

The Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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National Report for
the Convention on
Biological Diversity

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Sixth National Report

Section I. Information on the targets being pursued at the national level

Country

Portugal

National Targets

Establish the Fundamental Nature Conservation Network and the National System of Classified Areas, including the National Protected Areas Network

Rationale for the National Target

The preservation of the most significant values of the natural heritage continues to justify the existence of a set of areas subject to a special legal status of protection and management, which allows the application of sustainable territorial and local development policies, in order to guarantee the safeguarding natural values and promoting the rational use of the values there, without losing sight of the objectives of nature conservation and biodiversity

EN

Level of application

Jurisdiction

National / Federal

Relevance of National Targets to Aichi Targets

Aichi Target components

5. Loss of habitats
11. Protected areas
12. Preventing extinctions
14. Essential ecosystem services

Relevant documents and information

Other relevant website address or attached documents

[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001](#)
[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030](#)

Develop specific actions for the conservation and management of species and habitats throughout the national territory, as well as for safeguarding and enhancing the landscape heritage and notable elements of the geological, geomorphological and paleontological heritage

Rationale for the National Target

The need to safeguard the natural heritage that involves promoting concrete actions, throughout the national territory, specifically designed for the conservation and management of species and habitats of special significance, preferably in situ and privileging an integrated approach, giving priority to those who are most seriously threatened.

EN

Level of application

Jurisdiction

National / Federal

Relevance of National Targets to Aichi Targets

Aichi Target components

5. Loss of habitats

7. Areas under sustainable management
9. Invasive Alien Species
12. Preventing extinctions
15. Ecosystem resilience
17. NBSAPs

Relevant documents and information

Other relevant website address or attached documents

[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001](#)
[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030](#)

Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage of areas integrated in the Natura 2000 network

Level of application

Jurisdiction

National / Federal

Relevance of National Targets to Aichi Targets

Aichi Target components

2. Integration of biodiversity values
5. Loss of habitats
11. Protected areas
13. Agricultural biodiversity
17. NBSAPs

Relevant documents and information

Other relevant website address or attached documents

[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030](#)
[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001](#)

Improve coordination and cooperation between central, regional and local administration

Rationale for the National Target

The implementation of the National Nature Conservation Strategy action guidelines requires close institutional cooperation between central, regional and local administration. The management of protected areas, although corresponding to the State's constitutional duty to safeguard and enhance the natural heritage, demands articulation with the local authorities in whose territory they are inserted. Also the legal regime applicable to the areas integrated in the Natura Network process and to which there are no overlapping protected areas, refers to the responsibilities of the municipalities themselves in protecting the natural values in question, namely through their territorial management

EN

Level of application

Jurisdiction

National / Federal

Relevance of National Targets to Aichi Targets

Aichi Target components

2. Integration of biodiversity values

Relevant documents and information

Other relevant website address or attached documents

[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001](#)
[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030](#)

Intensify international cooperation

Rationale for the National Target

The challenges in terms of nature conservation and biodiversity are not limited to one country, assuming an internationally and even planetary dimension, which is why it is important to value Portugal's active participation in international cooperation processes

EN

Level of application

Jurisdiction

National / Federal

Relevance of National Targets to Aichi Targets

Aichi Target components

5. Loss of habitats
7. Areas under sustainable management
8. Pollution
9. Invasive Alien Species
10. Vulnerable ecosystems
11. Protected areas
Extinction of known threatened species has been prevented
14. Essential ecosystem services
15. Ecosystem resilience
17. NBSAPs

Relevant documents and information

Other relevant website address or attached documents

[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001](#)
[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030](#)

Promote education and training on nature conservation and biodiversity issues and ensure information, awareness and participation of civil society

Rationale for the National Target

Public participation in the discussion of nature conservation policy and in the very actions that need to be stimulated and developed depends, to a large extent, on access to information, without which an informed intervention is not possible. Thus, raising awareness and providing the Portuguese with basic knowledge on biodiversity issues and actions leading to their sustainability are fundamental actions

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Level of application

Jurisdiction

National / Federal

Relevance of National Targets to Aichi Targets

Aichi Target components

1. Awareness of biodiversity values
2. Integration of biodiversity values

Relevant documents and information

Other relevant website address or attached documents

[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030](#)
[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001](#)

Promote scientific research and knowledge about the natural heritage, as well as the monitoring of species, habitats and ecosystems

Rationale for the National Target

The nature and biodiversity conservation policy must be based on solid scientific and technical knowledge of the natural heritage, its geographical distribution, relevance and evolution. Adequate scientific and technical knowledge will enable to decide and sustain responses to specific problems in the area of nature conservation and biodiversity, so research and innovation geared to nature conservation policy priorities, including bridging, must be strengthened in order to fill knowledge gaps.

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Level of application

Jurisdiction

National / Federal

Relevance of National Targets to Aichi Targets

Aichi Target components

19. Biodiversity knowledge

Relevant documents and information

Other relevant website address or attached documents

[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001](#)
[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030](#)

Promote the enhancement of protected areas and ensure the conservation of their natural, cultural and social heritage

Rationale for the National Target

With a view to promoting sustainable local development, it is necessary to promote within the protected areas the appropriate specific actions for nature conservation and to guarantee a rigorous and balanced territorial management, respecting the objectives of each protected area and ordering the occupation of space, in order to safeguard the environmental values present and to promote the adequate location of the activities necessary to ensure the economic and social development of the populations

EN

Level of application

Jurisdiction

National / Federal

Relevance of National Targets to Aichi Targets

Aichi Target components

- 1. Awareness of biodiversity values
- 2. Integration of biodiversity values
- 5. Loss of habitats
- 10. Vulnerable ecosystems
- 11. Protected areas
- 12. Preventing extinctions
- 13. Agricultural biodiversity
- 18. Traditional knowledge

Relevant documents and information

Other relevant website address or attached documents

[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001](#)
[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030](#)

Promote the integration of the nature conservation policy and the principle of the sustainable use of biological resources in the spatial planning policy and in the different sectoral policies

Rationale for the National Target

The effective preservation of the natural heritage and the sustainable use of natural resources are factors of national development

EN

Level of application

Jurisdiction

National / Federal

Relevance of National Targets to Aichi Targets

Aichi Target components

- 2. Integration of biodiversity values
- 17. NBSAPs

Relevant documents and information

Other relevant website address or attached documents

[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001](#)
[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030](#)

Section II. Implementation measures, their effectiveness, and associated obstacles and scientific and technical needs to achieve national targets

Communication and Education actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Mainland Portugal

The National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001(ENCNB) comprises a set of ten strategic options, which unfold in a wide range of actions, two of which related to promotion, education and training.

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Raising awareness has been assumed as a fundamental component of a more sustainable model of society, and essential for the exercise of full citizenship, which seeks to preserve the environment.

Since 2015, several initiatives have been developed to raise awareness about nature conservation and natural values.

Some of these initiatives were developed and were promoted either by the central and local government, or by other actors, namely universities and NGOs.

Some of these initiatives were developed taking into account the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy for 2020, and the Local Agenda 21, and have been implemented at national, regional and local level. Through these initiatives, information about biodiversity and nature conservation is disseminated in schools and local communities.

In 2017, the National Environmental Education Strategy was adopted. (ENEA 2020)

Principles of sustainable development have been included in the curricula of different educational levels and also in the curricula of vocational training in forestry.

The municipalities were great promoters of environmental awareness actions among local communities, with the aim of informing and elucidating people about environmental problems and their possible solutions, seeking to transform citizens into active participants in the protection of natural values.

Local authorities, schools, universities, NGOs, and even the civil society, have played a very important role in boosting projects and actions about nature conservation and biodiversity. Some actions were aimed at creating eco-friendly practices, especially related to recycling, while other actions were more focused on nature conservation, for instance "Pateira de Fermentelos", "BIO Generation" and the "Eco-schools Program".

The ICNF promoted a wide range of activities related to the conservation of nature and forests: training sessions, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, communication campaigns, and field activities, such as fauna and flora observation, tree planting, Open Park Day, among others.

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores, the Governmental Department of the Environment coordinates several educational programs and campaigns, about many themes, which include the protected areas and nature conservation - biodiversity and geodiversity. The two main education programs are promoted by the Island Natural Parks, namely the "Open Park" (Parque Aberto) and the "School Park" (Parque Escola). The Open Park programme aggregates all the activities related to the protected areas of Island Natural Parks, which can be done in partnership with other entities and are aimed at the population in general. The specific objectives of this programme are: to disseminate and promote the natural heritage of the Azores, through awareness and conservation actions of scientific and socio-cultural character and to promote good practices for sustainability.

The Regional Curriculum for Basic Education of the Azores - CREB, formalized by Regional Regulatory Decree No. 17/2011/A, integrates the perspective of Education for Sustainable Development and also the valorization of the "Açorianity", with native and endemic biodiversity has one of the aspects, supported by the pedagogical resources produced by the Governmental Department of the Environment, such as the Azorean Biodiversity Kit.

There are several promotional campaigns and educational actions specifically about biodiversity, such as S.O.S. Cagarro, Azores Entre Mares, World Biodiversity Day, World Wetlands Day, and some more indirectly, such as Junior Nature Rangers, Young Reporters for the Environment, Eco-municipalities, as well as all campaigns related to waste management and the problem of microplastics.

Madeira Autonomous Region

The adult training on biodiversity is also important, and the Environmental Department organizes the "Environmental Education Meeting and Eco-Schools Regional Seminar" every two years, where the theme in 2018 was specifically about the protected areas and its management.

IFCN's environmental education activities in the period 2015-2019 (988 activities/29.101 attendees):

2014/2015: 227 activities/4373 attendees;

2015/2016: 267 activities/7328 attendees;

2016/2017: 181 activities/4264 attendees;

2017/2018: 181 activities/6271 attendees;

2018/2019: 132 activities/6865 attendees.

International Bats Night organized in Madeira island (2018).

"School competition GEA - Mother earth, in the period 2015/2016 to 2018/2019:

- 148 schools/375 proposals presented."

LIFE Capacity Building (LIFE14 CAP/PT/000004) - Portugal Capacity Building for better use of LIFE (2016-2018)

Forest Fire Prevention Campaign 2018

National Target(s)

Promote education and training on nature conservation and biodiversity issues and ensure information, awareness and participation of civil society

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

No formal mechanisms were implemented to measure the effectiveness of the actions implemented. With the actions taken, efforts were made to promote a change in attitude and individual and collective behaviors that are more respectful of the natural heritage. Thus, it is a continuous process that did not end in the reporting period.

The assessment is done with satisfaction reports to participants in the Open Park activities and to teachers in the School Park activities. In addition to the aforesaid, it is important to mention the analysis of the statistical results obtained and submitted by the technicians responsible for the activities.

In the Azores, the campaigns (Entre mares; SOS Cagarro; marine litter events, such as beach, underwater and coastal clean ups) are annually monitored through the collection of indicators, such as number of volunteers, entities involved and number of events.

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Relevant websites, links, and files

[curricula educacional levels](#)
[curricula vocacional education](#)

[Eco-escolas](#)

[Pateira de Fermentelos](#)

[Geração BIO](#)

[Education Azores](#)

[Biomar](#)

[Open Park programme](#)

[Madeira environmental education reports.docx](#)

Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken

In the Azores: The implementation of the measure was taken for the required target population and in the appropriate quantity. However, a difficulty that may not have allowed even greater results (greater number of participants) may be related to the territorial discontinuity (9 islands). There is a very different ratio between the islands, in terms of school population and population in general, which makes it difficult to get a larger number of participants on the most populated islands. There is the need to better assess the behavioural changes of the different target groups.

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Financing actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Mainland Portugal

Regarding to mainland Portugal, the financial incentives majorly aims to compensate landowners and farmers in the areas covered by the application of the Birds and Habitats Directives, to contribute to the effective management of Natura 2000 Network and to establish technical and financial support for maintenance and recovery of biodiversity and nature.

A significant source of financial support is granted by the CAP, specially CAP's 2nd pillar, being most of the incentives related to agri-environmental measures and Natura 2000 payments. This financial support has the objective to compensate farmers and landowners on the increasing costs and loss of income as result of the measures implementation.

These measures are mainly related with:

- the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives;
- the maintenance of important ecosystems and protected habitats;
- the protection of priority protected species;
- the prevention and control of invasive alien species (IAS);
- the promotion of less harmful agricultural activities;
- etc.

Besides CAP, there are other European Structural and Investment Funds relevant to nature conservation and biodiversity protection, such as the LIFE programme, POSEUR, Interreg.

Regarding to the LIFE programme, there were developed several projects during the time period of the 6th National Report, with shared financial support from the EU and national funds. We can see the list of LIFE projects and their funds below:

Project	Total investment	EU Funds	National Funds
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Project LIFE Iberlince (LIFE 10 NAT/ES/570)	592 791,00 €	364 981,42 €	227 809,58 €
Project LIFE Saramugo (LIFE 13 NAT/PT/786)	44 899,00 €	22 449,00 €	22 450,00 €
Project LIFE Imperial (LIFE 13 NAT/PT/1300)	22 684,00 €	17 013,00 €	5 671,00 €
Project LIFE RUPIS (LIFE 14 NAT/PT/855)	98 082,00 €	73 561,00 €	24 521,00 €
Project LIFE MONTADO & CLIMATE (LIFE 15 CCA PT 000043)	303 681,00 €	180 899,00	122 822,00 €
Project LIFE Berlengas (LIFE 13 NAT/PT/458)	224 518,00 €	112 259,00 €	112 259,00 €

These project sums a total of 1 286 655,00 € in direct investment in biodiversity protection measures.

Iberlince is the third LIFE project approved by the European Commission that opts for the conservation of the Iberian lynx. After the results obtained in the project LIFE Nature "Conservation and reintroduction of the Iberian lynx in Andalusia" (2006-2011), Portugal and five Spanish administrations have joined this new LIFE project of transnational character, betting for the conservation of this emblematic species and its habitat as it has never been done earlier. The Portuguese Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF), Extremadura, partner participating in the previous project, Castilla - La Mancha, Region of Murcia, national parks and Ministry of environment and spatial planning, together with the Department of building and housing, Ministry of agriculture, fishing and Rural development and the Agency of environment and water of the Committee of Andalucía are committed to start the recovery of the Lynx's' historical distribution area and will work hard over the years to achieve this. Moreover, nearly a dozen of non-governmental organizations such as WWF, SECCEM, Foundation CBD-HABITAT, IBERLINX association, ADENEX, APROCA and FAC have joined this Project (these two last ones related to the hunting sector).

Regarding to LIFE Saramugo, the aim is to protect one of the most endangered freshwater fish species in Portugal and the Iberian Peninsula: the *Anaocypris hispanica*. This species is classified as "Endangered" on a global level and "Critically endangered" at national level. By push forward the conservation of the *Anaocypris hispanica*, we are improving the entire ecosystem.

As regards to LIFE Montado-Adapt, the aim of the project is to promote the adaptation of the Montado/Dehesa system in Portugal and Spain, which main objective is to mitigate the consequences of climate change, increasing the sustainability at an economic, social and environmental level. The project is meant to support the owners and managers of land in the regions of Alentejo (Portugal), Extremadura and Andalusia (Spain), in the implementation of the **Integrated Land Use (ILU)**. The System is already underway in pilot areas, which will also support all stakeholders in the implementation of the System on its own properties.

Amongst other European Structural and Investment, POSEUR is another financial program that also supports nature conservation and biodiversity measures. In this regards, and for the period between 26/07/2016 to 31/12/2020, the program of the reintroduction of the Iberian Lynx in Portugal was financially supported with 944.972,66 €.

The POSEUR financial program also supports measures related to the improvement of knowledge in several areas, including protected areas, ecosystem services, threatened species, amongst others.

Besides European Structural and Investment Funds, there are also national funds that support nature conservation and biodiversity measures, such as "Fundo Ambiental" (Environmental Fund) and "Fundo Florestal Permanente" (Permanent Forestry Fund).

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores, incentives are granted for the conservation of biodiversity within the scope of PRORURAL +, by FEADER, through the measures Natura 2000 Payments and Forestry and Agro-Environmental Payments. This support is granted to compensate costs and loss of income resulting from the application of the Birds and Habitats Directives and to reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, to reduce stocking, to maintain areas with native vegetation, to preserve the traditional Azorean orchards and to protect the native breed Ramo Grande.

The legal regime for biodiversity and nature conservation creates complementary regional mechanisms to compensate landowners and farmers in the areas covered by the application of the Birds and Habitats Directives, contributing to the effective management of Natura 2000 Network, establishing technical and financial support for maintenance and recovery of biodiversity, namely for the maintenance and recovery of habitats relevant to the protection of biodiversity, of priority protected species, forestation and reforestation of protected areas, of protection of watercourses and maintenance and restoration of Protected Landscapes.

Within the scope of the sustainable use of the natural resources of Protected Areas by the local communities, there are financial incentives of the Regional Government to maintain traditional landscapes of vineyard culture in "corrals" and terraces, and of orchards of traditional varieties, located in areas of protected landscape and in coastal deltas, integrated in the Island Natural Park and in Biosphere Reserves, as well as the financing support for the rehabilitation of the traditional vineyard landscape in "stone wall corrals", in the area of the UNESCO World Heritage of the Landscape of Pico Island Vineyard Culture.

"Government of the Azores - Regional Directorate for the Sea Affairs - Biodiversity Budget:

2014 - Azores Autonomous Region Funding - 743,594.00€

2015 - Azores Autonomous Region Funding - 106,048.00€; EC funding = 340,425.00€

2016 - Azores Autonomous Region Funding - 155,044.50€; EC funding = 321,920.50€

2017 - Azores Autonomous Region Funding - 217,007.90€; EC funding = 647,908.10€

2018 - Azores Autonomous Region Funding - 308,728.65€; EC funding = 516,153.35€

"The Regional Government of the Azores finances scientific research projects applied to marine conservation by launching calls for grants and research projects, operated through the Regional Fund for Science and Technology / Regional Directorate for Science and Technology, in several areas, including marine conservation. Over the past four decades, the regional administration has had the support of the University of the Azores, associated research centers, national and international partners, to obtain scientific knowledge about biodiversity and the marine ecosystems in the Region and to support decision making, mostly applied to fisheries management and the conservation of marine ecosystems and MPAs.

DRAM frequently applies to European Structural and Investment Funds (FEEI), specifically for marine environment conservation, maritime spatial planning and MPA management. DRAM obtained funds through the following mechanisms: PO-Azores 2020 (ERDF); FEAMP (EC direct management); Interreg MAC (ERDF); LIFE as a beneficiary partner, jointly with other partners and entities (scientific research and administration of the Macaronesian archipelagos of Madeira and Canary Islands). DRAM often hires applied scientific research services within the scope of the tasks undertaken in these projects."

Madeira Autonomous Region

PDR 2020 (PRODERAM 2020, in the case of RAM):

- Measure 08. Investments in the development of forest areas and in improving the viability of forests - Articles 21 to 26 of Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 December, regarding the EAFRD;
- Measure 12. Payments under the Natura 2000 network and the Water Framework Directive - Article 30 of Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 December, on the EAFRD;
- Measure 15. Silvoenvironmental and climatic services and forest conservation - Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 December, on the EAFRD.

LIFE Programme: Sub-programme: Environment

Operational Program MAR 2020 - Measure 1 - Sub-measure 4 - Protection and Restoration of biodiversity

Operational Program for the Autonomous Region of Madeira 2014-2020 - Madeira 14-20: Priority Axis 5: Protect the Environment and Promote Resource Efficiency.

POSEUR program: Operational Program Sustainability and Efficiency in the Use of Resources: Axis II - Promote adaptation to climate change and the prevention and management of risks.

National Target(s)

Establish the Fundamental Nature Conservation Network and the National System of Classified Areas, including the National Protected Areas Network

Develop specific actions for the conservation and management of species and habitats throughout the national territory, as well as for safeguarding and enhancing the landscape heritage and notable elements of the geological, geomorphological and paleontological heritage

Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage of areas integrated in the Natura 2000 network

Improve coordination and cooperation between central, regional and local administration

Promote scientific research and knowledge about the natural heritage, as well as the monitoring of species, habitats and ecosystems

Promote the enhancement of protected areas and ensure the conservation of their natural, cultural and social heritage

Promote the integration of the nature conservation policy and the principle of the sustainable use of biological resources in the spatial planning policy and in the different sectoral policies

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

No formal mechanisms were implemented to measure the effectiveness of the actions implemented. Thus, it is a continuous process that did not end in the reporting period.

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Relevant websites, links, and files

[Financing Prorural Azores](#)
[FEDER Azores](#)
[Madeira financing actions.docx](#)

Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken

Azores Autonomous Region Regarding marine biodiversity in the Azores, financial resources are considered insufficient to ensure the effective management of biodiversity. At present, given the lack of operational resources by the marine environmental authority (DRAM), management actions on the field are limited. It is expected that the needs will increase in the future. Essential activities have not all been carried out, and there are still monitoring difficulties in the Azores. Nevertheless, there is no clear evidence of status degradation (which would have been signaled in stakeholders consultations and other communication sources). Even so, the monitoring programs that are being executed, namely within the scope of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (DQEM), have maintained some regularity and

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contributed with relevant information. DRAM has promoted specific monitoring programs for seabirds, coastal biodiversity, marine litter, among others. Human resources of Regional Directorate for the Environment, namely the Island Natural Parks collaborate actively in many coastal actions, including implementing measures related with seabird conservation and monitoring, seaturtle and cetacean strandings, marine litter awareness and clean up events, etc.

Madeira Autonomous Region The financing of actions related to the conservation of nature and biodiversity has been insufficient and disproportionate when compared to that of other sectors. It is particularly true especially if we take into account the economic benefits resulting, for example, from the Natura 2000 Network, evaluated by the European Commission in 200 to 300 billion euros/year and the investment needs in this Ecological Network support an additional 500,000 jobs.

Legislation actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Mainland Portugal

Between 2015 and 2018, several pieces of legislation with an impact on nature conservation and biodiversity were published and implemented. Some resulted from transposing European Union legislation on nature conservation, and others were amendments to current legislation.

However, in this period, new legislation was also published and implemented, especially, at the end of 2018, the National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030, which determines the elaboration of an Action Plan for the Conservation for Nature and Biodiversity XXI.

Also noteworthy are other legal instruments, for instance, the update of the National Strategy for Forests in September 2015, the revision of the Territorial Management Legal Framework in 2015, and the amendment to the Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Legal Framework in 2015.

Other legislation in the environment field, with a great impact on the biodiversity and nature conservation, was published in the reporting period.

Throughout section II, the legislative documents that support the respective actions are referred to.

Azores Autonomous Region

In order to safeguard ecosystems and protect biodiversity, from 2015 to 2018 there was an increase in the number of protected areas with regulation of access, as established in the following ordinances: Ordinance No. 52/2018, of 23rd May - Regulation of access to the Pico Mountain Nature Reserve; Ordinance No. 59/2018, of 4th June - Regulation for the circulation of motor vehicles in Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo; Ordinance No. 68/2018, of 21st June - Regulation for access to the interior of Caldeira do Faial, Nature Reserve; Ordinance No. 67/2018, of 21st June - Regulations for access to the Capelinhos Volcano; Ordinance No. 66/2018, of 20th June - Regulation for access to the Islet of Vila Franca do Campo and Ordinance No. 65/2018, of 20th of June - Regulation for access to the land area of the Ilhéu da Praia, Nature Reserve.

In 2018, through the Regional Legislative Decree No. 11/2018/A of 28th August, the Paleopark of Santa Maria was created for the protection and maintenance of paleobiodiversity, a classification recognized by the International Paleontology Association, within the scope of the global Paleoparks initiative.

The Azores Marine Park was created by the Regional Legislative Decree No. 28/2011/A, amended by the Decree No. 13/2016/A of 19th July. Biodiversity occupies a preponderant role in regional planning, integrating plans approved in the 2015-2018 period such as: Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Management of Waste in the Azores, approved by Regional Legislative Decree No. 6/2016/A, of 29th March; Sectorial Spatial Planning Plan for Extractive Activities in the Autonomous Region of the Azores, approved by Regional Legislative Decree No. 19/2015/A, of 14th August; the Flood Risk Management Plan for the Autonomous Region of the Azores, approved by Regional Legislative Decree No. 20/2016/A, of 10th October; Management Plan for the Azores Hydrographic Region 2016-2021, approved by Regional Legislative Decree no. 1-A / 2017/A, of 6th February. Government Council Resolution no. 135/2018, of 10th December, approved the landscape quality objectives and guidelines for the management of the Azores landscape, under development of the European Landscape Convention (CEP).

More approved legislation in the 2015-2018 period: Decree order 57/2018, of 30 May, amended by the Decree order 69/2018, of 22 de June, Legal regime for collection of marine species in the Azores sea; Decree order 53/2016, of 21 June Regulation of the exercise of fishing in the maritime area of Faial and Pico islands; Decree order 54/2016, of 21 June Regulation of the exercise of fishing in the maritime area of Ribeira Quente, São Miguel island; Decree order 55/2016, of 21 June, amended and republished by the Decree order 70/2016, of 1 July Regulation of the exercise of fishing in the maritime area of around the Graciosa island; Decree order 97/2018, 6 August Regulation of the exercise of fishing in the maritime area of Quatro Ribeiras, Terceira island; Decree order 94/2017, of 28 December Approves the regulation of specific access to fishing and access and permanence of vessels at Condor Bank, in order to ensure the full execution of the scientific projects in that Bank

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National Target(s)

Establish the Fundamental Nature Conservation Network and the National System of Classified Areas, including the National Protected Areas Network

Develop specific actions for the conservation and management of species and habitats throughout the national territory, as well as for safeguarding and enhancing the landscape heritage and notable elements of the geological, geomorphological and paleontological heritage

Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage of areas integrated in the Natura 2000 network

Improve coordination and cooperation between central, regional and local administration

Promote the enhancement of protected areas and ensure the conservation of their natural, cultural and social heritage

Promote the integration of the nature conservation policy and the principle of the sustainable use of biological resources in the spatial planning policy and in the different sectoral policies

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

No formal mechanisms were implemented to measure the effectiveness of the actions implemented. Thus, it is a continuous process that did not end in the reporting period.

EN

Relevant websites, links, and files

[National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030](#)
[update of the National Strategy for Forests](#)
[revision of the Legal Framework for Territorial Management](#)
[madeira legislation actions.docx](#)
[Azores legislations actions.xlsx](#)

Planning and land use actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Mainland Portugal

On 30 June 2014, the General Bases Law of Public Policy on Soil, Land-use Planning and Urban Planning (LBGPPSOTU - Law no. 31/2014, of 30 May) and the Legal Regime of Territorial Management Instruments (RJIGT - Decree-Law no. 80/2015, of 14 May), started the process of transposing the contents of Protected Area Management Plans (POAP) to the Municipal Plans (PDM), aiming to incorporate in these all the contents of the POAPs related to the occupation, use and transformation of the land, with urban territorial impact.

Transposing the content from the POAP to the PDM is a first step towards the adaptation of the Spatial Planning Instruments (IGT), presently in force, to the new legislation, prior to the completion of the process of converting POAPs into Special Programmes (to be called Special Programmes for Protected Areas (PEAP). Converting PEAP into Special Programmes will allow for the revision of the strategies for protected areas planning and management, through the necessary changes and adjustments to the present safeguard regime of natural resources and values, and to the regime of management and sustainable use of the territory. The following aspects should be highlighted:

The new PEAPs have an integrated and comprehensive content, establishing the safeguarding regimes of natural resources and values on site and including all binding contents of planning and territorial management necessary for this objective;

The Municipal Spatial Plans integrate all the rules of the current POAPs and of the new PEAPs related to the occupation, use and transformation of the soil, with urban territorial impact, that are binding to individuals;

All the contents of the PEAPs that are binding to individuals, relate to management rules of the protected area, may affect or compromise the resources or values to be safeguarded, and do not constitute an objective condition for the occupation, use and transformation of land with urban territorial impact, should be included in a Management Regulation;

The new PEAPs identify measures to coordinate uses and activities with other IGT in order to ensure the necessary compatibility, in particular with the National Maritime Spatial Planning Instruments (IOEMs), whenever applicable. The rules of the special programmes for safeguarding natural resources and values of marine protected areas should be integrated into the IOEMs.

After the LBGPPSOTU entered into force, an assessment was made of the implementation of each of the existing POAPs and of their internal consistency, followed by a comparative analysis of the thematic and normative contents of all the existing POAPs. This work was developed with the aim of ensuring harmonisation and coherence in identifying the rules to be transposed to the MMPs and preparing the future conversion of the POAPs as PEAPs.

In order to guarantee the protection of public assets, the ICNF, within the scope of its powers and attributions, developed a methodology with a national territorial scope, to support and guide the process of transposition of content from the POAP in force to the MMPs. This methodology is the basis for the identification of the contents and standards of the 25 POAPs in force, concerning the regimes of safeguarding territorial resources and natural values, directly binding to individuals, and related to the occupation, use and transformation of the soil, with urban territorial impact, to integrate the PDM. Reports will be provided to the concerned municipalities.

In the current framework and in order to ensure the effectiveness of the application of the safeguard of natural values, the appropriate, the project is in pipeline. This circumstance requires the ICNF to continue the task of converting the 25 POAPs into PEAPs in parallel with the task of monitoring the procedure for transposing the standards to the respective PDMs.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for programmes and plans, foreseen in national legislation since 2007, is an important tool for integrating environmental issues into other sectors, but its use is still far from efficient and its purposes are not yet attained.

In 2010, the ICNB, IP, established guidelines for the assessment of biodiversity in the EA of plans and programmes, in accordance with the

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Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) and the best national practices. These guidelines include thematic indicators of integrity and coherence of the Natura 2000 network and the National System of Classified Areas (SNAC), conservation status of species and habitats, and the cumulative effects of plans or programmes.

Actions planned for systematising information on biodiversity monitoring, within the scope of monitoring environmental assessment procedures:

By integrating and safeguarding biodiversity concerns in projects, plans and programmes, the EA, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Environmental Incident Analysis (ElncA) are tools that contribute to biodiversity conservation.

At the beginning of 2014, the reinforcement of monitoring environmental assessment procedures was approved, with the aim, among others, of harmonising procedures and criteria and to timely identify the most critical processes for nature conservation.

In order to organise the information on environmental assessment processes, a new registration, monitoring and centralised system is planned.

In order to ensure uniform procedures and common criteria, the preparation and coordination of the revision of technical standards and guidance documents is scheduled.

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores, within the scope of land management, was continued the implementation of the land management plans in force. Beside, the following land management plans have been published: Strategic Waste Prevention and Management Plan, Land Management Plan for Extractive Activities, Flood Risk Management Plan and Hydrographic Region Management Plan, as well as 2 Municipal Master Plans.

In addition, several of the land management tools were undergoing elaboration, revision or alteration (3 Sectorial Plans, 2 Coastal Management Plans, 2 Watershed Land Management Plans and 8 Municipal Master Plans).

Madeira Autonomous Region

PROF-RAM - Regional Plan of Forest Management of the Autonomous Region of Madeira (2015)

POGID - Planning and Management Plan for the Desertas Islands (Revised on 2017)

POGIS - Planning and Management Plan for the Selvagens Islands (Revised on 2017)

Management Plan for the Hydrographic Region of the Madeira Archipelago (PGRH10, 2016-2021).

Flood Risk Management Plan for the Autonomous Region of Madeira (PGRI-RAM, 2016-2021).

Regional Civil Protection Emergency Plan for the Autonomous Region of Madeira - PREPCRAM (2015)

Cabo Girão Special Program - PEGC (currently in public consultation stage)

National Target(s)

Establish the Fundamental Nature Conservation Network and the National System of Classified Areas, including the National Protected Areas Network

Develop specific actions for the conservation and management of species and habitats throughout the national territory, as well as for safeguarding and enhancing the landscape heritage and notable elements of the geological, geomorphological and paleontological heritage

Improve coordination and cooperation between central, regional and local administration

Promote the enhancement of protected areas and ensure the conservation of their natural, cultural and social heritage

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

The legal regime of territorial plans foresees the monitoring and follow-up of the plans in force, to verify compliance with the measures and actions defined in the Implementation Programs and Financing Plans, as well as to monitor their effectiveness, through the analysis of the sustainability of the results obtained.

It is also foreseen the elaboration of Territorial Planning State Reports (REOT) at the various levels; national; regional and municipal.

The evaluation reports have as main objective to evaluate and monitor the efficiency of the land management plans, by verifying the compliance with the measures and actions defined in the Execution Programs and in the Financing Plans, as well as evaluating and monitoring its effectiveness, through the analysis of the sustainability of the results obtained in view of the main objectives that shaped the elaboration of the Plans.

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Relevant websites, links, and files

[Law of general bases of public policy of land, spatial planning and urbanism](#)
[Revision of the Legal Regime of Territorial Management Instruments](#)

Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken

Difficulty in the implementation of the actions foreseen in the Execution Programs and in the Financing Plans of the Territorial Planning by the Public Administration;

Weak articulation between the levels of Public Administration;

Weak levels of public participation in the elaboration and execution of territorial plans

Madeira Autonomous Region

The preparation and approval of Protected Areas management plans encounter the following obstacles: 1) little mobilization and stakeholder involvement in public consultation processes and 2) difficulties in coordinating the management and planning options established by the different applicable territorial management instruments.

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Threatened Habitats and Species actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Mainland Portugal

During the period concerned, several monitoring programmes and LIFE projects contributed to nature and biodiversity conservation:

Iberian imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*) monitoring scheme. Planned and conducted by the ICNF (with some support from NGO's like LPN). After a 20 years gap, this species has been breeding in Portugal since 2003. This plan aims to increase the chance for survival of this population, through several actions related with nest and reproduction monitoring; recovery of injured birds; surplus feeding; human activities impact assessment; wild rabbit censuses; tagging and tracking some birds.

LIFE Imperial Project (LIFE13 NAT/PT/001300; LPN is the coordinating beneficiary) will establish tools to ensure the increase of the Iberian Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*) population in Portugal, and consequently, of the global population of this species. Towards that end, the project has the following objectives:

- Promote the conservation of the Iberian Imperial Eagle habitat in order to facilitate natural recolonization;
- Improve the quality of the breeding habitat to maintain existing pairs and promote the establishment of new pairs;
- Recover or maintain prey species in the areas where their decline is a limiting factor to the establishment of breeding pairs;
- Reduce the number of factors affecting reproductive success, namely adult and subadult mortality due to electrocution, shooting and poisoning, and disturbance during the breeding season;
- Increase the ability to detect illegal activities such as the use of poison;
- Increase the efficacy of the main agents responsible for the protection of the species (decision-makers, surveillance entities and magistrates), among others.

Raise awareness of the public and stakeholders (such as hunters, forestry and farming sectors, landowners, tourist operators and photographers) to the importance of conserving the Iberian Imperial Eagle;

- Elaboration of the National Action Plan for this species.

