

Portugal

National Report 2018





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1. Portugal and the UNESCO MaB Programme

Portugal is associated with the Man & the Biosphere Programme (MaB) since late 1981, and currently contributes with 11 Biosphere Reserves (BR) to a total World Network of 669 reserves, three of which are transboundary – Gerês/Xurês, Meseta Ibérica and Tejo/Tajo Internacional. The latter are part of the 20 Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBR) existing in the 120 countries belonging to the the MaB Programme.

After Paul do Boquilobo designation in 1981, a first-generation Biosphere Reserve very focused on nature conservation issues, Portugal was around 25 years without any application. The MaB Programme had a boost around 2007 and since then ten territories were classified by UNESCO as Biosphere Reserves. Having now 11 biosphere reserves, located in the mainland and in both Autonomous Regions of Azores and Madeira islands, this is considered a significant number, taking into account the geographic size of Portugal. It is also a good indicator of the recognition of opportunities given by this UNESCO Label, based in a management model that encourages innovation, conservation of nature and biodiversity, and cultural heritage, while working for the quality of life of local communities, users and visitors, therefore promoting a sustainable development. It is worth pointing too that, the work in network and in close cooperation, made possible better knowledge dissemination, training and exchange of good practices.

The Portuguese biosphere reserves cover different types of ecosystems, from the mainland (Atlantic and Mediterranean ecosystems), to the Archipelagos of Azores and Madeira (Macaronesian ecosystem). These are territories where Man-Nature integration, binomial reflects history, tradition and models of equitable, balanced and sustainable development.

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



Rede Nacional das Reservas da Biosfera

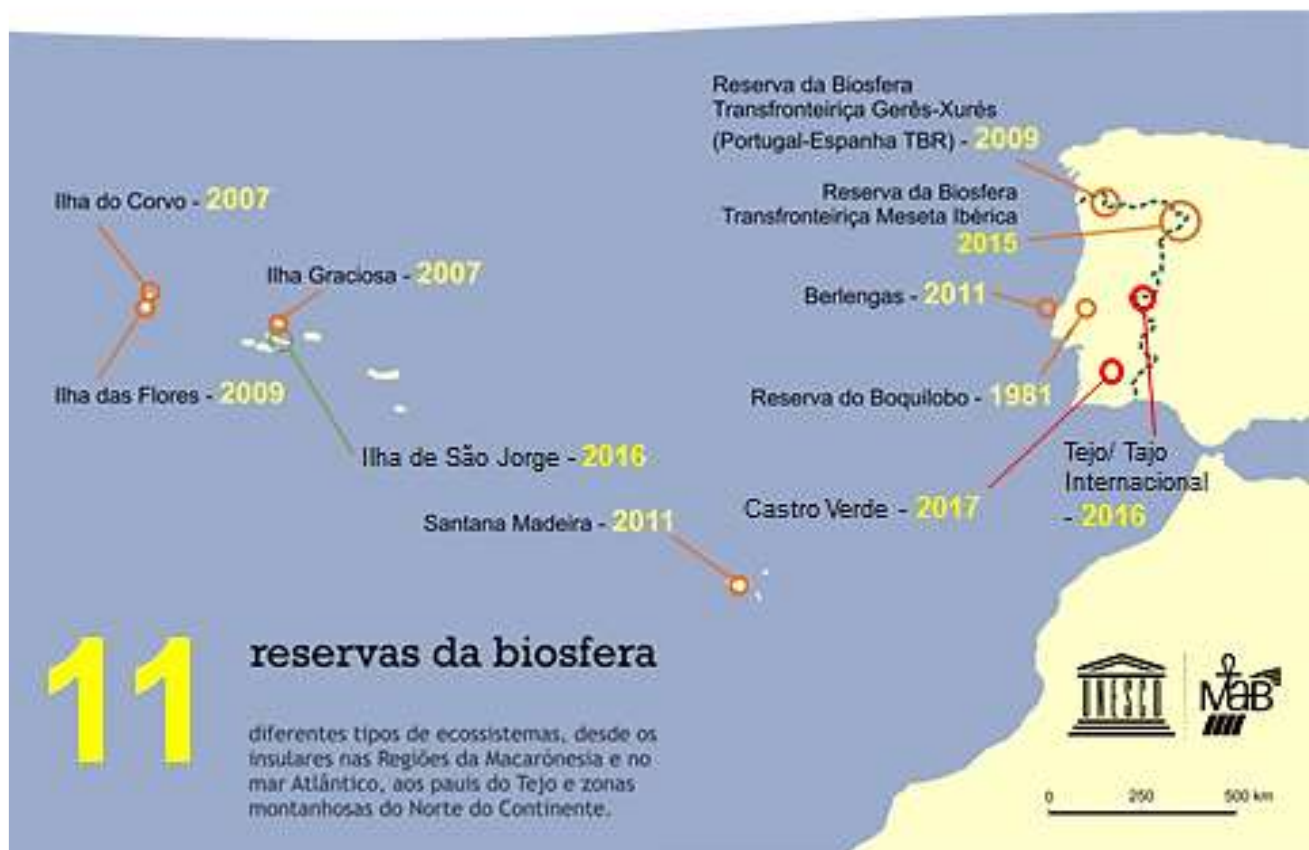


Fig. 1 – Map of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves Network (April 2018)

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

Table 1 - Biosphere Reserves in figures (declaration year, area, population, zoning)
TBR – Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

2. MaB National Committee

In 2017, the Portuguese MAB Committee had two meetings. The first one took place in the territory of a Biosphere Reserve, as it was agreed to follow the chronological date of creation (year of designation in the World List of Biosphere Reserve). Although this strategy involves a more complex organization, it allows all members of the Committee to visit the territory and promotes a direct contact with local stakeholders (Mayors, Presidents of the Parish Councils, social and local development key-actors, research institutions, schools, NGOs). It also allows a broad debate *in loco* about challenges and opportunities faced by the Biosphere Reserves managers.

This year the first meeting took place in the Biosphere Reserves (BR) of Flores Island and Corvo Island, in the Azores Archipelago (fig 2). During an entire week, it was possible to have an inside view of the management of these two BR. It was possible to have as participants also representatives of the Regional Government of the Azores through the presence of the Regional Secretary for Energy, Environment and Tourism (Ms. Marta Guerreiro), who publicly assumed the commitment of the Regional Government to comply, for the Azores BR, with the objectives of nature conservation and sustainable development. There was also a Fair and an Exhibition of several products and services from the four Azoreans BR territories with the brand "Azores Biosphere" (Corvo, Flores, Graciosa and S. Jorge islands).



Fig. 2 - MaB National Committee meeting, Flores Island Biosphere Reserve, September 2017

The second meeting of 2017 was held in Lisbon, at the headquarters of the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forestry (ICNF) which is the entity that coordinates the Committee (created



by Despacho nº 9051/2015, 13th of august), and was attended by representatives from ten of the eleven National Biosphere Reserves.

The President of the National Committee (Ms. Anabela Trindade) also takes part in the governing bodies and advisory council of some Biosphere Reserves managed by ICNF, such as the Steering Committee of the Gerês-Xurê Transboundary Biosphere Reserve or the Advisory Council of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve. It also participates in technical work meetings with stakeholders whenever is considered relevant, as the case of the Meseta Iberica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

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

During this period, Portugal continued its international involvement in the MAB program, aiming to promote the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves as laboratories of sustainable development and national and international cooperation. In this context, the national Committee participated in the following events:

- ✓ 29th session of the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the MaB Programme, UNESCO Paris, 12th to 15th of June (fig. 3).

Portugal was represented in this meeting by the President of the National Committee and also by the representative of Portuguese Permanent Delegation at UNESCO (Ms. Teresa Salado). On the day of the approval of the new applications, the territory of Castro Verde was approved as a Biosphere Reserve. Twelve representatives of this territory were present in the room, including the Mayor of the Castro Verde, whose speech was very appreciated by the MaB Secretariat and by other Member States.



Fig. 3 - Portuguese delegation in the 29th ICC

- ✓ 2nd Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Managers Meeting, 7th to 9th of September



Representatives of the BRs of Boquilobo and Berlengas participated in this meeting. The main themes discussed were the heterogeneity within the Mediterranean Network and the challenge of working with such different realities. It also focused on sustainable tourism, the training of tour operators and the quality of services and products available inside the BRs. Other two important subjects were discussed: the importance of demystifying the designation "Reserve" and the proposal to use the term "Biosphere Territories" instead of "Biosphere Reserve" and the opportunities gained with networking. At the end of the meeting it was signed the "*Declaration of Castelet*", close directed to Tour Operators.

- ✓ 7th Meeting of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves, Jeju, Republic of Korea, 12th to 14th of September

Portugal was represented by Antonio Domingos Abreu who made a presentation about the Portuguese Insular UNESCO Biosphere Reserves.

- ✓ MAB Youth Forum, RB - Delta Po, Venice, 17th to 23rd of September

Portugal was represented at the MaB Youth Forum by two young ladies (Ms. Ana Filipa Ferreira and Ms. Ana Vitória Magalhães (respectively PhD student at the Nova University of Azores and Master student at University of Azores) who represented the Paul do Boquilobo BR and the four BR of the Azores Archipelago. This Forum attended by 42 BR, from 85 countries and involving 282 youngsters, recognized that young people are the future of BRs and that they have to be heard and have a voice and opportunities to work and define what they want for these territories and how they can participate in RB development.

- ✓ " Land Stewardship and Ecotourism in the Macaronesia, "in the scope of the Cooperative Operative Program Territorial PCTMAC VA Madeira - Azores and Canary Islands (MAC) 2014-2020

In November and December, the four Azoreans Biosphere Reserves organized and participated in the "Technical and Information Days on the CdTEcoTUR Project" which took place, respectively, in the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve and in Madeira Island. This project also included the participation of La Palma Biosphere Reserve (Canary Islands, Spain)

- ✓ Cooperation with the Spanish MaB Committee

The Portuguese MAB Committee has been strengthening its very good cooperation and relationship with the Spanish MaB Committee. This cooperation has enabled training actions,



participation in meetings and development of partnerships, namely applications for joint projects to EU funds.

