, Environment and Tourism, aims to distinguish the efforts of the parishes and the collaboration of the populations in cleaning, removal and forwarding to the appropriate final destination of the waste abandoned in spaces public services, including water lines and coastline.

The municipality of Corvo has achieved excellence in the last 6 years.



- Support in the placement of outdoor traps in public lighting lamps, as part of the project to monitor dry wood termites in the Azores archipelago, in order to verify their eventual distribution in urban centers.
- In August, the Corvo 2019 mission under the responsibility of IMAR / UAc, divided into two parts,

recovery of receivers (Boqueirão/Areia zone), data assessment and relocation of receivers and redesign of the network with placement of moorings, where necessary.

- Proposal / version of the Azorean Biosphere Reserves of the protocol to be established between the 11 national Biosphere Reserves, the General Secretariat of the Ministry of the Environment and the ICNF within the scope of the EEA Grants application process and the contributions to the Collaboration Protocol for development of the project “Promote the development of the territories of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, as living sustainability laboratories” financed by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (MFEED-EEA Grants 2014-2021) and by the Environmental Fund.
- Collaboration with the Agricultural Development Service of Flores and Corvo in carrying out the controls of Environmental Conditionality.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS



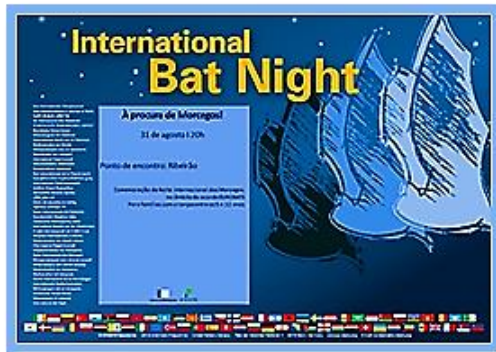
- In November, “Ecoteca do Corvo” promoted the activity called “Visit to Casa do Tempo”, part of the celebration of World Biosphere Reserve Day. The participants had the opportunity to visit a space that invites you to explore the territory and to get to know the experiences and traditions of Corvo.



- Between January 31 and February 2 the Nature Watchers of the Natural Park of Corvo participated in the XXII National Meeting of Nature Watchers and XVI Technical Days “Technology and Nature Conservation”, which took place on the island of Terceira (Azores).

- At the end of June, the International Conference “Custodia del Territorio y Ecoturismo en las Reserva de la Biosfera y Territorios Insulares de la Macaronesia” took place in the Biosphere Reserve of La Palma (Canary Islands), in which RBIC participated with the poster entitled “Corvo Biosphere Reserve: sanctuary for migratory birds! ”

Other areas not covered in the previous themes



- The Natural Park of Corvo, promoted in August, a tour for families, with observation of bats and explanation of their ecology, aiming at the celebration of the International Night of Bats, held under the EUROBATS agreement.

- Participation in the XIV Regional Meeting on Environmental Education and the Eco Schools Seminar, which took place in October on the island of São Jorge, under the theme “Environmental Education and Conservation of Natural Heritage”.



- Under the Eco Schools Program, Corvo Natural Park delivered the certificate to the municipality, resulting from the award achieved in 2019 by the Mouzinho da Silveira Basic and Secondary School.

INTRODUCTION

In 2019, the start of the exploration phase of the '*Gracióllica*' project was particularly noteworthy. With an installed capacity of 5.5 MW and the expectation of contributing to around 65% of the electricity produced on the island Graciosa coming from renewable



sources, this project includes a wind and photovoltaic production hybrid system and a storage of energy battery bank, strongly contributing to the increase in renewable sources percentage of all regional energy production.



As part of the statutory visit of the Regional Government of the Azores to the island Graciosa, which took place between the 26th and 28th of February, the Regional Secretary for Energy, Environment and Tourism visited the project that, although still in the final stage of testing, was already injecting energy in the grid.

With an investment estimated at a total value of 22.5 million euros and an expected duration of 20 years, it was recognized as regional interest, having received approximately 4.5 million euros in non-refundable subsidies. In August the respective exploration license was signed.