Link: <https://lifeimperial.lpn.pt/en>

Colonial birds monitoring scheme. The main objectives of this project are:

- § Determine the present distribution of colonial breeding aquatic birds (*Botaurus stellaris*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Larus audouinii*, *Gelochelidon nilotica*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Circus aeruginosus*) in mainland Portugal and assess their abundance;
- § Evaluate the trends in these populations by comparing the information with previous data.

Link: <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/pn/biodiversidade/ei/cempa/pp-monit/monit-aq-colon>

Steppe birds monitoring scheme. This project has been mainly conducted in certain areas of inner Alentejo (namely IBA of Castro Verde) and aims to collect information on distribution, numbers and conservation biology of the most threatened species of steppe birds (*Otis tarda*, *Tetrax tetrax*, *Pterocles orientalis*, *Falco naumanni*, *Coracias garrulus*).

Cliff-nesting birds national monitoring and surveillance scheme. This project has been conducted in several regions, mostly in two IBA's: Douro Internacional and Tejo Internacional, Erges e Ponsul) and aims to collect information on distribution, numbers and conservation biology of some species (*Aquila chrysaetos*, *Aquila fasciata*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Milvus milvus*).

Necrophagous birds national monitoring scheme. This project aims to collect information on distribution, numbers and conservation biology of *Neophron percnopterus*, *Aegypius monachus* and *Gyps fulvus*. Some data is added by specific monitoring of feeding sites.

LIFE Habitat Lince Abutre Project (LIFE08 NAT/P/000227; LPN was the coordinating beneficiary). The general objectives of this project were:

- Contribute to the improvement of the survival, feeding and breeding conditions of the Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) and the Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) in southeast Portugal;
- Establish management agreements with stakeholders to promote the conservation of the natural landscape inhabited by the Iberian Lynx and the Black Vulture;
- Develop educational and environmental awareness activities to involve the society in Nature and Biodiversity conservation.

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Link: <http://habitatlinceabutre.lpn.pt/en>

Life Rupis Project - Conservation of Egyptian Vulture and Bonelli's Eagle in the Douro Valley (LIFE14 NAT/PT/000855; SPEA was the coordinating beneficiary). The main objective of Life Rupis project was the reinforcement of Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) populations in the transboundary Douro River through reduction of mortality and improvement of breeding success. The Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) and the Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*) also benefited from the project actions.

In order to improve the conservation status of the target-species, this project aimed to:

- Reduce nest disturbance and adult mortality;
- Increase food availability;
- Improve habitat quality by implementing good farming and livestock practices;
- Increase the productivity of Egyptian Vulture pairs: at least one fledgling per pair every year.
- Create and disseminate the knowledge and experience acquired through the application of good practices;
- Valorisation and promotion of the territory, as well as raising awareness of local populations and the general public.

Link: <http://www.rupis.pt/en/>

Red-billed Cough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) monitoring scheme in Serra da Estrela Natural Park. This project aims to collect information on distribution, numbers and conservation biology of this species in this protected area.

Monitoring and minimizing impacts resulting from the interaction between high and medium voltage lines and birdlife.

Link: <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/pn/biodiversidade/gestao-biodiv/prog-proj/impac-linh-avifaun>

Conservation and national monitoring of the Iberian Wolf (*Canis lupus signatus*)

Review of the legislative framework

More than two decades after the entry into force of the Iberian Wolf Protection Law and the Decree-Law that regulated it, it became necessary to make changes to this regime, in order to correct gaps, ensure coherence and consistency with the legal system and revise the compensation mechanism for damages caused by the wolf, making it more equitable.

In this context, the following pieces of legislation were published in addition to Law No. 90/88, of 13 August: Decree-Law no. 54/2016, of 25 August - Develops the principles of protection and conservation of the Iberian Wolf (*Canis lupus signatus*, Cabrera, 1907); Ordinance no. 335/2017, of 6 November - Defines the rules for the payment of compensation for damages caused by the Iberian Wolf; Order no. 9728/2017, of 8 November - Establishes the maximum amounts of compensation per animal for damages caused by the Iberian Wolf.

Action Plan for the Conservation of the Iberian Wolf in Portugal (PACLobo)

The Action Plan for the Conservation of the Iberian Wolf in Portugal published by Order no. 9727/2017, of 8 November, constitutes a framework for the conservation of the species in the national territory.

For the elaboration of this Action Plan, the most recent information on the distribution and abundance of the species was collected in a report representing the reference situation.

Conservação e monitorização nacional do lince-ibérico (*Lynx pardinus*)

Action Plan for the Conservation of the Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) in Portugal

The Action Plan defines action strategies, and its final objective is to enable the conservation of the species in the national territory, inverting the process of continued decline of populations and recovering the nuclei of the species.

In addition, it establishes a strategic model of action for the implementation of the captive breeding program, the recovery and maintenance of favourable habitat, and the reintroduction of specimens of the species in suitable territories. Among other aspects, it highlights the importance of agricultural, forestry and hunting management for creating the right conditions so that this essential objective can be successfully achieved.

The Action Plan results from the action guidelines of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity and is the result of a long preparation process that included a public consultation procedure.

Order no. 8726/2015, DR no. 153/2015, Series II of 2015-08-07;

Link: <http://areasprotegidas.icnf.pt/lince/>

Life+IBERLINCE Project: Recovery of the historical distribution of the Iberian Lynx in Spain and Portugal (2012-2016; LIFE10NAT/ES/570; coordinating beneficiary: Junta de Andalucía)

General Objective

Attain a number of lynxes and populations that will ensure the survival of the species, making it possible to reduce its degree of threat. It is intended to propose to the IUCN to move the Iberian Lynx from the threat category "Critically Endangered (CR)" to "Endangered (EN)".

Specific Objectives

1. Increase the number of individuals to at least 70 territorial females in Sierra Morena (50 in Andújar-Cardena, 10 in Guadalmellato and 10 in Guarrizas) and 25 in Doñana-Aljarafe.
2. Identify, prepare and establish 5 new areas of reintroduction in Portugal, Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura, Murcia and Andalucía, with enough potential to maintain self-sustaining populations of Iberian Lynx.

Partial Objectives

1. Get 50% or more of the released individuals to establish themselves in the territory.
2. Get at least 33% of the reintroduced females to establish themselves in the second year of releases.
3. Increase heterozygosity of the Doñana-Aljarafe population and the eastern Sierra Morena populations by 7% and 3% respectively, through genetic reinforcements.
4. Increase of the connectivity between different population centres.
5. Reduce the impact of running over by 30% of the total population, relative to the 2006-2011 period.
6. Decrease of the mortality caused by poaching by 20 % relative to the 2006-2011 period.
7. Achieve a high degree of social support and participation in the reintroduction areas, assessed through surveys.
8. Participation of landowners and hunter associations through the establishment of Collaboration Agreements.

Link: <http://www.iberlince.eu/index.php/eng/>

Monitoring programme of important roosts for cave-dwelling bats. A monitoring programme of cave-dwelling bats is in progress since 1987, coordinated by the ICNF. This programme involves the estimation of bat numbers present in the most important wintering and maternity roosts. Surveys are carried out annually in most roosts. Collected data allows the monitoring of 5 cave-dwelling species (*Rhinolophus euryale*, *Rhinolophus mehelyi*, *Myotis myotis*, *Myotis blythii*, *Miniopterus schreibersii*) and the cave-dwelling populations of 4 species that regularly use underground roosts (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Myotis escalerai*, *Myotis emarginatus*). Co-funded by the ICNF, the Faculty of Sciences of Lisbon, the Universities of Porto, Évora and Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro and the Portuguese Federation of Speleology

Link: <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/pn/biodiversidade/patrinatur/especies/mam/morcegos>

The "**Red List of Vascular Flora of Mainland Portugal**" (Lista Vermelha da Flora Vascular de Portugal Continental) is a scientific project

that aims to assess the extinction risk of native superior plants in mainland Portugal, according to the criteria and categories of the Red List of Threatened Species of the IUCN.

The project started in October 2016 under the coordination of the Portuguese Botanical Society and the Portuguese Association of Vegetation Science (PHYTOS) in partnership with the ICNF, and ended in October 2020, with the publication of the first Red List of Vascular Flora of Mainland Portugal.

This project was co-financed by public funds - the European Union Cohesion Fund (POSEUR-03-2215-FC-000013) and the Environmental Fund - and by private funds raised by the Portuguese Botanical Society.

Link: <https://listavermelha-flora.pt/>

The project **Red Book and National Information System for Freshwater and Diadromous Fish of Mainland Portugal** (Livro Vermelho e Sistema Nacional de Informação dos Peixes Dulciaquícolas e Diádomos de Portugal Continental) started in March 2018, will be ongoing until April 2021 and aims to:

- Assess the extinction risk of species and publish the Red Book of Freshwater and Diadromous Fish of Mainland Portugal;
- Develop SNIPAD (National Information System on Freshwater and Diadromous Fish of Mainland Portugal), an interactive and free access online platform, containing all historical and current information on freshwater and diadromous fish species.

This project, co-financed by the European Union Cohesion Fund (POSEUR) and the Environmental Fund, is promoted by FCIências.ID - Association for Research and Development of Sciences, through two R&D Units - MARE and cE3C, in partnership with the ICNF, and counts on the collaboration of specialists from various institutions.

Link: <https://livrovermelhodospeixes.pt/>

LIFE Saramugo Project (LIFE13 NAT/PT/000786; coordinating beneficiary: LPN)

The LIFE Saramugo Project aimed to conserve the saramugo (*Anaocypris hispanica*) populations in 3 sub-basins of the Guadiana river (Xévorá, Ardila and Vascão), in order to ensure the survival of this species, which has been drastically declining.

This project also intended to become a decisive catalyst for the long-term conservation of this highly threatened species and constitutes an important contribution towards the implementation of the Natura 2000 Network.

Main goals:

- Update of the situation of the species' populations throughout its historical occurrence area in the Portuguese territory (Guadiana river basin);
- Restoration of shelter, feeding and breeding habitats of the saramugo, and the connectivity between them;
- Improvement of habitat conditions for the species, to allow future reintroductions or population reinforcements with individuals bred *ex-situ* (safeguarding intra-specific diversity);
- Assessment of threats that may arise from the coexistence of the saramugo and the Common Bleak (*Alburnus alburnus*, an exotic species detected in the past years in the Guadiana basin) and testing of measures that may stop the spread of the latter;
- Demonstration of removal techniques and dispersal control of exotic species, to minimize the impacts of this threat, which can become tools to be used elsewhere;
- Decrease pollution levels in the sub-basins where the saramugo occurs;
- Contribute towards the long-term conservation of the saramugo through the involvement of landowners, farmers, fishermen and decision-makers;
- Raising public awareness on conservation issues of the endemic fish species, in particular the saramugo, and the riparian habitats it inhabits.

Link: <https://lifesaramugo.lpn.pt/en>

Link: <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/pn/biodiversidade/gestao-biodiv/o-saramugo>

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores, two LIFE projects were proposed and approved: LIFE VIDALIA - Valorização e Inovação Dirigidos à Azorina e Lotus nas Ilhas Açorianas (LIFE17 NAT/PT/000510), running since 2018, aims the conservation of 2 species of endemic flora Azorina vidalii and Lotus azoricus, with a total investment of around 1.8 million euros and a duration of 5 years, with works on the islands of Pico, Faial and São Jorge; and the integrated project LIFE IP Azores Natura - Proteção Ativa e Integrada da Rede Natura 2000 nos Açores (LIFE 17 IPE/PT/00010), with a direct investment of around 19.1 million euros, which began in January 2019, with the objective of preservation and restoration of protected habitats in terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems in the Azores, in connection with the areas of the Natura 2000 network, in all islands of the archipelago. This is the only integrated project currently approved in Portugal and the most comprehensive ever implemented in the Azores.

It is important to mention the projects Life+ Terras do Priolo LIFE12 NAT/PT/000527 (2013-2019), for active protection of the population of the endemic bird Pyrrhula murina and the recovery of its habitat, the Species Action Plan for the Azores bullfinch (Pyrrhula murina) in the European Union (2009 - 2019), and LIFE EuroSAP Monteiro's storm-petrel (2015-2018), an international project in which SPEA participates representing Portugal and which assesses the current situation of the Monteiro's storm-petrel (Hydrobates monteiroi), an endangered seabird that only exists in the Azores archipelago.

Measures and actions aimed at restoring natural habitats and sensitive areas have been implemented on all islands of the Azores archipelago, with the control of invasive species and, when necessary, the planting of native species characteristic of the habitat, propagated in public nurseries.

There was a reinforcement of interventions and investment aimed at collecting seeds for conservation at the Azores Seed Bank installed in the Botanical Garden of Faial (ex situ conservation) and the production of plants to reinforce and increase the size of species populations and also for reintroductions.

Within the scope of the Operational Program Açores 2020, and promoted by the Regional Directorate for the Environment, applications were approved for several projects that contribute to the conservation of species and habitats, namely the applications ACORES-06-2215-FEDER-000003 | Recovery of Priority Species and Habitats 2014-2017 and ACORES-06-2215-FEDER-000001 | Azores Bird Observation and Recovery Network.

In Borges P, Lamelas-López L, Amorim I, Danielczak A, Nunes R, Serrano A, Boieiro M, Rego C, Hochkirch A, Vieira V (2017) Conservation status of the forest beetles (Insecta, Coleoptera) from Azores, Portugal. Biodiversity Data Journal 5: e14557. <https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.5.e14557> was presented the profile of the IUCN Red List of 54 species of forest beetles endemic to the Azores archipelago.

The regulatory measures for the protection of habitats and species is ensured by applying the provisions of the Regional Legislative Decree

No. 15/2012/A, of 2nd April, which establishes the legal regime for the conservation of nature and biodiversity and in the Decrees that create the nine Island Natural Parks.

Measures are applied, for example, to prevent the conversion of natural habitats into agricultural and forest areas, to control agricultural and forestry activities, to manage resource extraction and to control land use change for the construction and development of infrastructures. Complementarily, positive incentives are granted for the conservation and protection of threatened values, within the scope of PRORURAL +.

The autonomous regional administration service in the field of environment ensures the systematic monitoring and surveillance of the conservation status of natural habitats and species, with emphasis on the monitoring of habitats and species contained in the Annexes to the Birds and Habitats Directives.

Marine environment:

According to ICES Ecosystem Overview of the Azores Region several fish species that have been adversely affected by fishing in the Atlantic are now on the OSPAR list of threatened and declining species. These include the spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*), the common skate complex (*Dipturus* spp.), porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*), and some deep-water sharks. Although there are either zero TACs for these species, or they are listed as prohibited, several of them remain vulnerable to existing fisheries. Invertebrates, seabirds, turtles and cetaceans are also part of this list.

The invertebrates are subject to fishing restrictions. Seabirds, turtles and cetaceans are subject to several measures under different projects as the following examples (either directly or by tackling pressures and threats, as assessed in the monitoring programs).

Seabirds specific conservation actions in the Azores: After-LIFE "Ilhas Santuário para as Aves Marinhas", LIFE EuroSAP *Hydrobates monteiroi*, LuMinAves, MISTIC SEAS I and MISTIC SEAS II. SOS Cagarro anual campaign helps rescuing thousands of Cory Shearwater juveniles from collision, run over and predators, after getting desoriented by public lights get stranded inland. Every year, besides the Regional Government operatives, hundreds of volunteers join this rescue campaign in all the Azores islands.

COSTA project promoted fishermen best practices and involves local communities and tourists in conservation actions for marine turtles.

ASMAS project (Azores: Stop-over for Marine Alien Species?) studied the occurrence of non-indigenous species in the oriental islands group of the Archipelago and its invasion pathways. The list of non-indigenous species (NIS) of macroalgae and invertebrates of the Azores created during the INSPECT project was updated into a regional database of marine NIS.

PIMA (Monitoring Program of Marine Invasive Species in the Azores) allowed the identification of the main introduction vectors of non indigenous species (NIS) and predicted the origin and environmental factors that may facilitate their appearance in the archipelago, namely some invasive species already identified in the Azores, in São Miguel, Santa Maria and Faial.

PALMA (Action Plan for the Marine Litter in the Azores), DeLixoMar, Açores Entre Mares, Lixo Zero no Mar dos Açores, OSPAR, No more Plastics and other international and global initiatives and projects and initiatives promoted many ocean and beach clean up initiatives and multiple awareness actions in the past years.

"In the National Report on progress and implementation of art 17, Habitats Directive 2007-2012 (Directive 92/43 / EEC), the conservation status of 324 species were assessed: 191 species of flora; 133 fauna - mollusks, arthropods, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals; and 99 natural and semi-natural habitats. Results obtained generally indicate that "inadequate" status prevailed over "favorable", both for species and for habitats, in all biogeographic regions, except for the Macaronesian Sea habitats. The percentage of "unknown" assessments is high, particularly for species. In the latest Report on Art. 17 (2013-2018), the conservation status of all habitats and species listed for the Azores was "unknown". However, as the national report refers to the biogeographic region of the Macaronesian Sea, and data was jointed together with Madeira Archipelago, and in Madeira four species of cetaceans were in a "favorable" status, it was decided to keep that assessment, duly noted.

In the National Report on progress and implementation of Art. 12, Birds Directive, 2008-2012, in a total of 257 of avifauna species, the trend of breeding populations, especially in the long term, was the main gap. In the latest Report on Art. 12 (2013-2018) the Azores revealed "unknown" population and breeding trends for most seabirds, due to the absence of regular, long-term dedicated monitoring, at the regional level, since the end of the 90s, with the exception of the roseate and common tern. The recently approved LIFE IP Azores Natura project will fill this knowledge gap.

LIFE IP Azores Natura is presently implementing many conservation actions focused on threatened species and habitats included in the Natura 2000 Directives.

Madeira Autonomous Region

The Madeira Autonomous Region, through IFCN IP-RAM, has encouraged research in different Protected Areas by various institutions (regional, national and international). Through this action, intends to contribute to the knowledge increase regarding the endemic species and Madeiran natural habitats, assessing their conservation status, as well as the elaboration of conservation plans.

Various actions have been taken in relation to biodiversity conservation with the support of the LIFE financial instrument, with actions directed to habitats and species conservation namely monitoring and control of invasive plants, monitoring of species at risk of extinction, reintroduction and strengthening of populations of threatened species, long-term seed conservation in the Seed Bank, etc. The vast majority of these conservation and monitoring actions were implemented through the following projects: - LIFE09 NAT/PT/000041 (2010-2014) - "Halt the loss of European Biodiversity through the recovery of habitats and species of the islets of Porto Santo and surrounding marine area."

- LIFE11 NAT/PT/000327 (2012-2017) - "LIFE Maciço Montanhoso - Recovery and conservation of species and habitats on the Madeiran Central Massif";

- LIFE12 NAT/PT/000402 (2013-2017) - "LIFE Fura-Bardos: Conservation of Macaronesian Sparrowhawk and *Laurissilva* habitat in Madeira Island";

- LIFE12 NAT/PT/000195 (2013-2017) - "LIFE RECOVER NATURA: Recovery of the species and land habitats of the Natura 2000 sites Ponta

de São Lourenço and Desertas Islands.

- LIFE13 NAT/ES/000974 (2014-2019) - "LIFE Monk Seal- Mediterranean monk seal conservation in Madeira and development of a conservation status surveillance system.

LIFE Mediterranean monk-seal:

- Identification of the terrestrial habitat of the Mediterranean monk-seal on the island of Madeira and Ilhas Desertas;
- Monitoring of the Mediterranean monk-seal through an observation effort directed at animals, based on the occupation of observation posts and marine transects;
- Monitoring the terrestrial habitat of the Mediterranean monk-seal through automatic photographic cameras placed inside the caves used by the animals;
- Promotion of the information and emergency network of the Mediterranean monk-seal;
- SOS Mediterranean monk-seal;
- Study of the movements of the fur seal at sea through GPS and TDRs.
- Evaluation of the impact of fishing and tourist activity at sea through boarding fishing boats and sea-tourism;
- Elaboration of a protocol for monitoring the conservation status of the Mediterranean monk-seal and its habitat;
- Formulation of a Strategy for the Conservation of the Mediterranean monk-seal in the Madeira Archipelago.

LIFE Recover Natura:

- Identification of the distribution and main threats of the target species of the project and habitats;
- Implementation of transects and vegetation squares for monitoring; - Removal of the Ponta de São Lourenço electric line, allowing seabirds to fly freely without risk of

National Target(s)

Develop specific actions for the conservation and management of species and habitats throughout the national territory, as well as for safeguarding and enhancing the landscape heritage and notable elements of the geological, geomorphological and paleontological heritage
Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage of areas integrated in the Natura 2000 network
Promote scientific research and knowledge about the natural heritage, as well as the monitoring of species, habitats and ecosystems
Promote the enhancement of protected areas and ensure the conservation of their natural, cultural and social heritage

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

No formal mechanisms were implemented to measure the effectiveness of the actions implemented. With the actions taken, efforts were made to contribute for the maintenance or improvement of the conservation status of endangered species and habitats. Thus, it is a continuous process that did not end in the reporting period

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Relevant websites, links, and files

[LIFE Imperial Project](#)
[Life+IBERLINCE Project](#)
[Red List of Vascular Flora of mainland Portugal](#)
[Red Book and National Information System for Freshwater and Diadromous Fish of mainland Portugal](#)
[Life Vidalia - https://www.lifevidalia.eu/](https://www.lifevidalia.eu/)
[Life IP Azores Natura -](#)
[Azores-threatened-declining-species-habitats](#)
[Azores trackingactionplans](#)
[Azores natura](#)
[Madeira Threatened habitats and species actions.docx](#)

Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken

The Priority Action Framework 2021-2027 designed for the implementation of the Natura 2000 Directives in the Azores defines priority actions and needs for biodiversity conservation species, habitats and Natura 2000 sites.
Outdated or insufficient data on relevant components of biodiversity persists, namely, on the geographic occurrence and conservation status of protected natural marine habitats and species.
Regarding cetaceans and sea turtles, despite the existence of a considerable amount of scientific information on the occurrence, ecology and behavior of these migratory species, in the Azores, the existing monitoring programs (opportunistic data, fishing observation programs, or dedicated campaigns, but with limited spatial and temporal scales) did not allow determining the demographic parameters of the species, nor the quality of the habitat. In addition to methodological limitations, the population of these species are distributed far beyond the Azores EEZ, so the conservation status can only be determined by coordinated international initiatives, at the ocean basin scale.

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Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Mainland Portugal

The national network of protected areas in mainland Portugal (classified under national legislation) includes three types of areas: national protected areas, regional or local protected areas and private protected areas, covering a total area of approximately 799 000ha.

There are 32 national protected areas, covering about 743 000ha, of which about 53 000ha correspond to the marine area contiguous to the terrestrial part of 8 protected areas.

The national park, the natural parks, the natural reserves and the protected landscapes all have special planning plans to safeguard their natural resources and values. These plans identify the permitted, conditioned and prohibited uses and activities in each protected area.

There are 15 regional and local protected areas, managed by municipalities, occupying about 55 000ha. Their management model is defined in the management regulation.

To date, there is only one private protected area, with about 200ha, which is managed by a private association, under the terms of a management protocol signed with the ICNF.

The terrestrial part of the protected areas represents about 8.3% of the territory of mainland Portugal.

Law n.º 31/2014, of 30th of May, which approved the general bases of public policy on land, land use planning and urban planning, requires transposing the content of land use special plans to intermunicipal or municipal plans concerning the area covered by special plans. It also foresees the conversion of protected areas special plans into special programmes.

With regard to areas covered by non-national classifications, there are 18 Sites classified under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, most of which overlap protected areas, and 6 Biosphere Reserves, of which 3 are transboundary areas. The Gerês Xurê Transboundary Biosphere Reserve was designated in 2005, the Meseta Ibérica in 2015 and the Tejo-Tajo Internacional in 2016.

Azores Autonomous Region

The Azores Protected Areas Network incorporates all the Protected Areas (PA) existing in the territory of the Azores Autonomous Region, and uses the classification adopted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This network includes 3 types of management units: Island Natural Park (INP); Azores Marine Park (PMA) and Protected Areas of local importance. The marine areas that are located in the territorial sea adjacent to each of the islands in the archipelago are included in the corresponding Island Natural Parks.

The 9 Island Natural Parks, created between 2008 and 2011 (which include the Natura 2000 areas as well as areas designated under international conventions), as well as the Azores Marine Park, constitute the basic management unit of the Protected Areas of the Azores Autonomous Region.

As part of the Island's Natural Parks, 123 areas are protected (19 Nature Reserves, 10 Natural Monuments, 48 Protected Areas for the Management of Habitats or Species, 16 Areas of Protected Landscape and 30 Protected Areas for the Management of Resources), which together total in 180247 ha, of which 56066 ha are land area and 124181 ha are marine area.

The proportion of classified area (Azores Protected Areas Network and Natura 2000 Network) is around 24%.

The proportion of Azorean land territory classified as Natura 2000 Network is around 15%. This Network consists of 3 Sites of Community Importance (SCI), 23 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and 15 Special Protection Areas (SPA).

About the areas classified under international conventions, there are 13 Ramsar Sites, 11 OSPAR areas, 4 Biosphere Reserves by the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program (Biosphere Reserves of Corvo Island, Flores Island, Graciosa Island, and designated in 2016, the São Jorge Island "fajãs" Biosphere Reserve), 1 UNESCO Global Geopark (the Azores Geopark) and 1 UNESCO World Heritage, the Landscape of Pico Island Vineyard Culture.

In 2018 began the preparation of the Management Plans for the Island's Natural Parks (INP), which include appropriate conservation measures and actions aimed at pursuing the management objectives of all the Protected Areas that comprise each INP. In this process, the management of the marine component of the INPs was disaggregated, given the specific characteristics of the maritime space and its use, maintaining, however, the island as a functional management unit. This significant effort in the elaboration of the Management Plans of the INPs intends to respond to the new challenges that face the management of protected areas, through the establishment of regimes for safeguarding resources and natural values for the different categories of protected areas that integrate the IPA, and the need to establish the uses and management regime compatible with the sustainable use of the territory, in articulation with the territorial management instruments in the area.

The Island Natural Parks management plans are articulated with all the instruments of territorial management, namely: Sectorial Plan of Natura 2000 Network; Municipal Master Plans; Coastal Management Plans, Hydrographic Region Management Plans and the Management Plan of the Protected Landscape for the Vineyard Culture.

The inspection of protected areas and compliance with the applicable regulations is ensured by the autonomous regional administration service of Environment, through the Nature Rangers, but also through other inspection services and the police authorities. Complementarily and to improve the management of the protected areas all informational boards and signs in the Azores Protected Areas Network are bilingual, in Portuguese and English).

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Marine environment:

In 2016, the Marine Park of the Azores was reviewed and increased its area in 122% (DLR 13/2016/A)

The Autonomous Region of the Azores (RAA) has designated 50 Marine Protected Areas (AMP), which cover 5% of the Territorial Sea, 4% of the EEZ and 7% of the Extended Continental Platform. Currently, a process of revision of the Azores AMP Network (RAMPA) is underway. This review also aims to create new protected areas, covering 15% of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) adjacent to the Archipelago. The aim is to meet the well-managed targets of 10% AMP coverage by 2020, in compliance with Goal 11 of Aichi (CDB, 2010) and goal SDG 14.4 (Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development), but also contributing to the commitment made by Portugal to achieve the target of 14% of the Portuguese sea protected by AMP, well managed, by 2020 (Minister of the Sea, New York 2017). The goal of reaching 15% MPA by 2021 was defined within the framework of the regional environmental policies for the Azores sea, and is being developed through the Blue Azores program, which involves the Regional Government of the Azores (GRA), the Oceano Azul Foundation (FOA) and the Waitt Foundation, and has scientific support from the University of the Azores (Okeanus) and IMAR-Açores. Within this scope MPA network in the Azores is being restructured, through a new legal framework. So far, a detailed analysis of the existing situation has been published (X-Ray), an action plan has been built, studies have been developed to identify areas with relevant conservation values, define operational strategies that make it possible to reconcile conservation with the viability of fishing, and to characterize the socioeconomic impacts of the measures to be adopted. At the same time, the Regional Government of the Azores promotes consultations with many stakeholders from different sectors.

Diverse fishing restrictions and local regulations have been applied in these MPAs. Enforcement of the CFP and other fishing regulations in the Azorean Sea.

Only the AMPs listed in the Common Database on Designated Areas (CDDA), the Natura 2000 Network Database (ICNF) and OSPAR Marine Protected were integrated into the reporting of the Azores to the national entity responsible for monitoring SDGs 14.5 (DGPM). These are the areas defined in the Island Natural Parks (PNI) and the Marine Park of the Azores (PMA).

Other effective area-based conservation measures include: Fishing restriction areas, in compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy, the Regional Government of the Azores has been implementing spatial management measures that aim to make fishing compatible with conservation of marine biological resources, thus contributing to long-term environmental, economic and social sustainability, based on the best available information obtained by studies and scientific research campaigns developed in the Azores Sea; Archaeological Parks: Defined primarily for the preservation of archaeological heritage, but which present restrictions to human activities, especially of the extractive type. DRAM collaborates in defining these areas to promote the environmental sustainability of sites, helping to design complementary regulatory measures to preserve biodiversity; Collection reserves: activity with great representativeness in the Region. The legal regime for the collection of marine species in the Azores Sea is defined through an ordinance. In these areas, the capture of several species of invertebrates by harvesting methods is prohibited.

"• Portaria n.º 87/2014 de 29 de dezembro de 2014 - Regulamento de Uso de Áreas Protegidas na Zona Marítima da Ilha de Santa Maria;
• Portaria n.º 53/2016 de 21 de junho de 2016 - Regulamento para o exercício da pesca na zona marítima das ilhas do Faial e Pico;
• Portaria n.º 55/2016 de 21 de junho de 2016 - Regulamento para o exercício da pesca na zona marítima em torno da ilha Graciosa;
• Portaria n.º 54/2016 de 21 de junho de 2016 - Regulamento para o exercício da pesca na área marinha da Ribeira Quente, ilha de São Miguel;
• Portaria n.º 94/2017 de 28 de dezembro de 2017 - Regulamento de acesso específico para o exercício da pesca e acesso e permanência das embarcações no Banco Condor;
• Portaria n.º 68/2019 de 26 de setembro de 2019 - Regulamento para o exercício da pesca na zona marítima do campo hidrotermal LUSO."

The administration and management of the MPAs in the Azores will be part of the new legal regime for marine conservation, which is currently in an advanced stage of preparation.

A Working Group on National Marine Protected Areas (GTAMP) was created in 2017 by the Ministry of the Sea, to evaluate the existing MPAs, present a proposal of an ecosystemic coherent network of new MPAs in maritime spaces under national jurisdiction and elaborate management and monitoring plans for those areas. DRAM has been an active member of this group.

"Management Plans for all marine protected in the Azores are being elaborated. Regarding the management plans for coastal MPAs (areas located up to 6 nautical miles, from the coast line), each island in the Azores archipelago is a management unit, with a management plan. The MPAs on each island are management subunits, with specific objectives and regulations and specific management measures and regulations.

The oceanic areas beyond 6 nautical miles (Marine Park of the Azores - PMA) make part of another management unit, with a single management plan, including specific management objectives, measures and regulations. Nevertheless, the Regional Legislative Decrees that create each of the 9 the Island Natural Parks and the Marine Park of the Azores already establish, for each existing MPA, the fundamentals, management objectives and general regulation (conditioned and prohibited activities), according to the Regional Biodiversity Regime DLR 15/2012/A."

Oceano Azul Foundation is contributing to the implementation of Marine Protected Areas at the national and international levels establishing partnerships and supporting science-based processes, by promoting the establishment of new MPAs; improving the effectiveness of current MPAs; and reducing "Paper" Parks. Oceano Azul is promoting MPAs and other area-based management tools as part of any conservation and sustainable fisheries strategy, and as a means to protect marine species and habitats, reverse the decline of biodiversity and of the goods and services associated with marine ecosystems, recover degraded habitats and increase the sustainability of the resources.

The Blue Azores Program focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of natural marine resources in the Azores. Main actions: Declaring 15% of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Azores as new marine protected areas; Creating and implement management plans for the new marine reserves and all existing marine protected areas; Developing and legally adopt a marine spatial planning plan;

MSFD latest assessment of the environmental status of the marine environment, the Reports to the implementation of Birds and Habitats Directives, allow to evaluate, indirectly, the effect of environmental policies related to MPAs. The MSFD assessment integrates not only

biophysical parameters, for 11 descriptors, a socio-economic analysis, and an analysis of the pressures and impacts of human activities in the marine environment. DRAM prepares the definition of mechanisms for monitoring public policies for the sea, namely through the definition of indicators and their periodic evaluation.

MSFD monitoring program MOA02-III-MONIZEC (AMP), implemented through the Strategic Plan for the Marine Environment of the Azores PEAMA (ERDF, PO-Azores 2020), namely through the BALA subproject, was focused on monitoring Azorean MPAs. A component of this program (MONIZEC-ARP) focused on areas of restricted fishing (mentioned above), with the objective of assessing the effect on biodiversity of the conditionality to fishing activity in these areas.

Madeira Autonomous Region

The measures implemented concerning Protected and Classified Areas seek to promote their conservation and management, guarantee the continuity of Macaronesian and Madeiran endemism with high conservation interest and raise awareness of the preservation of forest and natural ecosystems and strengthen the capacity for prevention and protection against forest fires. Also, it aims to reduce the risks and effects of biotic agents (pests, diseases and invasive species) and ensure conditions for social use and promotion of natural spaces. Besides, addresses also the recreational and leisure areas, on land and at sea, such as it is defined in the strategic measures of the Management Entity Assessment and Accountability Framework (IFCN, IP-RAM). The existing Planning and Management Plans, as well as the Management and Conservation Measures Programs, have defined the long-term strategic vision for each Protected Area.

The natural area network in the Madeira archipelago was amplified with a implementation of two new protected areas:

1) Cabo Girão (2017), Regional Decree-Law n.º 8/2017/M; The Protected Area of Cabo Girão, which includes the marine area belonging to the Marine Natural Park of Cabo Girão, and in its inland area constituted by the Natural Monument and the Protected Landscape of Cabo Girão. 2) Ponta do Pargo (2018), Regional Decree-Law n.º 19/2018/M, 22 August. The Protected Area of Ponta do Pargo, which comprises a sea area integrated in the Marine Natural Park of Ponta do Pargo and in its land part the Natural Monument and the Protected Landscape of Ponta do Pargo;

Eighth new SCI created: In 2016 were created seven terrestrial SCI namely: PTMAD0009 - Paul do Mar-Jardim do Mar, PTMAD0010 - Ribeira Brava, PTMAD0011 - Cabo Girão, PTMAD0012 - Caniço de Baixo, PTMAD0013 - Porto Novo, PTMAD0014 - Machico e PTMAD0015 - Pico do Facho. In 2018, a new entirely marine SCI was created, the PTMMD0001 - Cetáceos da Madeira.