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

Portugal has been providing technical support for the development of the applications of the Island of Fogo and the Island of Maio, in Cape Verde, as future BR, through a Protocol of cooperation between the Portuguese Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of the Environment of Cape Verde, with funding from the Environmental Fund of the Portuguese Ministry of the Environment.

Following the invitation of the UNESCO Office in Maputo, Mozambique, technical support and coordination was provided to Mozambique's first application. The application refers to Quirimbas territory, which was presented in September 2017 and it is still waiting for the outcome of the evaluation, which will be known during the 30th Session of the International Coordination Council, in July 2018.

5. The new Biosphere Reserve of Castro Verde

In 14th of June 2017, during the 29th Session of the International Co-coordinating Council (ICC), at UNESCO Headquarters, in Paris it was approved the application form of Castro Verde as Biosphere Reserve and integrated in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. It is the 11th Portuguese Biosphere Reserve recognized by UNESCO, and the first located in the South of the Tagus River (Alentejo Region).

The application was promoted by the Municipality of Castro Verde along with the Associação de Agricultores do Campo Branco and the Liga para a Proteção da Natureza (LPN).. This project began in 2013, involving a large participation and involvement of the entire local community, which culminated with the presentation of the formal candidature, in September 2016 to the MAB Secretariat through the Portuguese National Commission.

On the basis of Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve was the compatibility of the agricultural activity with nature and landscape conservation which transformed this territory into a relevant "Humanized Ecosystem of High Natural Value". The steppe-like ecosystem that one can find in Castro Verde is the result of centennial practices of an extensive agriculture, which led to the formation of a very relevant habitat, which includes, among other species, birds such as the great bustard, the little bustard and the lesser kestrel.

This symbiosis between Man and the Environment that surrounds the local communities has defined the way of being and living in this territory and consolidated the unique identity of Castro Verde region.

The integration of Castro Verde in the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves Network is the recognition of the work developed over decades in this territory by all the community as well as public and private entities. It will now bring new challenges, enhance local dynamics and networking as referred in the approved action plan.



A big party took place in Castro Verde one week after the approval involving the local communities (fig.4).



Fig. 4 – Party in Castro Verde BR

6. Periodic Review process – Corvo Island and Graciosa island Biosphere Reserves

Both Corvo and Graciosa Islands (Azores Autonomous Region, Portugal) were nominated as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, by the International Coordination Council in 1997, celebrating in 2017, 10 years of their inscription in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in the framework of the Man and Biosphere Programme.

In accordance with the MaB Programme statutory framework, the 10th Anniversary also corresponds to the first Periodic Review process, where reports are developed and submitted to the MaB Secretariat. The periodic review process for these two BR was led by the Management Units coordinators in close cooperation with each BR Management Board, involving all relevant sociocultural and economic stakeholders and the local communities existing in both islands. The Portuguese MaB Committee also assisted and supported the Periodic Review Process.

One of the most relevant outputs from this review process was the consistent notion of integrity of the island's territories that persists since the nomination for BR. This integrity is not confined to the terrestrial part as it extends to the marine areas as a continuity of the terrestrial environment of both islands.

Both BR were managed with a global and integrated vision, in order to ensure the main drivers of sustainable development, such as nature conservation, and the valorization of natural and cultural resources combined with socioeconomic development supported by innovation, research and environmental awareness of the population and visitors of Graciosa and Corvo Islands.



These two BR have played active roles within thematic and geographic BR Networks, such as REDBIO (Network of Biosphere Reserves of Macaronesia and West Africa), the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves and the recently established Portuguese Biosphere Reserves Network. Also at the local level, together with the two other Azores BR (Flores and Fajãs de S. Jorge) a strong cooperation led to the creation and development of a common label “Azores Biosphere”, that has gained wide recognition among the tourism and traditional economy sectors as well as in the promotion of the UNESCO MAB Programme itself.

The Periodic Review Reports of Corvo Island and Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserves describe a vast number of strategies, projects and actions carried out during the last ten years. All these initiatives illustrate a huge interest, participation and engagement of local communities in the activities promoted by and with the BR on vital sectors of the economic and social development of these islands (fisheries, agriculture, livestock production, tourism) and in the conservation of their high levels of endemic and indigenous biodiversity.

The reports demonstrate vitality, awareness and proudness of the local communities towards their BR due to the management action plan aligned with the Lima Action Plan (2016-2025) and the UNESCO MAB Strategy (2015-2025).

Thus, the Portuguese MaB Committee congratulated and approved the referred Periodic Review Reports of the BR of Corvo Island and the BR of Graciosa Island submitted to the UNESCO MAB Secretariat. It was encouraged by the national Committee the continuity of the outstanding achievements obtained by both territories during their first 10 years of existence.

Taking into account these review reports, Portugal is up to date in what concerns the periodic reviews stipulated in the Statutory Framework of the World Network of BR.

7. Support for the preparation of two new Biosphere Reserves applications forms

The MaB National Committee has been providing technical support to two new applications for BR, namely Arrábida (Mainland) and Porto Santo island (Madeira Archipelago), taking part in technical meetings, public meetings, clarification sessions and assisting documents review.

8. Funding

a. EEA GRANT (European Free Trade Association - EFTA Fund)

The challenges that the Portuguese BR are facing cover three essential domains for the affirmation and promotion of the identity of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves Network, namely:

- (i) Knowledge - knowledge transfer and capacitation of public entities and managers of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves concerning the existing natural heritage inside the territories of the Portuguese BR;



(ii) Development - development of plans/local strategies based on endogenous resources, mapping and assessing strategic ecosystem services that identify its relation with economic sectors within the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves (e.g. useful for the promotion of wealth, the involvement of society and implementation of actions for the conservation of the ecosystems);

(iii) Communication at national level - definition of guidelines for the creation of common image and an operational procedure manual and a communication plan that integrates dissemination materials for the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, allowing a wide promotion of these UNESCO territories.

In this context, The Portuguese MaB Committee is developing an EEA Grants (EFTA fund) application to the promotion of the “Sustainable Development of Biosphere Reserves Territories” project with an allocation of about €2.880.000 that will enhance a deeper knowledge about the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves: (i) to promote capacitation actions for public entities and managers of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves concerning the promotion of best practices on the use of endogenous resources; (ii) to implement actions to improve local information level about the value of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves; (iii) to adopt handbooks with common guidelines for the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves and (iv) to carry out campaigns to raise the awareness of local communities regarding the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves values.

A small grant scheme of €600.000 will support activities to raise awareness of local communities regarding the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves values and, thus, contributing to the conservation of natural heritage and the sustainable use of endogenous resources. It will be targeted at different audiences (e.g. the general population, school population, public administration and economic agents).

The target group includes the Biosphere Reserves, in particular their management entities and the local communities and local companies, as well as a comprehensive set of beneficiaries such as public institutes; associations for municipalities and parishes; universities, NGOs for the environment.

The expected outcome is to increase the sustainable development actions promoted in Biosphere Reserves territories by implementing a living sustainability laboratory solution in each BR.

The expected impact is to have the BR operating as living sustainability laboratories, where initiatives for the promotion and sustainable use of endogenous resources in cooperation with the local communities and the local development actors, are experienced in order to achieve nature conservation objectives and the improvement of the quality of life of those living in these territories.

The Portuguese Mab Committee is waiting for the recommendation that will be presented during the 30th Session of ICC about these reports.



8.2 Other Financing sources

The MaB Committee is analysing other financing sources that may support BR territories, such as Portuguese Regional Funds under the Portugal 2020 overall mechanism, as well as INTERREG European Union regional funding. In this sense, apart from the information dissemination sent to Biosphere Reserves management coordinators, the National Committee intends in the near future to further analyse these financing sources to intensify support for existing and proposed sustainable development activities in the BR territories.

9. Training /Capacity Building

Under the coordination of the UNESCO Chair on Biodiversity Safeguard for Sustainable Development, the University of Coimbra organized two training courses (Seminars) for the first time, in 2017. This specific training was targeted at the various actors that work with the BR in Portugal (managers, BR technicians and stakeholders).

The topics of the courses were “Control of invasive species” (3rd of October) and “Alternative dispute resolution on Biosphere Reserves” (27th of November).

The seminar entitled “Control of invasive species” was coordinated by researchers Ms. Elizabete Marchante (Centre for Functional Ecology from the University of Coimbra) and Ms. Hélia Marchante (Professor of Coimbra College of Agriculture).

This training focused the following topics:

- *concept of biological invasions by plants;*
- *impacts of invasive species;*
- *identification of invasive plant species and methodologies to control of the main invasive plants in Portugal.*

It also included a theoretical and practical part in the Botanic Garden of the University of Coimbra.

The Seminar “Alternative dispute resolution on Biosphere Reserves” was coordinated by the researchers Ms. Alexandra Aragão (Professor of Law Faculty of the University of Coimbra) and Ms. Paula Casaleiro (Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra).

The main objectives of the seminar were:



- *conflicts in biosphere reserves and reasons;*
- *characterization of conflicts related to nature conservation;*
- *resolution of environmental conflicts;*
- *out-of-court versus judicial resolution: advantages and disadvantages;*
- *alternative dispute resolution and conflict resolution techniques: practical exercise.*

10. Communication and information dissemination on Biosphere Reserves

Despite the actions taken in each BR, described in section 12 of this report, it is worth mentioning the BR activities in the Media (local and national news) and their participation in Seminars, workshops and lectures (Conferences), described below, highlighting some relevant initiatives promoted by the MaB National Committee in order to disseminate and promote the MaB Program and its criteria as well as the National Network of Biosphere Reserves to different target audiences.

- ✓ In the framework of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism, the BR had a booth at the 30th edition of the Lisbon International Tourism Trade Fair (BTL), between 15th - 19th March 2017, at the Lisbon Industrial Fair (FIL) in Parque das Nações (Fig.5). This is considered the largest event dedicated to Tourism in Portugal, which has every year around 75,000 visitors.

The first two days of the Fair were dedicated to tour operators and the other days to the general public. It was a great opportunity to talk about BR and to promote the visit of the territories at a national and international level, showing the best that these territories offer, and also tasting and feeling through different experiences these territories designated by UNESCO.