GOVERNANCE

- On May 14th and 15th, the Chairman of the Management Board of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve participated in the first annual meeting of the National Committee of the Man and the Biosphere (MaB) Program, which took place in the Tejo / Tajo Internacional Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

Of particular note was the public signing session of the Protocol between the General Secretariat of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Transition, the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests, I.P. (ICNF - as the body that chairs the MaB National Committee) and the 11 Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, for the development of the Project *"Promote the development of the territories of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, while living laboratory for sustainability"*, co-financed by EEAGrants.

- In 2019 the two ordinary meetings of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve Management Council were held as foreseen in the legal regime for the conservation of nature and biodiversity in the Autonomous Region of the Azores, namely on May 8 (16th meeting) and December 2 (17th meeting).

- In 2019, several working meetings took place between the four azorean biosphere reserves, Graciosa, Corvo, Flores and São Jorge islands, and SIMBIENTE AÇORES - Environmental Engineering and Management, Lda., within the scope of the preparation of the Reserves Action Plans of the Biosphere of the Autonomous Region of the Azores, as foreseen in the Resolution of the Government Council No. 65/2017 of 22 June. The respective final proposals were concluded in December having been submitted to Public Consultation, which took place between January 20 and February 28, 2020.

- In May, the support declaration for the application of the island of Porto Santo for Biosphere Reserve was sent to the Office of the Regional Secretariat for the Environment and Natural Resources of the Regional Government of Madeira.

CONSERVATION FUNCTION

- Implementation of PRECEFIAS - Regional Plan for the Eradication and Control of Invasive Plant Species in Sensitive Areas - in all protected areas, or in classification, of Natural Park of Graciosa.



- Conducting several regional and national bird censuses and monitoring nesting seabirds in the natural reserve of the islet of Praia (core area of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve).

- Collaboration with the Azores Biodiversity Group on *"Long Duration Ecological Study of Natural Forests of the Azores"*, within the Project NETBIOME ISLANDBIODIV.

- Support in the placement of outdoor traps in public lighting lamps, as part of the project to monitor dry wood termites in the Azores archipelago, in order to verify the possible distribution in urban centers.
- Within the framework of the Azorean Cetacean Stranding Network, known as RACA - Rede de Arrojamentos de Cetáceos dos Açores, marine animals are recorded on the coast of Graciosa Island, mainly cetaceans, pinnipeds and sea turtles.
- A campaign to collect seeds of endemic species *Euphorbia azorica* and *Hypericum foliosum* was carried out for the Azores Seed Bank.
- During the year 2019 was also given continuity to the monitoring work of the coastal litter in the region beaches, according to the standard criteria of the OSPAR Convention and the study of micro-plastics in those coastal areas, under the project "*Establishing a Baseline on Marine Litter in the Azores - AZORLIT*". Beach samples were also collected as part of a collaboration with the University of Porto in a study that it is carrying out on siloxanes on the beaches of the Azores.

DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

- In 2019, support was given to 2 new applications prepared under legal "system of incentives for the maintenance of traditional landscapes of the vineyard, in corrals and in terraces, and of orchards of traditional species", "integrated in natural parks of island and reserves of the biosphere". In Graciosa there have already been a total of 37 applications for the preservation of a total of 55 vineyards (17 ha) and 24 orchards of traditional species (4 ha), with an overall support of around € 42,000.00 year.



- During 2019, 2 contracts were renewed and 7 new contracts were signed with local goods and services companies for the use of the "Biosfera Açores" logo and brand, under the terms of the respective legal regulation and the legal regime for nature and biodiversity conservation in the Autonomous Region of the Azores.
- During the year 2019 the second "Participatory Budget of the Azores" (OP Azores) was presented. The thematic areas chosen were environment, culture, social inclusion, youth

and tourism. Based on an overall amount of € 1.000 000.00, it was up to Graciosa Island to decide how to grant € 40,000.00.