Reset of the area boundaries in four existing SCI:

- PTMAD0001 - Laurissilva da Madeira;
- PTMAD0003 - Ponta de São Lourenço;
- PTMAD0006 - Moledos-Madalena do Mar;
- PTMAD0007 - Pináculo.

Madeira and Desertas Islands Important Marine Mammal Areas (IUCN) (2016)

National Target(s)

Establish the Fundamental Nature Conservation Network and the National System of Classified Areas, including the National Protected Areas Network

Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage of areas integrated in the Natura 2000 network

Improve coordination and cooperation between central, regional and local administration

Promote the enhancement of protected areas and ensure the conservation of their natural, cultural and social heritage

Promote the integration of the nature conservation policy and the principle of the sustainable use of biological resources in the spatial planning policy and in the different sectoral policies

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

The Environmental Government services maintains mechanisms for monitoring protected areas and for monitoring the nature conservation actions, although not in a systematic and regular manner. So, no formal mechanisms were implemented to measure the effectiveness of the actions implemented. Thus, it is a continuous process that did not end in the reporting period.

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Relevant websites, links, and files

[Protected Areas Map](#)
[Ramsar Areas](#)
[Berlengas](#)
[Biosfera](#)
[Tejo International](#)
[Castro verde](#)
[Azores Natural Parques](#)
[Azores Protected areas](#)

Other relevant website address or attached documents

[Madeira protected areas actions.docx](#)

Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken

The management of protected areas is responsibility of two services of the regional public administration: the Regional Directorate for the Environment, which is responsible for land management, and the Regional Directorate for Maritime Affairs, responsible for the management of the marine environment, so the preparation of the PA management plans implies a close articulation between these two entities. The preparation of management plans also involves the compilation of support information for a more effective management, and that is found in different governmental and scientific bodies, and so it is necessary to articulate with all different entities, harmonize it with the different territorial management instruments, and also take in consideration the limitation of available resources.

The Priority Action Framework 2021-2027 designed for the implementation of the Natura 2000 Directives in the Azores defines priority actions and needs for biodiversity conservation species, habitats and Natura 2000 sites.

One main difficulty is for the member state to apply a number of different instruments simultaneously of several marine environmental policy (HD, BD, MSFD, MSP Directive, and also all the conventions such as OSPAR, CBD, RAMSAR, and so on), using only partially overlapping concepts. This issue overloads the environmental authorities (especially for small departments as the ones in the Azores and few human resources), which must comply with many annual reporting requests, which turns the conservation policy a rather bureaucratic task, with no clear positive impacts on the field for biodiversity itself.

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Invasive alien species actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Azores Autonomous Region

Taking into account the biogeographic specificities of the Azores archipelago, in particular the vulnerability of island ecosystems to invasive alien species, and considering that these species represent an important threat to biodiversity, society, well-being and the economy, in the Azores Autonomous Region, the administration has governed its action by the general management principles set out in the Regional Legislative Decree No. 15/2012/A of April 2nd, which establishes the legal regime for the conservation of nature and biodiversity. The regulation of the import, possession and introduction of exotic species in the Region continues to be a fundamental tool, especially to control the entry and spread of species recognized as a threat, thus corresponding to the regional and international strategic principles.

The Azores Government continues the conservation project "in situ", whose objective is the control of invasive flora species in sensitive areas in all the islands of the Azores archipelago. This project is most often associated with restoration work for indigenous plant communities, in order to ensure their conservation.

Over the years, the effort and work has been increasingly discerning, incisive and directed, both in terms of species and areas subject to control. In the 2015 - 2018 period, work was carried out on about 2264 ha, through the control of about 30 species of invasive exotic flora. In terms of actions to control invasive flora species, the implementation of the LIFE + Terras do Priolo project (LIFE12 NAT / PT / 000527) also stands out.

ASMAS project (Azores: Stop-over for Marine Alien Species?) studied the occurrence of non-indigenous species in the oriental islands group of the Archipelago and its invasion pathways. The list of non-indigenous species (NIS) of macroalgae and invertebrates of the Azores created during the INSPECT project was updated into a regional database of marine NIS. An Action Plan for marine NIS was proposed.

MOA07-III MONIEXOTICAS - MSFD Monitoring Program and PIMA (Monitoring Program of Marine Invasive Species in the Azores - PEAMA) allowed the identification of the main introduction vectors of non indigenous species (NIS) and predicted the origin and environmental factors that may facilitate their appearance in the archipelago, namely some invasive species already identified in the Azores, in São Miguel, Santa Maria and Faial.

Prevention, control and mitigation actions regarding marine NIS were implemented by dedicated projects, and the administration and presently through LIFE IP Azores Natura.

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Madeira Autonomous Region

PRODERAM 2020: Control of invasive exotic vegetation in the Paul da Serra Forest Perimeter

LIFE FURA BARDOS:

At Ginjas, invasive plants control covered an area of approximately 30.4 hectares, being directed to six species: *Cytisus scoparius*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Rubus* sp., *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Hydrangea macrophylla* and *Agapanthus praecox*.

At Assumadouros, invasive plant control actions were carried out in an area of approximately 16.8 hectares and seven species were controlled: *Cytisus scoparius*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Rubus* sp., *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Ageratina adenophora*, *Crocrosma x crocosmiiflora* and *Ageratina riparia*.

In Terra Chã, to minimize the effects of the 2012 fire, about 20 hectares of carbonized material was removed. Twenty-one thousand two hundred eighty-eight plants were planted, and the expansion of the invasive species that arose after the fire was controlled.

"LIFE Ilhéus do Porto Santo: Within the scope of this LIFE project, control actions of plants species were implemented on two islets:

- Ilhéu de Cima: Tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) and American aloe (*Agave americana*);

- Ilhéu de Ferro: Tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*).

Introduced animals were also eradicated, namely, the rabbit and the mouse."

"LIFE RECOVER:

- Eradication of introduced rodents (mice), in Ilhéu Desembarcadouro (Ponta de São Lourenço) and Ilhéu Chão (Desertas), through ratios with bait;

- Eradication of American aloe (*Agave americana*) in Ponta de São Lourenço (Madeira island) and Deserta Grande (Desertas islands), through mechanical start;

- Control of Canary grass (*Phalaris* sp.) on approximately 30 hectares in Vale da Castanheira (Deserta Grande), using herbicide;

- Goat population control in Deserta Grande (Desertas islands);

- Argentine ant control at Ilhéu Chão (Desertas islands)."

Others: Invasive plant species control at the Paul da Serra Wind Farms, within the scope of the Monitoring Programs - Post-Environmental Impact Assessment. Another project was developed with the collaboration of the Military Zone of Madeira and the Regional Secretariat for the Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change. The main goal was to control the invasive plant species, especially in the high areas of the city of Funchal.

National Target(s)

Develop specific actions for the conservation and management of species and habitats throughout the national territory, as well as for safeguarding and enhancing the landscape heritage and notable elements of the geological, geomorphological and paleontological heritage
Improve coordination and cooperation between central, regional and local administration
Promote scientific research and knowledge about the natural heritage, as well as the monitoring of species, habitats and ecosystems
Promote the integration of the nature conservation policy and the principle of the sustainable use of biological resources in the spatial planning policy and in the different sectoral policies

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

No formal mechanisms were implemented to measure the effectiveness of the actions implemented. With the actions taken, efforts were made to contribute for the control and minimization of the negative impacts of invasive alien species. Thus, it is a continuous process that did not end in the reporting period.

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Relevant websites, links, and files

[Invasive, Alien species Azores](#)

[MSFD articles 8,9and 10](#)

[Madeira Invasive alien species actions.docx](#)

Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken

Despite the continuous effort and investment towards the eradication and control of invasive alien species and, although there has been some success in intervention areas, we realize that reversing the expansion of the areas occupied by these species is a difficult task and demanding in terms of human and financial resources.

The Action Plan elaborated under PIMA project established priorities and needs, NIS prevention, control and eradication requires a substantial financial investment.

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Forests actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Mainland Portugal

As a signatory state of the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe, the Portuguese national forest policy and national forest strategy apply the definitions and concepts of Sustainable Forest Management developed under this process (and are also in line with

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the United Nations Forest Instrument and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests). Therefore, the maintenance and appropriate enhancement of biodiversity (as stated in Helsinki Resolution H2 and Lisbon Resolution L1) is recognised and intrinsic to all the national forest instruments.

In 2015, the National Forest Strategy was revised and now includes the general objective to ensure the protection of priority areas for biodiversity conservation in forests, and, among others, the specific objective to provide support to actions to conserve and rehabilitate forest habitats or high value forests.

The Regional Forest Management Programmes were revised in 2017-2018 and published in early 2019. These instruments pursue the forest sector development taking into account regional circumstances and considering the social, economic and environmental aspects. They follow a methodological approach that considers the multifunctional role of forests, including the conservation of habitats, species (flora and fauna) and geological values.

In order to safeguard the natural values in the network of legally protected areas, forest owners have to include in their forest management plans a specific program to manage biodiversity.

The National Forest Inventory (IFN) provides periodical information concerning the status and trends of forests, using both remote data and field measurements and assessments. In addition to more traditional data, like biometric data for estimating wood and non-wood forest production or the presence of invasive alien species, the 6th NFI (2015) included identification and status of forest and shrub habitats of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/CEE) present in the field plots of the systematic grid. This work was foreseen in the revised National Forest Strategy 2015. Other indicators concerning biodiversity were also collected. The information is publicly available at <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/florestas/ifn/ifn6>, tables 501 and 513 being especially relevant. A short summary of the NFI methodology is available at <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/florestas/ifn/resource/doc/NFI100-Conference-Abstract-Portuguese.pdf>

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores, Payments under PRORURAL + program enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the forest scope through the measures Forestry Payments.

In order to guarantee a sustainable use of forest resources in the Azores, Forest Management Plans are prepared.

The Azores Government intended to establish long-term commitments between the exploitation and preservation of resources, with decisive effects on spatial planning, through the implementation of a Management System for Forest Perimeters and Regional Woods, based on the certification standards in accordance with FSC® standards - Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC-C119744). The Forest Management Plan for the Forest Perimeter and Regional Woods of São Miguel Island was prepared.

Still, to improve the action of forest exploitation, documents were elaborated, such as the Good Practices for Forest Management Manual and the Technical Norms for the elaboration of Forest Management Plans.

The Forestry Services in the Region since its constitution have been concerned with "trying to reconstitute primitive vegetation, as a means of maintaining soil fertility and achieving a more perfect adaptation to the conditions of the physical environment", including in the selection of species to be used in afforestation from its Forest Perimeters the endemic species, favoring, in an initial phase, those that provided better quality wood. In order to respond to new challenges, the production of endemic and native forest species has been intensified for afforestation in public and private areas.

Beginning of the mapping of forest ecosystem services in the Region

Review of the regional forest inventory through survey using drones

Tree / forest cuts subject to licensing by the Regional Directorate for Forest Resources

Census of hunting species

Venatory calendars adjusted to each island

Madeira Autonomous Region

PRODERAM: Preparation of Forest Management Plans (PGF); Control of invasive species; Fuel Management; Reforestation and forest improvement, namely:

Development of 6 Forest Management Plans;

Restoration of Production Potential in Chão das Aboboreiras (intervention area: 80 hectares;

Restoration of Production Potential at Pico do Prado and Pico do Curral (intervention área): 60 hectares;

Preventive Forestry Intervention in Montado do Pereiro (intervention area: 55 hectares);

Control of invasive exotic vegetation in the Paul da Serra Forest Perimeter

Intervention in Natura 2000 area affected by fires in Pico dos Esteios (intervention area: 23 hectares;)

Forest Improvement Pico do Facho e Gandaia - Porto Santo island

Recovery and signaling of leisure areas and walking routes recommended in RAM

INTERREG MAC 2014.2020: VALCONMAC Project (Valuation and Conservation of Forest Resources in Macaronesia): List of the 100 unique Macaronesian trees and groves

Madeira 14-20: Requalification of the Queimadas and Ribeiro Frio forest parks

Plan for the Prevention and Surveillance of Forest Fires in the Autonomous Region of Madeira - PPVIF-RAM (since 2015)

National Target(s)

Promote scientific research and knowledge about the natural heritage, as well as the monitoring of species, habitats and ecosystems

Promote the enhancement of protected areas and ensure the conservation of their natural, cultural and social heritage
 Promote the integration of the nature conservation policy and the principle of the sustainable use of biological resources in the spatial planning policy and in the different sectoral policies

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Gesflora – plataforma eletrónica para elaboração de planos de gestão florestal na RAA;
 Monitorização/Certificação da gestão florestal;
 Monitorização de espécies cinegéticas

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Relevant websites, links, and files

[National Forest Strategy](#)
[Perímetros Florestais](#)
[National forest inventory](#)
[Gesflora](#)
[Monitorização/Certificação da gestão florestal](#)
[Regime jurídico aplicável às ações de arborização e rearborização](#)
[Madeira Forestry actions.docx](#)

Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken

The main obstacles are related to obtaining operational, technical and financing resources.

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wetlands actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Mainland Portugal

In Portugal, 31 Ramsar Sites have been officially designated since 1980, 18 of which in mainland Portugal. Six are coastal wetlands (under marine influence), with two large estuaries standing out, the Tejo and Sado estuaries. In total, the 31 Ramsar sites cover 132,487 ha.

Of these 18 Ramsar sites, 14 are managed directly by the national nature conservation authority, ICNF, while «Paul de Tornada», «Lagoas de Bertandos e São Pedro dos Arcos» and «Lagoa da Pateira de Fermentelos e Vale dos Rios Águeda and Cértima» have their own management bodies, chaired by the respective municipalities - Caldas da Rainha, Ponte de Lima and Águeda. As for the «Mondego Estuary» Ramsar site, although not being part of any classified area, is also managed by the ICNF.

In Portugal there is no specific wetland policy; nonetheless, various policy instruments are in place, such as the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, the National Water Plan and the River Basin Management Plans (with the aim to protect inland surface water bodies, coastal water bodies, transitional water bodies and groundwater bodies). In addition, wetlands are considered in the strategies for nature conservation at national level, and a significant percentage of wetlands are included in the Natura 2000 network.

Water quality has improved in Portugal during the last decade, due to the improvement of policies and management on wastewater treatment. In the last triennium, Portugal experienced a period of drought, with harmful effects on water quality.

A number of projects undertaken by universities and public administration with the aim of conserving and managing wetland biodiversity are funded by the government or the EU. Among these are 3 projects on habitat restoration for migratory fish species and sustainable fishing activity: - PROMAR 31-03-02-FEP-4 - SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF EEL FISHERIES IN the SANTO ANDRÉ LAGOON - PELSA - PROMAR 31-03-02-FEP-5 - "REHABILITAÇÃO DOS HABITATS DE PEIXES DIÁDROMOS NA BACIA HIDROGRÁFICA DO MONDEGO" - INTERREG 0016 - MIGRA MIÑO "PROTECCIÓN Y CONSERVACIÓN DE PECES MIGRADORES EN EL TRAMO INTERNACIONAL DEL RIO MIÑO Y SUS AFLUENTES" - LIFE16 ENV/PT/000411 - AGUEDA - "CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR MIGRATORY FISH IN THE VOUGA RIVER BASIN"

Furthermore, there are financing mechanisms for certain activities with environmental concerns. The conservation and wise use of wetlands is encouraged through policies promoting good practices, licensing and environmental impact assessment processes. There are national strategies that define goals aiming to promote the rational use of water, such as the Efficient Water Use Plan, the National Strategy for Agro-livestock and Agro-industrial Effluents Strategy and the Action Plan for the Circular Economy.

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Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores there are coastal wetlands (with marine influence) and terrestrial wetlands (without direct marine influence). For the protection of wetlands, 13 Ramsar Sites have been officially designated for the Region, 12 of which are terrestrial and cover a total area of 13182 ha. The marine site "Ilhéus das Formigas and Recife Dollabarat" has an area of 7 ha. All sites, with the exception of Paúl da Praia da Vitória, on Terceira Island, are part of the Network of Protected Areas, being managed by the Island Natural Parks.

Ramsar sites are subject to the management and conservation regimes established by Regional Legislative Decree No. 15/2012/A, of 2 April, which approves the legal regime for the conservation of nature and biodiversity and by the decrees that create the Island's Natural Parks.

In addition, the Hydrographic Region Management Plans and the project for the control and eradication of invasive flora species include some actions in Ramsar Sites and wetlands in general, such as the control and management of invasive alien species, habitat restoration

and planting of native species.

Within the scope of PRORURAL + there is a financial measure for the conservation of habitats in areas of the Natura 2000 Network where peatlands are included.

At the Ramsar site of Paúl da Praia da Vitória, the City Council implemented the project LIFE CWR Ecological Restoration and Conservation of the Coastal Wet Green Infrastructure of Praia da Vitória, and several actions were developed under this project for the recovery, ecological restoration and management of three key wetlands: Paul da Praia da Vitória, Paul do Belo Jardim and Paul da Pedreira.

To improve the sustainability of tourism in the Azores, some measures were taken to define and control the carrying capacity for the number of visitors per day, for example, at the Ramsar Site Caldeira do Faial. It is planned to do the same in other protected wetlands of the Azores.

Madeira Autonomous Region

Protection of wetlands: priority habitat 3170 (Mediterranean temporary ponds) in the Paul da Serra area (Special Area of Conservation (SAC) PTMAD0002 - Central Mountainous Massif of Madeira Island)

National Target(s)

Develop specific actions for the conservation and management of species and habitats throughout the national territory, as well as for safeguarding and enhancing the landscape heritage and notable elements of the geological, geomorphological and paleontological heritage
Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage of areas integrated in the Natura 2000 network
Promote scientific research and knowledge about the natural heritage, as well as the monitoring of species, habitats and ecosystems
Promote the enhancement of protected areas and ensure the conservation of their natural, cultural and social heritage
Promote the integration of the nature conservation policy and the principle of the sustainable use of biological resources in the spatial planning policy and in the different sectoral policies

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

No formal mechanisms were implemented to measure the effectiveness of the actions implemented. With the actions taken, efforts were made to contribute for the improvement of the management and conservation of wetlands. Thus, it is a continuous process that did not end in the reporting period.

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Relevant websites, links, and files

[Ramsar Portugal Continental](#)
[Life Azores](#)
[Ramsar Azores](#)
[Madeira wetlands actions](#)

Agricultural habitats actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Mainland Portugal

Agriculture and forest have a major role on nature conservation and biodiversity protection in Portugal. Besides that, agroecosystems and forests are extremely important to carbon sequestration, to combat desertification and land degradation, and to increase organic matter in the soil.

There is the need to provide financial aid in order to restore and maintain agroecosystems as well as woodlands and forests. This financial support given, particularly, to land owners and managers can be made through national and/or European funds.

Regarding to the European Funds, the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 aims to support sustainable growth of the agriculture and forestry sector.

The Rural Development Program addresses biodiversity through objectives such as:

- the conservation of species genetic heritage;
- the preservation and maintenance of high natural value traditional and extensive systems, including Natura 2000 Network areas;
- the recovery of conservation forests;
- and, the preservation of wild biodiversity related with agricultural and forestry ecosystems.

Some examples of these measures are:

- encouraging efficient use of water and soil,
- promoting organic farming,
- promoting traditional livestock farming,

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- encouraging traditional groves,
- conserving and maintaining the agroforestry mosaic.

Aiming to support the sustainable management of natural resources through the recovery, conservation and improvement of ecosystems linked to forestry and agriculture, agro-environmental measures are essential to achieving that objective.

As regards to national funds, the Forestry Fund (Fundo Florestal Permanente) finances a wide range of measures related to forestry. Despite potential positive externalities to biodiversity protection in a variety of measures, the one's related to forest fires defence, biological hazards combat and the promotion of forest planning and management could directly support nature conservation and biodiversity protection

Azores Autonomous Region

Creation in 2015 of support programs for producers who choose to convert to practices of Organic Production Mode, by the PDR Açores and PRORURAL+; creation of measures within the scope of Prorural +, Agroenvironment and Clima that intends to continue the preservation and improvement of ecosystems located in agricultural areas, orienting agricultural activities towards less intensive production systems aimed at the protection and preservation of biodiversity in agricultural areas: compensation payment for Natura 2000 agricultural areas and for agricultural areas included in the hydrographic basin management plans, and support for the conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture.

In 2017, a protocol was signed between the Agricultural administrative authority and the Cooperative of Organic Agriculture Producers CRL (BioAzórica) to create a working group for the definition of a strategic plan and an action plan for the development of organic farming adapted to specific characteristics in the Region.

Madeira Autonomous Region

PRODERAM 2020:

- Measure 10. Agri-environment and climate - Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 December, on the EAFRD;
- Sub-measure M10.1. Payment of commitments regarding agri-environment and climate and Sub-measure 10.2. Support for the conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

No formal mechanisms were implemented to measure the effectiveness of the actions implemented. Thus, it is a continuous process that did not end in the reporting period.

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Relevant websites, links, and files

[Madeira PRODERAM execution report](#)

Geodiversity actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Mainland Portugal

In Mainland Portugal, the sites with geological importance that are classified as Natural Monuments (national protected areas typology) can be found: <http://www.icnf.pt/portal/ap/nac/mon-natur>

Its expected that other geosites of national importance will be added to the national inventory of geosites in Portugal and protected with conservation measures.

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores Autonomous Region 340 volcanic caves are known, as a result of the effort and work that has been done by GESPEA - Working Group for the Study of the Speleological Heritage of the Azores - in the inventory and characterization of these structures. Within this work of inventory and characterization of volcanic caves, a methodology was developed that allows the classification and hierarchization of volcanic caves in the Azores, where one of the criteria is related to the biodiversity found in each cave. As a result of the knowledge that has been acquired in the meantime, it is planned to apply new methodologies in the allocation of classes to volcanic cavities, including the 272 that are currently hierarchical. All volcanic caves are habitats protected by the Habitats Directive.

Considering the vast and diversified geological heritage of the Azores archipelago, this territory was designated as a UNESCO Global

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Geopark, the Azores Geopark, based on a network of geosites, spread over the nine islands and the surrounding marine area, which ensure the representativeness of the geodiversity of the Azores archipelago and reflect its geological and eruptive history. There are 121 geosites in the Azores Geopark (117 terrestrial and 4 marine) of which 57 are priority (55 terrestrial and 2 marine). All the information gathered about the geosites (mostly from scientific documents and papers, maps and technical reports) was properly managed and supported its evaluations – “Inventory and Significance of Geosites”.

Currently, 77% of the Azores geosites (93 geosites) are under legal protection of the Island Natural Parks, the Azores Marine Park and the Natura 2000 Network. From these, 52 geosites are integrated, simultaneously, in the Island Natural Parks and in the Natura 2000 Network, while 39 geosites are only under legal protection on the content of the Island Natural Parks. One geosite, the D. João de Castro Bank, is integrated in the Natura 2000 Network and in the Azores Marine Park. Part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and its hydrothermal fields is also covered by the Azores Marine Park. From the others 28 geosites, a significant number is covered by other designations and protection and enhancement measures, like the geosites of São Jorge, Graciosa, Flores and Corvo islands, which are an integral part of their respective Biosphere Reserve.

Within the scope of the regional program to control flora alien invasive species work has been carried out in some geosites, such as the volcanic caves entrances and prismatic jointing scarps.

In order to ensure the maintenance and guarantee an effective management and protection of the natural and geologic heritage, some geosites have conditioned access and supervised visits.

A monitoring program of the Azores terrestrial geosites is in place, in close cooperation with the Island Natural Parks, ensuring the adequate control of the integrity of the geological and ecological values and the establishment of management measures to mitigate or prevent eventual impacts due to the geosite use or the effects of erosion.

The Azores Geopark webpage (www.azoresgeopark.com) and some publications (e.g. the geosites Maps) allow a public access to the Azores geosites list and information about them.

In the Azores, marine mining comprises exclusively the extraction of non-metallic mineral resources, namely the exploration and exploitation of sand, gravel and pebble, and the Region is self-sufficient with respect to these mineral resources. The development of the activity in the Region is based on the existing knowledge on non-metallic marine resources located at coastal areas and on the seabed, at the level of the insular shelf of the islands. With the collaboration of the Regional Government of the Azores, there have been a number of detailed studies of the insular shelves in the Azores archipelago aiming to identify areas with potential for aggregate extraction, in the context of GEMAS project and PLATMAR project. These initiatives have gathered data on the majority of the shelves surrounding Faial, Pico, São Miguel, Flores and Santa Maria island, namely bathymetric data, high-resolution seismic reflection data, and sediment sampling mapping information, with the purpose of characterizing the composition and texture of superficial deposits and providing volume estimates. Knowledge on the seabed substrate type surrounding other islands of the Azores archipelago is, however, still limited. Aggregate extraction in the Azores is currently regulated according to Regional Legislative Decree no. 9/2010/A of 8 March (altered and republished by Regional Legislative Decree no. 31/2012/A of 6 July). Government Council Resolution 3/2014 from 15 of January Approves the areas where commercial extraction of sea sands is authorized. Decree Order 51/2013, from 10 of July Establishes rules concerning the licensing for the extraction of rolled stone which is intended to be used exclusively in the preparation of professional fishing gear Government Council Resolution 105/2013, from 6 of November Defines the areas authorized for extraction of sand by licensed companies and their maximum annual extraction volumes. Amended by Government Council Resolution No. 3/2014 of, January 15, approving areas where commercial extraction of sea sands is authorized <http://marsp.eu/media/files/None/marspwp2d25marspcurrent-maritime-uses.pdf>

Madeira Autonomous Region

Strategy for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage of the Autonomous Region of Madeira (approved by the Resolution of the Madeira Government Council No. 833/2015, of 7 October), to be implemented in the areas of governance, dissemination and environmental awareness, and research.

Porto Santo 2016 geodiversity roadmap - an information tool that integrates ten geosites and seven geodiversity sites, distributed throughout the island and their islets.

Ponta de São Lourenço Geodiversity Roadmap (2017).

Calheta Geodiversity Roadmap (2018).

"Itinerary of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Selvagens Islands (2019):

- Informative instrument that integrates eleven places of geological interest, distributed in Selvagem Grande.

- The roadmap awakens to the relevant aspects of geodiversity (abiotic part), the cultural aspects that indicate human occupation and also to the main relevant aspects of biodiversity (biotic part)."

National Target(s)

Establish the Fundamental Nature Conservation Network and the National System of Classified Areas, including the National Protected Areas Network

Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage of areas integrated in the Natura 2000 network

Promote the enhancement of protected areas and ensure the conservation of their natural, cultural and social heritage

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

No formal mechanisms were implemented to measure the effectiveness of the actions implemented. With the actions taken, efforts were made to contribute to improve the management and conservation of the geological heritage. Thus, it is a continuous process that did not end in the reporting period.
marine environment - Article 8 report for Descriptor 6 of the MSFD

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Relevant websites, links, and files

[Azores Geopark](#)
[Speleo azores](#)
[madeira geodiversity actions.docx](#)

Inland waters actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Mainland Portugal

The project "Livro Vermelho dos Peixes e Sistema Nacional de Informação dos Peixes Dulciaquícolas e Diádomos de Portugal Continental - LVP-SNIPAD" (Red Book and National Information System for Freshwater and Diadromous Fish of mainland Portugal)", and SNIPAD in particular, will substantially increase public information and awareness on the biology, ecology, pressures and conservation of the freshwater and diadromous fishes of mainland Portugal.

This project started in March 2018, will be ongoing until April 2021 and will aim:

- the assessment of the risk of extinction of species and the publication of the Red Book of Freshwater and Diadromous Fish of mainland Portugal;
 - the development of SNIPAD (National Information System on freshwater and Diadromous Fish of mainland Portugal), an interactive and freely accessible online platform, containing all historical and contemporary information on freshwater and diadromous fish species.
- This project, co-financed by POSEUR and the Environmental Fund, is promoted by FCIências.ID - Association for Research and Development of Sciences, through two R&D Units - MARE and cE3C, in partnership with the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests, IP, and will count on the collaboration of specialists from various institutions.

The construction, recovery or reuse of hydraulic infrastructures, namely those that impact longitudinal river connectivity, are subject to measures to minimize their negative impacts, whenever deemed necessary.

Between 2015 and 2018, the legal framework previously in force in the area of fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic resources (half a century old) was revoked. The new legal framework aims at the sustainable management of aquatic resources, respecting the principles of nature and biodiversity conservation and the protection of water bodies. The subsequent regulation recommends adaptive management in the concession of fisheries (mainly angling), associated with a precautionary and ecosystemic approach to fisheries management. In professional fishing, particular emphasis has been placed on the co-management of fisheries for highly valuable commercial species, namely eel, sea lamprey and shad.

The change in the legal framework involved the publication of several pieces of legislation, notably:

- Law no. 7/2008, of 15 February, amended and republished by Decree-Law no. 221/2015, of 8 October - (Law on fisheries, aquaculture and inland aquatic resources)
- Decree-Law No. 112/2017, of 6 September
- Decree-Law no. 40/2017 of 4 April
- Ordinance No. 108/2018 of 20 April
- Ordinance No. 279/2017, of 19 September

During the evaluation period, one research project stood out for its relevance in generating knowledge essential for the management of exotic species and the conservation of aquatic resources in inland waters:

The project " Freshwater fish InvaSions Risk assessment: identifying invasion routes - FRISK" started in 2016 and ended in 2019. This project, financed by FCT - Foundation for Science and Technology, was promoted by MARE.

Another significant legal evolution in the prevention and management of aquatic invasive species was the publication of the new legal framework on fishing, aquaculture and aquatic resources of inland waters, that has already been detailed, with several rules that will contribute to preventing the introduction of new species, reducing the dispersal of those already present, and reducing the density of other species.

Projects PELSA AND MONDEGO and one ongoing project (DiadEs) aimed at the protection and sustainable management of eel, shad and sea lamprey fisheries and the assessment and promotion of ecosystem services associated with diadromous fish in a context of climate change:

INTERREG- DiadEs - Assessing and enhancing ecosystem services provided by diadromous fish in a climate change context
PROMAR- PESLA - Sustainable management of European Eel fishery in Santo André Lagoon
Projet PROMAR MONDEGO - "Restoration of Diadromous Fish Habitats in the Mondego River Basin

AzoresAutonomous Region

It is considered that of the 47 measures of the Hidrographic Region Management Plan of Azores - "PGRH-A", 19 contribute to the objectives of the National Biodiversity Strategy, since they affect water bodies and intend precisely to contribute to the good ecological and chemical status of these water bodies and, consequently, of the associated ecosystems. Also for the good status of ecosystem services in general, with influence also on these areas, within the scope of the hydrological cycle of each island. Of the 19 measures, only 4 (21%) were not implemented.

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Madeira Autonomous Region

Sportfishing in inland waters: the Institute of Forests and Nature Conservation, IP-RAM grants sport fishing licenses in inland waters that confer the right to fish in any public waters not reserved or granted. The species available are mainly trout (rainbow trout and brown trout) and eels.

Canyoning: responsible for issuing permits for the practice of Canyoning activity in the Autonomous Region of Madeira.

Management Plan for the Hydrographic Region of the Madeira Archipelago (PGRH10, 2016-2021).

Inscription of "Levadas da Madeira" on Portugal's World Heritage List (2016).

National Target(s)

Develop specific actions for the conservation and management of species and habitats throughout the national territory, as well as for safeguarding and enhancing the landscape heritage and notable elements of the geological, geomorphological and paleontological heritage
Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage of areas integrated in the Natura 2000 network
Promote scientific research and knowledge about the natural heritage, as well as the monitoring of species, habitats and ecosystems
Promote the enhancement of protected areas and ensure the conservation of their natural, cultural and social heritage
Promote the integration of the nature conservation policy and the principle of the sustainable use of biological resources in the spatial planning policy and in the different sectoral policies

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

To characterize the degree of implementation of Measures Program related to the Hydrographic Region Management Plan of Azores - "PGRH-A", and a preliminary analysis of the evolution of the reference situation between 2013 and 2017, specific questionnaires were sent to the entities responsible for implementing the measures recommended by the PGRH-A 2016-2021. The specific methodology associated with the assessment of the fulfillment of the objectives of the PGRH-A 2016-2021 consists of an integrated analysis between the assessment of the degree of fulfillment of each objective / goal defined for the different indicators (2017) and the assessment of the percentage evolution registered since the reference situation (2013).

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Relevant websites, links, and files

[Frisk project](#)
[PROMAR MONDEGO](#)
[Azores](#)
[Madeira Canyonig and Fishing Licenses](#)
[Madeira PGRH10 2016-2021](#)
[Madeira UNESCO National Commission](#)

Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken

The recovery of the status of the identified water bodies is expected to be gradual and prolonged, verifying the extension of compliance with environmental objectives for reasons of technical feasibility and in some cases of natural conditions, since in particular in the lakes the low resilience of these ecosystems leads to an increase response time to the recovery measures applied. This reason is justified either by reasons of technical unfeasibility resulting from the lack of knowledge of some specific pressures associated with the state of the water body, or to practical constraints associated with the implementation of the measures (such as the impossibility of carrying out the necessary measures and being able to revert the state of the water body in a timeframe until 2015 (in most cases there was only time for the application of the measures without time for the water bodies to have answers in order to improve their state).

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For the definition of the physical and financial execution schedules of the measures (and, consequently, of the environmental objectives of the water bodies that depended

Sea and the coast actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Azores Autonomous Region

Actions regarding the Azores Sea are fully explained in sections regarding: Threatened habitats and species, Protected areas, Invasive alien species, Fish stocks, Wildlife and International Issues (marked in blue)

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For marine ecosystems, the "vulnerable marine ecosystems" started to be identified, and integrated in the Fundamental Nature Conservation Network, endowed with management plans and maritime activities, under the terms of use and spatial planning of the national

maritime space and taking into account the principles of ecosystem-based management.

Madeira Autonomous Region

Maritime Spatial Situation Plan - subdivision of Madeira - PSOEM Madeira

Projects:

- GO JELLY (2018-2021) "A gelatinous solution to plastic pollution". Lead by the researchers from OOM-ARDITI, the main objective of this project is to develop, test and promote a gelatinous solution that will be processed through raw material from jellyfish to serve as a filter for microplastic pollution.

-CLEAN ATLANTIC (2017-2020). This project aims to protect biodiversity and marine ecosystems by improving regional cooperation and strengthening capacities for the prevention, monitoring and removal of marine litter in the Atlantic. One of the goals is to raise awareness and change attitudes, as well as improve marine waste management systems.

- ECOMARPORT (2016-2019). The project intended to contribute to European marine monitoring and blue growth strategies, through cooperation and technology transfer between the public and private sector in the field of marine science and marine technologies in the Macaronesian region. One of the major outputs was the implementation of the environmental and marine observation network in Macaronesian ports.