Fig.5 - Booth dedicated to the Portuguese RB in the 30th Edition of the Lisbon International Tourism Fair (BTL) - 15th- 19th March 2017



- ✓ Publication of an article about the Ten National Biosphere Reserves in the National Magazine "I Like This" nº16 - Supplement dedicated to the theme "Sustainable Development: 17 Territories, 17 SDGs of the Agenda 2030" - Quarterly (March, April, May), included in the celebrations of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism.
- ✓ Support to of the Bilingual itinerant exhibition about the "National Network of Biosphere Reserves" that was inaugurated at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 1st of May 1, and also between 12th – 15th .
- ✓ Edition of a postcard on Biosphere Reserves (bilingual).



- ✓ Support and participation in the National Conference organized by the Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO in the framework of the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of UNITWIN, dedicated to the Portuguese Network of UNESCO Chairs, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, 10th of May.





- ✓ Google search under the designation “Portuguese Biosphere Reserves (in Portuguese):
retrieved 384.000 results, in 2017. *Some examples of BR news in the digital press:*



11. Future (Lima) Action Plan for the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves

The Portuguese Mab Committee has begun in 2017 the draft working document of what will be the new Action Plan for the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves for the period 2018-2025. In this sense, it was made the translation into Portuguese of the original document of the Lima Action Plan (PAL), approved in March 2016.



12. Initiatives developed by the 11 Biosphere Reserves

Herewith is a report of the most relevant activities of the eleven Portuguese BR developed during 2017:

A. Mainland

Boquilobo

Berlengas

Gerês-Xurés (Transboundary Biosphere Reserve)

Meseta Iberica (Transboundary Biosphere Reserve)

Tejo/Tajo Internacional (Transboundary Biosphere Reserve)

Castro Verde

B. Azores archipelago

Corvo Island

Graciosa Island

Flores Island

Fajãs de São Jorge

C. Madeira archipelago

Santana, Madeira Island



A. Mainland

Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve (1981)

This Biosphere Reserve is managed by ONGATEJO (presidency), Golegã Municipality, Torres Vedras Municipality and Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF, IP).

2017 was a very important year for Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve. In the past years a set of different adaptation activities were developed to adapt the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve to the Seville Strategy, namely the decentralization of management, the definition of a new zoning, the inclusion of people and economic activities in the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve and the acceptance by Unesco of this new management model.

In 2017 we reinforce the implementation and development of a new set of activities that we consider important and strategic, of which we highlight:

Management Activities

During 2017 a series of periodic meetings of the management body and the Extended Advisory Council were developed to discuss and develop Paul Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve (PBBR) strategy.

Different sources of financial participation have been identified and promoted from various partners in order to obtain economic sustainability for the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve.

We also identified and promoted a number of applications for community funds for the investments required for the Paul do Boquilobo's Biosphere Reserve development strategy.

Applications for Financing Projects

In order to develop and promote the PBBR, in 2017, funding applications were presented to support necessary investments. We highlight the following:

1. Within the scope of the National Rural Network, ONGATEJO has submitted an application for the development of awareness-raising actions for the conservation of biodiversity on farms;



2. Under the PDR2020, AGROTEJO (consultation committee partner) submitted an application for the development of information actions in the scope of sustainable development opportunities;
3. Under the PDR2020, AGROMAIS (consultation committee partner) submitted an application for soil conservation;
4. Within the scope of POSEUR, the Municipality of Golegã presented an application for the recovery of flood protection dikes;
5. Within the framework of the CIM Tejo, the Torres Novas Municipality presented an application for the rehabilitation of surrounding areas in the Paul do Boquilobo Natural Reserve;

Investments

The partners developed and executed a set of investments aimed at revitalizing and improvements a number of conservation, observation and leisure spaces, namely the following:

1. By the Institute for Conservation of Nature and Forestry – ICNF - , works of Conservation on trails/rails and signage of the PBBR;
2. By the municipalities, various promotion materials were developed to promote the potentialities of the territory, namely leaflets, promotion in magazines, articles of opinion and presence in fairs and other competitions;
3. Within the scope of the Alentejo Regional Operational Program (Alentejo 2020), the Municipality of Golegã rehabilitated and re-qualified the trails/rails and signaling of the Paul do Boquilobo Nature Reserve / Biosphere. This work is still under development and aims to create new tracks and improve existing ones, setting up new structures for bird watching, habitat improvement actions, implementation of new signal alluding to the Reserve and its new limits, production of environmental awareness materials;
4. The rehabilitation, by Golegã City Hall of the Alverca Lagoon boundaries and edges, on Golegã, through an application submitted to the Plan of Action for Urban Regeneration (PARU).



REHABILITATION OF TRAILS, SINALETIC and TRADITTIONAL WATER PASSAGES

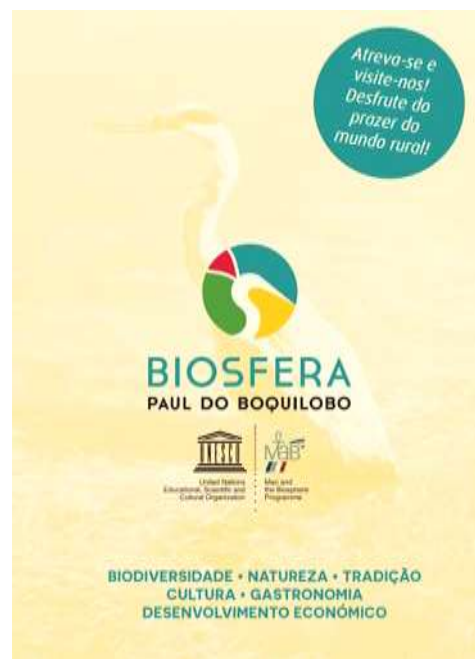
Conservation Activities

In 2017, a series of nature conservation activities of the PBBR were executed, of which we highlight the following:

1. By the ICNF, a maintenance of the constant effort in the bird ringing station under EURING;
2. The continuity of the *Narcissus fernandesii* conservation actions with the objective of maintaining the current nucleus and establishing another in the lands belonging to the State/Natural Reserve
3. The recovery of the water lily (*Nynphae alba*) areas continues with an implantation of two different populations;
4. A certificate of the ash trees populations (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) integrated into a national plan for the maintenance of healthy populations for seed collection and control of potential forest pests;
5. Regular bird censuses with emphasis on waterfowl and colonial species;



6. Implementation of fish species monitoring program in the reserve, with the collaboration of trainees from the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar;
7. Mapping of areas where there is occurrence of important weed species from the conservation point of view;
8. Water and climate monitoring in Paul do Boquilobo Nature Reserve.



PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES



BIRD WATCHING



DYNAMIZATION OF PARTIES, CELEBRATIONS, CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

Development and Sustainability Activities

A set of development & sustainability actions were carried out, deserving to be mentioned the following:

- Presentation and promotion of Paul do Boquilobo's Biosphere Reserve from national institutional entities;



- Participation in Working Groups / Collaboration Networks, such as the Portuguese and Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Networks and the MaB Committee;
- Participation in technical meetings with the National MaB Committee and other National Biosphere Reserves, where we highlight the national meeting organized by the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve.

Communication and Disclosure Activities

The main activities carried out in communication and dissemination to third parties were essentially related to:

- Updating the online publications of the site: www.pauldoboquilobo.pt
- News and RB news on Facebook: <https://pt-pt.facebook.com/paulboquilobo/>
- Promotion of Paul do Boquilobo within the Mediterránea Network Biosphere Reserve;
- Online edition of the periodical biosphere newsletter of Paul do Boquilobo;
- Photographic survey of places of interest of the PBBR;
- Promotion of activities of cultural animation in the region;
- Representation in fairs / exhibitions.

In the communication and dissemination activities we must highlight:

1. In the scope of BTL (National Tourism Fair) 2017 the public presentation at a seminar of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve;
2. The edition of promotional leaflet of Paul do Boquilobo BR;
3. The editing of promotional articles.



@ BTL



Awareness Activities

A wide range of awareness-raising activities were carried out with the community and the different local actors, namely:

- Raising awareness among farmers to a set of measures they must take towards environmental sustainability, such as Agri-environmental measures, rules for the application of plant protection products, licensing rules and good agricultural practices;
- Anniversary of the Paul do Boquilobo Nature Reserve with visits to the existing rails, notes of traditional agricultural practices and cultural lecture.
- Actions to raise awareness to the water quality of the Almonda river.

Participation in Research / Development / Inventory Projects

During 2017, the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve participated in a series of projects with other entities in the areas of nature conservation, agriculture, tourism social solidarity, social responsibility, spatial planning, development and sustainability of the entire Biosphere Reserve.



RESTOLHO - SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROJECT



Berlengas Biosphere Reserve (2011)

During the last years, significant efforts have been performed on ecosystem restoration and on the control of invasive species occurring in Berlenga island. In this aspect, the project LIFE Berlengas started in 2014 and have contributed to the sustainable management of the Berlengas Special Protection Area (SPA), aiming the conservation of its habitats, seabird populations and endemic plants. To achieve this, the focus was on developing strategies to minimize or remove the main threats to the natural values of Berlengas, both on land and at sea.

At the same time the project focused on three key activities: fishing, recreational activities and tourism. A framework to prepare and approve an effective management plan for the Berlengas SPA has also been implemented.

LIFE Berlengas is coordinated by the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA; Portuguese BirdLife partner), in partnership with the national Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF), Peniche Municipal Council (CMP), the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities from Universidade Nova de Lisboa (FCSH) and, as an external observer, the School of Tourism and Maritime Technology from Polytechnic Institute of Leiria. It is a valuable contribution for the achievements of the program Man and Biosphere programme.

The different actions of LIFE Berlengas have been developed according to schedule and good results have been achieved. It can be consulted at: <https://www.berlengas.eu/en/results>.



During 2017, Berlengas Biosphere Reserve has dedicated special attention to the development and submission of two project proposals: COPESCA 2 – Co-management for the stalked barnacles harvesting in

Berlengas Nature Reserve (MAR2020 funding program) and BERLENGAS GATE – Promotion and diffusion of Berlengas Biosphere Reserve natural values (GAL PESCA Oeste funding program).