- Within the scope of the certification process of the Azores, as a Sustainable Destination, the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve participated in September in the Forum for Monitoring the Sustainability of the Tourist Destination of the Azores (FASDTA) as a



member of the Green Team of Graciosa, foreseen by regional legislation. In December, the Azores became the first and only archipelago in the world to be certified by EarthCheck as a sustainable tourist destination, according to the criteria of the GSTC - Global Sustainable Tourism Council.

LOGISTIC FUNCTION

- Support of Department of Oceanography and Fisheries of the University of the Azores (DOP/UAç) and Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA) in the study and monitoring of seabirds, namely, in the islets of Graciosa.

- Throughout 2019, the 9 geosites identified in Graciosa were regularly monitored, that is, the sites of geological interest that integrate the Azores Geopark (UNESCO).

- Support to the Information and Surveillance Center of the Azores (CIVISA) and the Italian company West Systems, in the maintenance of the "System of monitoring, alert and alarm for the safety of visitors of Furna do Enxofre, Graciosa".

- During 2019, several contributions were made by the Management Board of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve and their members, namely and among others:



Contributions to the document entitled "*Marine Protected Areas: Getting to Resilience - Integrating Resilience into Management Effectiveness Evaluation Frameworks (Guidelines)*", elaborate by the Coastal Resilience Working Group under the

Transatlantic Partnership Project on Marine Protected Areas (Resilience twinning project), funded by European Union;

Questionnaire on the vulnerability of ecosystems to biological invasions, developed under the European project INVALIDIS Interreg (www.interregeurope.eu/invalidis), with the objective of identifying the factors that determine the vulnerability of regional areas to the introduction and establishment of exotic species invasive (EEI);

Online form on the implementation of the Lima Action Plan, for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program Secretariat and its Worldwide Biosphere Reserve Network (2016-2025);

Letter of recommendation to the MAB Youth Forum Organizing Committee that made it possible for Ana Vitoria Magalhães to represent, again, the RB of the Azores, now in the 2019 MAB YOUTH FORUM - Committed to Biodiversity, which took place between the 15th and 18th of September at Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve, China;

Proposal/version from the Azorean Biosphere Reserve of the protocol to be established between the 11 national Biosphere Reserves, the General Secretariat of the Ministry of the Environment and the ICNF within the scope of the EEA Grants application process and the contributions to the Collaboration Protocol for development of the project "*Promoting the development of the territories of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, while living laboratory for sustainability*" financed by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (MFEEE-EEA Grants 2014-2021) and by the Environmental Fund.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

- Between January 31 and February 2 the Nature Watchers of the Graciosa Natural Park participated in the *XXII National Meeting of Nature Watchers and XVI Technical Days "Technology and Nature Conservation"*, which took place on the island of Terceira (Azores - Portugal).

- Between the 27th and 29th of June the International Conference "*Custodia del Territorio y Ecoturismo en las Reservas de la Biosfera y Territorios Insulares de la Macaronesia*" took place in the Biosphere Reserve of La Palma (Canary Islands), in which Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve participated with a poster about the "*Water Architecture of Graciosa Island*".



- During the summer period, guided visits were made to the natural reserve of the islet of Praia in order to raise awareness among the local community about the importance of conserving this unique biodiversity hotspot.



- In November, '*Ecoteca from Graciosa*' carried out an activity called "*Preserving the Past*", integrated in the celebration of the *International Day for Biosphere Reserves*. There was a guided visit to the House Museum (store) of João Tomáz Bettencourt, where you can learn about the daily

life of the Graciosa society from the end of the 19th century to the mid-80s of the 20th century.

- In December, an exhibition entitled "*Biosphere Reserves*" was exhibited at the Municipal Library of Silves (Portugal) by the Network of Libraries associated with the UNESCO National Commission.

OTHER



In November 23rd took place the '*Graciosa Windmills Trail*' race that hosted the 2019 Trail Cup final of Portugal.



INTRODUCTION

Among the various actions developed in the last year, the following deserve special mention:

- Preparation of the Biosphere Reserve of Flores Island 1st periodic evaluation report, recommended in Article 9 of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which was sent to the Secretariat of the MaB Program in Paris by the UNESCO National Commission.