- MARCET (2016-2019): The main goals were: 1) Transfer science and advanced technologies in cetacean health surveillance and operational oceanography, to standardize the level of knowledge, infrastructure and best practices, and demonstrate, with new innovative products, the sustainable development of the associated business activity; 2) Transfer of experience and technologies in multidisciplinary monitoring and Cetacean Health Surveillance between the institutions responsible for this activity in the regions, to partners, specialized in operational oceanography and to tourism and associated technology companies.

- MISTIC SEAS II (2017-2019): The project developed a common methodology for monitoring three functional groups (marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds) of Descriptor 1 (biodiversity) in the Macaronesia sub-region, focusing on populations of species shared between the archipelagos.

MAR 2020: Revitalization of Marine Fauna and Flora

- Creation of Artificial Reef in Porto Santo and Creation of Artificial Reef in the Cabo Girão Marine Natural Park

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

MSFD reporting, HD reporting, BD reporting.

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Relevant websites, links, and files

[Madeira sea and cost actions.docx](#)

Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken

One main difficulty is for the member state to apply a number of different instruments simultaneously of several marine environmental policy (HD, BD, MSFD, MSP Directive, and also all the conventions such as OSPAR, CBD, RAMSAR, and so on), using only partially overlapping concepts. This issue overloads the environmental authorities (especially for small departments as the ones in the Azores and few human resources), which must comply with many annual reporting requests, which turns the conservation policy a rather bureaucratic task, with no clear positive impacts on the field for biodiversity itself.

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Genetic diversity actions

Measures taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores Autonomous Region, within the scope of PRORURAL + program, financial support was established for the conservation of genetic resources for the conservation of the Traditional Azores Orchards and the protection of the Autochthonous "Ramo Grande" Breed.

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In 2015, within the scope of the Ramo Grande Breed Conservation and Genetic Improvement Program, genetic evaluation for a set of productive, reproductive and morphological characteristics emerged for the 1st time, which constitutes an indispensable tool for breeders of the "Ramo Grande" breed to proceed objective selection of animals.

Several actions were also taken to publicize and promote the breed, such as the Agro-Pecuárias Fairs, Breed Breeders' Day, which has made this genetic heritage known and raise awareness among breeders and the general population about the importance of its preservation. In 2017, a protocol was signed between Regional Secretariat for Agriculture and Forestry and the Cooperative of Organic Agriculture Producers CRL (BioAzórica) for the creation of a specific working group for the definition of a strategic plan and an action plan for the development and implementation of the organic farming adapted to the specific characteristics in the Region where, among other aspects, the promotion of the use of traditional varieties is intended. The regional department with competence on agriculture issues and the University of the Azores has been dedicated to the conservation of traditional agricultural varieties in the Archipelago.

Madeira Autonomous Region

REGIS Project "Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources in Madeira island"

"Activities:

- Inventory of species/populations and production of digital cartography;
- Multiplication of forest species;
- Ex-situ and in-situ conservation of forest genetic resources (Storage of seeds of the target species in the Seed Bank of the Madeira Botanical Garden), the constitution of "mother fields" as well as population reinforcements and reintroductions of forest species considered most threatened);
- Evaluation of the genetic diversity of *Olea maderensis* and preparation of a conservation plan (Molecular studies, assessment of the impacts of infection and control methodologies);
- Promotion of promotion and awareness campaigns (Lectures and production of information and dissemination material)."

The Banco de Sementes do Jardim Botânico da Madeira: Pressures on the environment are so great in many areas that it is not always possible to conserve plants in their natural habitats. While we cannot always guarantee the safety of a plant in even the best-protected nature reserve (in-situ conservation), plant seeds can be kept safely for hundreds of years in a seed bank. The Banco de Sementes do Jardim Botânico da Madeira was established in 1994 and since then, the number of indigenous and endemic seeds plant species of the Madeira and Selvagens archipelagos has been continuously increasing.

"Germplasm Bank ISOPlexis (BG ISOPlexis): inventory the resources and collect germplasm from biological resources or agricultural interest in the Macaronesian Region, and in particular the Madeira Archipelago.

In addition to the resources of this Region, BG ISOPlexis also houses agricultural resources from other parts of the globe in its collections."

"Molecular phylogeny of three Porto Santan and ten Madeiran endemic land snails species:

- Razkin, O., Gómez-moliner, B.J., Prieto, C.E., Martínez-ortí, A., Arrébola, J.R., Muñoz, B., Chueca, L.J., Madeira, M.J., (2015). Molecular phylogeny of the western Palaeartic Helicoidea (Gastropoda, Stylommatophora). *Mol. Phylogenet. Evol.* 83, 99–117.- De Mattia, W., Neiber, M.T. and Groh, K. (2018a.) Revision of the genus-group *Hystricella* R.T. Lowe, 1855 from Porto Santo (Madeira Archipelago), with descriptions of new recent and fossil taxa (Gastropoda: Hygromiidae: Geomitridae). *ZooKeys* 732: 1-125.
- De Mattia, W., Neiber, M.T. and Groh, K. (2018b). Corrigenda: De Mattia W, Neiber MT, Groh K (2018) Revision of the genus-group *Hystricella* R.T. Lowe, 1855 from Porto Santo (Madeira Archipelago), with descriptions of new recent and fossil taxa (Gastropoda: Hygromiidae: Geomitridae). *ZooKeys* 733: 147-148. <https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.732.21677>.
- Caro, Amaia & Neiber, Marco & Gómez, Benjamin & Madeira, María. (2019). Molecular phylogeny and biogeography of the land snail subfamily Leptaxinae (Gastropoda: Hygromiidae). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*. 139.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes

Measure taken has been partially effective

Relevant websites, links, and files

[Madeira Genetic diversity actions.docx](#)

Section III. Assessment of progress towards each national target

Establish the Fundamental Nature Conservation Network and the National System of Classified Areas, including the National Protected Areas Network



2020 - On track to achieve target

Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target

Rate of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

On track to achieve target

Date the assessment was done

29 May 2020

Summary of the assessment of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

The Decree-Law no. 142/2008, of 14 May, changed by the Decree-Law no.242/2015, of 15 October, created the Fundamental Nature Conservation Network and the National System of Classified Areas (SNAC), the latter integrating the National Protected Areas Network (RNAP).

The Fundamental Nature Conservation Network is composed by nuclear areas of nature conservation and biodiversity, integrated in the SNAC, and by the areas of National Ecological Reserve, of National Agricultural Reserve and Public Water Domain, as areas of continuity that establish or safeguard the connection and genetic exchange of populations of wild species between different nuclear conservation areas.

The SNAC comprising the RNAP, the classified areas integrated into the Natura 2000 Network, and other areas listed under international commitments assumed by Portuguese Government.

In 2018, 47 protected areas were included in the RNAP. 32 national areas (1 national park (<http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/ap/pnpg>), 13 natural parks (<http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/ap/p-nat>), 9 natural reserves (<http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/ap/r-nat>), 2 protected landscapes and 7 natural monuments(<http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/ap/nac/mon-natur>), 14 regional/local in scope (2 Natural Reserves, 11 Protected Landscapes and 1 Natural Park), and also 1 Private Protected Area (<http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/ap/amb-priv/app-faia-brava>).

Map of the National Protected Areas Network Mainland Portugal

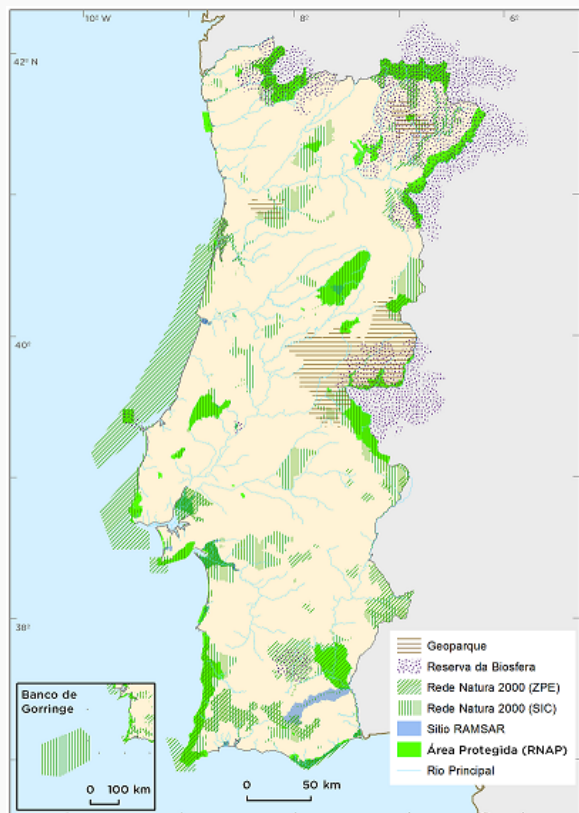


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Source: ICNF

The Natura 2000 Network comprises areas listed as Sites in the national site list, Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the Habitats Directive, and areas listed as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive. The Natura 2000 Network also includes the areas listed in international commitments, among others, Ramsar Sites, Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks.

Map of the Natura 2000 Network Mainland Portugal



Source: ICNF

The Natura 2000 Network in Portugal covers about 22% of the total land area, plus about 39,000 km² of marine área, and contain 107 areas designated under the Habitats Directive and 62 Special Protection Zones (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive, distributed across the Continent and autonomous regions.

Areas classified under the Birds and Habitats Directives in Portugal

Type	Total No.	Mainland No.	The Azores No.	Madeira No.	Marine sites or with marine area	Total area (ha)	Terrestrial area (ha)	Marine area (ha)
SPA	62	42	15	5	16	1.795, 521	966,625	828,896 (8,288.96 km ²)
pSCI/SCI/ SAC	107	62 SCI	23 SAC 2 SCI	11 SAC 8 SCI 1 pSCI	31	4.692,961	1.616,768	3.076,193 (30,761.93 km ²)

Source: Natura Network 2000 Database

Areas classified under international commitments

	No.	Total area (ha)	Terrestrial area (ha)	Marine area (ha)
Ramsar Sites	18	117,383.31	117,383.31	0
Biosphere Reserves	6	1.104,950	1.086,943	180.07
Geoparks	4	1.898,159.82	842,159.82	10,560

Source: ICNF

Despite the increase in marine protected areas in 2017, and the Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) in the biogeographic region of Macaronesia have already been designated as Special Conservation Areas, the same has not happened in the biogeographical regions of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

About Transboundary Protected Areas category, there are two classifications, both in mainland Portugal, the Tejo/Tajo International Park (PITT), consisting of the areas corresponding to the Natural Parks of the International Tagus and the International Tajo and the Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Park, consisting of Peneda-Gerês National Park and the Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurés Natural Park.

The Autonomous Region of the Azores has implemented a classification model for protected areas based on the criteria of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and an innovative management system based on a management unit of the Azores Protected Areas Network - the Natural Park Island (PNI) and the Azores Marine Park (PMA). These units were created since 2008 by a specific diploma (Regional Legislative Decree). Thus, 9 Island Natural Parks were created, covering 123 areas (19 Nature Reserves, 10 Natural Monuments, 48 Habitats/Species Management Areas, 16 Protected Landscape Areas and 30 Protected Areas with sustainable use of natural resources) and their total amount is 180247 ha, of which 56066 ha are land and 124181 ha are marine. Within the Azores Marine Park 15 areas are protected, with 24685971 ha. In the Azores, the Natura 2000 Network consists of 3 Sites of Community Importance (SCI), 23 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and 15 Special Protection Areas (SPA) where the total area of SCI is 30 659.68 ha, of SAC is 33 582.15 ha and SPA is 16 192.38 ha. The Natura 2000 Network, the protected areas of regional importance, the ecological reserve and the regional agricultural reserve are part of the fundamental nature conservation network, for the purposes of Regional Legislative Decree No. 15/2012/A of 2nd April, which establishes the legal regime for biodiversity and nature conservation.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2018 Report: MPAs in Portugal are moving towards target 14.5 in the Azores sea - Indicator - 14.5.1. 7% coverage in 2017.

In 2016, the Marine Park of the Azores was reviewed and increased its area in 122% (DLR 13/2016/A)

The Marine Park of the Azores aims to establish a coherent network of offshore marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Azores Sea, managed by the self-government bodies of the Region. The Marine Park was implemented in 2011 by a regional law decree (DLR 28/2011/A) and was reviewed and extended in 2016 (DLR 13/2016/A). Presently, it includes fifteen marine protected areas (MPAs), located outside the territorial waters of the Azores, comprising a total area of 245 917 Km². These MPAs have been nominated by various conservation organizations. Site-specific legally binding recommendations have been developed for each site, according to strict protection objectives and management objectives adapted from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Protected Area Management Categories.

The Marine Park of the Azores comprises the D. João de Castro seamount, Lucky Strike and Menez Gwen hydrothermal vents, that integrate the Natura 2000 Network, as classified under EU legislation. Sedlo Seamount, the Rainbow hydrothermal vent field, Altair and Antialtair deep seamounts and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores, are Marine Park areas that belong to the network of marine protected areas under the OSPAR convention. The latest four sites are high seas MPAs located in areas beyond national jurisdiction (outside the Azorean EEZ) and subject to Portuguese continental shelf extension claims. Most of the Meteor submarine archipelago MPA (~88% of the area) is also under this claim, while the remaining portion belongs to the Portuguese EEZ. The Meteor MPA is the largest of the Marine Park comprising 123 238 Km². Additionally, two other seamounts (Condor and Princesa Alice) and two oceanic Important Bird Areas (IBAs, north of Faial and Corvo offshore areas), all of them within the national EEZ, take part of the Park. Furthermore, the Marine Park of the Azores integrates marine areas that are crucial to the preservation of turtles, seabirds, whales and other relevant species, which are subject to specific schemes in order to ensure the

management of the areas and passage corridors that are important for the migration, feeding and reproduction of these species. This includes buffer zones for protection and management of resources, such as around D. João de Castro Seamount reserve and a perimeter located southeast from the Azores, surrounding the Menez Gwen, Lucky Strike and Rainbow hydrothermal complex.

The Azores Marine Park is envisioned to provide a representative offshore MPA network for the Azores that will protect the major ecosystem features in relation to their habitats and species, at an appropriate scale, within and across each bioregion.

A Working Group on National Marine Protected Areas (GTAMP) was created in 2017 by the Ministry of the Sea, to evaluate the existing MPAs, make a proposal of an ecosystemically coherent network of new MPAs in maritime spaces under national sovereignty or jurisdiction and elaborate management and monitoring plans for those areas. Management Plans for all marine protected in the Azores are being elaborated. Regarding the management plans for coastal MPAs (areas located up to 6 nautical miles, from the coast line), each island in the Azores archipelago is a management unit, with a management plan. The MPAs on each island are management subunits, with specific objectives and regulations and specific management measures and regulations. The oceanic areas beyond 6 nautical miles (Marine Park of the Azores - PMA) make part of another management unit, with a single management plan, including specific management objectives, measures and regulations. Nevertheless, the Regional Legislative Decrees that create each of the 9 the Island Natural Parks and the Marine Park of the Azores already establish, for each existing MPA, the fundamentals, management objectives and general regulation (conditioned and prohibited activities), according to the Regional Biodiversity Regime DLR 15/2012/A.

Oceano Azul Foundation is contributing to the implementation of Marine Protected Areas at the national and international levels establishing partnerships and supporting science-based processes, by promoting the establishment of new MPAs; improving the effectiveness of current MPAs; and reducing "Paper" Parks. Oceano Azul is promoting MPAs and other area-based management tools as part of any conservation and sustainable fisheries strategy, and as a means to protect marine species and habitats, reverse the decline of biodiversity and of the goods and services associated with marine ecosystems, recover degraded habitats and increase the sustainability of the resources.

The Blue Azores Program focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of natural marine resources in the Azores. Main actions: Declaring 15% of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Azores as new marine protected areas; Creating and implement management plans for the new marine reserves and all existing marine protected areas; Developing and legally adopt a marine spatial planning plan.

MSFD latest assessment of the environmental status of the marine environment, the Reports to the implementation of Birds and Habitats Directives, allow to evaluate, indirectly, the effect of environmental policies related to MPAs. The MSFD assessment integrates not only biophysical parameters, for 11 descriptors, a socio-economic analysis, and an analysis of the pressures and impacts of human activities in the marine environment. DRAM prepares the definition of mechanisms for monitoring public policies for the sea, namely through the definition of indicators and their periodic evaluation.

Level of confidence

Level of confidence of the above assessment

Based on expert opinion

Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment

Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue)

Develop specific actions for the conservation and management of species and habitats throughout the national territory, as well as for safeguarding and enhancing the landscape heritage and notable elements of the geological, geomorphological and paleontological heritage



2020 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target

Rate of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Date the assessment was done

30 Jun 2020

During the period covered by this report, actions were taken to conserve and manage species and habitats. The priority of conservation actions was oriented to species, ecosystems and habitats of special significance, whose monitoring actions, showed to be more seriously threatened.

Within the scope of sustainable management of natural resources and in order to provide the market with seeds and forest plants for afforestation, were developed the Plant Production Program for Rare and Endangered Species 2017-2020, at the ICNF Nurseries, and the Plan for Harvesting Forest Reproductive Materials - Autochthonous Forest Species 2017-2020 (PcMFR-A).

In the field of plant health, the National Pest Monitoring Program reflects the need to resume, at the national level, the inventory of harmful biotic agents present in the Portuguese forest (quarantine and non-quarantine organisms), as comprehensively as possible.

Action Plan for the Conservation of the Iberian Wolf (PACLobo) - With the general objective of increasing technical and scientific knowledge about the Iberian wolf and its prey, the need to carry out a national population census, with the highest priority level, has been identified.

Project of the Red List of Flora Vascular of Continental Portugal - operationalization of the protocol between the beneficiary entities, fulfilling the responsibilities of the ICNF - provision of information, dissemination on the ICNF portal, logistical support and product validation.

National Register of Classified Natural Values - In 2017, began the process with the organization of the information. In this context, the methodological proposal that guides the creation of the "National Register of Classified Natural Values - Structure and Content (PHASE I - 2018)" was prepared and approved and that includes: the scope criteria, and the information to be collected for the values.

Pilot Plan for the prevention of forest fires and the recovery and enhancement of natural habitats in the National Park of Peneda-Gerês (PNPG) - Consisting of 11 projects in total, It is intended for the restoration of forest areas, relevant to conservation, that were consumed by fires, and also, to promote structural prevention and forest management for forest areas that constitute priority natural habitats. The positive results achieved in these areas led to the approval of other similar plans to be implemented in other protected areas.

Designation of the marina SIC Maceda-Praia da Vieira and enlargement of the marine area of the SIC Costa Sudoeste, with the purpose of conserving the species of cetaceans *Phocoena phocoena* and bottlenose *Tursiops truncatus*, as well as habitats 1110, 1170 and 8330.

The conservation of anadromous migratory fish species has been strengthened, namely the shad *Alosa alosa*, the yellowtail *Alosa fallax* and the lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, as well as two species of marine reptiles, the brown tortoise *Caretta caretta* and the leatherback turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*, with passage corridors on the mainland coast.

Designation of the marina SIC Banco Gorringe, offshore, in order to reinforce conservation in the exclusive economic zone adjacent to the Mainland of habitat 1170 and 1110 which in this area have absolutely unique characteristics.

On land, was designated the SIC Ria de Aveiro, an important area for the conservation of anadromous migratory fish species, lampreys and clupeids *Petromyzon marinus*, *Lampetra planeri*, *Alosa alosa* and *Alosa fallax*, as well as estuarine habitats 1130 and 1330, and the dune habitat 2170.

Iberian lynx - In partnership with Spain, the process of reintroducing the Iberian lynx in the Guadiana Valley was initiated with the objective of re-establishing the area of distribution of the species.

Captive breeding was used, with regular production of cubs, able to be reintroduced.

Since 2014, have been released in Portugal 35 animals, and agreements have been established with owners and hunting areas on 18518 hectares.

The field interventions to improve habitat for the wild rabbit have brought favorable changes to the restoration and natural dynamics of the ecosystem's .

The process of reintroducing the species has been accompanied by the local population with participation in the release of animals and in the launch of some dissemination initiatives. <http://areasprotegidas.icnf.pt/lince/>

Saramugo - 4 projects were launched to carry out actions identified in the species action plan. Highlight the ex-situ conservation and habitat improvement actions, made possible by the rehabilitation of riverside vegetation in areas with great conservation value for the species.

Marine mammals - LIFE + Project "MarPro" (2011-2015) to acquiring knowledge about the interaction between fishing activity and marine values and defining Natura offshore sites in the continental region (<http://marprolife.org/>)

This project originated: Proposed Management Plan for the marine area covered by the National List of Maceda / Praia da Vieira Sites and by the extension of the SIC Costa Sudoeste, Manuals of good practices for the different fishing gears and a Code of good practices for the mitigation of interactions between Portuguese fishing gear and cetaceans and sea birds.

Ichthyofauna - LIFE ÁGUEDA Project - Consisted of conservation and management actions for migratory fish in the Vouga watershed

Reinforcement of interventions and investment to structural fire prevention, restoration, conservation and enhancement of natural habitats and environmental education in forest ecosystems of high natural value, namely in 13 Natura 2000 Network sites.

Reinforcement of investment to increase the area of occurrence and improve the conservation status of the 9230 Galician-Portuguese oak trees of *Quercus robur* and *Quercus pyrenaica*, 9240 Iberian oak trees of *Quercus faginea* and *Quercus canariensis*, 9260 *Castanea sativa* forests, 5230 arborescent shrubs *Laurus nobilis*. (<http://www.liferelict.ect.uevora.pt/>).

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Green infrastructures for the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network - investment destined to the evaluation and dissemination of practices and the development of green infrastructures for permeabilization of linear “gray” infrastructures that generate fragmentation of habitats and ecosystems and mortality of fauna species. (<https://lifelines.uevora.pt/>).

According with the last report 29% of biogeographic assessments of habitats were favourable in 2013 (EU-27: 16 %). 58 % are considered unfavourable-inadequate (EU-27: 47 %), while 8 % are unfavourable-bad (EU-27: 30%).

As for species, 19 % of assessments were favourable in 2013 (EU-27: 23 %), 31 % were unfavourable-inadequate (EU-27: 42 %) and 10 % were unfavourable-bad (EU-27: 18 %).

As regards birds, 43 % of breeding species showed short-term increases or stable population trends (for wintering species, this figure was 57 %). Overall, the status of natural habitats and species covered by the Habitats Directive has improved in Portugal, although many are still in a poor unfavourable.

In the Azores, two LIFE projects were proposed and approved - LIFE VIDALIA and LIFE IP Azores Natura, and the execution of several projects and actions of habitat restoration and species protection was carried out, of which is important to mention the following projects: Life+ Terras do Priolo LIFE12 NAT/PT/000527 (2013-2019), for active protection of the population of the endemic bird *Pyrrhula murina* and the recovery of its habitat, LIFE EuroSAP Monteiro’s storm-petrel (2015-2018) and the Species Action Plan for the Azores bullfinch (*Pyrrhula murina*) in the European Union (2009 - 2019), and the specific actions of the control of invasive flora species in sensitive areas in all the islands of the Azores and the reintroduction of species in areas of the Natura 2000 Network and on the island of Graciosa.

There was a reinforcement of interventions and investment aimed at collecting seeds for conservation at the Azores Seed Bank installed in the Botanical Garden of Faial (ex situ conservation) and the production of plants to reinforce and increase the size of species populations and also for reintroductions.

In 2018, through the Regional Legislative Decree No. 11/2008/A of 28th August, the Paleopark of Santa Maria was created for the protection and maintenance of paleobiodiversity, a classification recognized by the International Paleontology Association, within the scope of the global Paleoparks initiative.

The Government Council Resolution no. 135/2018, of 10th December, approved the landscape quality objectives and guidelines for the management of the Azores landscape, under development of the European Landscape Convention (CEP).

In the Azores Autonomous Region 340 volcanic caves are known, as a result of the effort and work that has been done by GESPEA - Working Group for the Study of the Speleological Heritage of the Azores - in the inventory and characterization of these structures. Within this work of inventory and characterization of volcanic caves, a methodology was developed that allows the classification and hierarchization of volcanic caves in the Azores, where one of the criteria is related to the biodiversity found in each cave. As a result of the knowledge that has been acquired in the meantime, it is planned to apply new methodologies in the allocation of classes to volcanic cavities, including the 272 that are currently hierarchical. All volcanic caves are habitats protected by the Habitats Directive.

Considering the vast and diversified geological heritage of the Azores archipelago, this territory was designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark, the Azores Geopark, based on a network of geosites, spread over the nine islands and the surrounding marine area, which ensure the representativeness of the geodiversity of the Azores archipelago and reflect its geological and eruptive history. There are 121 geosites in the Azores Geopark (117 terrestrial and 4 marine) of which 57 are priority (55 terrestrial and 2 marine). All the information gathered about the geosites (mostly from scientific documents and papers, maps and technical reports) was properly managed and supported its evaluations - “Inventory and Significance of Geosites”.

Currently, 77% of the Azores geosites (93 geosites) are under legal protection of the Island Natural Parks, the Azores Marine Park and the Natura 2000 Network. From these, 52 geosites are integrated, simultaneously, in the Island Natural Parks and in the Natura 2000 Network, while 39 geosites are only under legal protection on the content of the Island Natural Parks. One geosite, the D. João de Castro Bank, is integrated in the Natura 2000 Network and in the Azores Marine Park. Part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and its hydrothermal fields is also covered by the Azores Marine Park. From the others 28 geosites, a significant number is covered by other designations and protection and enhancement measures, like the geosites of São Jorge, Graciosa, Flores and Corvo islands, which are an integral part of their respective Biosphere Reserve.

Within the scope of the regional program to control flora alien invasive species work has been carried out in some geosites, such as the volcanic caves entrances and prismatic jointing scarps.

In order to ensure the maintenance and guarantee an effective management and protection of the natural and geologic heritage, some geosites have conditioned access and supervised visits.

A monitoring program of the Azores terrestrial geosites is in place, in close cooperation with the Island Natural Parks, ensuring the adequate control of the integrity of the geological and ecological values and the establishment of management measures to mitigate or prevent eventual impacts due to the geosite use or the effects of erosion.

The Azores Geopark webpage (www.azoresgeopark.com) and some publications (e.g. the geosites Maps) allow a public access to the Azores geosites list and information about them.

Seabirds specific conservation actions in the Azores: After-LIFE “Ilhas Santuário para as Aves Marinhas”, LIFE EuroSAP *Hydrobates montei*, LuMinAves, MISTIC SEAS I and MISTIC SEAS II

SOS Cagarro anual campaign helps rescuing thousands of Cory Shearwater juveniles from collision, run over and predators, after getting desoriented by public lights get stranded inland. Every year, besides the Regional Government operatives, hundreds of volunteers join this rescue campaign in all the Azores islands.

ASMAS project (Azores: Stop-over for Marine Alien Species?) studied the occurrence of non-indigenous species in the oriental islands group

of the Archipelago and its invasion pathways. The list of non-indigenous species (NIS) of macroalgae and invertebrates of the Azores created during the INSPECT project was updated into a regional database of marine NIS.

PIMA (Monitoring Program of Marine Invasive Species in the Azores - under PEAMA Strategic Plan for the Marine Environment of the Azores 2015-2018) allowed the identification of the main introduction vectors of non indigenous species (NIS) and predicted the origin and environmental factors that may facilitate their appearance in the archipelago, namely some invasive species already identified in the Azores, in São Miguel, Santa Maria and Faial.

COSTA project promoted fishermen best practices and involves local communities and tourists in conservation actions.

PALMA (Action Plan for the Marine Litter in the Azores), DeLixoMar, Açores Entre Mares, Lixo Zero no Mar dos Açores, OSPAR, No more Plastics and other international and global initiatives and projects and initiatives promoted many ocean and beach clean up initiatives and multiple awareness actions in the past years.

Level of confidence

Level of confidence of the above assessment

Based on partial indicator information and expert opinion

Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment

Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue)

Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage of areas integrated in the Natura 2000 network



2019 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target

Rate of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Date the assessment was done

28 Jun 2019

Summary of the assessment of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

The protected areas have within their scope the objectives and limits defined for the areas of the Natura 2000 Network.

In order to ensuring the financing of projects and actions for the conservation and enhancement of the Natura 2000 Network, the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests presented Mainland Portugal, for the EU Multiannual Financial Period 2014 – 2020.

In Portugal there are 99 types of habitat and 325 species covered by the Habitats Directive and 80 species of birds, listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive.

In 2017, the Natura 2000 network areas represented 20.6% of the national territory. The Special Protection Zone (SPA) of the Birds Directive covered 10% and the Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) of the Habitats Directive 17%.

The Natura 2000 Network contain 107 areas designated under the Habitats Directive and 62 Special Protection Zones (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive, distributed across the Continent and autonomous regions

Despite the increase in marine protected areas in 2017, and the Sites of Community Importance (SCI) in the biogeographic region of Macaronesia have already been designated, as Special Conservation Areas, the same has not happened in the biogeographical regions of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

In addition, Management Plans have been defined only for a few SCIs.

The Management Plans are playing a leading role in the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage, contributing directly to the reduction of the loss of native habitats.

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Thus, it is necessary to conclude the Natura 2000 Network, as well as the Management Plans for all SIC, thereby increasing capacity building to improve the management of Natura 2000 sites and the means of protecting specific species.

Efforts must also be pursued to reinforce the integration of the objectives of nature conservation and enhancement, in other sectoral policies, namely in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, urban planning and spatial planning. Conservation measures taken within the scope of the Natura 2000 network were reported in the national Reports of the Habitats and Birds Directives (2012-2018)

In the Azores, the actions implemented in areas of the Natura 2000 Network, which are simultaneously protected areas, are referred to in OpE 3.

Natura 2000 network marine coverage is about 0,04% of the maritime territory under the Azores jurisdiction and comprises over 376 000 km², including 17 areas within the territorial waters (12 nm): 16 SACs e 1SPA; beyond 12 nautical miles there are 2 SCIs and 1 SAC.

In the Azores, the marine component of the implementation and enforcement of the Habitats and Birds directives is strictly linked with the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The Priority Action Framework designed for the implementation of the Natura 2000 Directives defines priority actions and needs for biodiversity conservation species, habitats and Natura 2000 sites.

Conservation measures taken within the scope of the Natura 2000 network in the Macaronesia were reported in the national Reports of the Habitats and Birds Directives (2012-2018) and were supported by the Regional Government and numerous regional, national and international projects.

"In the National Report on progress and implementation of art 17, Habitats Directive 2007-2012 (Directive 92/43 / EEC), the conservation status of 324 species were assessed: 191 species of flora; 133 fauna - mollusks, arthropods, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals; and 99 natural and semi-natural habitats. Results obtained generally indicate that ""inadequate"" status prevailed over ""favorable"", both for species and for habitats, in all biogeographic regions, except for the Macaronesian Sea habitats. The percentage of ""unknown"" assessments is high, particularly for species. In the latest Report on Art. 17 (2013-2018), the conservation status of all habitats and species listed for the Azores was ""unknown"". However, as the national report refers to the biogeographic region of the Macaronesian Sea, and data was jointed together with Madeira Archipelago, and in Madeira four species of cetaceans were in a ""favorable"" status, it was decided to keep that assessment, duly noted.

In the National Report on progress and implementation of Art. 12, Birds Directive, 2008-2012, in a total of 257 of avifauna species, the trend of breeding populations, especially in the long term, was the main gap. In the latest Report on Art. 12 (2013-2018) the Azores revealed ""unknown"" population and breeding trends for most seabirds, due to the absence of regular, long-term dedicated monitoring, at the regional level, since the end of the 90s, with the exception of the roseate and common tern. The recently approved LIFE IP Azores Natura project will fill this knowledge gap.

Outdated or insufficient data on relevant components of biodiversity persists, namely, on the geographic occurrence and conservation status of protected natural habitats and species.

Regarding cetaceans and sea turtles, despite the existence of a considerable amount of scientific information on the occurrence, ecology and behavior of these migratory species, in the Azores, the existing monitoring programs (opportunistic data, fishing observation programs, or dedicated campaigns, but with limited spatial and temporal scales) did not allow determining the demographic parameters of the species, nor the quality of the habitat. In addition to methodological limitations, the population of these species are distributed far beyond the Azores EEZ, so the conservation status can only be determined by coordinated international initiatives, at the ocean basin scale.

Level of confidence

Level of confidence of the above assessment

Based on expert opinion

Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment

Monitoring is not needed

Improve coordination and cooperation between central, regional and local administration



2020 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target

Rate of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Date the assessment was done

22 Sep 2020

Summary of the assessment of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

The management of Protected Areas at the National Level is responsibility of the national authority.

The management of protected areas at regional or local level is responsibility of the Associations of Municipalities or their Municipalities. In this cases is applicable the regime contained in the respective respective PDM - Municipal Master Plan.

Private protected areas, must implement the management model provided in the management protocol signed with the national authority.

Decentralized management of Regional or Local Protected Areas requires close cooperation between central, regional and local administration.

The central administration is responsible for the production and availability of data and technical information, as well as the monitoring of training actions for technicians from local authorities. integrated in areas of nature conservation policy.

Only with a solid knowledge and updated data is possible for municipalities to make an appropriate territorial management.

In the Azores, there is institutional cooperation between the various government entities, which are also represented in the Advisory Councils of the Island's Natural Parks, in the Biosphere Reserves Management Councils, in the Working Group for the Natural Parks Management Plans and in the Regional Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CRADS).

Regional marine conservation policies are aligned with public national policies for fishing and tourism, research, etc. This integration is promoted in several fora namely in the Regional Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CRADS) and the Interdepartmental Commission for Sea Affairs (CIAMA), where among other matters, maritime spatial planning and marine conservation policies are discussed. The Regional Fisheries Council is a forum for sectoral discussion, promoted by the public administration, with an agenda on marine conservation issues and in particular on the creation of MPAs. These matters are also aligned and discussed within the ten Consulting Councils of the PNI and the Marine Park of the Azores, and include public and private entities.

"The Regional Directorate for Sea Affairs participates in the following regional and national Advisory boards, Comissions and Committees:

- Coordinating Council of Evaluation of the Regional Secretariat of the Sea, Science and Technology
- Maritime Public Domain Committees
- Blue Fund Commission
- Advisory Committee for support and monitoring of the of the situation plan for the national maritime spatial planning process
- National Marine Spatial Situation Plan
- RIS3 Executive Commission
- Monitoring Committee of the Task Group for the Extension of the Portuguese Continental Shelf (EMEPC)
- Advisory Board of the Marine Park of the Azores (CCPMA)
- Working Group on National Marine Protected Areas (GTAMP)
- Interdepartmental Commission for Maritime Affairs of the Azores (CIAMA)
- Interministerial Commission for Sea Affairs - CIAM
- Integrated Territorial Investment Instrument for the Sea (ITI Mar)
- Advisory Committee of the Hydrographic Region Management Plan
- Regional Plan for Climate Change
- Management Commission of the Operational Plan Mar 2020
- Task Group for the Coordination of the LIFE Program in the Autonomous Region of the Azores"

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Level of confidence

Level of confidence of the above assessment

Based on partial indicator information and expert opinion

Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment

No monitoring system in place



2020 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target

Rate of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Date the assessment was done

30 Jun 2020

Summary of the assessment of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

The integration of nature and biodiversity conservation policies in Portugal's external relations, and national participation in international biodiversity governance, has been constant and Portugal has progressively adhered to international agreements, relevant to national conservation policies and consequently to the ENCNB.