In 2017, Berlengas Biosphere Reserve has participated on the II Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Managers Meeting and MEDITERRANEA 2017, that were held at UNESCO International Center for the Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves (Castellet Castle, Barcelona) 5, 6 and 7 September 2017.

Berlengas Biosphere Reserve has, also, formally joined to the Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Network on 5th September 2017.





Additionally, in 2017 the permanent working group of Berlengas Biosphere Reserve as started the review process of the management structure in order to address the main challenges listed on Lima Action Plan as well as on the MAB program.

During 2017, Berlengas Biosphere Reserve promoted or supported several activities to achieve a balance between conservation activities with sustainable development. Continuing the strategic approach adopted at 2015 - (1) Monitoring, research and education; (2) Ecosystems conservation and (3) Cultural, economic and social development, it was developed a set of activities that are listed above:

Strategic axis	Action	Date	Partner(s)
1 - Monitoring, research and education			
1a	Semana Tanto Mar Environmental activities for students, with the presence of the Portuguese Prime-Minister	3 Sept 2017	ESTM-IPLeiria, Municipality of Peniche and Forum Estudante
1b	Visitors monitoring Assessment of the visitors number to berlenga island during summer season	Jul-Sept 2017	LIFE Project
1c	Volunteer program for young students Development of conservation actions and visitor surveys	Started on 2014	LIFE Project
1d	AMALIA Adding value to marine invasive seaweeds of the Iberian northwest	Started on 2017	ESTM
1e	Berlengas watch Monitoring of plankton communities and hydrological parameters.	Since 2013	ESTM-IPLeiria, IPMA and ICNF
1f	Marineye Development of a multisensor for ocean monitoring. BRB will be one of the test sites.	Started in 2015	ESTM, IPMA, INESC and CIIMAR
1g	Jellyfisheries R&D project aiming to evaluate the impact of jellyfish on the planktonic	Started in June 2016	ESTM, MARE-IPLeiria, ICNF, IPMA, CIIMAR, CCMAR
2 - Ecosystems conservation			
2a	LIFE project Eradication of plant invasive species and exotic mammals control	Since 2014	SPEA, ICNF, Municipality of Peniche, ESTM, FCSH-UL
2b	Seagull population control Annual control actions of seagull		ICNF, SPEA



	population on the berlenga island by egg destruction.		
3 - Cultural, economic and social development			
3a	Implementation of a Co-management Comittee for Pollicipes pollicipes artisanal harvesting R&D project proposal submmited for European funding	Started on December 2017	Leila Cardoso, Helder Cardoso, Johan Elmberg and Erik Hirschfeld
3b	Marketing plan for Maritime-tourism activities Public presentation of the marketing plan proposal for RBB tourism a	Jan 2016	ESTM, ICNF
3c	Ecosystems valoration I&D projet aimed to the economic valoration of the Biosphere reserve	Started on 2015	ESTM-IPLeiria
3d	Berlengas brand marketing Promotion of RBB in all events supported by the Municipality of Peniche	Ongoing	ESTM, ICNF, Municipality of Peniche
3e	Natural heritage brochures Electronic and physical distribution of brochures for supporting the natural heritage of RBB	Ongoing	ESTM, ICNF, Municipality of Peniche



Life project, Recuperation of habits, removal of alien species, voluntary work.



Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (2009)



In January 2017 a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Biosphere Reserve took place in Videoeiro. The main objective of this meeting was the appointment of the new Presidency of the Reserve and the implementation of the Action Plan for the Development and Territorial Cohesion of the RBTGX, carried out in partnership with the 5 Portuguese Municipalities that

integrate the PGNP: Ponte da Barca, Arcos de Valdevez, Terras de Bouro, Melgaço and Montalegre.

This plan foresees, for the period 2015-2020, the reinforcement of cooperation and joint work between the two frontier regions of the RBTGX: Peneda-Gerês, in Portugal and Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurés, in Galicia, Spain. The implementation of this Action Plan not only aims to promote these territories, but also the valorisation of endogenous resources, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, promotion of sustainable tourism and the preservation of fauna and flora.

Conservation of natural and cultural heritage

Monitoring of the mountain goat population was carried out in the spring and autumn through the routes of its distribution area and counting of individuals at fixed observation points, in order to subsequently calculate population parameters.

Updating of existing wildlife data in the Wildlife Database is an ongoing work.

The monitoring of the damages attributed to the Iberian Wolf was maintained through inspections made to the places where the attacks took place. It was also carried out the census of the wolf packs and the follow-up of some of the packs. Practices and mechanisms were also promoted for the minimization of losses caused by the wolf, with cleaning of vegetation and improvement of pastures in areas where there are more attacks.

Seeds of rare tree species were collected for reproduction at the National Centre for Forest Seeds and later plantation.

The pilot project for the recovery and conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats in the Peneda-Gerês National Park: restoration of Mezio and Ramiscal Forests, as well as the Project for Protection and Conservation of Natural Protected Habitats in the Gerês National Forest.

The project for the conservation of native populations of sylvestris Pines (*Pinus sylvestris*), which includes the genetic study of the population, nursery production of this plant population and the planting and conservation of this species is still under development.



The project for the conservation of the native forests of Yew continues as well as the plan of intervention of control of invasive plants in the Gerês National Forest.

For the preservation of the native forest climax habitats of *Quercus robur* (Habitat - 9230 "Galician - Portuguese oak groves of *Quercus robur* and *Quercus pyrenaica*"), traffic control measures of motor vehicles were implemented in Mata de Albergaria between the 1st June and the 30th September.

238 injured or debilitated animals were collected and transported for treatment at the Wild Fauna Recovery Centre or the Biological Park of Gaia and the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, with which PGNP has established partnerships.

The renewal of signage in the Natural Environment Area was prepared, namely the signalling of the Total Protection Area, necessary for the guidance of visitors and the conservation of the territory.

Education and environmental awareness

Several environmental education activities were carried out, particularly in the context of initiatives such as "Forest Day", "Day of the Native Forest" and "Day of the Animal".

The Forest Day was especially celebrated in Montalegre with 100 children from the kindergarden of Montalegre with a lecture about fires and planting native trees such as oak, cork oak and chestnut;

In the "Animal Day", release sessions were developed with recovered birds of prey, namely in Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Amares, involving 40 children; Some of these sessions were done in collaboration with the Republican National Guard's Nature and Environmental Protection Service.

In the "Native Forest Day", the 104 children of Montalegre and EB1 of Cabril attended a lecture about native forest and planted native species of oak;

Previously prepared exhibitions on natural and cultural values of the PNPG such as the exhibition on the mountain goat and "The Saga of the Wolfram" have been handed over to information centres in the Park and our visitors were offered an exhibition on the yew and another on traditional Architecture of the PGNP;

Volunteering: native tree planting / Invasive species control



About 261 people participated in volunteer activities collaborating in the planting of native trees, in control of invasive plants, in garbage collection and in Forest Surveillance and Prevention. These actions, besides contributing to the conservation of the forest, also have a character of relevant environmental awareness.



Visitors and activities developed



In the information centers of the Portuguese territory of the RBTGX, 103546 visitors were registered, who gathered there to collect information or carry out activities in the various reception facilities.

Under the guidance of the PNPG, several guided tours were carried out, mainly related to the observation and interpretation of the natural heritage, but also to the cultural heritage of the RBTGX territory.

Environmental Education Sessions



Several environmental education sessions were held on the natural and cultural values of the RBTGX;

10 of the hiking trails of the Portuguese territory of the RBTGX were monitored, cleaned and corrected or had revived signaling;

The requests for conditioned activities by the PGNP Management Plan were also analyzed, by the environmental animation companies operating in this territory, by associations or informal groups, involving a total of 4662

participants; In their daily offer the environmental animation companies that operated in the PGNP developed 298 activities in which 3200 people participated. From their semester reports we can say that the most frequent activities are the Canyoning (171 activities with 1890 participants), the walks (53 activities with 536 participants) and the horseback riding (29 activities with 78 participants).

Promoting sustainable tourism

The constitution of the new Strategic Council of the Peneda-Gerês National Park, necessary due to a change in the Portuguese legislation was prepared, a meeting of this Council was held, and a new meeting is scheduled. This advisory body aims to ensure cooperation between the entities that constitute it and maximize the development of the Portuguese territory of the RBTGX.

It is also worth to mention the participation of the European Space Agency as partner in the European project "SENSA / Sustainable Tourism, Environmental and Security in Protected Areas", involving the preparation of digital information to assist visitors in their stay in the Portuguese territory of RBTGX and put them in permanent contact with the administration of the territory. The project and the platform are, after some phases of testing, being improved for further experimentation in 2018.



UNESCO - Programa MAB - Man and the Biosphere
ZASNET - Agrupamento Europeu de Cooperação Territorial

Meseta Iberica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (2015)

THE RESERVE OF THE TRANSBOUNDARY BIOSPHERE (RBT) MESETA IBÉRICA was declared on June 9, 2015, at the 27th Session of the International Coordination Council of the UNESCO MaB Program in Paris.

Managed by the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation ZASNET, a European juridical figure, has an extension of 1.132 606 ha, with 42% being Spanish territory and 58% Portuguese territory. It should be noted that the population density is low and is around 14 inhabitants / SQR meters.

With 5 Natural Parks and several other Natura 2000 Network areas, is a territory of heritage excellence in respect to its natural but also patrimonial values. In this territory Man is an integral part of the landscape and the ecosystem. It should be noted that in the territory of the RBT Meseta Ibérica we also find a territory of high geological value, also with UNESCO seal, the *Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros*.

With regard to cultural, material and immaterial heritage, it's rich and diverse territory, difficult to even enumerate in a few lines. From the Mirandese language to the Masks and winter festivals among other cultural manifestations perfectly rooted in the traditions that still remain and that have in their genesis the *raiana* influence, passing also by the architectural and archaeological rich patrimony.

We can say with conviction that in the territory of the Meseta Ibérica we have a true natural and cultural heritage transboundary.