- Implementation of awareness-raising actions and positive discrimination measures for users of electric vehicles on the island of Flores, through cooperation protocols signed by the Government of the Azores, through the Regional Secretary of Energy, Environment and Tourism, with the municipalities of the island for the installation of charging points for electric vehicles, thus promoting the adherence to electric mobility by the population



GOVERNANCE

- In addition to the two ordinary meetings of the Ilha das Flores Biosphere Reserve Management Council, advocated in paragraph 4 of article 54 of Regional Legislative



Decree No. 15/2012 / A, of April 2, in the scope of the preparation of the 1st Periodic Evaluation Report, other working meetings of this Management Council with various entities and population of the Island in order to consult and collect contributions for the 1º periodic evaluation report.



- Also in 2019, several work meetings took place between the four reserves of the biosphere of the Azores, Graciosa Islands, Corvo, Flores and São Jorge, and SIMBIENTE AÇORES - Engenharia e Gestão Ambiental, Lda., as part of the preparation of the Action Plans of the Biosphere Reserves of the

Autonomous Region of the Azores, provided for in the Resolution of the Government Council No. 65/2017 of June 22.

- Participation in the International Custody of Territory and Ecotourism Conference on Biosphere Reserves and Macaronesian Island Territories. The Conference held under the Interreg CdTEcoTUR - MAC 2014-2020 program, took place between May 27 and 29, in La Palma - Canary Islands.

- Participation, as Chairman of the Management Board of the Biosphere Reserve of



Flores Island, in the two meetings of the MaB National Committee. It should be noted in particular the first one held in the Tejo/Tajo International Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve on 14 and 15 May and which in its programme was particularly highlighted by the public session signing the Protocol between the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Transition, the

Institute for Conservation of Nature and Forests, I.P. (as a body that chairs the MaB National Committee) and the 11 Reserves of the Portuguese Biosphere, for the

development of the Project "Promoting the development territories of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, as living sustainability laboratories", co-financed by EEAGrants.

- Issuance of a declaration of support for the application of the Island of Porto Santo the Biosphere Reserve.
- Participation in the 2nd Tourism Meeting of the islands of Flores and Corvo.
- Participation in the public clarification session of the Tourism Management Program of the Autonomous Region of the Azores (POTRAA).

CONSERVATION ACTIONS



- Implementation of the Regional Plan for the Eradication and Control of Invasive Flora Species in Sensitive Areas - with particular focus on the core area of the Biosphere Reserve that coincides with the Natural Reserve area of Morro Alto and Pico da Sé of the Parque Natural das Flores.

• Conducting various censuses, namely, Azores Bat Census, Wood Pigeon Census (AZORPI Project) and Garajaus Census (tern).



- During 2019, work was also carried out on monitoring coastal waste on beaches in the Region, according to the standard criteria of the OSPAR Convention and the study on microplastics in these same coastal areas, within the scope of the project "Establishing a Baseline on Marine Litter in the Azores - AZORLIT". Beach samples were also collected as part of a collaboration with the University of Porto in a study that it is carrying

out on siloxanes on the beaches of the Azores.

- Continuation of seed collection and georeferencing campaigns of endemic species for The Azores Seed Bank.

- Collaboration with the Azorean Biodiversity Group in the “Long-Term Ecological Study of the Natural Forests of the Azores”, within the scope of the NETBIOME ISLANDBIODIV Project.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

- Within the scope of the certification process of the Azores, as a Sustainable Destination, participation in the Forum for Monitoring the Sustainability of the Tourist Destination Azores (FASDTA) as a member of the Green Team of Flores Island, foreseen in the Resolution of the Government Council No. 58/2018, of 15 May and Order No. 1039/2019 of 16 July. In December, the Azores became the first and only archipelago in the world to be certified by EarthCheck as a sustainable tourist destination, according to the criteria of the GSTC - Global Sustainable Tourism Council.