Global Scope Agreements

- Ø The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - Ø Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
 - Ø Nagoya Protocol
- Ø Ramsar Convention
- Ø The UNESCO MAB (Man and the Biosphere) Programme
- Ø Bonn Convention
- Ø CITES or Washington Convention
- Ø Global Geoparks Network

Commitments to multilateral environmental agreements, in particular biodiversity:

- Ø United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
- Ø Treaty of Paris

European Scope

- Ø Bern Convention
- Ø European Landscape Convention
- Ø OSPAR Convention
- Ø OECD Recommendations for 2011-2020 of the Environmental Performance Assessment of Portugal
- Ø European Geoparks Network - EGN
- Ø Council of Europe recommendations on the conservation of geological heritage and areas of special geological interest

Scope of the European Union

- Ø EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020
- Ø 7th EU Environment Action Programme
- Ø The Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive

The Government of the Azores has developed partnerships at international level with the intention of integrating extended networks, reinforcing its cooperation at EU level. It has been involved in several projects of various types that contribute to the preservation of biodiversity.

Over the past decades, the Government has worked with the Azores University and its research centers and associates, which, in partnership with multiple national and international institutions, has been the main entity responsible for the production of information and scientific

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knowledge in terms of local biodiversity . The research done by the Azores University has been carried out by multiple projects, essential for a better understanding of the Region's natural values.

The Portuguese Task Group for the Extension of the Continental Shelf (EMEPC) supports Portugal's submission to the UN and interacts with the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). In the past years increased knowledge on the morphology and the geological and hydrographic characteristics of the seabed in order to consolidate the data and information contained in the Portuguese submission presented to the CLCS; promoted the importance of the extension of the Portuguese continental shelf to the public and to younger generations; worked in partnership with other States with which the Government has signed Cooperation Treaties.

Macaronesian Projects promoting cooperation between the Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands: MARCET, LuMinAves, PLASMAR, MISTIC SEAS I, MISTIC SEAS II, MarSP

LuMinAves promoted the exchange of knowledge and experience in the conservation of seabirds among the Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands, namely rescue programs, databases and mitigation measures for light pollution,

PLASMAR specifically worked on finding the pertinent and robust monitoring methods for the marine environmental monitoring for the MSP within the Macaronesian archipelagos. Action include rotation and exchange of the experts within project partners, as (part of / well as) the development of capacity building modules.

MarSP project reinforced the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in the 3 EU Macaronesian Archipelagos, by assisting competent authorities of Portugal (Azores and Madeira) and Spain (Canary Islands) on promoting the development of cooperative mechanisms of MSP, taking into account the transnational issues, aligned with the European MSP Directive 2014/89/EU and EASME call for MSP Cross-Border cooperation for outermost regions. MarSP promoted the cooperation of the three regions of Macaronesia to ensure a coherent and coordinated MSP process, taking into account the transnational issues.

Participation of the Regional Directorate for Sea Affairs in the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Protected Areas (ICG-MPA) and Intersessional Correspondence Group to manage preparation and publication of the Intermediate Assessment 2017 and the QSR21 (ICG-MAQ) meetings.

MISTIC SEAS 1 and 2 promoted cooperation on marine biodiversity between the 3 Macaronesian archipelagos. These projects organized numerous meeting between experts in seabirds, cetacens and sea turtles and even a journey of knowledge transfer with MARCET project.

Participation of the Regional Directorate for Sea Affairs in the Transatlantic MPA Network - Towards a Transatlantic Partnership of Marine Protected Areas project and their twinning projects. This project contribute to the EU Communication on Ocean Governance and support the Union policies designed to halt biodiversity loss and foster climate change adaption. The EU Marine Directive is also addressed by the project, contributing to the CBD call for a global MPA network. Eventually, the project works towards achieving the SDG14 and the Aichi Targets 6 and 11 under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), calling on the signatory parties to protect 10% of marine and coastal areas through effectively managing MPAs by 2020.

Twinning project build partnerships between managers of marine protected areas (MPA) around the Atlantic, to contribute to better MPA management effectiveness for improved conservation of marine ecosystems and were designed to address common challenges facing MPA managers. 'Networks twinning' improved the cooperation and common strategy between MPA networks of managers in the Atlantic region. 'Marine mammals twinning' focused on marine mammals' protection, to enhance transatlantic cooperation between MPAs.

The Sargasso Sea Alliance is a partnership led by the Government of Bermuda, in collaboration with scientists, international marine conservation groups and private donors, for protecting the Sargasso Sea. The Alliance mobilized support from a wide variety of national and international organizations and governments to ensure legal protection for this critical ecosystem and to provide insights for the establishment of other Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) on the high seas.

Level of confidence

Level of confidence of the above assessment

Based on expert opinion

Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment

No monitoring system in place

Promote education and training on nature conservation and biodiversity issues and ensure information, awareness and participation of civil society



2020 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target

Rate of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Date the assessment was done

26 Jun 2020

Summary of the assessment of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

The Environmental Government Authority promotes several programmes, campaigns and activities for different target audiences, of which the most important are the "Open Park" for the general population, which aggregates all the activities related to the protected areas of the Azores Island Natural Parks, and the "School Park", specifically for school audiences, which has made a very significant contribution to environmental education in schools with a special focus on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd cycles. One way to draw schools' attention to biodiversity was to create an educational offer interconnected with the school's curriculum. Currently, the Azores school population is generally aware of the Region's protected areas and endemic species, as well as the harmful effects of invasive species, among other matters.

The Regional Curriculum for Basic Education of the Azores - CREB, formalized by Regional Regulatory Decree No. 17/2011/A, integrates the perspective of Education for Sustainable Development and also the valorization of the "Açorinity", with native and endemic biodiversity as one of the aspects, supported by the pedagogical resources produced by the Governmental Department of the Environment, such as the Azorean Biodiversity Kit, and by the activities of the "School Park" program.

There are several promotional campaigns and educational actions specifically about biodiversity, such as S.O.S. Cagarro, Azores Entre Mares, World Biodiversity Day, World Wetlands Day, and some more indirectly, such as Junior Nature Rangers, Young Reporters for the Environment, Eco-municipalities, as well as all campaigns related to waste management and the problem of microplastics. The Government also promotes several environmental awards that value and promote nature and sustainable development, such as the international Eco-Schools, ECOXXI, Green Key, Blue Flag, and the regional Ecofreguesia awards (aimed at parish councils) and Miosotis Azores (aimed at tourist establishments). UNESCO international designations are also a way of promoting the population's awareness and appreciation. In the Azores there are 4 Biosphere Reserves (Biosphere Reserves of the islands of Flores, Corvo, Graciosa and of Fajãs of São Jorge Island), the protected Landscape of the Vineyard Culture of Pico Island is designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark.

The adult training on biodiversity is also important, and the Government organizes the "Environmental Education Meeting and Eco-Schools Regional Seminar" every two years, where the theme in 2018 was specifically about the protected areas and its management: "Azores Island Natural Parks - 10 years of shared responsibility in Environmental Education". Another important initiative in adult training are the courses for Natural Park Guides, as well as Guides for Pico Mountain Nature Reserve and for Caldeira of Faial Nature Reserve. These courses address contents on natural and cultural heritage, but also of communication, first aid, pedestrianism, among other important issues for the quality of the service of tourist guides in protected areas.

The Azores University has a degree in "Nature and Heritage" and a master degree in "Nature Conservation and Management".

In addition to the environmental education and awareness actions promoted by the Environmental services of the Azorean Government, which constitute the majority of environmental education initiatives in the Region, there are other organizations, private and public, that have been promoting various initiatives in this area, namely municipalities and public companies, local associations and non-governmental environmental organizations and similar clubs (like Scouts).

Also, several internet websites about biodiversity, environmental education resources and a natural heritage sound and images bank (named SIARAM), are promoted by the Government, as well as social media, such as the Azores Island's Natural Parks Facebook and Youtube page.

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Level of confidence

Level of confidence of the above assessment

Based on partial indicator information and expert opinion

Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment

Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue)

Promote scientific research and knowledge about the natural heritage, as well as the monitoring of species, habitats and ecosystems



2018 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target

Rate of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Date the assessment was done

31 Dec 2018

Summary of the assessment of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

Although some positive steps have been taken in recent years, the National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity 2030, published in May 2018, recognizes that, despite the existence of permanent efforts, there are gaps in knowledge about the national natural heritage, which highlights the importance of the existence of a national planning of scientific production, which is oriented both to fill the knowledge gaps and to support the pursuit of the country's legal and political commitments in terms of nature conservation, including biodiversity terrestrial and marine and geodiversity.

ENCNB 2030 also recognizes the gap regarding the level of monitoring systems with efficient indicators, which allow assessing the degree of implementation of nature and biodiversity policies and sectoral policies, as well as their impact on the conservation of heritage elements. Natural.

However, it should be noted that although there is a way to go, national scientific research has contributed significantly, both to the increase of knowledge about ecosystems, and to the implementation of mechanisms for recording and monitoring.

There are several research and development projects, carried out by Higher Education Institutions, whose contributions are quite significant for the reduction of knowledge gaps both in terms of natural heritage, their habitats and ecosystems. In this context, the research projects developed for instance by Higher Institute of Agronomy of the University of Lisbon, University of Coimbra, CIBIO, Research Center for Biodiversity and Genetic, University of Évora, CIMO-IPB.

PORBIOTA is a distributed e-infrastructure to manage national biodiversity data, in which 13 entities participate.

PORBIOTA's objective is to compile and integrate all information on biodiversity that is dispersed at the level, subsequently facilitating its access, data interoperability and a set of specialized tools for the modeling and analysis of large amounts of biodiversity data. Therefore, an essential tool for ecosystem monitoring programs and direct support for the implementation and evaluation of nature conservation and biodiversity policies.

The Regional Government of the Azores has been investing in the financing of scientific research, either by supporting research centers based in the Region or by financing projects of interest to the Region, in order to improve knowledge about the its natural heritage. Thus, the RAA has been developing a set of actions, framed in the Government's strategy, in view of the development of research projects that promote a sustainable management of biodiversity, and that involve several regional, national and international entities, as well as institutions of higher education, through the funding of research programs and the awarding of research grants of different types.

The research programs and projects related to biodiversity in the Azores Autonomous Region worthy of note are: NetBiome-CSA - Strengthening European research cooperation for smart and sustainable management of tropical and subtropical biodiversity in outermost regions and overseas countries and territories; MOVE EU- Facilitating MAES to support regional policy in OVerseas Europe: mobilizing stakeholders and pooling resources, BEST III - Measures towards Sustaining the BEST preparatory Action to promote the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Ecosystem services in EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories; MACFLOR - Macaronesian Atlas of Reproductive Biology and conservation applications; vigor and threat markers with genetic paternity analysis; PORBIOTA-AZORESBIOPORTAL, CONNECT.GENE - Evaluation of the impact of the functional structure of ecological corridors on the conservation of the genetic biodiversity of threatened species; eAZFlora-Electronic Flora of the Azores for Smartphones and Tablets. The DRA ensures the monitoring and surveillance of the conservation status of species and protected habitats. Monitoring includes the conduction of censuses and periodic inventories and the application of a specific methodology developed for the collection of standardized information, considering the unique character of some species and recent technological developments.

he Azores Government marine conservation policy is highly based on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the EU's legal instrument for the protection of the sea, that aims to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of all EU marine waters. MSFD monitoring programmes implemented in the Azores allowed the description of the state of the art of present knowledge regarding the environmental status (GES) and the assessment of the 11 descriptors, human activities and pressures, SEA; evaluate progress towards achievement of GES and the environmental targets and the efficiency of measures stipulated through the Programme of Measures (see the latest MSFD 2012-2018 cycle official report to the EC).

MSFD Programmes of monitoring and measures point out the needs for reaching or maintaining the good environmental status of the marine environment. Specific projects address these issues. The Priority Action Framework designed for the implementation of the Natura 2000

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Directives defines priority actions and needs for biodiversity conservation in the Azores.

Regarding the marine ecosystem, species and habitats in the Azores there were multiple projects that contributed to fill some of the identified knowledge gaps about marine biodiversity and to reinforce its monitoring: MONIAVES, MONIZEC/AMP, MONICET, DELIXOMAR, MONIEXOTICAS/NISPOR (MSFD - Monitoring Programmes), BALA (EFRD, Açores 2020); PIMA(EFRD, Açores 2020); PEAMA(EFRD, Açores 2020); Mistic Seas 1 (EMFF); Mistic Seas 2(EMFF); LuMinAves (Interreg MAC), COSTA (Other funds).

PEAMA (Strategic Plan for the Marine Environment of the Azores 2015-2018) implementation of the MSFD, programmes of monitoring and measures - 1st cycle (2012-2018) and fulfil other commitments at community level: to promote the protection of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna of regional and Community interest, in particular through the establishment and management of classified and protected areas as an integral part of the Natura 2000 Network. This Strategic Plan integrated the following sub-projects: BALA, PIMA, Marine litter, Oceanographic monitoring, Surveillance in remote/secluded marine coastal areas, Monitoring and safety of marine tourism activities, Moorings for management of uses in marine protected areas, Inventories of artificial structures in coastal areas, Marine GIS (SIGMAR) and Awareness.

BALA (Littoral biodiversity of the Azores) improved knowledge on listed coastal species and habitats, especially those with interest for conservation. It has also provided some data on the presence of conspicuous marine NIS in the screened MPAs.

PIMA (Monitoring Program of Marine Invasive Species in the Azores) allowed the identification of the main introduction vectors of non indigenous species (NIS) and predicted the origin and environmental factors that may facilitate their appearance in the archipelago, namely some invasive species already identified in the Azores, in São Miguel, Santa Maria and Faial.

Oceanographic monitoring is a PEAMA sub-project that assessed hydrological patterns on coastal areas and associated natural risks by acquisition, transmission and processing of data provided by meteo-oceanographic buoys, maintenance of the database, website and GIS platform and predictive modelling of the impacts of artificial infrastructures on biological communities and hydrological patterns on coastal areas.

SIGMAR is a platform for maritime spatial planning information, and includes the web portal and the geoportal (Geographic Information System for the Sea of Azores, sigmar.azores.gov.pt), implemented by the Regional Directorate for Sea Affairs (DRAM), under the scope of the INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/CE) and the PAF 2014-2020. The project recently added new functionalities and tools to a pre-existent GIS platform in order to publish updated contents produced and compiled by DRAM, in partnerships established with other projects and scientific sources.

MISTIC SEAS (2015-2017) - Macaronesia Islands Standard Indicators and Criteria: Reaching Common Grounds on Monitoring Marine Biodiversity in Macaronesia

MISTIC SEAS 2 (2017-2019) - Applying a subregional coherent and coordinated approach to the monitoring and assessment of marine biodiversity in Macaronesia for the second cycle of the MSFD and provided new data on abundance and population condition of seabirds, cetaceans and marine turtles using a standardized methodology.

ARQDAÇO - DEMERSAIS collects data and contributes to the scientific knowledge and monitoring of the demersal fish species to improve the management of these resources in the Azores. Scientific cruises take place annually aboard the RV ARQUIPÉLAGO, covering coastal areas and offshore seamounts across the Azores EEZ.

Data Collection Framework (DCF - PNRD) provided data on species with commercial importance. This framework allowed the collection, management and use of those data on biological and economic assessments for the fisheries sector to support scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which is implemented in the Azores by the Regional Directorate of Fisheries.

POPA, the Azores Fisheries Observer Programme, is a fisheries-based data collection program running since 1998 to the present that holds the largest dataset of cetacean and turtle sightings, collected during on-effort periods over an extensive geographic area, within the Azorean EEZ.

MARCET (2016-2019) project is a Macaronesian network for the transfer of interregional and multidisciplinary knowledge and technology to protect and monitor cetaceans and the marine environment, promote good practices and allow sustainable development of the whalewatching activity directly, and the associated touristic activity indirectly.

MONICET is a data gathering platform on marine life observations by whale watching companies during their daily activities, such as species observed, their number and location. Information and pictures are uploaded to the dedicated online database and raw data is converted into patterns of species distribution and abundance, and the movements of individual animals through photo-identification, available for public or scientific usage. MONICET has compiled cetacean and turtle sighting data from whale-watching vessels since 2009.

COSTA project collects biological and demographic data of sea turtles in the Azores, gathers information on the incidental catches through fisheries observers and longstanding tagging and sampling programs, promotes fishermen best practices and involves local communities and tourists in conservation actions.

LuMinAves was focused on the conservation of threatened seabirds at regional, national and international scales, on Natura 2000 protected sites in the islands and islets, but also on areas that require additional protection in order to reduce the impacts of light pollution Procellariiformes, namely on Cory's shearwater (Birds Directive), in three Macaronesian archipelagos: Azores, Madeira, and Canary islands.

BIOMETORE provided important biodiversity information for the integrated knowledge and management of the deep sea and seamount ecosystems in the North Atlantic, the Madeira-Tore and Great Meteor, in particular in the context of the implementation of the MSFD in Portugal. This project provided scientific support for the good management of new marine areas of large dimensions in deep offshore oceanic areas.

PALMA (Action Plan for the Marine Litter in the Azores) was implemented in 2015 by DRAM and collects data on marine litter to report to the MSFD, OSPAR and other international and global initiatives. The action plan was based on a core, wider project - DeLixoMar, that receives data

from other smaller and integrated projects and initiatives and provided information on the human impacts (marine litter) in Azorean habitats and species.

INDICIT project contributed to the definition and implementation of indicators related to the impact of marine debris on sea turtles and other species, improved knowledge sharing and provided a monitoring methodology and data collection protocol, statistical analysis and modelling for assessing the MSFD marine litter descriptor.

"RIS3 (Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation) provides orientations on how to develop research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3), in line with Europe 2020 strategy, which aims at smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. RIS3 focus policy support and investments on key national/regional priorities, challenges and needs for knowledge-based development, including ICT-related measures; builds on strengths, competitive advantages and potential for excellence; supports technological as well as practice-based innovation and aims to stimulate private sector investment; gets stakeholders fully involved and encourages innovation and experimentation.

Level of confidence

Level of confidence of the above assessment

Based on expert opinion

Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment

No monitoring system in place

Promote the enhancement of protected areas and ensure the conservation of their natural, cultural and social heritage



2020 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target

Rate of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Date the assessment was done

26 Jun 2020

Summary of the assessment of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

Protected areas need specific actions for nature conservation, which guarantee a rigorous and balanced territorial management, respecting the objectives of each of them, and ordering the occupation of space. The specific conservation and management tools, aimed at promoting the sound management of their natural resources and the enhancement of their natural and cultural heritage ensures, environmental values are safeguarded and is promoted the appropriate location of the activities necessary to ensure the economic and social development.

It's importante disclose to the population and local economic agents, the values of the natural and cultural heritage of protected areas, in terms of safeguarding them and also to encourage their use as factors of sustainable local development.

It's vital to ensure that nature tourism in protected areas develops in a sustainably way, avoiding excessive pressure on sensitive areas, which requires careful territorial management, adequate support infrastructures, incentives to maintain and enhance regional and local products and traditional economic activities compatible with the conservation of nature and biodiversity.

The Management Plans for protected areas, include appropriate conservation measures and actions for management, but it's necessary guarantee the inspection of the protected areas. To assure that the environmental authority has a body nature Rangers, with a essential role in the management and preservation of natural values.

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However, given that inspection actions take place in classified areas and national forests, it is necessary to reinforce human resources through the hiring of nature rangers.

The evolution of spatial planning and management regimes introduced from the Basic Law of Public Policy on Spatial Planning and Urban Planning (2014) and the Legal Framework for Territorial Management Instruments (2015), created a new paradigm of territorial management, which implies the renewal of the 25 Protected Areas Management Plans (POAP) to the figure of Special Programs. This transition is still in progress.

Attracting and involving the population is essential for the conservation of the biodiversity found in these areas, and for the development of the local economy.

Protected areas, due to their characteristics and singularities, are able to boost the socio-economic development of the geographies where they are located.

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The Natural.PT (<https://natural.pt/?locale=pt>), Brand was officially launched on the 25th of July of 2014 and is owned by the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests, IP. The initiative is part of a model of management of protected areas of mainland Portugal that associates the protection of biodiversity and the economic development of the regions (relevant to Target 2). The Natural.PT initiative and its strategy are integrated into the financial programming of Portugal 2020 and were also considered in the recently launched National Nature Tourism Programme.

It is intended to be a network of territories of excellence, with a joint and coherent promotion strategy; a network of entities that work together and are committed to the promotion and dissemination of all brand partners; a set of outstanding entities, associated with the valuation and usufruct of protected areas; and an incentive to conduct environmentally and socio-economically responsible behaviour on the part of the adherents.

This initiative provides the participating entities with promotion and dissemination as entity/product/service Natural.PT in national and international events in which the brand is present; dissemination in promotional materials and events of the Natural.PT brand; integration in the brand portal, in social networks associated with the brand and in search engines available to consumers; cross-promotion, namely with the dissemination and referral of consumers to Natural.PT partners.

On the other hand, it develops in a coordinated and articulated way the promotion of the National Network of Protected Areas by making it known and inviting a greater visitation of these spaces, with greater awareness and available information to visitors and tourists.

The contents of the Marca Natural.PT site in Portuguese and English have been increased, which is the basis of the project, where protected areas are advertized, with information on their natural, heritage and ethnographic values, suggestion of routes, useful advices and contacts, events, and is the platform where all the adherents are publicized. The Natural.PT monthly newsletter was launched, whose first number came out in July 2015. The Facebook page has been started up.

Several Natural.PT events were held, 4 Natural.PT product shows and services (in Lisbon, Sintra and Silves), awareness events throughout the country, the Natural.PT Roadmap, where the President of the ICNF IP Board and the Secretary of State for Territorial Management and Conservation of Nature visited and contacted many of the adherents in several protected areas around the country, leaflets were published to publicise the Protected Areas, the Natural.PT brand and the adherents, and the first edition of the Natural.PT Awards took place, aimed at rewarding good practices in protected areas developed by the brand's adherents.

Evolution of the no.of visitors by type of participation

Type of participation	Years			
	2015	2016	2017	2018
Visitors im guide tours	28896	23788	26164	23010
Participants in events	60799	64944	80916	89535
Visitors in reception facilities	204790	250072	308839	294773
Participants in volunteer activities	2314	2934	4996	4090

In the Azores Autonomous Region, for the protection of biodiversity and the enhancement of the natural heritage, specific conditions were created for each classified site in each island, constituting their own management measures, depending on their level of protection. In addition, since 2015 there has been a change in the number of protected areas with access regulations, through the following ordinances:

Ordinance No. 52/2018, of 23rd May - Regulation of access to the Pico Mountain Nature Reserve; Ordinance No. 59/2018, of 4th June - Regulation for the circulation of motor vehicles in Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo; Ordinance No. 68/2018, of 21st June - Regulation for access to the interior of Caldeira do Faial, Nature Reserve; Ordinance No. 67/2018, of 21st June - Regulations for access to the Capelinhos Volcano; Ordinance No. 66/2018, of 20th June - Regulation for access to the Islet of Vila Franca do Campo and Ordinance No. 65/2018, of 20th of June - Regulation for access to the land area of the Ilhéu da Praia, Nature Reserve.

Bearing in mind the objective of responding to the new challenges facing protected areas, in 2018 the preparation of Management Plans for Island Natural Parks began, which include appropriate conservation measures and actions for management of all protected areas that make up the Island's Natural Parks.

It should also be noted that, through Ordinance No. 1080/2014 of 5th September, the Action Plan for the Conservation of Terrestrial Areas of the São Miguel Natural Park was approved - Program for the execution of actions related to the Pico da Vara Nature Reserve and the Protected Area for the Management of Habitats or Species of Tronqueira and Planalto dos Graminhais, which defines a set of actions and objectives to be achieved during its validity period (2013-2017).

The environmental authority has nature Rangers on all the islands, assigned to each of the Island Environment Services and Island Natural Parks, which guarantee the inspection of the protected areas. In addition, it has two important instruments to assist inspection and safeguarding natural heritage and resources in the Azores archipelago, for citizen's reporting to the authorities, namely an electronic platform (Na Minha Ilha), and a permanent telephone answering service (Linha SOS Ambiente), the latter created in 2018.

A surveillance equipment was installed in the Nature Reserve of Montanha do Pico, and the Integrated Communication System of the Environmental Services (SICAM) was created, which constitutes a radio network that uses portable VHF radio terminals, which associated with the reinforcement of the body Nature Rangers is fundamental in the management and preservation of natural values.

In the Azores, several courses of Guides of Azores Natural Parks were promoted, to enhance the knowledge of protected areas and the services provided by tourism operators and by the professionals who lead groups of visitors to the protected areas.

Several improvements were implemented on natural heritage visitation and tourism, namely, in the network of Environmental Centres of the Azores, in the network of walking trails and interpretive circuits. Various measures have been adopted, whenever necessary, in order to implement concessions for management of protected areas and also the acquisition/expropriation of private land in more sensitive protected areas, in order to ensure the preservation of species and habitats and ecosystems.

Level of confidence

Level of confidence of the above assessment

Based on expert opinion

Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment

No monitoring system in place

Promote the integration of the nature conservation policy and the principle of the sustainable use of biological resources in the spatial planning policy and in the different sectoral policies



2020 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target

Rate of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

Date the assessment was done

26 Jun 2020

Summary of the assessment of progresses toward the implementation of the selected target

Terrestrial and marine biodiversity provide a range of ecosystem services, that humans depend on to support life. Although the increasing recognition that the ecosystem services have a fundamental importance to economic, social, cultural and health systems, the biodiversity loss continues.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services play an important role in the economic sectors like agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, so it is important

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to promote the mainstreaming of nature conservation policies with other sectoral policies.

The ENCNB, and the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2020, follow the CBD lines, and advocate that only by considering the issues of nature conservation and biodiversity in the policies, pursued in the different sectors of activity, will it be possible to achieve a more effective protection of the natural heritage and a more sustainable use of biological resources.

The policy integration is promoted through the strategic planning tools of the different relevant sectoral policies, which, whenever necessary, should be complemented by sectoral or intersectoral action plans, to be developed by government departments responsible for each sectoral policy. In this area, the functioning of the Interministerial Coordination Commission for Biodiversity, created by Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 41/99, of 17 May is particularly important.

With the aim to add value to the territory, the National Programme for Spatial Planning Policy seeks to give a strategic framework, where nature and suitability of the natural values within the territory are considered together with the economic and social components. Adding value to the territory through proper planning should be viewed as a mean for the coordination of different sectoral policies in the strategic definition of land use, in safeguarding natural values, resources and systems necessary to the use of the territory.

Mainstreaming is intended to promote coherence between biodiversity and development at all levels. Despite the most traditional approach to addressing biodiversity loss mainly focuses in the protected areas, it is increasingly clear that there is a need to scale up others approaches that are able to mainstream biodiversity considerations across others sectors of the economy.

For biodiversity mainstreaming to be effective, it should occur across all levels of government, should include all relevant stakeholders and the national vision and strategy must be coordinate with the subnational levels of activities and budgets.

Although important steps have already been taken in the integration of biodiversity and nature conservation in sectoral policies, such as land use, agriculture, forests, sea, tourism, among others, there is still work to be done to achieve full mainstreaming.

On 30 June 2014, the General Bases Law of Public Policy on Soil, Land-use Planning and Urban Planning (GBLPPSLPUP - Law no. 31/2014, of 30 May) developed under the Legal Regime of Territorial Management Instruments (LRTMI - Decree-Law no. 80/2015, of 14 May), started the process of transposing the contents of Management Plans of Protected Areas (MPPA) to the Municipal Master Plans (MMP) with the aim of incorporating in them all the contents of the MPPA related to the occupation, use and transformation of the land with urban territorial impact.

The transposition of the contents of the MPPA to the MMP corresponds to the first step towards the adaptation of the Territorial Management Instruments (TMI), presently in force, to the new legislation and is prior to the completion of the process of transforming MPPA into Special Programs (to be called Programmes for Planning and Management of Protected Areas - PPMPA). It is under the reinstatement of the MPPA as PPMPA that the revision of the strategies of planning and management of protected areas with a special plan in force is achieved within the new legal framework, namely through the promotion of the necessary changes and adjustments to safeguard the regime for present natural resources and heritage and the regime for the management and sustainable use of the covered territory.

In accordance with the recommendation of The Environmental Implementation Review 2017 (https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/pdf/country-reports-archive/report_pt_en.pdf) Portugal should continue its efforts to improve the integration of nature-related objectives, namely the implementation of the Natura 2000 network, in cross-sectoral and sectoral policies, programs and strategies, especially in the fields of agriculture, forestry,

In the Azores, within the scope of land management, the implementation of the land management plans is in force. Besides that, the following land management plans have been published: Strategic Waste Prevention and Management Plan, Land Management Plan for Extractive Activities, Flood Risk Management Plan and Hydrographic Region Management Plan, as well as 2 Municipal Master Plans. In addition, several of the land management tools were undergoing elaboration, revision or alteration (3 Sectorial Plans, 2 Coastal Management Plans, 2 Watershed Land Management Plans and 8 Municipal Master Plans).

It is considered that of the 47 measures of the Hydrographic Regional Management Plan of Azores, 19 contribute to the objectives of ENCNB since they affect water bodies and intend precisely to contribute to the good ecological and chemical status of these water bodies and, consequently, of the associated ecosystems, or for the good status of ecosystem services in general, with influence also on these areas, within the scope of the hydrological cycle of each island. Of the 19 measures, only 4 were not implemented. Of the 87 inland water bodies in the Azores hydrographic region, in 2018, 72,4% (63 water bodies) achieve the objectives set in river basin management plan of Azores (RBMP -A) in order to comply with objectives of the water framework directive.

Integration of marine conservation policies in the Azores: implementing the Habitats and the Birds Directive goes side by side with MSFD implementation regarding sustainable exploitation of natural resources. Fisheries measures follow the Common Fisheries Policy and complementary regulations. Several projects have supported initiatives aimed at multisectoral negotiation for adoption of measures and define restrictions in uses and activities. Practical examples of this modus operandi are the MSP processes and the delimitation of restricted fishing areas (Canal Faial-Pico; Graciosa; Santa Maria; São Miguel; Terceira; Luso) that have been developed in the Azores, in articulation with the fishing sector. Decisions have been accepted by fishermen's associations. There were public discussions and stakeholder consultation processes which included not only the competent entities for the marine environment, but also counted with contributions from civil society, and sectors such as fishing, tourism, research and non-governmental organizations. The strategy being followed is based on the best available scientific knowledge and promotes the filling of relevant knowledge gaps.

PLASMAR (Interreg MAC 2017-2019) - Developed methodologies and established the basis for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) with smart solutions to harmonise Blue Growth development of diverse maritime sectors and the conservation of natural marine heritage in the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands.

PLATMAR - Development of volcanic island shelves: insights from Sta. Maria Island and implications on hazard assessment, habitat mapping and marine aggregates management

MarSP project intends to reinforce the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in the three EU Macaronesian Archipelagos - Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands, to assist the competent authorities of Portugal (Azores and Madeira) and Spain (Canary Islands) on promoting the development of operative mechanisms of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and the sustainable use of the maritime space. Aligned with the

European MSP Directive 2014/89/EU and EASME call for MSP Cross-Border cooperation for outermost regions, MarSP promoted the cooperation of the three regions of Macaronesia to ensure a coherent and coordinated MSP process, taking into account the transnational issues. The work included sectoral stakeholders' consultation to ensure representatives and practitioners of the main sectors were listened and involved. Analyses of sectoral interactions mainly based on regional stakeholders' consultation that were performed through individual interviews and public meetings.

The Blue Azores actions include creating and implementing management plans for the new marine reserves and all existing marine protected areas; developing and legally adopting a marine spatial planning plan; developing innovative studies and approaches contributing to the sustainable management of fisheries; identifying new areas of interest for conservation, supporting scientific processes.

Oceano Azul Foundation in partnership with the Regional Government of the Azores promotes several actions related with ocean conservation in the Azores in order to protect, value and promote the blue natural capital, supporting marine protected areas and other sustainable uses of the ocean. These actions include the elaboration of management plans for marine protected areas in the Azores; help developing and legally adopting a marine spatial planning plan; developing innovative studies and approaches contributing to the sustainable management of fisheries; identifying new areas of interest for conservation, supporting scientific processes.

SMART BLUE - Network of regional maritime clusters for the smart specialization of the blue economy to increase marine-maritime companies' competitiveness in the MAC cooperation area, creating a network of suprarregional clusters and maritime agents that promote innovation and internationalization processes and taking advantage of the synergies, capabilities, and resources.

SIGMAR is a platform for maritime spatial planning information, and includes the web portal and the geoportal (Geographic Information System for the Sea of Azores, sigmar.azores.gov.pt), implemented by the Regional Directorate for Sea Affairs (DRAM), under the scope of the INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/CE) and the PAF 2014-2020. The project recently added new functionalities and tools to a pre-existent GIS platform in order to publish updated contents produced and compiled by DRAM, in partnerships established with other projects and scientific sources.

Different Codes of Conduct were published by the Government and Azores in partnership with the tourism sector for cetacean, shark and bird watching to safeguard wildlife while promoting sustainable blue tourism and also for visitation of protected habitats/areas.

Since 2016, ATLAS project created a dynamic partnership between multinational industries, SMEs, governments and academia to assess the Atlantic's deep-sea ecosystems and Marine Genetic Resources to create the integrated and adaptive planning products needed for sustainable Blue Growth. ATLAS gathered information on sensitive Atlantic ecosystems (including VMEs and EBSAs, sponge, cold-water coral, seamount and mid-ocean ridge ecosystems) to improve understanding of their connectivity, functioning and responses to future changes in human use and ocean climate.

Level of confidence

Level of confidence of the above assessment

Based on expert opinion

Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment

No monitoring system in place

Section IV. Description of national contribution to the achievement of each global Aichi Biodiversity Target

1. Awareness of biodiversity values

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal and The Autonomous Regions has adopted environmental awareness and education measures through environmental education and awareness programmes aimed at the general population and at the school population, at different levels of education.

Mainland Portugal

To improve awareness of biodiversity values was one the goals of the National strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001, and since then several actions have taken place.

Central, regional and local governments, as well as non-governmental entities, coordinated several educational programs and campaigns, about many themes, including protected areas, nature conservation, biodiversity and sustainable development.