Over the last year, the managing entity of the Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, ZASNET EGTC, has stimulated several activities, namely:

- Participation in regional, national and international tourism fairs, to promote RBT Meseta Ibérica. Among them is the participation in FITUR (Madrid), INTUR (Valladolid), ECOCULTURA (Zamora), Turismo Rural de Navarra and BTL (Lisbon), the latter jointly with the Terras de Trás-os-Montes Intermunicipal Community and MaB Committee of Portugal / ICNF. In some of the fairs there is a tasting of products that use the RBT Meseta Ibérica brand;



RBT MI and the brand to Mayors, entrepreneurs and general population of the territory;

- Meeting with CCDR-N, ICNF, MaB Committee of Portugal, Municipal Councils of the Portuguese territory of RBT MI and GAL, for the beginning of the work to elaborate a Fire Prevention Plan and habitat valorisation;
- Meeting with agents from the territory to meet synergies of joint work;
- Meeting with technicians and heads of division of municipalities of the territory, of the area of communication, environment and tourism, to clarify about the RBT MI, with the intention that they use this UNESCO seal;
- Participation in the project JaT - Together to the Earth, promoted by EDP and local associations and still working together with the School Groups in the territory of Rio Sabor. It is a sustainability, transverse, flexible and replicable education program focused on the value and importance of biodiversity and with active community involvement. It is a program focused on a generation, where all students, 8th and 9th year, benefit from experience in the field and direct contact with the natural environment and the local community;
- Participation with presentation of RBT MI - SMART Destination, at the VIII International Congress of Rural Tourism of Navarra (Pamplona);
- Lecture to students of the 7th year of the Emídio Garcia School, in Bragança, about the RBTMI and its edafo-climatic characteristics;



- Interaction with Universities, namely University of Santiago de Compostela, University of Valladolid, Polytechnic Institute of Bragança;

Development of the ZASNET_MESETA_IBÉRICA project, whose objectives are:

1. Creation of a quality label, signalling the RBT Meseta Iberian territory and the creation of thematic itineraries and a joint tourist offer for the BIOSPHERE Tourist Destination Certificate;
2. Protection and valorisation of the natural resources of the territory, in order to consolidate the actions foreseen in the Plan of Action of RBT Meseta Ibérica;
3. Protection and enhancement of the patrimonial and cultural resources of the territory, with the preparation and presentation of the candidature of the Masks and Winter Festivities to UNESCO's Patrimony of Humanity;
4. Valorisation of sustainable agricultural production, with the product quality label of the Meseta Ibérica Cross-Border Biosphere Reserve.

- Member of the Consortium Collaborative Laboratories - Montesinho, mountains of research, promoted by CIMO (Mountain Research Centre of the IPB);



- Participation and support in the organization of the Sustainable Agroforestry Management Week and the Sustainable Agroforestry Management Seminar in Vimioso;

- Development of the Destino Frontera Project, which aims to implement a tourism development strategy of the border between Portugal and Spain as a single, integrated and structured destination, based on shared endogenous resources and intelligent specialization of the offer and which allows to reduce the costs of territorial inequalities and promote the sustainable development of the border region.



- Presentation of RBT MI in the IPB's Lecture of the Week of Agricultural Sciences;
- Dissemination of RBT Meseta Ibérica, through the photographic exhibition inside and outside the territory, namely at the Trás-os-Montes Expo in the Customs of Porto;
- Participation in the Seminar "Ecosystem Services" at CCDRN;
- Participation, as a member, in the actions promoted by the NRCD (Regional Nucleus to Combat Desertification);
- Participation in the ESAB Seminar - at IPB;
- Participation in "Transfronteira", pedestrian walk in the Meseta Ibérica Biosphere Reserve;
- Presentation of RBTMI at OBSERVARRIBES workshop, in Miranda do Douro.
- Providing informative material (merchandising) for the dissemination of RBT MI at the IV Congress in the area of Environmental Education in the Biosphere Reserve, in Ilha do Príncipe.
- Collaboration with a doctorate from the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, in Cross-Border Areas, to clarify the workings of RBT Meseta Ibérica and ZASNET, as the entity managing the latter;
- Active participation in the preparation of the PAOV (Plan of Action Ordesa-Viñamala), Plan of Action of the Spanish Network of Biosphere Reserves (RERB) to adapt the Lima Plan;
- Participation in the II Spanish Congress of Biosphere Reserves, in Biescas and Torla (Aragon).
- Presentation by RBT MI at the European Week of Cities and Regions in Brussels.



- Presentation of RBT Meseta Ibérica at the SMART TRAVEL event, in Bragança;



- Participation in the SUSTAINABLE TOURISM SHOW, in the National Museum of Natural History and Science, in Lisbon;
- Show Cooking, at the Arts, Crafts and Flavors Fair of Vimioso with the winning recipes of the "Recipes of the Iberian Plateau" contest, from which resulted 2 menus with traditional recipes with a touch of innovation and that are part of the book Recipes of the Biosphere, edited by the Spanish MaB Committee;
- Participation in INTUR, in Valladolid, at the stand of the Tourist Board of the Province of Zamora;
- Active participation in the RERB through the Board of Managers;
- Active participation in the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves and the Portuguese MaB Committee.



Further information:

www.biosfera-mesetaiberica.com

[Facebook.com/reservabiosferatransfronteiricamesetaiberica](https://www.facebook.com/reservabiosferatransfronteiricamesetaiberica)

Twitter: RBT Meseta Ibérica@rmesetaiberica



RESERVA DA BIOSFERA TRANSFRONTEIRIÇA TEJO/TAJO INTERNACIONAL

Tejo/Tajo Internacional Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (2016)

2017 was a year in which natural heritage dissemination of the TRANBOUNDARY BIOSPHERE RESERVE marked the performance of the ICNF, I.P. Throughout 2017 various activities were energized, in particular those related to the exploration of the classified territory with the purpose of identifying the natural heritage highlights and particular features. We will name a few:

- Awareness and training

Thematic conferences; thematic visits; training sessions.





- Pedagogical projects

Thematic field trips and actions; learning and practical activities in the region schools; awareness and discovery actions.



Throughout 2017 a wide range of environmental awareness and training activities were carried out jointly with different actors and local entities. The following are noteworthy:

- Raising awareness of the population of the classified territory to adopt a set of measures in order to achieve environmental sustainability;
- Activities commemorating environmental dates and the Anniversary of the Tejo International Natural Park, with the exploration of the classified area through field visits and thematic workshops;



- Activities commemorating environmental dates and the Anniversary of the Tejo International Natural Park, with the exploration of the classified area through field visits and thematic workshops;

The activities developed in 2017 had several partners, most notably the municipalities of Idanha-a-Nova, Castelo Branco and Vila Velha de Rodão, Amato Lusitano Partner Schools (Castelo Branco), Vila Velha de Rodão and Raia Professional School of Idanha-a-Nova. About 2,500 participants were involved.

Learning to defend the natural heritage involves, first of all, knowing its heritage and consequently the respect we consciously attribute to it. This was the motto that regulated the work carried out throughout 2017 by the Tejo / Tajo International Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.





Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve (2017)

Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve was classified on June 14th 2017. Since then the Management Council was established setting a Technical Working Group (TWG), composed by representatives of the Castro Verde Municipality (MCV), the Campo Branco Farmers Association (AACB) and the League for the Protection of Nature (LPN), to implement the Biosphere Reserve Action Plan. During 2017, four meetings of the TWG under the Management Council were held. Preparatory work to establish the Advisory Council and the Scientific Council began, identifying the stakeholders involved and formulating the main guidelines for their functioning.

Participation at the two regular meetings of the National Committee of the Man and the Biosphere Program (MaB), namely, between September 13 and 15 in the Flores Island Biosphere Reserve and on November 28 at the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forestry (ICNF) headquarters in Lisbon.

Conservation of natural and cultural heritage

On July 25th celebrations of the 878th anniversary of the Battle of Ourique were carried out, in collaboration with the Governmental Department of Military History and Culture, to celebrate the decisive moment that marks the foundation of the Kingdom of Portugal in the 1139.

In September occurred the “Festival da Planície Mediterrânica”, organized in collaboration with the “Associação Sete Sóis Sete Luas”, the “Associação Pedexumbo” and several local organizations, with a street exhibition with image panels devoted to the Biosphere Reserve and several cultural moments which included traditional Portuguese singing such as “Fado” and the local singing “Cante Alentejano” and “Viola Campaniça”, besides promoting the intercultural dialogue with other Mediterranean cultures.

October brought the secular Castro Fair, in place since 1620, which has shaped itself to present-day needs and modern types, maintaining the status of a major event in the social, economic and cultural life of Castro Verde and promoting ties between different generations.

Monitoring of Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) and Cranes (*Grus grus*) populations were carried out.

Follow up of the agri-environmental measure “Apoio Zonal de Castro Verde” that supports farmers to implement a farming system beneficial for the conservation of steppe birds was pursued.



Street Exhibition during “Festival da Planície Mediterrânica”

Sustainable Development

Due to the severe drought that the Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve territory faced during 2017, several measures were set:

- *Follow up of the drought trend with the governmental authorities;*
- *Support and advisory was given to 55 farmers to apply for investment measures funded by the national Rural Development Program of the European Union Common Agriculture Policy to mitigate the droughts effects;*
- *AACB loaned the 32 mobile water cisterns to farmers to provide beverage for livestock;*
- *MCV implemented water reduction consumption, namely in public gardens.*

LPN provided support to visitors through the facilities in “Centro de Educação Ambiental do Vale Gonçálinho” (Vale Gonçálinho Environmental Education Centre - CEAVG) with information concerning the Biosphere Reserve and birdwatching.

Several rural roads were maintained and repaired by MCV during summer, improving access for farm holds. The free wifi service in Castro Verde village was upgraded and increased, improving internet access to reduce technological exclusion. Cultural programs for senior people were organized by the local Parishes to promote more active older generations. December brought a Christmas Fair to promote local products and a Campaign was set to increase local economy.

A local jewellery store developed several items (pin, pen, medal) allusive to the Biosphere Reserve.