- Support for the promotion of the “Biosfera Açores” brand, during the year 2019, 2 new contracts were signed with agricultural products companies for the use of the “Biosfera Açores” logo and brand, as regulated in Ordinance No. 27/2011 (Regulation of the “Biosfera Açores” brand) and DLR no. 15/2012 / A, of 2 April (Legal regime for the conservation of nature and biodiversity in the Autonomous Region of the Azores).
- Support in the promotion and attribution of the Miosótis Azores Award - Green Accommodations - which aims to promote sustainable tourism and reward good environmental practices in tourism enterprises in the Azores.
- Dissemination and support for Eco Schools, an international program that aims to encourage actions and recognize the quality work developed by schools, within the scope of Environmental Education / Education for Sustainable Development.

LOGISTIC ACTIONS



- Promotion and monitoring of the “ECO Freguesia, parish clean” competition, organized by the Regional Secretariat for Energy, Environment and Tourism, aims to distinguish the efforts of the parishes and the collaboration of the populations in cleaning, removal and forwarding to the appropriate final destination of the waste abandoned in spaces public services, including water lines and coastline.
- Support to the University of the Azores, in the placement of outdoor traps in public lighting lamps, within the scope of the dry wood termites monitoring project to in the Azores archipelago, in order to verify their eventual distribution in urban centers.
- Proposal / version of the Azorean Biosphere Reserves of the protocol to be established between the 11 national Biosphere Reserves, the General Secretariat of the Ministry of the Environment and the ICNF within the scope of the EEA Grants application process and the contributions to the Collaboration Protocol for development of the project “Promote the development of the territories of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, as living sustainability laboratories” financed by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (MFEED-EEA Grants 2014-2021) and by the Environmental Fund.
- Collaboration with the Agrarian Development Service of Flores and Corvo in the execution of controls of Environmental Conditionality.
- Quarterly monitoring of the water quality of the lagoons of Flores Island, coordinated by the Laboratory of the Department of Water Resources and Spatial Planning - Regional Directorate for the Environment. The study aims to create an information base to support a more targeted and effective management of areas in the basin that pose a greater environmental risk associated with the process of eutrophication of the seven lagoons of Flores (some of them RAMSAR site).
- Support to the “Roseate Tern LIFE Recovery Project” project team (LIFE14 NAT / UK / 000394), which visited the seabird colonies on the islets around Flores Island.

- Support in the implementation of the Fajãzinha Geomorphological Instability Process Monitoring System (AzMonirisk) as well as in the Parish of Lajedo (DecisionAlarm).
- Support and implementation of various actions to promote, educate and raise environmental awareness, with emphasis on the Parque Aberto, Parque Escola, Eco Schools, Azores Entre-Mares and SOS Cagarro campaigns.
- Support to the Azorean Hydrometeorological Network.
- Research support “Tracking European Eel spawning migration from the Azores”.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

- Between June 27th and 29th, RBIF participated with a poster on the “Valuation of spaces of tourist interest” in the International Conference "Custodia del Territorio y Ecoturismo en las Reservas de la Biosfera y Territorios Insulares de la Macaronesia".
- Elaboration of a article about the Ilha das Flores Biosphere Reserve to be included in the 2nd Newsletter of the MaB Biosphere Reserve.
- Participation in the XIV Regional Meeting on Environmental Education and the Eco Schools Seminar, which took place in São Jorge in October.



OTHER AREAS



- Between the 13th and 15th of September, the trail event “Extreme West Atlantic Trail Adventure” was held on the island of Flores.



- Activities commemorating the 10th anniversary of RBIF in conjunction with the communities of the island.
- Conducting activities with the students of the School of Flores island on Children's Day (June 1) and on the International Day of Biosphere Reserves (November 3).
- Beginning of the schedule of actions to be developed within the LIFE AZORES NATURA IP and LIFE BEETLES projects.

INTRODUCTION

In 2019 the BR managed a series of continuous operational works, namely:



Maintenance of trails, viewpoints and signage inserted within the classified áreas

Collection of coastal waste in urban áreas and Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo;

Cleaning and monitoring of water lines;

Nature Conservation Actions;

Promotion of environmental education activities.

Throughout the year the BR supported and followed the elaboration processes of the Management Plans of the São Jorge Island Natural Park, Action Plan of the Biosphere Reserve of the Fajãs São Jorge and Integrated Program for Development of Fajãs de São Jorge.