The issues of sustainable development, Nature Conservation and Biodiversity are part of the natural sciences curricula in basic and secondary education, as well as Environmental Education for Sustainability. The main goals are to provide young people with knowledge that allows them to play an active role in environmental issues and to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

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The adoption of the **National Strategy for Environmental Education (ENEA 2020)**, for the period 2017-2020, constitutes a fundamental milestone.

At the middle of 2014, the brand **Natural.pt** was launched by ICNF. This initiative covers mainland Portugal and aims to promote the National Network of Protected Areas. <https://natural.pt>.

The Observanatura fair is an initiative dedicated to nature tourism. In October 2015, Herdade da Mourisca hosted the Observanatura fair for the seventh time, organised by the ICNF and Tróia-Natura, with partners such as Setúbal City Hall and the Biodiversity4all Association. It was attended by 43 exhibitors, especially nature tourism companies, NGOs, companies of optical equipment and other products related to bird watching and other nature tourism activities, and food companies.

The extensive program included communications, workshops and mini-courses (e.g. photography, plant identification, ringing of birds) and activities free to the public, such as captive hot air ballooning, children's rope obstacle course, boat-rides in the estuary, ringing of birds, bird watching with the support of Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA) and building of bird houses by the Buçaco National Forest Foundation.

Throughout 2015, there were 19 Open Days of PAs, events that celebrate the day of creation of the respective Protected Areas, with various activities open to the public, such as PA tours, workshops and volunteer.

In 2018, the number of visitors to protected areas was 420 905.

Beyond biodiversity protection, **Natura.pt** intends to boost the economic development of these regions through nature tourism.

In addition to the **Natural.pt** promotional initiatives, over the past few years, many other initiatives have been promoted seeking to increase citizens' awareness of biodiversity issues, namely the need to value protected areas; incentives for environmentally responsible practices were also put in place.

Among others, there were awareness-raising activities, training sessions, workshops, exhibitions, Open Park days, bird ringing sessions, birdwatching and field trips.

Although numerous initiatives have been developed, the results are not very satisfactory. Compared to other European countries, Portugal has not been successful in the Eurobarometer biodiversity survey, when citizens have been asked about awareness of biodiversity and the reasons to protect it,

file:///C:/Users/elsasantos/Downloads/ebs_481_fact_pt_en.pdf

The Portuguese NBSAP 2030 aims to improve awareness, appropriation and recognition of natural values and biodiversity by society. To achieve this, it will be very important to build on the lessons learned through the work developed in the last decade.

Azores Autonomous Region

There is a public company Azorina S.A., that implements these campaigns. The two main education programs are promoted by the Island Natural Parks, namely the "Open Park" (Parque Aberto) and the "School Park" (Parque Escola). The Open Park programme aggregates all the activities related to the protected areas of Island Natural Parks, which can be done in partnership with other entities and are aimed at the population in general

. The specific objectives of this programme are: to disseminate and promote the natural heritage of the Azores, through awareness and conservation actions of scientific and socio-cultural character and to promote good practices for sustainability.

This programme has been running since 2011 and has contributed very favorably to the communication and dissemination strategy for regional biodiversity, namely through information and conservation actions, of which some are volunteer actions.

The School Park programme includes the entire school offer promoted by the Azores Ecotecas Network and the Azores Environmental Centres Network, as well as all requests by schools, as long as they are within the objectives of the programme. Within the scope of this programme, the work dynamics of the Azores Ecoteca Network and the Azores Environmental Centres Network are different: the actions taken by the Ecotecas must meet environmental issues such as biodiversity, geodiversity, nature conservation, among others, and the educational offer of each Centre must be consistent with its theme. It should be noted that the themes of the different Centres are mostly related to biodiversity, nature conservation and geodiversity. This programme has been developed since 2012.

However, it has evolved in its objectives and structure since then. School Park programme has made a very significant contribution to communication and education in schools with a special focus on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd cycles. One way to draw schools' attention to biodiversity was to create an educational offer interconnected with the school's curriculum. Currently, the Azores school population is generally aware of the Region's protected areas and endemic species, as well as the harmful effects of invasive species, among other matters.

The Regional Curriculum for Basic Education of the Azores - CREB, formalized by Regional Regulatory Decree No. 17/2011/A, integrates the perspective of Education for Sustainable Development and also the valorization of the "Açorianity", with native and endemic biodiversity has one of the aspects, supported by the pedagogical resources produced by the Governmental Department of the Environment, such as the Azorean Biodiversity Kit.

There are several promotional campaigns and educational actions specifically about biodiversity, such as S.O.S. Cagarro, Azores Entre Mares, World Biodiversity Day, World Wetlands Day, and some more indirectly, such as Junior Nature Rangers, Young Reporters for the Environment, Eco-municipalities, as well as all campaigns related to waste management and the problem of microplastics.

The Government promotes several environmental awards that value and promote nature and sustainable development, such as the international Eco-Schools, ECOXXI, Green Key, Blue Flag, and the regional Ecofreguesia awards (aimed at parish councils) and Miosotis Azores (aimed at tourist establishments). UNESCO international designations are also a way of promoting the population's awareness and appreciation. In the Azores there are 4 Biosphere Reserves (Biosphere Reserves of the islands of Flores, Corvo, Graciosa and of Fajãs of São Jorge Island), the protected Landscape of the Vineyard Culture of Pico Island is designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark.

The adult training on biodiversity is also important, and the Environmental Department organizes the “Environmental Education Meeting and Eco-Schools Regional Seminar” every two years, where the theme in 2018 was specifically about the protected areas and its management: “Azores Island Natural Parks – 10 years of shared responsibility in Environmental Education”. Another important initiative in adult training are the courses for Natural Park Guides, as well as Guides for Pico Mountain Nature Reserve and for Caldeira of Faial Nature Reserve. These courses address contents on natural and cultural heritage, but also of communication, first aid, pedestrianism, among other important issues for the quality of the service of tourist guides in protected areas. In addition to the environmental education and awareness actions promoted by the Environmental services of the Azorean Government, which constitute the majority of environmental education initiatives in the Region, there are other organizations, private and public, that have been promoting various initiatives in this area, namely municipalities and public companies, local associations and non-governmental environmental organizations and similar clubs (like Scouts).

<http://parquesnaturais.azores.gov.pt/pt/feedcorvo/2563-o-parque-natural-do-corvo-participou-no-workshop-anilhagem-de-aves-marinhas>

<http://parquesnaturais.azores.gov.pt/pt/flores/noticias/locais/2523-parque-natural-das-flores-recebeu-workshop-em-anilhagem-de-aves-marinhas>

COSTA project collects biological and demographic data of sea turtles in the Azores, gathers information on the incidental catches through fisheries observers and longstanding tagging and sampling programs, promotes fishermen best practices and involves local communities and tourists in conservation actions. <https://www.azoreswhalewatch.com/pt-pt/company-news/testimonials/turtle-tagging-workshop-costa/>
<https://costaproject.org/en/>

<https://costapopa.wixsite.com/costa>

<https://www.dn.pt/vida-e-futuro/todos-os-anos-sao-retiradas-da-orla-costeira-dos-aco-ates-12-toneladas-de-lixo-10920685.html>

<https://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/srrn-natureza/conteudos/noticias/2015/Outubro/not20151002.htm?lang=pt&area=ct>

INDICIT project was responsible for the definition and implementation of indicators related to the impact of marine debris on sea turtles and other species and focused on disseminating the project outcomes and public awareness. <https://indiciteuropa.eu/>

SOS Cagarro Campaign takes place in the Azores since 1995 with the main goal of engaging people and organizations in the rescue of young Cory's Shearwaters found along and in close proximity to the roads. The Regional Government of the Azores undertakes various activities to promote awareness and environmental education in regional schools through the Regional Network of Ecotecas. In addition, promotional and educational material is distributed to those involved in the Campaign (volunteers, etc.) to disseminate information about the most appropriate aid in case of collision or running over of a young Cory's Shearwater. The Environmental Services of each Island, together with the Ecotecas, organize information sessions and, together with associate entities and partners, rescuing brigades on the field for the collection of juvenile Cory's Shearwaters that will be released the following morning. Every year, besides the Regional Government operatives, hundreds of volunteers join this rescue campaign in all the Azores islands and thousands of birds are released. <http://www.azores.gov.pt/gr/dram-soscagarro>

<http://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/dram-soscagarro/menus/secundario/english/>

<http://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/dram-soscagarro/menus/principal/Relat%C3%B3rios+anuais/>

The "Açores Entre Mares" (Azores Between Seas) campaign, an initiative promoted by the Regional Government, through the Regional Secretariat for Natural Resources, held annually throughout the 9 islands of the archipelago between May 20, European Maritime Day, and June 8, World Ocean Day, has the main objective of promoting knowledge and disseminate information about the Sea of the Azores improving citizen awareness regarding its conservation. Along the years the programme has been very diverse including talks, art competition and exhibitions, citizen science events, boat rides, pedestrian trails, recreational fishing competitions and sailing regattas, coastal and underwater marine litter clean ups, among many others. These events were promoted by civil society organisations, local authorities, environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGOS), associations, schools, natural parks, private companies, administrative bodies, and groups of citizens. <http://www.azores.gov.pt/GRA/SRRN-cigam/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7J7F0SfxmPw>

The Portuguese Task Group for the Extension of the Continental Shelf (EMEPC) supports Portugal's submission to the UN and interacts with the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). In the past years EMEPC promoted the importance of the extension of the Portuguese continental shelf to the public and to younger generations and promoted projects such as Kit do Mar and BioMarPT. <https://en.emepc.pt/projetos-antiores>

<http://biomarpt.ipma.pt/>

Kit do Mar is a national education project to promote ocean literacy and awareness among children and youngsters, directed to educators, teachers and educational technicians who intend to develop hands-on activities in school, leisure activities, or any non-formal educational activities. Kit do Mar comprises educational resources, activities and workshops for teachers and students.

<https://www.dgpm.mm.gov.pt/kit-do-mar>

ProSucesso (Integrated Program for the promotion of School Success - Azores for Education) is an initiative of the Regional Directorate for Education, of the Azores Government in line with Europe 2020 (European Strategy for Education and Training). Partnership with numerous governmental departments and other entities and work groups (such as DRAM and the Task Group for the Extension of the Continental Shelf, EMEPC) were established within their area of intervention, collaborating with actions and teaching materials (such as Blue School and Kit do Mar).

<https://prosucesso.azores.gov.pt/>

REDA is an Open Digital Educational Resources platform that provides didactic resources about the sea, compiled by the Regional Directorate for Sea Affairs in collaboration with the Regional Directorate for Education within the scope of the ProSucesso Plan (Integrated Plan for the Promotion of School Success). <http://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/srrn-cigam/menus/principal/REDA/>

Escola Azul (Blue School) aims to improve ocean literacy among the Portuguese population, by distinguishing public schools or private educational institutions that develop projects related to the Ocean and are committed in the training of citizens in a consistent and articulated way with the national educational agenda. <https://escolaazul.pt/>

Madeira Autonomous Region

- IFCN's environmental education activities in the period 2015-2019 (988 activities/29.101 attendees):

2014/2015: 227 activities/4373 attendees;

2015/2016: 267 activities/7328 attendees;

2016/2017: 181 activities/4264 attendees;

2017/2018: 181 activities/6271 attendees;

2018/2019: 132 activities/6865 attendees.

- International Bats Night organized in Madeira island (2018).

"- School competition GEA - Mother earth, in the period 2015/2016 to 2018/2019:

- 148 schools/375 proposals presented."

- LIFE Capacity Building (LIFE14 CAP/PT/000004) - Portugal Capacity Building for better use of LIFE (2016-2018)

- Forest Fire Prevention Campaign 2018

2. Integration of biodiversity values

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

The National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity provided a good framework to integrate biodiversity at different governance levels, since one of the foreseen actions was "Improve coordination and cooperation between central, regional and local administration, and integrate the objectives of nature conservation policy in the spatial planning policy and in the different sectoral policies".

This coordination and cooperation is fundamental to manage protected areas. First of all, the management of protected areas, although corresponding to the State's constitutional duty to safeguard and enhance the natural heritage, demands articulation with local authorities.

Also, the legal regime applicable to the areas integrated in the Natura 2000 Network not overlapping protected areas. This results in a need to improve the articulation between the central and local administration, which includes the availability by the central administration of data and technical information that allow municipalities to properly develop their territorial management and their current activity.

This institutional cooperation, respecting the principle of regional autonomy, was extended to the Governments of the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira.

EN

An Interministerial Coordination Commission was created to ensure collaboration in the implementation of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity and the promotion of its integration, as far as possible and in an appropriate manner, in the different plans, programmes and sectoral policies, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores, the following land management plans have been published: Strategic Waste Prevention and Management Plan, Land Management Plan for Extractive Activities, Flood Risk Management Plan and Hydrographic Region Management Plan, as well as 2 Municipal Master Plans, until 2018, with biodiversity values incorporated .

In addition, several of the land management tools were undergoing elaboration, revision or alteration (3 Sectorial Plans, 2 Coastal Management Plans, 2 Watershed Land Management Plans and 8 Municipal Master Plans), where are being implemented biodiversity values.

The RAA has made efforts to also integrate biodiversity into other sectoral policies (agricultural, forestry, rural development, tourism). The values of biodiversity are considered and integrated also into operational programs such as the Rural Development Program (PRORURAL+), in which rural development involves the enhancement of the environmental area.

A Working Group on National Marine Protected Areas (GTAMP) was created in 2017 by the Ministry of the Sea, to evaluate the existing MPAs, present a proposal of an ecosystemic coherent network of new MPAs in maritime spaces under national jurisdiction and elaborate management and monitoring plans for those areas.

Management Plans for all marine protected in the Azores are being elaborated.

<https://www.dgpm.mm.gov.pt/enm>

<https://www.dgrm.mm.gov.pt/areas-marinhas-protegidas>

The Azores Government marine conservation policy is highly based on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the EU's legal instrument for the protection of the sea, that aims to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of all EU marine waters. MSFD monitoring programmes implemented in the Azores allowed the description of the state of the art of present knowledge regarding the environmental status (GES) and the assessment of the 11 descriptors, human activities and pressures, SEA; evaluate progress towards achievement of GES and the environmental targets and the efficiency of measures stipulated through the Programme of Measures (see the latest MSFD 2012-2018 cycle official report to the EC).

<http://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/SRMCT-MAR/conteudos/livres/>

[Estrategia_Marinha_para_a_subdivisao_dos_Acores.htm](http://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/SRMCT-MAR/conteudos/livres/Estrategia_Marinha_para_a_subdivisao_dos_Acores.htm)

http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/pt/eu/msfd_art17/2018reporting/xmldata/envxtoziq/

<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/pt/eu/art17/envxwqwq>

<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/pt/eu/art12/envxbnbwa>

Regarding the marine ecosystem, species and habitats in the Azores there were multiple projects that contributed to fill some of the identified knowledge gaps about marine biodiversity and to reinforce its monitoring: MONIAVES, MONIZEC/AMP, MONICET, DELIXOMAR, MONIEXOTICAS/ NISPOR (MSFD - Monitoring Programmes), BALA (EFRD, Açores 2020); PIMA(EFRD, Açores 2020); PEAMA(EFRD, Açores 2020); Mystic Seas 1 (EMFF); Mystic Seas 2(EMFF); LuMinAves (Interreg MAC), COSTA (Other funds).

<https://macaronesiablue.eu/en/jornadas-de-cierre-del-proyecto-marcet-sobre-proteccion-y-observacion-de-cetaceos-en-la-macaronesia-copy/>

<http://www.monidet.net/en>

<https://mistic-seas.madeira.gov.pt/en>

<https://misticseas3.com/en>

<http://luminaves.com/index.php/pt/>

<https://costaproject.org/en/>

PEAMA (Strategic Plan for the Marine Environment of the Azores 2015-2018) implementation of the MSFD, programmes of monitoring and measures - 1st cycle (2012-2018) and fulfil other commitments at community level: to promote the protection of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna of regional and Community interest, in particular through the establishment and management of classified and protected areas as an integral part of the Natura 2000 Network. This Strategic Plan integrated the following sub-projects: BALA, PIMA, Marine litter, Oceanographic monitoring, Surveillance in remote/secluded marine coastal areas, Monitoring and safety of marine tourism activities, Moorings for management of uses in marine protected areas, Inventories of artificial structures in coastal areas, Marine GIS (SIGMAR) and Awareness.

http://servicos-sraa.azores.gov.pt/grastore/DRAM/ACORES2020/Fotos_PEAMA.zip

SIGMAR is a platform for maritime spatial planning information, and includes the web portal and the geoportal (Geographic Information System for the Sea of Azores, sigmar.azores.gov.pt), implemented by the Regional Directorate for Sea Affairs (DRAM), under the scope of the INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/CE) and the PAF 2014-2020. The project recently added new functionalities and tools to a pre-existent GIS platform in order to publish updated contents produced and compiled by DRAM, in partnerships established with other projects and scientific sources.

<https://sigmar.azores.gov.pt/dmv/Default.aspx?slug=geoportal&id=1>

MarSP project intends to reinforce the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in the three EU Macaronesian Archipelagos - Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands, to assist the competent authorities of Portugal (Azores and Madeira) and Spain (Canary Islands) on promoting the development of operative mechanisms of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and the sustainable use of the maritime space. Aligned with the European MSP Directive 2014/89/EU and EASME call for MSP Cross-Border cooperation for outermost regions, MarSP promoted the cooperation of the three regions of Macaronesia to ensure a coherent and coordinated MSP process, taking into account the transnational issues.

<http://marsp.eu/>

Oceano Azul Foundation in partnership with the Regional Government of the Azores promote several actions related with ocean conservation in

the Azores in order to protect, value and promote the blue natural capital, supporting marine protected areas and other sustainable uses of the ocean. These actions include the elaboration of management plans for marine protected areas in the Azores; help developing and legally adopt a marine spatial planning plan; developing innovative studies and approaches contributing to the sustainable management of fisheries; identifying new areas of interest for conservation, supporting scientific processes.

The Blue Azores actions include creating and implement management plans for the new marine reserves and all existing marine protected areas; developing and legally adopt a marine spatial planning plan; developing innovative studies and approaches contributing to the sustainable management of fisheries; identifying new areas of interest for conservation, supporting scientific processes.

<https://www.oceanoazulfoundation.org/initiatives/blueazores/>

SMART BLUE - Network of regional maritime clusters for the smart specialization of the blue economy to increase marine-maritime companies' competitiveness in the MAC cooperation area, creating a network of suprarregional clusters and maritime agents that promote innovation and internationalization processes and taking advantage of the synergies, capabilities, and resources.

<http://www.smartblueproject.com/>

Since 2016, ATLAS project created a dynamic partnership between multinational industries, SMEs, governments and academia to assess the Atlantic's deep-sea ecosystems and Marine Genetic Resources to create the integrated and adaptive planning products needed for sustainable Blue Growth. ATLAS gathered information on sensitive Atlantic ecosystems (including VMEs and EBSAs, sponge, cold-water coral, seamount and mid-ocean ridge ecosystems) to improve understanding of their connectivity, functioning and responses to future changes in human use and ocean climate.

<https://www.eu-atlas.org/>

Other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level

The Portuguese Task Group for the Extension of the Continental Shelf (EMEPC) supports Portugal's submission to the UN and interacts with the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). In the past years increased knowledge on the morphology and the geological and hydrographic characteristics of the seabed in order to consolidate the data and information contained in the Portuguese submission presented to the CLCS; promoted the importance of the extension of the Portuguese continental shelf to the public and to younger generations; worked in partnership with other States with which the Government has signed Cooperation Treaties.

<https://en.emepc.pt/noticias>

MarSP project reinforced the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in the 3 EU Macaronesian Archipelagos, by assisting competent authorities of Portugal (Azores and Madeira) and Spain (Canary Islands) on promoting the development of cooperative mechanisms of MSP, taking into account the transnational issues, aligned with the European MSP Directive 2014/89/EU and EASME call for MSP Cross-Border cooperation for outermost regions. MarSP promoted the cooperation of the three regions of Macaronesia to ensure a coherent and coordinated MSP process, taking into account the transnational issues.

<http://marsp.eu/>

<http://marsp.eu/results#>

Madeira Autonomous Region

PROF-RAM - Regional Plan of Forest Management of the Autonomous Region of Madeira (2015)

POGID - Planning and Management Plan for the Desertas Islands (Revised on 2017)

POGIS - Planning and Management Plan for the Selvagens Islands (Revised on 2017)

Management Plan for the Hydrographic Region of the Madeira Archipelago (PGRH10, 2016-2021).

Flood Risk Management Plan for the Autonomous Region of Madeira (PGRI-RAM, 2016-2021 Regional

Civil Protection Emergency Plan for the Autonomous Region of Madeira - PREPCRAM (2015)

Cabo Girão Special Program - PEGC (currently in public consultation stage)

3. Incentives

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

According to data published by the National Institute of Statistics, in 2017, the value of taxes with environmental relevance in Portugal was 5.041 billion euros. For the fifth consecutive year, there was an increase in revenue. Compared to 2016, this amount represents an increase of 4.8%, showing a variation similar to that observed for the total revenue from taxes and social contributions (+ 5.3%).

In 2017, taxes with environmental relevance were mainly: the tax on energy (72.1% including taxes on energy products: gasoline, diesel, fuel oil, natural gas, coal and electricity; as well as revenue from license auctions for emission of greenhouse gases); the vehicle tax (15.3%) and the single circulation tax (11.9%). The remainder related to resource taxes (0.4%) and pollution taxes (0.3%). (source: www.ine.pt)

EN

The Natura 2000 network covers about 21% of the national territory, so farmers who develop their activities in these areas are a central element in maintaining and adopting essential practices to preserve the natural values in place. As a way of offsetting restrictions to agro-forestry activity, the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 for Mainland Portugal supports the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by providing positive incentives to the farmers through the Natura Payment.

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores Autonomous Region, incentives are granted for the conservation of biodiversity within the scope of PRORURAL + program (Program for Rural Development in the Azores Autonomous Region), by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), through the measures Natura 2000 Payments and Forestry and Agri-environmental payments. Support is granted to compensate costs and loss of income resulting from the conditions resulting from the application of the Birds and Habitats Directives and to reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, to reduce stocking, the maintenance of areas with native vegetation, the conservation of traditional Azorean orchards and the protection of the indigenous breed “Ramo Grande”.

The legal regime for nature conservation and biodiversity (Regional Legislative Decree No. 15/2012/A, of 2nd April) creates complementary regional mechanisms to compensate landowners and farmers in the areas covered by the application of the Birds and Habitats Directives.

In the context of the sustainable use of natural resources in protected areas by the nearby communities, stands out the system of incentives for maintaining traditional landscapes of vine culture, in "corrals" and terraces, and of traditional species orchards, located in areas of protected landscape, and coastal “fajãs” (volcanic deltas), integrated in Island Natural Parks and in Biosphere Reserves. Also the support system for the rehabilitation of the traditional landscape of vine culture in "corrals", to be applied by the regional administration in the area of World Heritage of the Landscape of Vineyard Culture in Pico Island, stands out.

Madeira Autonomous Region

PDR 2020 (PRODERAM 2020, in the case of RAM):

- Measure 08. Investments in the development of forest areas and in improving the viability of forests - Articles 21 to 26 of Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 December, regarding the EAFRD;
- Measure 12. Payments under the Natura 2000 network and the Water Framework Directive - Article 30 of Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 December, on the EAFRD;
- Measure 15. Silvoenvironmental and climatic services and forest conservation - Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 December, on the EAFRD.

4. Use of natural resources

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

Between 2015 and 2018, some initiatives were developed regarding sustainable production and consumption, by the public and private sectors. Both sectors are committed to actively contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2020.

In 2014, the Government initiated a review of environmental and energy taxation, with a new fiscal and para-fiscal framework, constituting a Commission for the Reform of Green Taxation.

In 2015, Portugal had a Tax reform, cross-cutting all sectors and resources, so the reform of environmental taxation came into force, based on the principle of fiscal neutrality. In addition to the incentives to be attributed, through green taxation (to electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids and CNGs, to nature conservation projects and sustainable forest management activities), the net revenue generated would be fully allocated to the financing of the tax relief of Individual Income (IRS). The principle of this reform is based on the idea that those who pollute and degrade have to pay for it.

In September 2017, the Council of Ministers approved the National Environmental Education Strategy based on three thematic axes: decarbonizing society, making the economy circular and valuing the territory. The strategy aims to foster intervening citizenship, through the training of children and young people, but also civil society, economic agents, decision-makers and officers from central, regional and local administration. It seeks to promote behavioural changes, making them more aware and more sustainable.

According to information from the Portuguese Environmental Agency, in 2018, 51 organizations were registered in the Community Eco-Management and Audit System (EMAS)

The Portuguese government supports the Portuguese Plastics Pact leading by Smart Waste project.

The private sector is also sensitive to the issue of biodiversity loss, with a growing concern about environmental sustainability. Many companies adopt sustainability projects, following the circular economy model. Many of these companies are part of international organizations and networks that promote sustainable production and consumption.

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There was a national effort, by citizens, private promoters, central and local administration, academia and the third sector, in the development of initiatives framed in the priority action plan of the National Platform Sustainable Cities - Food Sustainable Cities. <https://www.quercus.pt/comunicados/2020/marco-1/5850-e-book-reune-boas-praticas-da-producao-ao-consumo-sustentavel-em-portugal>

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores Autonomous Region there are some legislative measures that seek to minimize or eliminate the most significant impacts of human activities on biodiversity, namely with regard to the regulation of spearfishing, recreational and professional fishing, catching limpets, whale watching, hunting and the exploitation of animal and plant species.

Madeira

Maritime Spatial Situation Plan - subdivision of Madeira - PSOEM Madeira

Projects:

- GO JELLY (2018-2021) "A gelatinous solution to plastic pollution". Lead by the researchers from OOM-ARDITI, the main objective of this project is to develop, test and promote a gelatinous solution that will be processed through raw material from jellyfish to serve as a filter for microplastic pollution.
- CLEAN ATLANTIC (2017-2020). This project aims to protect biodiversity and marine ecosystems by improving regional cooperation and strengthening capacities for the prevention, monitoring and removal of marine litter in the Atlantic. One of the goals is to raise awareness and change attitudes, as well as improve marine waste management systems.
- ECOMARPORT (2016-2019). The project intended to contribute to European marine monitoring and blue growth strategies, through cooperation and technology transfer between the public and private sector in the field of marine science and marine technologies in the Macaronesian region. One of the major outputs was the implementation of the environmental and marine observation network in Macaronesian ports.
- MARCET (2016-2019): The main goals were: 1) Transfer science and advanced technologies in cetacean health surveillance and operational oceanography, to standardize the level of knowledge, infrastructure and best practices, and demonstrate, with new innovative products, the sustainable development of the associated business activity; 2) Transfer of experience and technologies in multidisciplinary monitoring and Cetacean Health Surveillance between the institutions responsible for this activity in the regions, to partners, specialized in operational oceanography and to tourism and associated technology companies.
- MISTIC SEAS II (2017-2019): The project developed a common methodology for monitoring three functional groups (marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds) of Descriptor 1 (biodiversity) in the Macaronesia sub-region, focusing on populations of species shared between the archipelagos.

5. Loss of habitats

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

Portugal is very rich in terms of biodiversity. According to data from the IUCN, there are 35,000 species of animals and plants, representing to 22% of all species described in Europe and 2% of the world's species.

However, during the last decades, the status of species and habitats has not improved, and some of them are even declining.

The National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001, which was in force until mid-2018, already advocated measures for the conservation and recovery of habitats and species and some initiatives were developed. However, these proved to be insufficient, as shown by data from the National summary dashboards - Habitats Directive - Art.17 (2013-2018), which generically indicate that the "inadequate" conservation status prevails over the "favourable" one, both for species and habitats.

Among the mentioned initiatives , the following projects stand out:

- LIFE Iberlince Project (LIFE 10 NAT / ES / 570)
- LIFE Saramugo Project (LIFE 13 NAT / PT / 786)
- LIFE Imperial Project (LIFE 13 NAT / PT / 1300)
- LIFE RUPIS Project (LIFE 14 NAT / PT / 855)
- LIFE MONTADO & CLIMATE Project (LIFE 15 CCA PT 000043)
- LIFE Berlengas Project (LIFE 13 NAT / PT / 458)

The construction, recovery or reuse of hydraulic infrastructures, namely those that impact longitudinal river connectivity, were subject to measures to minimize their negative impacts, whenever deemed necessary.

The National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2030, published in 2018, aims to "Achieve the good state of conservation of the natural heritage by 2050, based on the progressive appropriation of the design of biodiversity by society, through the recognition of its value, for development of the country and the pursuit of management models closer to those in the territory".

The new Strategy reinforced the need for actions to maintain, recover and conserve the natural values of habitats and species, prescribing the elaboration of an Action Plan for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity XXI, with a vast set of measures, indicators and targets, with

permanent monitoring and mid-term evaluations.

The Rural Development Program 2020 also includes measures to the protection and promotion of biodiversity, by restoring, preserving and improving ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forests.

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores Autonomous Region, attempts are made to minimize or eliminate impacts on natural habitats through the Regional Legislative Decree No. 15/2012/A of 2nd April (which establishes the legal regime for nature conservation and biodiversity), the legal diplomas that created the Island Natural Parks, the territorial management instruments, the PRORURAL + program and the environmental assessment procedure.

Within the scope of the Life + Terras do Priolo project (LIFE12 NAT / PT / 000527) and the LIFE VIDALIA - Valorização e Inovação Dirigidos à Azorina e Lotus nas Ilhas Açorianas (LIFE17 NAT/PT/000510), measures and actions are implemented to improve the conservation status of natural habitats. Also within the scope of the LIFE IP Azores Natura - Proteção Ativa e Integrada da Rede Natura 2000 nos Açores (LIFE 17 IPE/PT/00010) , measures in the same direction are foreseen.

Within the scope of the regional program to control flora alien invasive species, measures and actions aimed at restoring natural habitats have been implemented in all the islands of the Azores archipelago.

There is no evidence of significant marine habitat loss or degradation in the Azores. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) are subject to a Fisheries EC Regulation that has been enforced since 2008 in the Azorean Sea. Council Regulation (EC) No 734/2008 of 15 July 2008 on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the high seas from the adverse impacts of bottom fishing gears

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32008R0734>

Madeira Autonomous Region

The Madeira Autonomous Region, through IFCN IP-RAM, has encouraged research in different Protected Areas by various institutions (regional, national and international). Through this action, intends to contribute to the knowledge increase regarding the endemic species and Madeiran natural habitats, assessing their conservation status, as well as the elaboration of conservation plans.

Various actions have been taken in relation to biodiversity conservation with the support of the LIFE financial instrument, with actions directed to habitats and species conservation namely monitoring and control of invasive plants, monitoring of species at risk of extinction, reintroduction and strengthening of populations of threatened species, long-term seed conservation in the Seed Bank, etc. The vast majority of these conservation and monitoring actions were implemented through the following projects: - LIFE09 NAT/PT/000041 (2010-2014) - "Halt the loss of European Biodiversity through the recovery of habitats and species of the islets of Porto Santo and surrounding marine area."

- LIFE11 NAT/PT/000327 (2012-2017) - "LIFE Maciço Montanhoso - Recovery and conservation of species and habitats on the Madeiran Central Massif";

- LIFE12 NAT/PT/000402 (2013-2017) - "LIFE Fura-Bardos: Conservation of Macaronesian Sparrowhawk and Laurissilva habitat in Madeira Island";

- LIFE12 NAT/PT/000195 (2013-2017) - "LIFE RECOVER NATURA: Recovery of the species and land habitats of the Natura 2000 sites Ponta de São Lourenço and Desertas Islands.

- LIFE13 NAT/ES/000974 (2014-2019) - "LIFE Monk Seal- Mediterranean monk seal conservation in Madeira and development of a conservation status surveillance system.

6. Sustainable fisheries

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

A new legal framework aims at the sustainable management of aquatic resources, respecting the principles of nature conservation and biodiversity and the protection of water bodies. The subsequent regulation recommends the adaptive management in the concession of fisheries (mainly angling), associated with a precautionary and ecosystemic approach to fisheries management. In professional fishing, particular emphasis has been placed on the co-management of fisheries for highly valuable commercial species, namely eel, sea lamprey and shad.

The change in the legal framework involved the publication of several pieces of legislation, notably:

- Law no. 7/2008, of 15 February, amended and republished by Decree-Law no. 221/2015, of 8 October – (Law on fisheries, aquaculture and inland aquatic resources)

- Decree-Law No. 112/2017, of 6 September

- Decree-Law no. 40/2017 of 4 April

- Ordinance No. 108/2018 of 20 April

- Ordinance No. 279/2017, of 19 September

In the existing Protection Zones, Professional Fishing Zones, Reserved Fishing Zones, Fishing Concessions and Recreational Fishing Zones, the management regulations and the annual fishing rules are being revised in order to comply with the new legal framework, which includes more

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restrictive and demanding rules, aimed at protecting aquatic resources and achieving sustainable fisheries.

In the case of the diadromous fish most valued in professional (commercial) fishing (shad, sea lamprey and european eel), the widespread adoption of mandatory reports on catches must be mentioned. Another measure that should be emphasized is the implementation of closed fishing seasons in articulation with those implemented in the maritime jurisdiction, ensuring an effective window of opportunity for reproductive migration

Azores Autonomous Region

Enforcement of the CFP and other fishing regulations in the Azorean Sea

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32013R1380>

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32008R0734>

[https://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/SRMCT-PESCAS/menus/principal/Legisla%C3%A7%C3%A3o/?template=legislacao&ct=legislacao\(=pt&area=ct&group=Geral](https://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/SRMCT-PESCAS/menus/principal/Legisla%C3%A7%C3%A3o/?template=legislacao&ct=legislacao(=pt&area=ct&group=Geral)

<https://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/SRMCT-PESCAS/menus/principal/Legisla%C3%A7%C3%A3o/>

The Autonomous Region of the Azores (RAA) has designated 50 Marine Protected Areas (AMP), which cover 5% of the Territorial Sea, 4% of the EEZ and 7% of the Extended Continental Platform. Diverse fishing restrictions and local regulations have been applied in these MPAs.

Moreover, other effective area-based conservation measures include: Fishing restriction areas, in compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy, the Regional Government of the Azores has been implementing spatial management measures that aim to make fishing compatible with conservation of marine biological resources, thus contributing to long-term environmental, economic and social sustainability, based on the best available information obtained by studies and scientific research campaigns developed in the Azores Sea; Collection reserves: activity with great representativeness in the Region. The legal regime for the collection of marine species in the Azores Sea is defined through an ordinance. In these areas, the capture of several species of invertebrates by harvesting methods is prohibited.