Logistics (Education, Environmental Awareness, Knowledge Sharing and Research)

Following the designation as Biosphere Reserve several celebration activities were carried out to celebrate the international recognition given by UNESCO to Castro Verde:

- *On June 14th a Delegation with representatives of the three promoting organizations (MCV, AACB and LPN) was present in Paris at UNESCO headquarters to follow the MAB Program International Coordination Council Meeting where the Castro Verde designation was announced. Also during this day several activities were held in Castro Verde: (i) raising the UNESCO/MAB flag; (ii) raising the outdoor panels in the MCV, AACB and LPN/CEAVG buildings and in the Public Garden; (iii) ringing the fireman's siren continuously for some minutes; (iv) distribution and reading of a Commemorative Postcard of the Biosphere Reserve to all students in the classrooms (from pre-school to secondary) and to the population through a street distribution with t-shirts allusive to the Biosphere Reserve;*
- *On June 21th a Public Commemorative Session open to the population was carried out at the Miradouro dos Paços do Concelho, in the Castro Verde Village, with the presence of several representative from local, regional and national organizations, namely the Substitute President of the UNESCO National Commission, Embaixador Jorge Lobo Mesquita, the President of the National MAB Commission, Dra. Anabela Trindade, and several cultural and musical moments with traditional singings, followed by a barbecue to promote a community get-together in the Jardim do Padrão;*
- *Several Press Releases and interviews were made and several organizations made Congratulations Votes, namely the Portuguese Assembly of the Republic.*

LPN presented the good practice example of Castro Verde farming that promotes biodiversity in the Europarc Conference 2017 held in Arouca.

In October, AACB organized the “Jornadas Técnicas de Outono” (Technical Seminar), to debate issues concerning farming and livestock rearing, including a presentation by the President of the MAB National Committee, Dra. Anabela Trindade, about the Biosphere reserves in Portugal. In November, the Campo Branco Veterinary Association organized the “Jornadas Técnico-Veterinárias do Campo Branco” (Technical Seminar), to enhance knowledge on veterinary issues, namely concerning sheep rearing.

Several education and awareness raising activities were carried out, namely:

- Activities with schools and children:
 - Summer Holidays, with 100 children from 6 to 12 years, to promote social competences, sports and environmental activities, including the conservation of the Iberian Imperial Eagle;
 - Lectures about the Biosphere Reserve to 10 classes of the Castro Verde Primary School (184 children);



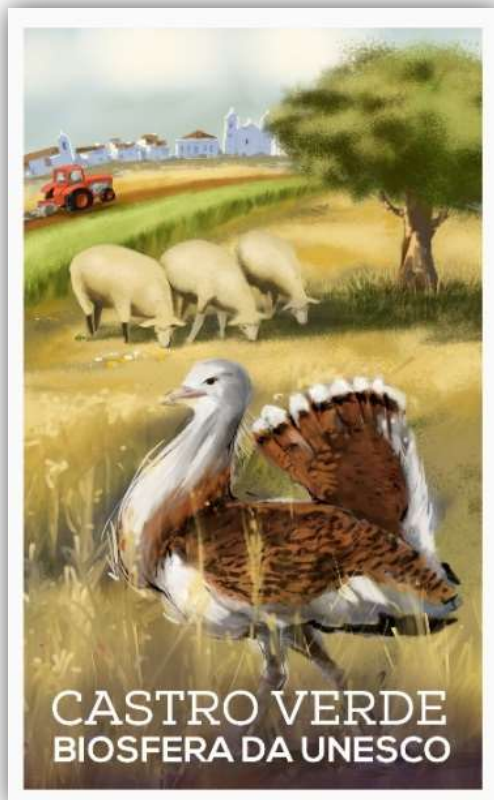
- Annual Activity Plan of the Castro Verde School Group designated the Biosphere Reserve has the transversal theme;
- Planning of environmental education activities, namely lectures for middle school classes, establishing a Project for a Biosphere Tour Project for pre-school and primary and activities for a Pilot Experimental Sciences Project for the 3rd and 4th grade classes;
- Collaboration in the definition of the curricula for the 1st grade local subject (National Pilot Project by the Education Ministry) that established the Biosphere Reserve as the main topic. Field visits were already carried out to the CEAVG concerning birds and farming of the Biosphere Reserve;
- Awareness concerning recycling to pre-school children, during the European Week for Waste;
- Implementation of the Project “Cante Alentejano na Escola” (Cante Alentejano traditional singing in schools), with weekly classes to pre-school and primary students (363 children), to promote traditional singing has a local cultural expression;
- Activities for the community:
 - Creative Workshops of Sewing and Jewellery held by the Municipal Library in the Parishes of Casével, Entradas and Santa Bárbara dos Padrões, based upon lectures from books;
 - 5 Birdwatching sessions held by LPN to promote bird observation amongst the local communities, one touristic session for birdwatching with a “Cante Alentejano” Workshop and collaboration in the organization of a solidary environmental hiking trail held by JuveBombeiros;
 - Lecture held at Senior University of Castro Verde about the Biosphere Reserve, included in the annual plan for lectures on environmental issues carried out by LPN;
 - Street Action by MCV and the local Commission for the Protection of Young and Children at Risk to promote the elimination on domestic violence against women.

Several initiatives were undertaken on communication, namely:

- Providing information on Social Networks with the creation of a Facebook webpage of the Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve (<https://www.facebook.com/castroverdebiosfera/>)
- Publication of news about the Biosphere Reserve in the AACB Newsletter (including a footnote highlighting and advertising the Biosphere Reserve), the Municipal Journal “Campaniço” and in the LPN bi-weekly digital newsletter;
- Partnership with Radio Castrense with a weekly program on environment, including information about the Biosphere Reserve;
- New membership cards for AACB associates with a design devoted to the Biosphere Reserve;
- Preparatory work for the development of the logo and the certification brand ongoing;
- Awareness Campaign raised by MCV to save water.



Postcard distributed to the population and schools to celebrate the Biosphere Reserve designation.



Outdoor banner at the LPN/CEAVG building and at the AACB headquarters in Castro Verde.



Public Commemorative Session open to the population, on June 21th at the Castro Verde Village, to celebrate the Biosphere Reserve designation, included several speeches by the Substitute President of the UNESCO National Commission, Embaixador Jorge Lobo Mesquita.



Cultural moments during the Commemorative Session, with traditional singing “Cante Alentejano” and guitar “Viola Campaniça”.



Presentation of the MAB National Committee President at the Technical Seminar of AACB;
Lecture at the Senior University



Birdwatching; Environmental activities about steppe biodiversity and farming at the LPN/CEAVG.



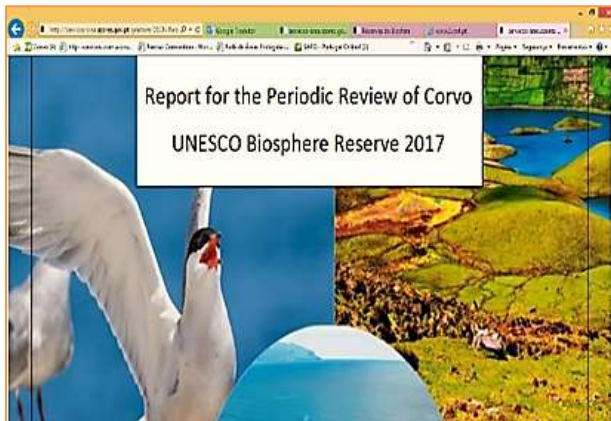
B. AZORES ARCHIPELAGO





Corvo Island Biosphere Reserve (2007)

The year 2017 was an important date for the Corvo Island Biosphere Reserve (RBIC), as it was the 10th anniversary since the island became part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. After a decade of awarding this prestigious award, the first periodic review of the Biosphere Reserve was carried out, as enshrined in the MaB Program.



In addition to this important and demanding task, we promote the development of a diverse set of activities and actions, among which the following stand out:

Management

A number of periodic meetings of the Biosphere Reserve Management Council were held, which aimed not only at the preparation of the RBIC report, but also at the management and preparation of its action plan.

Participation in the 5th meeting of the National Committee for the "Man & The Biosphere" (MaB) Program, held on November 28, at the ICNF (Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests), Lisbon.

Participation in the Follow-up Working Group on the Process for the preparation of the Management Plans for the Island's Natural Parks and Action Plans for the Biosphere Reserves of the Azores, held in Angra do Heroísmo on Terceira Island on November 21.



Participation in the 4th meeting of the National Committee for the Man & The Biosphere Program (MaB), held in the Flores Island and Corvo Biosphere Reserves from September 13 to 15, 2017. Among the various points of the meeting, the analysis of the periodic review process of the Biosphere Reserves of the island of Graciosa and

the island of Corvo and unanimous approval of the Opinion of the MaB National Committee on the reports produced by those Biosphere Reserves.



Conservation Function

Execution of several Bird Census, Census of Bats, Census of the Pigeon- Woodpigeon and Census of Common tern.

The Natural Park maintains the collaboration with SPEA in the monitoring and planting of plants in the Caldeirão Protected Area (RBIC core zone), in order to propagate *Myosotis azorica*. The action is part of the recovery plans of the priority species and habitats of the Region, developed by the Government of the Azores throughout the archipelago, under the coordination of the Botanical Garden of Faial

Collaboration with the University of the Azores in the morphological study of *Tolpis azorica* in the Azores archipelago.

Periodic monitoring (4 times per year) of the water quality of the Corvo lagoon, coordinated by the Laboratory of the Directorate of Water Resources and Spatial Planning - Regional Directorate for the Environment. The study aims to create an information base to support a more targeted and effective management of the areas of the basin that raise a greater environmental risk associated with the eutrophication process of the lagoon of the Cauldron (RAMSAR site)



Development function

Support for the promotion of the Miosotis Azores Award - Green Lodgings - which aims to promote sustainable tourism and reward good environmental practices in Azorean tourist developments.



editions of the Contest.

Promotion and follow-up of the "ECO Parish, Clean Freight" Competition, organized by the Regional Secretariat for Energy, Environment and Tourism, aiming to distinguish the efforts of the parishes and the collaboration of the populations in the cleaning, removal and referral to the final destination of abandoned waste in spaces including water lines and coastlines. The Municipal Council of Corvo was awarded the title of excellence in the last three



Participation in the three sessions of the Technical and Information Days of the CDTECOTUR Project - Territorial Cooperation Operative Program INTERREG, called Custody of the Territory and Ecotourism in Macaronesia (MAC / 4.6c / 047). V-A, Madeira, the Azores and the Canary Islands 2014-2020.