GOVERNANCE



Holding of two ordinary meetings of the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve Management Council, foreseen in article 54º, paragraph 4, of the DLR no. 15/2012/A of april 2, namely on January 15 with 12 participants and 11 guests, and may 23 with 8 participants and 4 guests.

Participation in an ordinary meeting of the National Committee of the Man and the Biosphere Program (MaB), established by Order n.º 9051/2015 of August 13 and as determined in article 9º of its Internal Functioning Regulation, on May 14 and 15 in the Tejo / Tajo International Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, in Castelo Branco. Highlight for the public signing session of the Protocol between the General Secretariat of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Transition, the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests, I.P. (ICNF - as the body that chairs the MaB National Committee) and the 11 Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, for the development of the Project *“Promote the development of the territories of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, while living laboratory for sustainability”*, co-financed by EEAGrants.

Participation in the process of alteration of the Planning Plan for the Coast of São Jorge Island.

Participation in several work meetings between the four biosphere reserves of the Azores and SIMBIENTE AZORES – Engineering and Environmental Management, Lda., in the context of the elaboration of the Plans of Action of the Biosphere Reserves of the RAA, advocated in the Council Resolution of Government No. 65/2017 of June 22, 2017.



Participation in the XIV Regional Meeting of Environmental Education and Eco-Schools Seminar, which took place in October in São Jorge.

Support declaration for the 10-year periodic review of the Flores Biosphere Reserve. Issuance of a support declaration of for the application of the Island of Porto Santo the Biosphere Reserve.

São Jorge Island Natural Park participated in the 1st Regional Meeting of Tourism in the Azores, between April 11 and 14, in Velas (São Jorge), with a communication on “Natural potentialities and their utilization in an integrated and sustainable development perspective”.

CONSERVATION FUNCTION

Implementation of PRECEFIAS – Regional Plan for the Eradication and Control of Invasive Plant Species in Sensitive Areas – in all protected areas of Natural Park of São Jorge.



Collection of seeds of endemic species for the Azores Seed Bank [F5].

Implementation of several papers related to the approval of the Life Application – "LIFE VIDALIA – Valorization and Innovation Directed to Azorina and Lotus in the Azores Islands", a program of valorization and innovation that allows the conservation of endemic species *Azorina vidalii* and *Lotus Azoricus*.



Start of work related to the implementation of the Life Application "LIFE IP AZORES NATURA - Active Protection and Integrated Management in natura 2000 network" (LIFE17 IPE/PT/00010).

DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

In 2019, support was provided to 10 new applications elaborated under the Regional Regulatory Decree No. 24/2014/A of 15 December, which approves the "system to maintain the production of vineyard, in corrals and terraces, and of traditional species, in protected landscape areas and coastal fajãs, integrated in the natural parks of the Island and biosphere reserves. " In São Jorge there have already been a total of 37 applications for the preservation of vines and orchards of traditional species (27,4 ha), with a global support attributed to about €37,500.00 year.

Implementation of the regulation on the movement of motor vehicles in Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo and the section of the PR1SJO trail, approved by Ordinance No. 59/2018 of 4th june. Assigned 34 individual licenses excluding special ones.

Support the promotion of the “Azores Biosphere”, trademark, regulated in Administrative Rule n.º 27/2011 (Regulation of the “Azores Biosphere” brand) and Regional Legislative Decree n.º 15/2012/A, of april 2 (Legal regime for the conservation of nature and biodiversity in the Autonomous Region of the Azores). Request for use of the brand by the tourist resort “Make it Happen”.

Promotion and attribution in the Island of São Jorge of the “Miosotis Azores Award” which aims to promote sustainable tourism and reward environmental practices in Azores tourist developments. 3 new holiday rentals enrolled.

During the year 2019 the second "*Participatory Budget of the Azores*" (OP Azores) was presented. The thematic areas chosen were environment, culture, social inclusion, youth and tourism. Based on an overall amount of € 1 000 000,00, it was up to São Jorge Island to decide how to grant € 78 500,00.