- Portaria n.º 87/2014 de 29 de dezembro de 2014 - Regulamento de Uso de Áreas Protegidas na Zona Marítima da Ilha de Santa Maria;
- Portaria n.º 53/2016 de 21 de junho de 2016 - Regulamento para o exercício da pesca na zona marítima das ilhas do Faial e Pico;
- Portaria n.º 55/2016 de 21 de junho de 2016 - Regulamento para o exercício da pesca na zona marítima em torno da ilha Graciosa;
- Portaria n.º 54/2016 de 21 de junho de 2016 - Regulamento para o exercício da pesca na área marinha da Ribeira Quente, ilha de São Miguel;
- Portaria n.º 94/2017 de 28 de dezembro de 2017 - Regulamento de acesso específico para o exercício da pesca e acesso e permanência das embarcações no Banco Condor;
- Portaria n.º 68/2019 de 26 de setembro de 2019 - Regulamento para o exercício da pesca na zona marítima do campo hidrotermal LUSO."

Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) are subject to a Fisheries EC Regulation that has been enforced since 2008 in the Azorean Sea. Council Regulation (EC) No 734/2008 of 15 July 2008 on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the high seas from the adverse impacts of bottom fishing gears

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32008R0734>

DiscardLess helps provide the knowledge, tools and technologies as well as the involvement of the stakeholders to achieve the gradual elimination of discarding. These will be integrated into Discard Mitigation Strategies (DMS) proposing cost-effective solutions at all stages of the seafood supply chain.

<http://www.discardless.eu/>

Fisheries resources management strategies of the Azores are based on the CFP. The different management measures that have been implemented by the Regional Government of Azores are based on the best available scientific advice following the key principles, such as i) the precautionary approach, in accordance with international agreements and guidelines; ii) an ecosystem approach that takes into account habitats and biodiversity, and iii) effective control of harvesting. Apart from fish quotas previewed in the CFP, the Regional Government has implemented several technical measures such as minimum landing sizes or weights, minimum mesh sizes, limitation of licenses for some specific gears, area and temporal closures and bans on the use of specific gear, such as the deep-sea trawling. The downsizing of the fleet has also been happening in the last years, which will allow the improvement on the protection of marine resources and the increase of the per capita income of fishermen. As a result of a set of incentives created in the Region to restructure the fishing sector and provide it with adequate technical conditions, the number of licensed vessels has declined significantly over the last 2 decades.

Madeira Autonomous Region

In the Autonomous Region of the Madeira, Government Council Resolution no. 1025/2016, 28 december - Approves the Management for marine aquaculture for the Autonomous Region of Madeira (POAMAR) - 2016

7. Areas under sustainable management

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

Aquaculture:

The Strategic Plan for Portuguese Aquaculture (2014-2020) brought new goals, and more sustainable methods have been developed.

The objective of the Strategic Plan, with the support of the European Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), is reaching by 2023, an increase in the national productive capacity of 25,000 tons, produced in the most appropriate areas, for the installation of aquaculture establishments and for the development of the activity, in line with the preservation of the environment.

In the areas destined to agriculture and forestry, the regulations of the Territorial Management Instruments (which integrate the regulatory measures of the Sectorial Plan of the Natura 2000 Network) and the provisions in the diplomas that create the Island Natural Parks are applied.

Azores Autonomous Region

Within the scope of sustainable agriculture, stands out the creation of support programs for producers that opt for the conversion and maintenance of practices in the Organic Production Mode through the Program for Rural Development in the Azores Autonomous Region, PRORURAL +; the creation of a measure within too the scope of Prorural +, agri-environment and climate that intends to continue the preservation and improvement of ecosystems located in agricultural areas, orienting agricultural activities towards less intensive production systems aimed at protecting and preserving biodiversity in agricultural areas.

Payments under PRORURAL + program enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity also within the forest scope.

In order to guarantee a sustainable use of forest resources in the Azores, Forest Management Plans are prepared.

The Azores Government intended to establish long-term commitments between the exploitation and preservation of resources, with decisive effects on spatial planning, through the implementation of a Management System for Forest Perimeters and Regional Woods, based on the certification standards in accordance with FSC® standards - Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC-C119744). The Forest Management Plan for the Forest Perimeter and Regional Woods of São Miguel Island was prepared.

Still, to improve the action of forest exploitation, documents were elaborated, such as the Good Practices for Forest Management Manual and the Technical Norms for the elaboration of Forest Management Plans.

Following the promotion of environmentally sustainable aquaculture in the Azores, legislation was published regarding the approval of the Regulation of the Support Scheme for Productive Investments in Aquaculture and the Regulation of the Support Scheme for Innovation in Aquaculture, of the Operational Program "Programa Operacional Mar 2020" and legislation that regulates the tax benefits in order to attract investors. Within the scope of the project to map coastal and offshore areas with potential for aquaculture, aquaculture projects were developed and implemented in the region.

Madeira Autonomous Region

PRODERAM: Preparation of Forest Management Plans (PGF); Control of invasive species; Fuel Management; Reforestation and forest improvement, namely:

Development of 6 Forest Management Plans (Investment: € 169,130.00)

Restoration of Production Potential in Chão das Aboboreiras (intervention area: 80 hectares; Investment: 331,167.77 €)

Restoration of Production Potential at Pico do Prado and Pico do Curral (intervention area: 60 hectares; Investment: € 315,397.88)

Preventive Forestry Intervention in Montado do Pereiro (intervention area: 55 hectares; Investment: € 167,215.62)

Control of invasive exotic vegetation in the Paul da Serra Forest Perimeter (Investment: € 60,000.00)

Intervention in Natura 2000 area affected by fires in Pico dos Esteios (intervention area: 23 hectares; Investment: € 196,965.57)

Forest Improvement Pico do Facho e Gandaia - Porto Santo island (Investment: € 20,000.00)

Recovery and signaling of leisure areas and walking routes recommended in RAM (Investment: € 70,000)

INTERREG MAC 2014.2020: VALCONMAC Project (Valuation and Conservation of Forest Resources in Macaronesia): List of the 100 unique Macaronesian trees and groves

Madeira 14-20: Requalification of the Queimadas and Ribeiro Frio forest parks (Investment: 572 € 318.89)

Plan for the Prevention and Surveillance of Forest Fires in the Autonomous Region of Madeira - PPVIF-RAM (since 2015)

"PRODERAM 2020:

- Measure 10. Agri-environment and climate - Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 17 December, on the EAFRD;

Sportfishing in inland waters: the Institute of Forests and Nature Conservation, IP-RAM grants sport fishing licenses in inland waters that confer the right to fish in any public waters not reserved or granted. The species available are mainly trout (rainbow trout and brown trout) and eels.

Canyoning: responsible for issuing permits for the practice of Canyoning activity in the Autonomous Region of Madeira.

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Management Plan for the Hydrographic Region of the Madeira Archipelago (PGRH10, 2016-2021).

Inscription of "Levadas da Madeira" on Portugal's World Heritage List (2016).

8. Pollution

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

The Nitrates Directive on the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources was transposed into national law in 1997.

The last designation of zones vulnerable to nitrates of agricultural origin was in 2010. Nine zones vulnerable to nitrates of agricultural origin were designated, focusing mainly on groundwater and covering only an area of 4.5% of the mainland territory.

In 2012, the Action Program (Ordinance No. 259/2012) was published, to be applied in the nine vulnerable zones, encompassing a set of measures aimed at reversing contamination from the farming sector, involving both agriculture and livestock.

In 2016, the last report of the Nitrates Directive was prepared and submitted to the European Commission, showing an evolution of the water quality in the period 2012-2015.

According to the information available on the State of Environment Portal – Portuguese Environment Agency, from the global assessment of the results of the nitrate monitoring network in groundwater, in the period 2012-2015, there was a decrease in the concentration of nitrate ions in the water as the depth of the water level increased.

However, there is still a significant percentage of stations with concentrations above 50 mg / L in the most superficial groundwater levels.

In this context, the importance of applying the measures of the Action Program to reverse the contamination with nitrates from agricultural sources in the vulnerable areas of Portugal is highlighted. As an example of these measures, there are quantitative limits to the application of fertilizers, as well as limitations to their use in certain periods, namely in the rainy season.

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Autonomous Region of the Azores, Regional Legislative Decree No. 6/2005 / A, of 17 May, transposes Directive No. 91/676 / EEC, of the Council, of 12 December, as amended by Regulation (EC) 1882/2003, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 29 September (Nitrates Directive), on the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. Under the terms of DLR no. 6/2005 / A, of 17 May, Directorate-Regional for the Environment of the Azores, a department of the Regional Government which is responsible for the overall planning, management and monitoring of inland water resources (rivers, lakes and groundwater), which policies are in compliance with the new Water Frame Directive and other EU directives transposed to the national law, mainly the water law (Law58 / 2205), keep an updated record of the analytical results obtained through the monitoring of the Region and make it available to the competent national entity, APA - Portuguese Environment Agency. In the Autonomous Region of the Azores, the 8 vulnerable zones are all lakes river basin.

Under the PRORURAL + program, support is provided to reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides and to reduce stocking rates.

The Azores Government marine conservation policy is highly based on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the EU's legal instrument for the protection of the sea, that aims to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of all EU marine waters. MSFD monitoring programmes implemented in the Azores allowed the description of the state of the art of present knowledge regarding the environmental status (GES) and the assessment of the 11 descriptors, human activities and pressures, SEA; evaluate progress towards achievement of GES and the environmental targets and the efficiency of measures stipulated through the Programme of Measures (see the latest MSFD 2012-2018 cycle official report to the EC). In the Azores Sea For details see Descriptors 5 (Eutrophication), 8, 9 (Contaminants), 10 (Marine Litter), 11 (noise) actions and monitoring results in the latest MSFD Report - http://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/SRMCT-MAR/conteudos/livres/Estrategia_Marinha_para_a_subdivisao_dos_Acores.htm

http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/pt/eu/msfd_art17/2018reporting/xmldata/envxtoziq/

Fisheries waste control policies in the Autonomous Region of Azores has been substantially reinforced. A great effort has been made to raise awareness among fishermen in collaboration with the Fisheries Federation of the Azores. The Region, with the support of the sector, has also been quantifying the waste produced on board fishing vessels and equipped them with waste sorting containers.

Madeira Autonomous Region

Projects:

- GO JELLY (2018-2021) ""A gelatinous solution to plastic pollution"". Lead by the researchers from OOM-ARDITI, the main objective of this project is to develop, test and promote a gelatinous solution that will be processed through raw material from jellyfish to serve as a filter for microplastic pollution.

-CLEAN ATLANTIC (2017-2020). This project aims to protect biodiversity and marine ecosystems by improving regional cooperation and strengthening capacities for the prevention, monitoring and removal of marine litter in the Atlantic. One of the goals is to raise awareness and change attitudes, as well as improve marine waste management systems.

Other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level

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The network for monitoring the quality status of water bodies in the Autonomous Region of the Azores includes 45 stations in inland surface waters, 100 stations in groundwater. As a synthesis of the evaluation carried out for the period 2015-2018, and taking into account the low concentrations of nitrates recorded in the stations of the Azores, mostly below 25 mg NO₃ / L, as well as the analysis of very insignificant trends, it is considered worrying situations referring to the concentration of nitrates in the interior surface waters of the Autonomous Region of the Azores are not indicated. Of the 23 monitoring stations in lakes, 13 are located in vulnerable areas and all the river basins of these lakes already have the respective plans for land use and occupation planning, in which one of the main objectives is the recovery of the water quality of the lakes. It is considered that measures are being taken to recover the water quality of the lakes of the Azores, accompanied by monitoring of their quality status.

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9. Invasive Alien Species

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

During the evaluation period, one research project stood out for its relevance in generating knowledge essential for the management of exotic species and the conservation of aquatic resources in inland waters:

The project " Freshwater fish Invasions Risk assessment: identifying invasion routes - FRISK" started in 2016 and ended in 2019. This project, financed by FCT - Foundation for Science and Technology, was promoted by MARE.

Another significant legal evolution in the prevention and management of aquatic invasive species was the publication of the new legal framework on fishing, aquaculture and aquatic resources of inland waters, that has already been detailed, with several norms that will contribute to prevent the introduction of new species, reduce the dispersal of those already present, and the reduction of density of others.

Azores Autonomous Region

The Regional Legislative Decree No. 15/2012 / A, of 2 April, which establishes the legal regime for nature conservation and biodiversity, identifies the species of invasive fauna and flora or with known ecological risk and indicates the priority taxons for control and eradication. With the application of the provisions of this diploma, the entry and dissemination in the Region of species recognized as a threat has been avoided, confirming that it constitutes a fundamental tool for the more effective management of these species.

Within the scope of the principles instituted in the referred diploma regarding the control of established invasive populations and species and the restoration of degraded natural habitats, the Azores Government has continued the "in situ" conservation project, whose objective is the control of flora alien invasive species in sensitive areas on all islands of the Azores archipelago.

Over the years, the effort and work has been increasingly discerning, incisive and directed, both in terms of species and areas subject to control. In the 2015 - 2018 period, work was carried out on about 2264 ha, through the control of about 30 species of flora alien invasive species.

In terms of actions to control invasive flora species, the implementation of the LIFE + Terras do Priolo project (LIFE12 NAT / PT / 000527) also stands out.

Actions for the eradication of invasive alien species are planned under LIFE VIDALIA - Valorização e Inovação Dirigidos à Azorina e Lotus nas Ilhas Açorianas (LIFE17 NAT/PT/000510), and LIFE IP Azores Natura - Proteção Ativa e Integrada da Rede Natura 2000 nos Açores (LIFE 17 IPE/PT/00010) projects.

In the Azores, rats are a threat to biodiversity by preying on the nests of certain birds and efforts have been made to find suitable solutions for their control.

PIMA (Monitoring Program of Marine Invasive Species in the Azores) is a PEAMA sub-project (Strategic Plan for the Marine Environment of the Azores 2015-2018) that allowed the identification of the main introduction vectors of non indigenous species (NIS) and predicted the origin and environmental factors that may facilitate their appearance in the archipelago, namely some invasive species already identified in the Azores, in São Miguel, Santa Maria and Faial. An Action Plan for marine NIS was proposed.

Prevention, control and mitigation actions are being implemented through LIFE IP Azores Natura. http://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/SRMCT-MAR/conteudos/livres/ACORES_2020.htm

http://servicos-sraa.azores.gov.pt/grastore/DRAM/ACORES2020/Fotos_PEAMA.zip

<https://www.lifeazoresnatura.eu/en/>

The Azores Government marine conservation policy is highly based on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the EU's legal instrument for the protection of the sea, that aims to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of all EU marine waters. MSFD monitoring programmes implemented in the Azores allowed the description of the state of the art of present knowledge regarding the environmental status (GES) and the assessment of the 11 descriptors, human activities and pressures, SEA; evaluate progress towards achievement of GES and the environmental targets and the efficiency of measures stipulated through the Programme of Measures (see the latest MSFD 2012-2018 cycle official report to the EC). See Descriptor 2 (NIS) actions and monitoring results in the latest MSFD Report - http://www.azores.gov.pt/Gra/SRMCT-MAR/conteudos/livres/Estrategia_Marinha_para_a_subdivisao_dos_Acores.htm

http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/pt/eu/msfd_art17/2018reporting/xmldata/envxtoziq/

Madeira Autonomous Region

PRODERAM 2020: Control of invasive exotic vegetation in the Paul da Serra Forest Perimeter (Investment: € 60,000.00)

"LIFE FURA BARDOS:

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At Ginjas, invasive plants control covered an area of approximately 30.4 hectares, being directed to six species: *Cytisus scoparius*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Rubus* sp., *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Hydrangea macrophylla* and *Agapanthus praecox*.

At Assumadourous, invasive plant control actions were carried out in an area of approximately 16.8 hectares and seven species were controlled: *Cytisus scoparius*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Rubus* sp., *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Ageratina adenophora*, *Crocrosmia x crocosmiiflora* and *Ageratina riparia*.

In Terra Chã, to minimize the effects of the 2012 fire, about 20 hectares of carbonized material was removed. Twenty-one thousand two hundred eighty-eight plants were planted, and the expansion of the invasive species that arose after the fire was controlled."

LIFE Maciço Montanhoso: At Maciço Montanhoso Oriental da Madeira, invasive plants control covered 7,6 hectares, being directed to following species, *Cytisus scoparius* subsp *scoparius* (90% from total area) and *Ulex europaeus* subsp. *latebracteatus* (10% from total area).

"LIFE Ilhéus do Porto Santo: Within the scope of this LIFE project, control actions of plants species were implemented on two islets:

- Ilhéu de Cima: Tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) and American aloe (*Agave americana*);
- Ilhéu de Ferro: Tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*).

Introduced animals were also eradicated, namely, the rabbit and the mouse."

"LIFE RECOVER:

10. Vulnerable ecosystems

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Azores Autonomous Region

The azorean lakes's river basin are places that constitute both a natural resource, an ecological resource and a tourist resource. The complexity of resources and the multifaceted richness of the river basins make these territories extremely attractive spaces for various purposes, sometimes conflicting, whose challenge is to reconcile the preservation of water resources with social and economic development, in particular, in the current framework of climate change, in which the preservation of strategic water reserves is particularly decisive in islands.

The Regional Government of the Azores has been working with the University of the Azores, to identify priority areas for conservation in the Azores' EEZ. The scientific knowledge that has been gathered in recent years, namely in the identification and characterization of VMEs, aims to implement new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) without extractive activities, covering at least 15% of the Azorean sea. These new MPAs will thus serve to safeguard VMEs of great ecological importance and support decision making regarding the central objective of increasing the network of marine protected areas in the Region.

Madeira Autonomous Region

The Madeira Autonomous Region, through IFCN IP-RAM, has encouraged research in different Protected Areas by various institutions (regional, national and international). Through this action, intends to contribute to the knowledge increase regarding to protect natural habitats, assessing their conservation status, as well as the elaboration of conservation plans.

Projects:

- GO JELLY (2018-2021) "A gelatinous solution to plastic pollution". Lead by the researchers from OOM-ARDITI, the main objective of this project is to develop, test and promote a gelatinous solution that will be processed through raw material from jellyfish to serve as a filter for microplastic pollution.

-CLEAN ATLANTIC (2017-2020). This project aims to protect biodiversity and marine ecosystems by improving regional cooperation and strengthening capacities for the prevention, monitoring and removal of marine litter in the Atlantic. One of the goals is to raise awareness and change attitudes, as well as improve marine waste management systems.

- ECOMARPORT (2016-2019). The project intended to contribute to European marine monitoring and blue growth strategies, through cooperation and technology transfer between the public and private sector in the field of marine science and marine technologies in the Macaronesian region. One of the major outputs was the implementation of the environmental and marine observation network in Macaronesian ports.

- MARCET (2016-2019): The main goals were: 1) Transfer science and advanced technologies in cetacean health surveillance and operational oceanography, to standardize the level of knowledge, infrastructure and best practices, and demonstrate, with new innovative products, the sustainable development of the associated business activity; 2) Transfer of experience and technologies in multidisciplinary monitoring and Cetacean Health Surveillance between the institutions responsible for this activity in the regions, to partners, specialized in operational oceanography and to tourism and associated technology companies.

- MISTIC SEAS II (2017-2019): The project developed a common methodology for monitoring three functional groups (marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds) of Descriptor 1 (biodiversity) in the Macaronesia sub-region, focusing on populations of species shared between the archipelagos.

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11. Protected areas

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

At the level of the National Protected Areas Network (RNAP), the RJCNB provides for the types of Protected Areas (AP), the protection regimes and the objectives and procedures leading to their classification, providing for the possibility of the existence of national parks in the Autonomous Regions. APs can have national, regional or local scope and also private status, being classified into the following types: i) National Park, ii) Natural Park, iii) Nature Reserve, iv) Protected Landscape and v) Natural Monument.

The Natura 2000 Network comprises areas classified as Sites on the national list of sites, Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and Special Conservation Zones (ZEC) under the Habitats Directive and areas classified as Special Protection Zones (SPA) under of the Birds Directive. In these areas of community importance for the conservation of certain natural habitats and species, which also cover the marine environment, human activities must be compatible with the preservation of these values, aiming at sustainable management from an ecological, economic and social point of view.

Areas classified under international commitments include, among others, Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Sites and Geoparks.

In 2018, 47 Protected Areas in mainland Portugal were part of RNAP, on the Continent, including thirty-two national areas (one national park, thirteen natural parks, nine nature reserves, two protected landscapes and seven natural monuments), fourteen of regional / local scope (two Nature Reserves and eleven Protected Landscapes and a Natural Park), as well as a Private Protected Area. The seven Natural Monuments have designation objectives oriented primarily to the safeguarding of the geological heritage.

RNAP occupies, in Mainland Portugal, an area of 793,086.1 ha, accounting for marine area (536.2 km²) and land area, which represents about 8% of the total area.

In Portugal, the Natura 2000 Network covers about 22% of the total land area, plus about 39 000 km² of marine area.

Azores Autonomous Region

Within the scope of the creation of Island Natural Parks (unit base of management of the Azores Protected Areas Network that materializes the classification adopted by IUCN), in the Azores Autonomous Region, 123 areas are protected (19 Nature Reserves, 10 Natural Monuments, 48 Habitat/Species Management Areas, 16 Protected Landscape and 30 Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources), which together total 180247 ha, being 56066 ha of land area and 124181 ha of marine area. The proportion of protected regional territory (Azores Protected Areas Network and Natura 2000 Network) is around 24%.

In the Azores, the Natura 2000 Network includes 15 Special Protection Areas (SPA) established under the Birds Directive as well 23 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and 3 Sites of Community Importance (SIC) designated under the Habitats Directive. The total area of the SPA is 16 192.38 ha, the SAC 33 332.15 ha and the SCI 30 659.68 ha. The proportion of regional territory classified as Natura 2000 Network is around 15%.

In terms of the areas classified under international commitments are included the 13 Ramsar Sites, the 11 OSPAR areas, the 4 Biosphere Reserves are included: Corvo, Flores, Graciosa and Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserves (classified in 2016), the Azores Geopark, UNESCO World Geopark and the Pico Island Vineyard Culture Landscape, as a World Heritage Site.

The protected areas integrate within their scope the objectives and limits defined for the areas of the Natura 2000 Network and observe, cumulatively, with the regime defined by the diplomas that create the Island Natural Parks, the regime established by the Sectorial Plan of the Natura 2000 Network of the Autonomous Region of the Azores.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2018 Report: MPAs in Portugal are moving towards target 14.5 in the Azores sea - Indicator - 14.5.1. 7% coverage in 2017.

https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_publicacoes&PUBLICACOESpub_boui=332274994&PUBLICACOESmodo=2&xlang=pt
In 2016, the Marine Park of the Azores was reviewed and increased its area in 122% (DLR 13/2016/A)

The Autonomous Region of the Azores (RAA) has designated 50 Marine Protected Areas (AMP), which cover 5% of the Territorial Sea, 4% of the EEZ and 7% of the Extended Continental Platform. Currently, a process of revision of the Azores AMP Network (RAMPA) is underway. This review also aims to create new protected areas, covering 15% of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) adjacent to the Archipelago. The aim is to meet the well-managed targets of 10% AMP coverage by 2020, in compliance with Goal 11 of Aichi (CDB, 2010) and goal SDG 14.4 (Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development), but also contributing to the commitment made by Portugal to achieve the target of 14% of the Portuguese sea protected by AMP, well managed, by 2020 (Minister of the Sea, New York 2017). The goal of reaching 15% MPA by 2021 was defined within the framework of the regional environmental policies for the Azores sea, and is being developed through the Blue Azores program, which involves the Regional Government of the Azores (GRA), the Oceano Azul Foundation (FOA) and the Waitt Foundation, and has scientific support from the University of the Azores (Okeanos) and IMAR-Açores. Within this scope MPA network in the Azores is being restructured, through a new legal framework. So far, a detailed analysis of the existing situation has been published (X-Ray), an action plan has been built, studies have been developed to identify areas with relevant conservation values, define operational strategies that make it possible to reconcile conservation with the viability of fishing, and to characterize the socioeconomic impacts of the measures to be adopted. At the same time, the Regional Government of the Azores promotes consultations with many stakeholders from different sectors.

Diverse fishing restrictions and local regulations have been applied in these MPAs. Enforcement of the CFP and other fishing regulations in the Azorean Sea.

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Only the AMPs listed in the Common Database on Designated Areas (CDDA), the Natura 2000 Network Database (ICNF) and OSPAR Marine Protected were integrated into the reporting of the Azores to the national entity responsible for monitoring SDGs 14.5 (DGPM). These are the areas defined in the Island Natural Parks (PNI) and the Marine Park of the Azores (PMA).

Other effective area-based conservation measures include: Fishing restriction areas, in compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy, the Regional Government of the Azores has been implementing spatial management measures that aim to make fishing compatible with conservation of marine biological resources, thus contributing to long-term environmental, economic and social sustainability, based on the best available information obtained by studies and scientific research campaigns developed in the Azores Sea; Archaeological Parks: Defined primarily for the preservation of archaeological heritage, but which present restrictions to human activities, especially of the extractive type. DRAM collaborates in defining these areas to promote the environmental sustainability of sites, helping to design complementary regulatory measures to preserve biodiversity; Collection reserves: activity with great representativeness in the Region. The legal regime for the collection of marine species in the Azores Sea is defined through an ordinance. In these areas, the capture of several species of invertebrates by harvesting methods is prohibited.

- Portaria n.º 87/2014 de 29 de dezembro de 2014 - Regulamento de Uso de Áreas Protegidas na Zona Marítima da Ilha de Santa Maria;
- Portaria n.º 53/2016 de 21 de junho de 2016 - Regulamento para o exercício da pesca na zona marítima das ilhas do Faial e Pico;
- Portaria n.º 55/2016 de 21 de junho de 2016 - Regulamento para o exercício da pesca na zona marítima em torno da ilha Graciosa;
- Portaria n.º 54/2016 de 21 de junho de 2016 - Regulamento para o exercício da pesca na área marinha da Ribeira Quente, ilha de São Miguel;
- Portaria n.º 94/2017 de 28 de dezembro de 2017 - Regulamento de acesso específico para o exercício da pesca e acesso e permanência das embarcações no Banco Condor;
- Portaria n.º 68/2019 de 26 de setembro de 2019 - Regulamento para o exercício da pesca na zona marítima do campo hidrotermal LUSO."

The administration and management of the MPAs in the Azores will be part of the new legal regime for marine conservation, which is currently in an advanced stage of preparation.

A Working Group on National Marine Protected Areas (GTAMP) was created in 2017 by the Ministry of the Sea, to evaluate the existing MPAs, present a proposal of an ecosystemic coherent network of new MPAs in maritime spaces under national jurisdiction and elaborate management and monitoring plans for those areas. DRAM as been an active member of this group.

"Management Plans for all marine protected in the Azores are being elaborated. Regarding the management plans for coastal MPAs (areas located up to 6 nautical miles, from the coast line), each island in the Azores archipelago is a management unit, with a management plan. The MPAs on each island are management subunits, with specific objectives and regulations and specific management measures and regulations.

The oceanic areas beyond 6 nautical miles (Marine Park of the Azores - PMA) make part of another management unit, with a single management plan, including specific management objectives, measures and regulations. Nevertheless, the Regional Legislative Decrees that create each of the 9 the Island Natural Parks and the Marine Park of the Azores already establish, for each existing MPA, the fundamentals, management objectives and general regulation (conditioned and prohibited activities), according to the Regional Biodiversity Regime DLR 15/2012/A."

Oceano Azul Foundation is contributing to the implementation of Marine Protected Areas at the national and international levels establishing partnerships and supporting science-based processes, by promoting the establishment of new MPAs; improving the effectiveness of current MPAs; and reducing "Paper" Parks. Oceano Azul is promoting MPAs and other area-based management tools as part of any conservation and sustainable fisheries strategy, and as a means to protect marine species and habitats, reverse the decline of biodiversity and of the goods and services associated with marine ecosystems, recover degraded habitats and increase the sustainability of the resources.

The Blue Azores Program focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of natural marine resources in the Azores. Main actions: Declaring 15% of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Azores as new marine protected areas; Creating and implement management plans for the new marine reserves and all existing marine protected areas; Developing and legally adopt a marine spatial planning plan;

MSFD latest assessment of the environmental status of the marine environment, the Reports to the implementation of Birds and Habitats Directives, allow to evaluate, indirectly, the effect of environmental policies related to MPAs. The MSFD assessment integrates not only biophysical parameters, for 11 descriptors, a socio-economic analysis, and an analysis of the pressures and impacts of human activities in the marine environment. DRAM prepares the definition of mechanisms for monitoring public policies for the sea, namely through the definition of indicators and their periodic evaluation.

Madeira Autonomous Region

The measures implemented concerning Protected and Classified Areas seek to promote their conservation and management, guarantee the continuity of Macaronesian and Madeiran endemism with high conservation interest and raise awareness of the preservation of forest and natural ecosystems and strengthen the capacity for prevention and protection against forest fires. Also, it aims to reduce the risks and effects of biotic agents (pests, diseases and invasive species) and ensure conditions for social use and promotion of natural spaces. Besides, addresses also the recreational and leisure areas, on land and at sea, such as it is defined in the strategic measures of the Management Entity Assessment and Accountability Framework (IFCN, IP-RAM). The existing Planning and Management Plans, as well as the Management and Conservation Measures Programs, have defined the long-term strategic vision for each Protected Area.

The natural area network in the Madeira archipelago was amplified with a implementation of two new protected areas:

- 1) Cabo Girão (2017), Regional Decree-Law n.º 8/2017/M; The Protected Area of Cabo Girão, which includes the marine area belonging to the Marine Natural Park of Cabo Girão, and in its inland area constituted by the Natural Monument and the Protected Landscape of Cabo Girão.
- 2) Ponta do Pargo (2018), Regional Decree-Law n.º 19/2018/M, 22 August. The Protected Area of Ponta do Pargo, which comprises a sea area integrated in the Marine Natural Park of Ponta do Pargo and in its land part the Natural Monument and the Protected Landscape of Ponta do Pargo;

Eigth new SCI created: In 2016 were created seven terrestrial SCI namely: PTMAD0009 - Paul do Mar-Jardim do Mar, PTMAD0010 - Ribeira Brava, PTMAD0011 - Cabo Girão, PTMAD0012 - Caniço de Baixo, PTMAD0013 - Porto Novo, PTMAD0014 - Machico e PTMAD0015 - Pico do Facho. In 2018, a new entirely marine SCI was created, the PTMMD0001 - Cetáceos da Madeira.

12. Preventing extinctions

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

Despite the National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity 2001, there were no monitoring programs, with SEBI indicators (Streamlining European biodiversity *indicators*), that would allow, on the one hand, to identify general trends on the state of biodiversity and, on the other, to assess the impact of specific policies and actions of the national strategy on biodiversity.

Although essential biodiversity indicators are not identified, there are several monitoring programs for certain species, either of high conservation value or representative of a specific taxonomic group, for example:

- Iberian imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*) monitoring scheme. Planned and conducted by ICNF (with some support from NGO's like LPN). After a 20 year gap, this species is breeding in Portugal, since 2003. This plan aims to increase the chance for survival of this population, through several actions related to nest and reproduction monitoring; recovery of injured birds ; surplus feeding; human activities impact assessment; wild rabbit censuses; tagging and tracking some birds.
- Steppe birds monitoring scheme. This project has been mainly conducted in certain areas of inner Alentejo (namely IBA of Castro Verde) and aims to collect information on distribution, numbers and conservation biology of the most threatened species (e.g. *Otis tarda*, *Tetrax tetrax*, *Pterocles orientalis*, *Falco naumanni*, *Coracias garrulus*).
 - o Cliff-nesting birds national monitoring and surveillance scheme. This project has been conducted in several regions, mostly in two IBA's: Douro Internacional and Tejo Internacional, Erges e Ponsul) and aims to collect information on distribution, numbers and conservation biology of some species (*Aquila chrysaetos*, *Aquila fasciata*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Milvus milvus*).
 - o Necrophagous birds national monitoring scheme. This project aims to collect information on distribution, numbers and conservation biology mostly of *Neophron percnopterus*, *Aegypius monachus* and *Gyps fulvus*. Some data is added by specific monitoring of feeding sites
- LIFE Habitat Lince Abutre Project (LIFE08 NAT/P/000227; LPN was the coordinating beneficiary). The general objective of this project was: - To contribute to the improvement of the survival, feeding and breeding conditions of the Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) and the Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) in southeast Portugal;
- Life Rupis Project – Conservation of Egyptian Vulture and Bonelli's Eagle in the Douro Valley (LIFE14 NAT/PT/000855; SPEA was the coordinating beneficiary). The main objective of the Life Rupis project was the reinforcement of Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*) populations in the transboundary Douro River through the reduction of mortality and improvement of breeding success. Black Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) and Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*) also benefited from the project actions.
- Life+IBERLINCE Project: Recovery of the historical distribution of the Iberian Lynx in Spain and Portugal (2012-2016; LIFE10NAT/ES/570; coordinating beneficiary: Junta de Andalucía)
- Monitoring programme of important roosts for cave-dwelling bats. A monitoring programme of the cave-dwelling bats is in progress since 1987, coordinated by the ICNF.
- The "Red List of Vascular Flora of mainland Portugal" (Lista Vermelha da Flora Vascular de Portugal Continental) is a scientific project that aims to assess the extinction risk of native vascular plants in mainland Portugal, according to the criteria and categories of the Red List of Threatened Species of the IUCN.

The project started in October 2016 under the coordination of the Portuguese Botanical Society (SPBotânica) and the Portuguese Association of Vegetation Science (PHYTOS) in partnership with the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests, I.P. (ICNF), and will culminate in October 2020 with the publication of the first Red List of Flora Vascular of mainland Portugal.

This project is co-financed by public funds: the European Union Cohesion Fund (POSEUR-03-2215-FC-000013), by the Environmental Fund and by private funds raised by the Portuguese Botanical Society.

Link: <https://listavermelha-flora.pt/>

- The project Red Book and National Information System for Freshwater and Diadromous Fish of mainland Portugal (Livro Vermelho e Sistema Nacional de Informação dos Peixes Dulciaquícolas e Diádomos de Portugal Continental), started in March 2018, will be ongoing until April 2021 and aims to:

- the assessment of the risk of extinction of species and the publication of the Red Book of Freshwater and Diadromous Fish of mainland Portugal;
- the development of SNIPAD (National Information System on freshwater and Diadromous Fish of mainland Portugal), an interactive and freely accessible online platform, containing all historical and contemporary information on freshwater and diadromous fish species.

This project, co-financed by the European Union Cohesion Fund (POSEUR) and the Environmental Fund, is promoted by FCIências.ID - Association for Research and Development of Sciences, through two R&D Units - MARE and cE3C, in partnership with the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests, IP.