The first session was held at the La Palma Biosphere Reserve in Santa Cruz de La Palma on 27, 28 and 29 June 2017. The second activity was held in the Azores - island of São Jorge, from November 13 to 16, 2017. The third session was held on Madeira Island, on December 5. (F6)

Logistics role

Exhibition of typical handicraft pieces of the island, as part of the celebrations of the 10th Anniversary of the Corvo Biosphere Reserve, at the Environmental and Cultural Interpretation Center of Corvo, in September and October 2017.

Collaboration, quarterly, with the Laboratory of Analysis of the Institute of Technological Innovation of the Azores (INOVA) in the monitoring of the interior and transition waters of the Caldeirão. This monitoring of the water bodies of each river basin district focuses on meeting the obligations arising from Directive 2000/60/EC and the European Parliament and Council Directive of 23 October on, Water Framework Directive.

Support for the public discussion of the proposed Regional Climate Change Program (PRAC), through the online availability of documents related to it, promoted in all the islands of the Azores, by the Regional Directorate for the Environment.





Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve

Under the above subject serves this memo to list the activities carried out by the Graciosa Environment Service (GES) / Natural Park of Graciosa (NPG), in 2017, fitting in the object of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve (GIBR) and discriminated by the three functions that it must ensure:

Conservation function

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

Conducting various Census in Graciosa (Bats Census, Census of the Wood Pigeon (AZORPI Project), Terns Census, Common Birds Census, Common Buzzard Census, Census of Coastal Wintering Birds (Arenaria Project) and the Atlas of Nesting Birds of Portugal).

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

Collaboration with the Center for Research in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources (CIBIO) / University of the Azores (UAç), in a joint study with the University of Kansas (U.S.A.) on reproductive isolation and hybridization in endemic species of *Tolpis*.

Inventory of the presence of the exotic species *Pennisetum clandestinum* on Graciosa island.

Collection of seeds of *Tolpis succulenta* and *Juncus acutus* for the Azores Seed Bank.

Collaboration in the AzorLit research project, coordinated by the Institute of the Sea (IMAR), which has as partners the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Azores Sea Observatory (OMA) and the Regional Directorate for Maritime Affairs (DRAM), which aims to monitor marine litter in Graciosa, within the framework of the Action Plan for Marine Litter in the Azores (PALMA).

Development function

Support system implementation to maintain the production of vineyard in corrals and terraces, and orchards of traditional species, in protected landscape areas and coastal fajãs, integrated in the natural parks of the island and reserves of the biosphere, approved by the Regional Regulatory Decree n.º 24/2014/A of December 15.

Assessment of the applications for the use of the trademark and logo "*Azores Biosphere*", as regulated in Administrative Rule n.º 27/2011 (Regulation of the "*Azores Biosphere*" brand) and Regional Legislative Decree n.º 15/2012 / A, of 2 April (Legal regime for the conservation of nature and biodiversity in the Autonomous Region of the Azores).

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



Promotion and attribution in the island of Graciosa of the “*Miosótis Azores Award*” which aims to promote sustainable tourism and reward good environmental practices in Azores tourist developments.

Between the 15th and 19th of March the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves was publicized at the Lisbon Tourism Travel Market (BTL), in the stand of the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forestry (ICNF).

In March the Regional Directorate for the Environment / Natural Park of Graciosa published an article about the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve in the supplement of the magazine I Like This (Quarterly N.º 16, March, April, May - www.ilikethis.pt, online kiosk micas.pt) under the theme “*Sustainable Development: 17 Territories - 17 Objectives*”(pp. 30-31).

On 1st of May the UNESCO National Commission promoted and inaugurated at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris a traveling exhibition on the National Network of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves which included a panel on the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve.

In November, the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve sent its contributions to the proposal of the specification for the “*Azores Biosphere Meat*”, under the responsibility of the Regional Directorate of Agriculture.

In November and December, the Natural Park of Graciosa participated in the “*Technical and Information Days on the CdTEcoTUR Project “Territory Custody and Ecotourism in the Macaronesia”*”, in the scope of the Cooperative Operative Program Territorial INTERREG VA Madeira - Azores and Canary Islands (MAC) 2014-2020, which took place, respectively, in the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve and in Madeira Island.

Logistic support function

Support to the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries of the University of the Azores (DOP/UAç) and Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (PSSB) in the study and monitoring of seabirds of Natural Reserve of Beach islet, particularly the population of monteiro's storm-petrel (*Hydrobates monteiroi*).



Support to the Information and Surveillance Center of the Azores / Institute for Research in Vulcanology and Risk Assessment (CIVISA / IVAR) and the Italian company West Systems, in the maintenance of the “*System of monitoring, alert and alarm for the safety of visitors of Furna do Enxofre, Graciosa*”.

International Day of the Biosphere Reserves celebration (November 3) with an activity, in partnership with the Graciosa Museum, on the relevance of cereals and grinding in the history of Graciosa Island.

Participation in the 3rd working meeting of the Monteiroi Task Force, organized by SPEA from 22 to 23 June in Graciosa Island, whose main objective was to review the first version of the Action Plan for the conservation of the Monteiro's Storm-petrel under the LIFE EuroSAP, coordinated by BirdLife International with the objective of organize the efforts to recover species at international level.



An online survey on the role of agricultural practices in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves around the world was completed in May, under the Master Thesis of Caroline Stutz of ETH Zurich, Switzerland (<https://www.ethz.ch/en.html>).

In June, a questionnaire on sustainable development goals for Biosphere Reserve islands was sent, under the master's thesis of Joaquim Pla, University of Ghent, Belgium

Between September 17 and 23, the Azores Biosphere Reserves were represented by the student Ana Vitória Magalhães, from the University of the Azores (UAç), in the "2017 MAB YOUTH FORUM - Committed to Sustainable Development", which took place in the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, in Italy.

A questionnaire on Ecosystem Services in Protected Marine Areas (MPAs) on the Continent and Islands was completed and submitted to WWF in November, as a contribution to the WWF report "MPA x-Ray: Diagnosis of Portuguese Marine Protected Areas":

http://www.wwf.pt/o_que_fazemos/areas_marinhas_protegidas/

Management Activities

Elaboration of the 1st evaluation report / periodic review of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve, foreseen in Article 9 of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which was sent on September 22 to the Program Secretariat MaB, in Paris, by the UNESCO National Commission.



Participation at the two regular meetings of the National Committee of the Man and the Biosphere Program (MaB), established by Order n.º 9051/2015 of August 13 and as determined in article 9.º of its Internal Functioning Regulation, namely, between September 13 and 15 in the Flores Island Biosphere Reserve and on November 28 at the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forestry (ICNF) headquarters in Lisbon.

Holding of two ordinary meetings and two extraordinary meetings of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve Management Council, foreseen in article 54.º, paragraph 4, of the DLR no. 15/2012 / A, of April 2, namely on 23/02, 18/07, 31/07 and 22/11, in the headquarters of the Natural Park of Graciosa.

Participation in the 1st Meeting of the a Working Group to follow up the processes for the elaboration of the Plans for the Management of the Natural Parks of the Island and the Actions Plans for Biosphere Reserves, which was held at the Cultural and Congress Center of Angra do Heroísmo, on Terceira island (Azores).



Photos of other activities named above:





Flores Island Biosphere Reserve

Activities carried out by the Flores Island Biosphere Reserve (FIBR) discriminated by the three functions that it must ensure:

Conservation function



Performed various Census in Flores Island (Bats Census, Census of the Wood Pigeon (AZORPI Project), Terns Census).

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

Inventory of the presence of the exotic species *Pennisetum clandestinum* on Flores island.

Collaboration in the AzorLit research project, coordinated by the Institute of the Sea (IMAR),

which has as partners the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Azores Sea Observatory (OMA) and the Regional Directorate for Maritime Affairs (DRAM), which aims to monitor marine litter, within the framework of the Action Plan for Marine Litter in the Azores (PALMA).

Periodic monitoring (4 times per year) of the water quality of the Flores Island lagoons, coordinated by the Laboratory of the Directorate of Water Resources and Spatial Planning - Regional Directorate for the Environment. The study aims to create an information base to support a more targeted and effective management of the areas of the basin that raise a greater environmental risk associated with the eutrophication process of these lagoons in Flores Island (some are RAMSAR site)

Development function

Assessment of the applications for the use of the trademark and logo "Azores Biosphere", as regulated in Administrative Rule n. 9 27/2011 (Regulation of the "Azores Biosphere" brand) and Regional Legislative Decree n. 9 15/2012 / A, of 2 April (Legal regime for the conservation of nature and biodiversity in the Autonomous Region of the Azores).



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



Between the 15th and 19th of March the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves was publicized at the Lisbon Travel Market (BTL), in the stand of the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forestry (ICNF).

On 1 May the UNESCO National Commission promoted and inaugurated at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris a traveling exhibition on the National Network of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves which included a panel on Flores Island Biosphere Reserve.

In November and December, the Natural Park of Flores participated in the "Technical and Information Days on the CdTEcoTUR Project" Territory Custody and Ecotourism in the Macaronesia, "in the scope of the Cooperative Operative Program Territorial INTERREG VA Madeira - Azores and Canary Islands (MAC) 2014-2020, which took place, respectively, in the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve and in Madeira Island.

Logistic support function

Celebration of the International Day of Biosphere Reserves (3rd November).



The manufacture of crafts in meat of hortense's main expression in Flores Island. So, in order to mark the Day of Biosphere Reserves, putting the focus of attention on the cultural heritage, the artisan Maria Azevedo taught a small workshop to this technique.

Between September 17 and 23, the Azores Biosphere Reserves were represented by the student Ana Vitória Magalhães, from the University of the Azores (UAç), in the "2017 MAB YOUTH FORUM - Committed to Sustainable Development", which took place in the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, in Italy.

Between September 17 and 23, the Azores Biosphere Reserves were represented by the student Ana Vitória Magalhães, from the

A questionnaire on Ecosystem Services in Protected Marine Areas (MPAs) on the Continent and Islands was completed and submitted to WWF in November, as a contribution to the WWF report "MPA x-Ray: Diagnosis of Portuguese Marine Protected Areas": http://www.wwf.pt/o_que_fazemos/areas_marinhas_protegidas/

Collaboration, quarterly, with the Laboratory of Analysis of the Institute of Technological Innovation of the Azores (INOVA) in the monitoring of inland waters and lagoons transition of Flores Island. This monitoring of the water bodies of each river basin district focuses on meeting the obligations arising from Directive 2000/60/EC and the European Parliament and Council Directive of 23 October on, Water Framework Directive.