Within the scope of the certification process of the Azores, as a Sustainable Destination, the Natural Park of São Jorge participated in September in the Forum for Monitoring the Sustainability of the Tourist Destination of the Azores (FASDTA) as a member of the Green Team of São Jorge. In December, the Azores became the first and only archipelago in the world to be certified by EarthCheck as a sustainable tourist destination, according to the criteria of the GSTC - Global Sustainable Tourism Council.



LOGISTIC FUNCTION

Conducting various Census (Bats Census, the Wood Pigeon (AZORPI Project), Terns, Common Birds (CAC) and Common Buzzard).

Promotion and follow-up of the “ECO Parish, Clean Parish” Competition, organized by the Regional Secretariat for Energy, Environment and Tourism, aiming to distinguish the efforts of the parishes and the collaboration of the populations in the cleaning, removal and referral to the final destination of abandoned waste in spaces including water lines and coastlines.

Collaboration with University of the Azores, in the study and monitoring of the lagoon of Fajã Cubres and Caldeira de Santo Cristo, notably for water analysis.



Conducting various actions of promotion, education and environmental awareness, highlighting the programs Open Park, School Park, Eco-Schools and Azores Entre-Mares.

Collaboration with the Regional Director of Sea Affairs with the local operationalization of the Azores Cetacean Network (RACA), reporting the boldness and developing the necessary steps

Collaboration with the São Jorge Agrarian Development Service in the execution of the annual Environmental Conditionality controls.



Collaboration with University of the Azores for the study and monitoring of termites on the Island of São Jorge, with the placement of traps [F8].

Conducting various activities in partnership with the Geoparque Azores Association, notably in the monitoring of Geossites and several celebrations such as World Earth Day and European Geoparks Week.

Support to the Hydrometeorological Network of the Azores.

Support to the Permanent Station Network of the Autonomous Region of the Azores (REPRAA).

In april was sent a technical opinion for the preparation of the proposal for a collaboration protocol between the 11 Biosphere Reserves, the General Secretariat of the Ministry of the Environment and the ICNF for the preparation and implementation of an application to the EEA Grants.

In june was completed the questionnaire about the implementation of the Lima Action Plan in the Biosphere Reserve of Fajãs São Jorge, requested by the MaB Secretariat.

Letter of recommendation to the MAB Youth Forum Organizing Committee that made it possible for Ana Vitoria Magalhães to represent, again, the RB of the Azores, now in the

2019 MAB YOUTH FORUM - Committed to Biodiversity, which took place between the 15th and 18th of September at Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve, China.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

Contributed to the elaboration of article on the magazine "Pingo de Lava", edition of the Association Os Montanheiros.

Elaboration of a panel on the Biosphere Reserve of Fajãs of São Jorge that was exhibited in June in the Las Palmas Biosphere Reserve.

Elaboration of article about Biosphere Reserve of Fajãs of São Jorge to integrate in the 2nd Newsletter Biosphere Reserves MaB.

Between January 31 and February 2 the Nature Watchers of the São Jorge Natural Park participated in the *XXII National Meeting of Nature Watchers and XVI Technical Days "Technology and Nature Conservation"*, which took place on the island of Terceira (Azores - Portugal).



SANTANA MADEIRA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

INTRODUCTION

Since June 2011, Santana - Madeira Biosphere Reserve is part of the Biosphere Reserves World Network and is managed by the Santana Municipality (Madeira Island). In addition to the continuity given to projects in development, Santana's Biosphere Reserve outlined local action strategies in accordance with the guidelines defined by UNESCO. This Reserve has been continuously viewed by local players as an added value and a resource. As an example, several actions were carried out, although not being organized by the Reserve itself, had as central core the “biosphere reserve”.

GOVERNANCE

Meeting with Madeira's Electrical Company. The Municipality of Santana intends to make an investment of 200.000,00€ in order to replace lamp bulbs and other public equipment, therefore obtaining a higher electric power efficiency which will allow an annual consumption reduction around 27%.