- LIFE Saramugo Project (LIFE13 NAT/PT/000786; coordination beneficiary: LPN)

The LIFE Saramugo Project aimed to conserve the saramugo (*Anaecypris hispanica*) populations in 3 sub-basins of the Guadiana river (Xévorá, Ardila and Vascão), in order to ensure the survival of this species, hoping to drastically reduce the decline of the saramugo population which has been observed.

Azores Autonomous Region

In relation to the Birds Directive, for the Azores, under the scope of article 12th and for the period 2013-2018, 36 terrestrial species (24 breeding and 12 wintering) were reported. Of these species it was possible to determine the population size of 26 (72%).

The assessment of the populations breeding species trend, especially with regard to the long term, is predominantly unknown (96%). In the short term, the trend of growth and lack of knowledge is on par, both for 33% of species. In turn, for 25% of the species, the tendency is for stability, decreasing only for 8% of the species.

The assessment of the wintering species populations trend in the short and long term is unknown.

In the Azores Autonomous Region, projects, plans and conservation measures and actions "in situ" directed to improve the conservation status of habitats and species have been developed. We highlight the LIFE VIDALIA - Valorização e Inovação Dirigidos à Azorina e Lotus nas Ilhas Açorianas

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(LIFE17 NAT/PT/000510), LIFE IP Azores Natura - Proteção Ativa e Integrada da Rede Natura 2000 nos Açores (LIFE 17 IPE/PT/00010) and the LIFE+ Terras do Priolo (LIFE12 NAT/PT/000527) projects and the Action Plans for the priolo (Species Action Plan for the Azores bullfinch *Pyrrhula murina* in the European Union (2009 - 2019) and LIFE EuroSAP Painho de Monteiro (2015-2018).

There was a reinforcement of interventions and investment aimed at collecting seeds for conservation at the Azores Seed Bank installed in the Botanical Garden of Faial (“ex situ” conservation) and the production of plants to reinforce and increase the size of species populations and also to reintroductions. The Azores Seed Bank was selected, in August 2015, by the organization Botanic Garden Conservation International (BGCI) as one of the case studies on conservation of rare seeds within the scope of the international challenge Global Seed Conservation Challenge.

In the Azores Autonomous Region, CITES regional registration is carried out, in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Legislative Decree No. 15/2012 / A, of 2 April.

The autonomous regional administration service with competence on environmental issues ensures the systematic monitoring and surveillance of the conservation status of natural habitats and species, with emphasis on the monitoring of protected habitats and species. Monitoring includes the conduction of censuses and periodic inventories and the application of its own methodology developed for the collection of standardized information, considering the unique nature of some species and recent technological developments.

Several monitoring plans are also implemented within the scope of minimization measures resulting from the Environmental Impact Assessment processes.

As a complement to the actions implemented and as an essential action for the conservation of wild birds, 2 new wild bird rehabilitation centers (CERAS) were created, being part of the Network of Wild Bird Rehabilitation Centres in the Azores.

Madeira Autonomous Region

Various actions have been taken in relation to biodiversity conservation with the support of the LIFE financial instrument, with actions directed to habitats and species conservation namely monitoring and control of invasive plants, monitoring of species at risk of extinction, reintroduction and strengthening of populations of threatened species, long-term seed conservation in the Seed Bank, etc. The vast majority of these conservation and monitoring actions were implemented through the following projec

LIFE Programme: Sub-programme: Environment
Operational Program MAR 2020 - Measure 1 - Sub-measure 4 - Protection and Restoration of biodiversity

Operational Program for the Autonomous Region of Madeira 2014-2020 - Madeira 14-20: Priority Axis 5: Protect the Environment and Promote Resource Efficiency.

POSEUR program: Operational Program Sustainability and Efficiency in the Use of Resources: Axis II - Promote adaptation to climate change and the prevention and management of risks.

- LIFE09 NAT/PT/000041 (2010-2014) - “Halt the loss of European Biodiversity through the recovery of habitats and species of the islets of Porto Santo and surrounding marine area.”
- LIFE11 NAT/PT/000327 (2012-2017) - "LIFE Maciço Montanhoso - Recovery and conservation of species and habitats on the Madeiran Central Massif";
- LIFE12 NAT/PT/000402 (2013-2017) – “LIFE Fura-Bardos: Conservation of Macaronesian Sparrowhawk and Laurissilva habitat in Madeira Island”;
- LIFE12 NAT/PT/000195 (2013-2017) – “LIFE RECOVER NATURA: Recovery of the species and land habitats of the Natura 2000 sites Ponta de São Lourenço and Desertas Islands.
- LIFE13 NAT/ES/000974 (2014-2019) - "LIFE Monk Seal- Mediterranean monk seal conservation in Madeira and development of a conservation status surveillance system.

13. Agricultural biodiversity

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

The Rural Development Program addresses biodiversity through objectives such as:

- the conservation of species genetic heritage;
- the preservation and maintenance of high natural value traditional and extensive systems, including Nature 2000 Network areas;
- the recovery of conservation forests;
- and, the preservation of wild biodiversity related with agricultural and forestry ecosystems.

Some examples of these measures are:

- encouraging efficient use of water and soil,
- promoting organic farming,
- promoting traditional livestock farming,
- encouraging traditional groves,
- conserving and maintaining the agroforestry mosaic

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Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores Autonomous Region, within the scope of PRORURAL + program, financial support was established for the conservation of genetic resources for the conservation of the Traditional Azores Orchards and the protection of the Autochthonous “Ramo Grande” Breed.

In 2015, within the scope of the Ramo Grande Breed Conservation and Genetic Improvement Program, genetic evaluation for a set of productive, reproductive and morphological characteristics emerged for the 1st time, which constitutes an indispensable tool for breeders of the “Ramo Grande” breed to proceed objective selection of animals.

Several actions were also taken to publicize and promote the breed, such as the Agro-Pecuárias Fairs, Breed Breeders' Day, which has made this genetic heritage known and raise awareness among breeders and the general population about the importance of its preservation.

In 2017, a protocol was signed between Regional Secretariat for Agriculture and Forestry and the Cooperative of Organic Agriculture Producers CRL (BioAzórica) for the creation of a specific working group for the definition of a strategic plan and an action plan for the development and implementation of the organic farming adapted to the specific characteristics in the Region where, among other aspects, the promotion of the use of traditional varieties is intended.

The regional department with competence on agriculture issues and the University of the Azores has been dedicated to the conservation of traditional agricultural varieties in the Archipelago.

The efforts that have been made in the management of aquatic resources have contributed a lot to the preservation of the genetic diversity of the populations available for fishing in the Autonomous Region of the Azores. Measures to control fishing effort and preservation of larger individuals contribute to the reduction of genetic erosion, guaranteeing their diversity.

Madeira Autonomous Region

REGIS Project “Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources in Madeira island”

- Activities:
- Inventory of species/populations and production of digital cartography;
 - Multiplication of forest species;
 - Ex-situ and in-situ conservation of forest genetic resources (Storage of seeds of the target species in the Seed Bank of the Madeira Botanical Garden), the constitution of “mother fields” as well as population reinforcements and reintroductions of forest species considered most threatened);
 - Evaluation of the genetic diversity of *Olea maderensis* and preparation of a conservation plan (Molecular studies, assessment of the impacts of infection and control methodologies);
 - Promotion of promotion and awareness campaigns (Lectures and production of information and dissemination material).

"Banco de Sementes do Jardim Botânico da Madeira": Pressures on the environment are so great in many areas that it is not always possible to conserve plants in their natural habitats. While we cannot always guarantee the safety of a plant in even the best-protected nature reserve (in-situ conservation), plant seeds can be kept safely for hundreds of years in a seed bank. The Banco de Sementes do Jardim Botânico da Madeira was established in 1994 and since then, the number of indigenous and endemic seeds plant species of the Madeira and Selvagens archipelagos has been continuously increasing.

Germplasm Bank ISOPlexis (BG ISOPlexis): inventory the resources and collect germplasm from biological resources or agricultural interest in the Macaronesian Region, and in particular the Madeira Archipelago.

In addition to the resources of this Region, BG ISOPlexis also houses agricultural resources from other parts of the globe in its collections.

Molecular phylogeny of three Porto Santan and ten Madeiran endemic land snails species.

14. Essential ecosystem services

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

In 2009, following the conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Portugal completed a national assessment of ecosystems.

In the last few years, several thematic local-level assessments (montado ecosystems) have been carried out, and in 2014, a short-term mapping and pilot evaluation of ecosystem services was carried out, in southern Portugal. was at the regional level, in Alentejo, and were used the methodologies and indicators for mapping ecosystems, assessing their condition and mapping ecosystem services, namely those related to agriculture and forest ecosystems. The project highlighted the added value of ecosystem services in the region's economy.

Portugal co-led the MAES UE pilot study on forest ecosystems in 2014 and participated in the MAES EU pilot study on marine ecosystems. It also participated in the MAES UE pilot study on urban ecosystem services (involving the municipalities of Lisbon, Oeiras and Cascais), launched in 2015.

Portuguese research teams have participated in several research projects such as: OpenNESS, OPERA, ESMERALDA (<http://esmeralda-project.eu/>) and IPBES global and regional assessments.

Several initiatives have been launched by the government taking into account the importance of ecosystem services and natural capital for growth and jobs, namely the Green Economy initiative, ecological tax reforms, approaches based on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity (TEEB) and assessments ecosystem services.

In December 2015, the MAES launch conference was held in Portugal, and policy makers and private stakeholders, have had the opportunity to

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discuss the views and perspectives of a national MAES Portugal, with the scientific community.

Portugal is now preparing a long-term process, with the aim of covering the entire continental territory.

Regarding the evaluation of ecosystem services, in 2018, was launched the study «Economic Instruments for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Remuneration of Ecosystem Services in Portugal». This study will have two intervention projects in two zones protected.

It is planned to launch a long-term process that will cover the mainland of Portugal, and the creation of a network platforms to support them, is part of this project.

Two recently completed (PELSA AND MONDEGO) and one ongoing (DiaDes) projetos (of which the ICNF was the leading-member or associated partner) aimed the protection and sustainable management of eel, shad and sea lamprey fisheries and the assessment and promotion of ecosystem services associated with diadrom fish in a context of climate change:

INTERREG- DiadES - Assessing and enhancing ecosystem services provided by diadromous fish in a climate change context

PROMAR- PELLA - Sustainable management of european eel fishery in Lagoa de Santo André Lagoon

Projet PROMAR MONDEGO - “Rehabilitation of Diadromous Fish Habitats in the Mondego Hydrographic Basin

Azores Autonomous Region

The preservation of the lakes has a special relevance, since, in addition to the environmental value as support for aquatic life and strategic freshwater reserves, they have a high landscape value of great sociocultural and tourist importance. Its exceptional importance is also revealed in the functions of regularization and stabilization of the dominant hydrological regime, as well as the recharge of aquifers, springs and water courses. The lakes's recovery strategy was based on changing land uses in its river basin whose results are expected in the medium and long term. the measures that are being implemented will certainly bring significant improvements in the quality of water bodies, which will translate into priceless environmental and landscape benefits. In the scope of PRORURAL + Program (Program for Rural Development in the Azores Autonomous Region) there is a measure for financial support to preserve several types of habitats in Natura 2000 Network areas, where it includes Peats habitats.

The application of the diverse legislation on the protection of species and habitats and the management of protected areas has been essential to safeguard the diverse ecosystems that provide essential services.

The MOVE EU - Facilitating MAES to support regional policy in Overseas Europe: mobilizing stakeholders and pooling resources (April 2018 to March 2021) project is currently being implemented in the Azores. It will implement the pilot project “Mapping and assessing the state of ecosystems and their services in the outermost regions and overseas countries and territories: establishing links and pooling resources”, for the development of methodologies for mapping and evaluating the state of ecosystems and their services in Europe's ORs and PTUs.

Madeira Autonomous Region

Various actions have been taken in relation to biodiversity conservation with the support of the LIFE financial instrument, with actions directed to habitats and species conservation namely monitoring and control of invasive plants, monitoring of species at risk of extinction, reintroduction and strengthening of populations of threatened species, long-term seed conservation in the Seed Bank, etc. The vast majority of these conservation and monitoring actions were implemented through the following projects

15. Ecosystem resilience

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Azores Autonomous Region

Within the scope of the Water Framework Directive (Directive no. 2000/60 / EC, of 23 October), the River Basin Management Plans for the Azores appear with integrated measures programs to seek to achieve at least the objective of a good water condition.

In turn, the Regional Water Plan, as an instrument of a strategic and operational nature, enshrines the fundamentals and major policy options in the field of planning and management of water resources for the Autonomous Region of the Azores, with a view to adapting them to current economic, social, cultural and environmental conditions.

The plans for the land use of the lakes' s river basin include measures conducive to the correct management of the river basins, proposing the reduction of the significant anthropogenic pressures associated with the agricultural activity, such as the reduction of the stocking, the extension of the agricultural activity and the conversion of pastures to bush or forests, as well as the requalification of the lakes's shore.

It is within this framework that the Government of the Azores develops all intervention in river basins, including preventive, curative and aesthetic actions.

The plan of control of invasive flora species in sensitive areas and other projects developed and to be developed such as LIFE IP Azores Natura includes several habitat conservation and restoration actions.

16. Nagoya Protocol on ABS

Interim national report on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

[ABSCH-NR-PT-239504-1](#) Portugal's interim national report on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

17. NBSAPs

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

The National Strategy for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity (ENCNB) was adopted in 2001, by the Council of Ministers Resolution no. 152/2001, and was based on three central objectives:

- Conserving nature and biological diversity, including the notable elements of geology, geomorphology and paleontology;
- Promote the sustainable use of biological resources;
- Contribute to the pursuit of the objectives aimed by the international cooperation processes in the field of nature conservation in which Portugal is involved, in particular the objectives defined in the CBD.

The objectives were to be achieved through ten Options, which were broken down into Action Guidelines.

In 2009, an evaluation process on the implementation of ENCNB was carried out. The results of this evaluation, as well as relevant developments at the international level, namely the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020, led to a review of the ENCNB.

In May 2018, the Council of Ministers Resolution No. 55/2018 was published, revoking ENCNB 2001 and approving ENCNB 2030.

The ENCNB 2030 aims to: Achieve a good state of conservation of the natural heritage by 2050, based on the progressive appropriation of the design of biodiversity by society, through the recognition of its value, for the development of the country and in the pursuit of models of management closer to those in the territory.

Taking into account the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Strategic Plan of the Convention Biological Diversity and the European Union Strategy for Biodiversity, the NSNCB provides a framework for addressing the challenges Portugal will face between 2018 and 2030.

The ENCNB 2030 model underpinning the previous national strategy, and is based on three interdependent strategic axes:

Axis 1 - Improve the conservation status of the natural heritage.

Axis 2 - Promote the recognition of the value of the natural heritage.

Axis 3 - Foster the appropriation of natural values and biodiversity

These 3 axes develop into 30 objectives and 107 action measures.

To implement the 107 measures of ENCNB 2030, an Action Plan for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity XXI (PACNB) will be prepared, reflecting the strategic and political options, prioritizing the implementing measures, estimating the financial amounts involved, identifying the sources of financing to be mobilized and defining indicators and the entities responsible for their implementation.

The PACNB will be subject to continuous monitoring, ensuring an evaluation of the achieved results against the expected effects and the correction of any deviations in a timely manner.

The new Strategy sets out 30 goals to be achieved by 2030, ranked by priority. The goals are broken down into over 107 measures, with indicators, priorities, deadlines, means of verification, tools and responsible.

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores Autonomous Region, the strategy for the conservation of nature and biodiversity is based on the legal regime established by Regional Legislative Decree No. 15/2012/A, of 2nd April. Until 2015, several land management plans were published, which apply the biodiversity strategy defined for the Azores.

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18. Traditional knowledge

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Azores Autonomous Region

In the Azores Autonomous Region, it is regulated that the society and the interested parties participate in the decision-making processes related to nature conservation and biodiversity through the Regional Council for Environment and Sustainable Development (CRADS), the Advisory Councils of the Island Natural Parks, the Management Councils of Biosphere Reserves and Working Groups for Monitoring the Island Natural Parks Management Plans. These bodies assume an important role in considering the measures to be adopted.

Other existing channels of dialogue are the Public Consultation procedures and the promotion of Public Clarification Sessions.

Experience-based knowledge is based on generations' experiences through the use of and interaction with nature, which can contribute to sustainable use and protection of nature diversity. Respect for natural and cultural values has always been a strategy of the Regional Government that has been reflected in the fishing gear actually used, of an artisanal nature and of low impact on the available fishing resources. Additionally, the Region has a long tradition of cooperation and involvement of the entire fishing sector in decision-making process in a bottom-up strategy.

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19. Biodiversity knowledge

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target

Mainland Portugal

2018-2021 – Project LVP-SNIPAD "Livro Vermelho dos Peixes e Sistema Nacional de Informação dos Peixes Dulciaquícolas e Diádrimos de Portugal Continental" (Red Book and National Information System for Freshwater and Diadromous Fish of mainland Portugal)". This project, co-financed by POSEUR and the Environmental Fund, is promoted by FCIências.ID - Association for Research and Development of Sciences, through two R&D Units - MARE and cE3C, in partnership with the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests, IP.

2018-2021 – Project INTERREG SUDOE - SUDOAND - “Promote the concerted and sustainable management of eels in the SUDOE area”, with AZTI

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and several partners (FCUL and SIMAR[1] in Portugal) as proponents and institutional collaboration from the ICNF;

2016-2019 - Project PTDC / AAG-MAA / 0350/2014 - FRISK- “FReshwater fish InvaSions RiSk assessment: identifying invasion routes / Determination of fish invasion routes introduced in freshwater ecosystems: risk assessment”, promoted by Foundation of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon (FFC / FC / UL) and with institutional collaboration from the ICNF;

2014-2015 - Project PROMAR MONDEGO - “Rehabilitation of Diadromous Fish Habitats in the Mondego Hydrographic Basin” financed by the PROMAR program - CONTINENTE / MEASURE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FAUNA AND AQUATIC FLORA, promoted by University of Évora (EU) and including several partners, namely the ICNF, that collaborated in the execution of the project;

2014-2015 - Project PROMAR PELSÁ - “Sustainable management of eel fisheries in Lagoa de Santo André”, financed by the PROMAR program - CONTINENTE / MEASURE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AQUATIC FAUNA AND FLORA, promoted by the ICNF, with Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon and the University of Évora as partners. The ICNF assured the coordination of the project and the execution of 3 of the 8 tasks;

2018-2022 - INTERREG- DiadES “Assessing and enhancing ecosystem services provided by diadromous fish in a climate change context”, financed by INTERREG ATLANTIC AREA, with 11 beneficiary partners (IST, AQUAMUSEU DO MINHO, MARE and UE from Portugal), and 24 associated partners, including the ICNF.

Azores Autonomous Region

The Regional Government of the Azores has developed partnerships at international level with the aim of integrating extended networks, reinforcing its cooperation at EU level. It has been involved in several projects of various types that contribute to the preservation of biodiversity. Stands out the cooperation with other regions, within the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), takes place through the implementation of projects under the Madeira-Azores-Canary Transnational Cooperation Program PROGRAM OF COOPERACIÓN INTERREG V-A MAC 2014-2020.

The participation of local technicians and researchers in various events (including international), such as meetings, conferences, workshops, seminars, congresses and sharing /dissemination of information on publications and on the internet (website, social networks) have also been highlighted.

The Azores Government marine conservation policy is highly based on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the EU’s legal instrument for the protection of the sea, that aims to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of all EU marine waters. MSFD monitoring programmes implemented in the Azores allowed the description of the state of the art of present knowledge regarding the environmental status (GES) and the assessment of the 11 descriptors, human activities and pressures, SEA; evaluate progress towards achievement of GES and the environmental targets and the efficiency of measures stipulated through the Programme of Measures (see the latest MSFD 2012-2018 cycle official report to the EC).

MSFD Programmes of monitoring and measures point out the needs for reaching or maintaining the good environmental status of the marine environment. Specific projects address these issues. The Priority Action Framework designed for the implementation of the Natura 2000 Directives defines priority actions and needs for biodiversity conservation in the Azores.

Regarding the marine ecosystem, species and habitats in the Azores there were multiple projects that contributed to fill some of the identified knowledge gaps about marine biodiversity and to reinforce its monitoring: MONIAVES, MONIZEC/AMP, MONICET, DELIXOMAR, MONIEXOTICAS/ NISPOR (MSFD - Monitoring Programmes), BALA (EFRD, Açores 2020); PIMA(EFRD, Açores 2020); PEAMA(EFRD, Açores 2020); Mistic Seas 1 (EMFF); Mistic Seas 2(EMFF); LuMinAves (Interreg MAC), COSTA (Other funds).

PEAMA (Strategic Plan for the Marine Environment of the Azores 2015-2018) implementation of the MSFD, programmes of monitoring and measures - 1st cycle (2012-2018) and fulfil other commitments at community level: to promote the protection of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna of regional and Community interest, in particular through the establishment and management of classified and protected areas as an integral part of the Natura 2000 Network. This Strategic Plan integrated the following sub-projects: BALA, PIMA, Marine litter, Oceanographic monitoring, Surveillance in remote/secluded marine coastal areas, Monitoring and safety of marine tourism activities, Moorings for management of uses in marine protected areas, Inventories of artificial structures in coastal areas, Marine GIS (SIGMAR) and Awareness.

BALA (Littoral biodiversity of the Azores) improved knowledge on listed coastal species and habitats, especially those with interest for conservation. It has also provided some data on the presence of conspicuous marine NIS in the screened MPAs.

PIMA (Monitoring Program of Marine Invasive Species in the Azores) allowed the identification of the main introduction vectors of non indigenous species (NIS) and predicted the origin and environmental factors that may facilitate their appearance in the archipelago, namely some invasive species already identified in the Azores, in São Miguel, Santa Maria and Faial.

Oceanographic monitoring is a PEAMA sub-project that assessed hydrological patterns on coastal areas and associated natural risks by acquisition, transmission and processing of data provided by meteo-oceanographic buoys, maintenance of the database, website and GIS platform and predictive modelling of the impacts of artificial infrastructures on biological communities and hydrological patterns on coastal areas.

SIGMAR is a platform for maritime spatial planning information, and includes the web portal and the geoportal (Geographic Information System for the Sea of Azores, sigmar.azores.gov.pt), implemented by the Regional Directorate for Sea Affairs (DRAM), under the scope of the INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/CE) and the PAF 2014-2020. The project recently added new functionalities and tools to a pre-existent GIS platform in order to publish updated contents produced and compiled by DRAM, in partnerships established with other projects and scientific sources.

MISTIC SEAS (2015-2017) - Macaronesia Islands Standard Indicators and Criteria: Reaching Common Grounds on Monitoring Marine Biodiversity in Macaronesia

MISTIC SEAS 2 (2017-2019) - Applying a subregional coherent and coordinated approach to the monitoring and assessment of marine biodiversity in Macaronesia for the second cycle of the MSFD and provided new data on abundance and population condition of seabirds, cetaceans and marine turtles using a standardized methodology.

ARQDAÇO - DEMERSAIS collects data and contributes to the scientific knowledge and monitoring of the demersal fish species to improve the management of these resources in the Azores. Scientific cruises take place annually aboard the RV ARQUIPÉLAGO, covering coastal areas and offshore seamounts across the Azores EEZ.

Data Collection Framework (DCF - PNRD) provided data on species with commercial importance. This framework allowed the collection, management and use of those data on biological and economic assessments for the fisheries sector to support scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which is implemented in the Azores by the Regional Directorate of Fisheries.

POPA, the Azores Fisheries Observer Programme, is a fisheries-based data collection program running since 1998 to the present that holds the largest dataset of cetacean and turtle sightings, collected during on-effort periods over an extensive geographic area, within the Azorean EEZ.

MARCET (2016-2019) project is a Macaronesian network for the transfer of interregional and multidisciplinary knowledge and technology to protect and monitor cetaceans and the marine environment, promote good practices and allow sustainable development of the whalewatching activity directly, and the associated touristic activity indirectly.

MONICET is a data gathering platform on marine life observations by whale watching companies during their daily activities, such as species observed, their number and location. Information and pictures are uploaded to the dedicated online database and raw data is converted into patterns of species distribution and abundance, and the movements of individual animals through photo-identification, available for public or scientific usage. MONICET has compiled cetacean and turtle sighting data from whale-watching vessels since 2009.

COSTA project collects biological and demographic data of sea turtles in the Azores, gathers information on the incidental catches through fisheries observers and longstanding tagging and sampling programs, promotes fishermen best practices and involves local communities and tourists in conservation actions.

LuMinAves was focused on the conservation of threatened seabirds at regional, national and international scales, on Natura 2000 protected sites in the islands and islets, but also on areas that require additional protection in order to reduce the impacts of light pollution Procellariiformes, namely on Cory's Shearwater (Birds Directive), in three Macaronesian archipelagos: Azores, Madeira, and Canary islands.

BIOMETORE provided important biodiversity information for the integrated knowledge and management of the deep sea and seamount ecosystems in the North Atlantic, the Madeira-Tore and Great Meteor, in particular in the context of the implementation of the MSFD in Portugal. This project provided scientific support for the good management of new marine areas of large dimensions in deep offshore oceanic areas.

PALMA (Action Plan for the Marine Litter in the Azores) was implemented in 2015 by DRAM and collects data on marine litter to report to the MSFD, OSPAR and other international and global initiatives. The action plan was based on a core, wider project - DeLixoMar, that receives data from other smaller and integrated projects and initiatives and provided information on the human impacts (marine litter) in Azorean habitats and species.

INDICIT project contributed to the definition and implementation of indicators related to the impact of marine debris on sea turtles and other species, improved knowledge sharing and provided a monitoring methodology and data collection protocol, statistical analysis and modelling for assessing the MSFD marine litter descriptor.

"RIS3 (Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation) provides orientations on how to develop research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3), in line with Europe 2020 strategy, which aims at smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. RIS3 focus policy support and investments on key national/regional priorities, challenges and needs for knowledge-based development, including ICT-related measures; builds on strengths, competitive advantages and potential for excellence; supports technological as well as practice-based innovation and aims to stimulate private sector investment; gets stakeholders fully involved and encourages innovation and experimentation.

Significant progress is being made in the Autonomous Region of Azores. In close collaboration with the University of the Azores, much is known about the Region's biodiversity, which has greatly contributed to the sustainable management of marine resources.

20. Resource mobilization

Description how and to what extent the country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target	
During the last decades the EU has assumed a leading role in mobilizing resources, and the EU support funding has significantly contributed to improve the implementation of the EU environmental law and policy and Portugal. For the 2014- 2020 programming period, Portugal's allocation up to EUR 25.8 billion to European Structural and Investment Funds-ESI. There is a national Operational Programme dedicated to the environment: the OP 'Sustainability and Efficiency in the Use of Resources' (POSEUR). With a budget of EUR 2.6 billion, including the national co-financing part, channels investment in the environment through the Cohesion Fund.	EN

Portugal also benefits from the others funding for instance, EU LIFE Programme and Horizon 2020.

The figures below give a picture of the evolution of Public Administration Environmental Management Expenses, in particular the expenses attributed to Biodiversity and Landscape Protection

Consolidated expenditure of public administrations: total and by areas of management and environmental protection

Years	Total Public Administration Expenditure on Environmental Management and Protection		
	Total	Biodiversity and landscape protection	Weight of biodiversity and landscape protection expenditure in total expenditure
2015	1 049 361	332 466	31,68%
2016	961 868	304 783	31,69%
2017	1 062 126	346 138	32,59%
2018	1 191 297	391 816	32,89%

Euros milhares

Data Sources: INE - Central and Regional Government Expenditure on Environment (until 2006) | Consolidated Public Administration Expenditure (from 2007)

Fonte: PORDATA - 2020

Mainland Portugal and the Azores and Madeira Autonomous Region, tPrioritised Action Framework (PAF) for the Natura 2000 that was prepared, in accordance to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027.

The PAF focuses on defining financing needs and priorities directly related to specific conservation measures to be implemented until 2027.

In addition existed, European funds such as LIFE Programme, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) / Cohesion Fund (CF), European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and other EU funds, including Interreg, contribute to finance biodiversity conservation actions. Horizon 2020, for research and development, is also relevant.

The Resource Mobilization for Biodiversity, in the table below, show the trend of ODA with the biodiversity marker. Within the framework of the Rio markers in which the biodiversity marker is included, Portugal does not apply any coefficient system

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Indicator Global	Indicator	Status	Geog. level	Data Source	Unit	Time series								
						2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
15.a.1 (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilised from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments	Total official development assistance biodiversity marker (gross disbursements)	PR	PT	Camões IP	Milhões euros	3,42	3,43	1,50	1,04	0,91	1,07	0,99	1,21	1,28
15.b.1 (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilised from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments	Total official development assistance biodiversity marker (gross disbursements)	PR	PT	Camões IP	Milhões euros	3,42	3,43	1,50	1,04	0,91	1,07	0,99	1,21	1,28
	Total official development assistance for DAC series 312 (silviculture) (commitments)					0,07	0,19	0,10	0,02	0,00	0,11	0,00	0,06	0,00

https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_publicacoes&PUBLICACOESpub_boui=434925883&PUBLICACOESmodo=2&xlang=pt

Azores Autonomous Region

Government of the Azores - Regional Directorate for the Sea Affairs - Biodiversity Budget:

2014 - Azores Autonomous Region Funding - 743,594.00€

2015 - Azores Autonomous Region Funding - 106,048.00€; EC funding = 340,425.00€

2016 - Azores Autonomous Region Funding - 155,044.50€; EC funding = 321,920.50€

2017 - Azores Autonomous Region Funding - 217,007.90€; EC funding = 647,908.10€

2018 - Azores Autonomous Region Funding - 308,728.65€; EC funding = 516,153.35€

The Regional Government of the Azores finances scientific research projects applied to marine conservation by launching calls for grants and research projects, operated through the Regional Fund for Science and Technology / Regional Directorate for Science and Technology, in several areas, including marine conservation. Over the past four decades, the regional administration has had the support of the University of the Azores, associated research centers, national and international partners, to obtain scientific knowledge about biodiversity and the marine ecosystems in the Region and to support decision making, mostly applied to fisheries management and the conservation of marine ecosystems and MPAs.

DRAM frequently applies to European Structural and Investment Funds (FEEL), specifically for marine environment conservation, maritime spatial planning and MPA management. DRAM obtained funds through the following mechanisms: PO-Azores 2020 (ERDF); FEAMP (EC direct management); Interreg MAC (ERDF); LIFE as a beneficiary partner, jointly with other partners and entities (scientific research and administration of the Macaronesian archipelagos of Madeira and Canary Islands). DRAM often hires applied scientific research services within the scope of the tasks undertaken in these projects.

Regarding marine biodiversity in the Azores, financial resources are considered insufficient to ensure the effective management of biodiversity. At present, given the lack of operational resources by the marine environmental authority (DRAM), management actions on the field are limited. It is expected that the needs will increase in the future. Essential activities have not all been carried out, and there are still monitoring difficulties in the Azores. Nevertheless, there is no clear evidence of status degradation (which would have been signaled in stakeholders consultations and other communication sources). Even so, the monitoring programs that are being executed, namely within the scope of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (DQEM), have maintained some regularity and contributed with relevant information. DRAM has promoted specific monitoring programs for seabirds, coastal biodiversity, marine litter, among others. Human resources of Regional Directorate for the Environment, namely the Island Natural Parks collaborate actively in many coastal actions, including implementing measures related with seabird conservation and monitoring, seaturtle and cetacean strandings, marine litter awareness and clean up events, etc.

Section V. Description of the national contribution to the achievement of the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

Portugal does not have national targets related to the GSPC Targets

1. An online flora of all known plants
2. An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, as far as possible, to guide conservation action
3. Information, research and associated outputs, and methods necessary to implement the Strategy developed and shared
4. At least 15 per cent of each ecological region or vegetation type secured through effective management and/or restoration
5. At least 75 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity of each ecological region protected with effective management in place for conserving plants and their genetic diversity
6. At least 75 per cent of production lands in each sector managed sustainably, consistent with the conservation of plant diversity
7. At least 75 per cent of known threatened plant species conserved in situ
8. At least 75 per cent of threatened plant species in ex situ collections, preferably in the country of origin, and at least 20 per cent available for recovery and restoration programmes
9. 70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops including their wild relatives and other socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, while respecting, preserving and maintaining associated indigenous and local knowledge
10. Effective management plans in place to prevent new biological invasions and to manage important areas for plant diversity that are invaded

11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade

12. All wild harvested plant-based products sourced sustainably

13. Indigenous and local knowledge innovations and practices associated with plant resources maintained or increased, as appropriate, to support customary use, sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care

14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, education and public awareness programmes

15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities sufficient according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy

16. Institutions, networks and partnerships for plant conservation established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels to achieve the targets of this Strategy

Section VI. Description of the national contribution to the achievement of the targets of indigenous peoples and local communities

No information available

Section VII. Updated biodiversity country profile

Biodiversity facts : Status and trends of biodiversity, including benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services and functions:

Portugal possesses a very diverse natural heritage thanks to its geographical location and geophysical conditions. The Azores and Madeira Archipelagos are situated within the Macaronesian region and thanks to their location, the climatic influences to which they are subject and a substratum of volcanic origin, are home to habitats of quite unique nature and undeniable importance. On the mainland, the dune habitats, the rocky cliffs, the marshes in estuary and lagoon systems are all very important as well. The importance of the estuaries can also be seen from the numerous bird populations, which shelter there and use them as migratory stations, wintering areas or breeding grounds. The nesting areas of seabirds in the Madeira Archipelago deserve a special mention as they host some of the most important colonies in the North Atlantic. About 3,600 species of plants occur in Portugal. There are 69 taxa of terrestrial mammals, a total of 313 bird species, of which around 35% are threatened in some ways, and 17 amphibian and 34 reptile species that occur in Portugal. Some of the main threats to the biological diversity of Portugal include: alteration or destruction of habitats; pollution; overexploitation; invasive alien species; urbanization and fires.

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Implementation of the NBSAP

Portugal's NBSAP was based on the following ten guiding principles: an overall higher level of protection; the sustainable use of biological resources; prevention; precaution; recuperation; responsibility; integration; participation; international cooperation and decentralization. The NBSAP then lists 10 fundamental strategies that form the basis of their action plan, which include: to promote scientific research and knowledge of local patrimony; to enhance the National Protected Areas Network; to promote the valorization of the protected areas, and ensure the conservation of all social, cultural and natural components; ensure conservation and valorization of areas within the Natura 2000 Network; implement, across the entire national territory, actions specific to the conservation and management of species and habitats of particular interest; integrate conservation and sustainable use principles into national and regional policies and laws; reinforce cooperation between all levels of administration; promote education and formation in conservation fields; ensure public education, awareness and sensitization; and strengthen international cooperation. These strategies are then outlined in detail with short, medium and long term actions that will be taken in order to meet the three objectives of the Convention.

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