Presence at the 8th meeting of the MaB National Committee on May 14th and 15th, at the international transborder biosphere reserve Tejo/Tajo. A cooperation protocol was signed between the Environmental Secretariat (Secretaria Geral do Ministério do Ambiente e Transição Energética, ICNF) and the 11 existing biosphere reserves in Portugal, in order to develop the project “Promote the territory development regarding the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves”, as a mean of sustainable living territories.

9th Meeting of the MaB National Committee, which took place on the 19th of November, at ICNF headquarters, in Lisbon.

CONSERVATION FUNCTION

Awareness campaign “Apanhar SóLixo” (pick up litter). For this project there was a partnership with a local school, EB1/PE/C from São Jorge, while



organized by the environmental and sustainability department of a Lisbon university “Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade Nova de Lisboa”.

The aim was to bring awareness towards the global problem that is trash in the Ocean.



European Maritime Day in My Country

Alongside with Santana Municipality, this was an initiative by local school from São Jorge, “Escola Básica dos 2.º e 3.º ciclos”. The cleaning effort of the beach at São Jorge had the guidance of the Madeira Oceanic Observatory, with a previous introduction about the impact of plastic among sea birds and whales.



Recycled Fashion Show “The Oceans and the Biosphere Reserve”

Had county's elementary schools and social centers participation. Adoption of practices for selective waste gathering and managing recycled materials to make clothes. This activity took place within the context of Environment Day celebrations.



Thatching of typical houses

Santana City Hall invested in 2019 47.000 euros recovering 11 typical houses, a continuous effort to recover and adding value to local heritage.



Compadres Festivities – this year's theme: International Year of the Indigenous Languages

In Santana Municipality and at the Region itself, the official opening of the Carnival festivities happens with the Compadres Festivity. This popular manifestation was started by local people, for the people, and as a means to relief the hardship of daily life, from harvesting the land.



Roller skate international tournament “Biosfera Roller Skate”n 2019, 198 athletes from 22 Clubs originated from 7 countries, participated in this speed skating event.



Awareness action “Forests aren't just Trees!”

In order to celebrate World's Forest Day and World's Water Day, the Biosphere Reserve in partnership with Madeira University, promoted the awareness event for elementary schools' students, from 3rd and 4th grades: “Forests aren't just Trees!”.

Awareness action “Persistent Organic Polluters”

In partnership with Madeira's Oceanic Observatory, 70 high school students took part in this awareness talk.



COMMUNICATION AND DISCLOSURE ACTIONS



World Tourism Day

Promotion of the territory. Performance by local music group Triolá, inspired by music concerts concept Ecomusicalis, as well as, distribution of leaflets about the Reserve at City Hall, to locals and visitors alike.

7th edition of the themed photography competition “Traditions of our local people”

This year, in strict cooperation with Santana's “Casa da Cultura” and FNAC Madeira, the goal was to pay homage to the ways of life and traditions of Santana Municipality.



Tourism advertising in Goldenbook Madeira / Porto Santo

High standard monthly magazine with 40.000 published copies in Portuguese and English, is distributed at 4- and 5-star hotels in Madeira and Porto Santo islands, and available at the guest's rooms, all year round. Santana

Municipality is featured in a 6 pages article, where the Biosphere Reserve is given the promotional highlights.



Tourism promotion of the Municipality

Distribution of cardboard cards to visitors with QR CODE leading to the municipality YouTube official online channel.

Exhibition disclosing UNESCO's national network of Biosphere Reserves

Itinerary exhibition on display after the raising of the Blue Flag at Foz da Ribeira of Faial Bathing Complex.



Display of Santana's Biosphere Reserve - 10th edition of the national seminar for geography teachers. The seminar was promoted by the geography teachers association, with focus in the theme: *"Insularity, Territory Planning e Risks"*. 72 teachers from all over Portugal attended the event.



Students visit from Madeira University. Within the ecotourism master degree of the Madeira University, students visited Santana to get acquainted with the Biosphere Reserve. They were accompanied by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council vice-president and member of IUCN's *"Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group"*.

Portuguese National Committee of the UNESCO MAB Programme