Support for the public discussion of the proposed Regional Climate Change Program (PRAC), through the online availability of documents related to it, promoted in all the islands of the Azores, by the Regional Directorate for the Environment.



Management

Participation at the two regular meetings of the National Committee of the Man and the Biosphere Program (MaB), established by Order n.º 9051/2015 of August 13 and as determined in article 9.º of its Internal Functioning Regulation, namely, between September 13 and 15 in the Flores Island Biosphere Reserve, where were the hosts, and on November 28 at the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forestry (ICNF) headquarters in Lisbon.

Conduct of meetings of the Flores Island Biosphere Reserve Management Council, foreseen in article 54.º, paragraph 4, of the DLR no. 15/2012 / A, of April 2.



Participation in the 1st Meeting of the a Working Group to follow up the processes for the elaboration of the Plans for the Management of the Natural Parks of the Island and the Actions Plans for Biosphere Reserves, which was held at the Cultural and Congress Center of Angra do Heroísmo, on Terceira island (Azores).



Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve

Activities carried out, in 2017, fitting in the object of the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve and discriminated by the three functions that it must ensure:

Conservation function



Implementation of PRECEFIAS - Regional Plan for the Eradication and Control of Invasive Plant Species in Sensitive Areas - in all protected areas, or in classification, of Natural Park of São Jorge. **(F1, F2)**

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

Inventory of the presence of the exotic species *Pennisetum clandestinum* on São Jorge Island.

Collection of seeds of endemic species for the Azores Seed Bank.

Inventory of the distribution populational of the creeper *Ipomea indica* on São Jorge island.

Development function

Implementation of the support system to maintain the production of vineyard, in corrals and terraces, and orchards of traditional species, in protected landscape areas and coastal fajãs, integrated in the natural parks of the island and reserves of the biosphere, approved by the Regional Regulatory Decree n.º 24/2014/A of December 15.



Support the promotion of the trademark "Azores Biosphere", as regulated in Administrative Rule n.º 27/2011 (Regulation of the "Azores Biosphere" brand) and Regional Legislative Decree n.º 15/2012 / A, of 2 April (Legal regime for the conservation of nature and biodiversity in the Autonomous Region of the Azores).

Promotion and follow-up of the "ECO Parish, Clean Freight" Competition, organized by the Regional Secretariat for

Energy, Environment and Tourism, aiming to distinguish the efforts of the parishes and the collaboration of the populations in the cleaning, removal and referral to the final destination of abandoned waste in spaces including water lines and coastlines.



Promotion and attribution in the island of São Jorge of the “Miosótis Azores Award” which aims to promote sustainable tourism and reward good environmental practices in Azores tourist developments.

Between the 15th and 19th of March the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves was publicized at the Lisbon Travel Market (BTL), in the stand of the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forestry (ICNF).

In March the Regional Directorate for the Environment / Natural Park of São Jorge published an article about the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve in the supplement of the magazine I Like This (Quarterly N.º 16, March, April, May - www.ilikethis.pt, online kiosk micas.pt) under the theme "Sustainable Development: 17 Territories - 17 Objectives" (pp. 44-45).

In November the Regional Directorate for the Environment / Natural Park of São Jorge published an article about the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve in the magazine Atlanticoline.

On 1 May the UNESCO National Commission promoted and inaugurated at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris a traveling exhibition on the National Network of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves which included a panel on the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve.

In November, the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve sent its contributions to the proposal of the specification for the "Azores Biosphere Meat", under the responsibility of the Regional Directorate of Agriculture.



In November and December, the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve organized and participated in the "Technical and Information Days on the CdTEcoTUR Project" Territory Custody and Ecotourism in the Macaronesia, "in the scope of the Cooperative Operative Program Territorial INTERREG VA Madeira - Azores and Canary Islands (MAC) 2014-2020, which took place, respectively, in the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve and in Madeira Island. (F6)

Logistic support function

Celebration of the International Day of Biosphere Reserves (November 3) with a walk in the trail pedestrian of the Fajã Vimes.

An online survey on the role of agricultural practices in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves around the world was completed in May, under the Master Thesis of Caroline Stutz of ETH Zurich, Switzerland (<https://www.ethz.ch/en.html>).

In June, a questionnaire on sustainable development goals for Biosphere Reserve islands was sent, under the master's thesis of Joaquim Pla, University of Ghent, Belgium



Between September 17 and 23, the Azores Biosphere Reserves were represented by the student Ana Vitória Magalhães, from the University of the Azores (UAç), in the "2017 MAB YOUTH FORUM - Committed to Sustainable Development", which took place in the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve, in Italy.

Collaboration with University of the Azores, in the study and monitoring of the lagoon of Fajã Cubres.

Support the University of the Azores and Geopark Azores TURGEO Project – “Study on the capacity of load for use tourist of geosites: a tool for the sustainability and appreciation tourist of the natural resources of the Azores”.

Management Activities

Participation at the two regular meetings of the National Committee of the Man and the Biosphere Program (MaB), established by Order n.º 9051/2015 of August 13 and as determined in article 9.º of its Internal Functioning Regulation, namely, between September 13 and 15 in the Flores Island Biosphere Reserve and on November 28 at the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forestry (ICNF) headquarters in Lisbon.



Holding of two regular meetings of the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve Management Council, foreseen in article 54.º, paragraph 4, of the DLR no. 15/2012 / A, of April 2, namely on 22/02 and 24/11, in the House São Jorge Park.

Participation in the 1st Meeting of the a Working Group to follow up the processes for the elaboration of the Plans for the Management of the Natural Parks of the Island and the

Actions Plans for Biosphere Reserves, which was held at the Cultural and Congress Center of Angra do Heroísmo, on Terceira island (Azores).



C.MADEIRA Archipelago



Santana – Madeira Biosphere Reserve (2011)

Integrated in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves since June 2011, Santana's – Madeira Biosphere Reserve is managed by Santana's Municipality (Madeira Island).

Besides providing continuity to previous developed projects, Santana's biosphere reserve was able to outline local action strategies based on the defined guidelines by UNESCO. It's a fact that the biosphere reserve is increasingly used by local stakeholders, carrying out of actions, although not organized directly by the reserve, which the central subject have been the "biosphere reserve" theme.

Therefore, and briefly, we report the following actions:

- Itinerant exhibition for the National Network of UNESCO's Biosphere Reserves

Cooperation of Santana – Madeira Biosphere Reserve in the exhibit's production, under the responsibility of the UNESCO's National Committee, introducing the designated territories as Biosphere Reserves existing in Portugal. The presentation of this exhibition took place in Paris, when Portugal presented its candidacy to UNESCO's executive board.

- Participation in a supplement for "I Like This" Magazine

Participation of Santana – Madeira Biosphere Reserve in the supplement named "Sustainable Development - 17 Territories, 17 Objectives" dedicated to national Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves in "I Like This" Magazine.

- Participation at BTL – Lisbon's International Tourism Trade Fair

Santana – Madeira Biosphere Reserve participated in BTL, the biggest tourism fair in Portugal, sending informational materials to the stand area dedicated to BR, under the responsibility of the Nature Conservation and Forestry Institute, IP (ICNF).

- Erasmus +



The biosphere reserve continues to be the centre stage of active partnerships, mainly concerning educational projects. Santana – Madeira Biosphere Reserve welcomed students and teachers from 8 European schools regarding the project Erasmus +, developed by São Jorge high school (*Cardeal D. Teodósio de Gouveia*). The project “Wind of Change – A Energetic (R)evolution” aimed to establish a knowledge alliance which allows to share the best practises regarding renewable energies, emphasizing, in particular, the networking partnership of all the students from the eight european schools that took part in the project. One of the main objectives was to raise environmental awareness of the involved students, focusing on the most common types of renewable energies used in each country and on the effects of the extinction of non-renewable natural resources.

- Field trips/Training/Educational projects

Santana – Madeira Biosphere Reserve continues to rise interest in schools around Madeira Autonomous Region, from the perspective of interdisciplinary study visits, in order to relate the obtained knowledge in subject matters such as History, Geography, Sciences and Geology. The following **visits** were completed: students from *Escola do 2º e 3º ciclos do Caniço, Dr. Armando Morgado* and students from professional courses in Tourism (*Escola Básica e Secundária de Santa Cruz and Centro de Formação Profissional da Madeira*).

A **training course for teachers called “Local History and Heritage Education”** was developed by *Escola Básica e Secundária de Santa Cruz* in partnership with *Casa da Cultura de Santa Cruz*, which practical component took place in one of the core areas of the biosphere reserve: Natural Reserve of Rocha do Navio.

Educational project called “Science and technology at the service of a better world”, organized by Santana’s school *B+S Bispo D. Manuel Ferreira Cabral*, candidate to the 14th edition of the Science in School competition from Ilidio Pinho Foundation. This project main objective was the production of paper from residues of banana pseudo stem and sugarcane bagasse. Besides being a didactic tool, the realization of this project contributed to the consolidation of acquired knowledge, made possible the education of students that are more sensitive to environmental problems, with an active voice for sustainability and good agricultural practices in favour of biodiversity. The project called out the attention of the entire educational community and the general population, especially towards the different products that could be produced with the obtained paper / carton.



Banana paper applications

- 2017 – International Year for Sustainable Tourism - a Tool for Development

As in previous years, Santana – Madeira Biosphere Reserve, in the celebrations framework proposed by the United Nations, adopted the theme of the international year for sustainable tourism – a tool for development, as a way to promote its territory, its culture, its heritage. Within the activities and events organized by the Municipality of Santana or in partnership with other institutions and regional organizations, stand out:

“Festa dos Compadres”





Poster and picture parades and revelers feast of allegorical Compadres

Regional Folklore Festival named “24 Horas a Bailar”



Regional Folklore Festival and ethnographic shows



Santana's Gastronomy Exhibit



Poster and views of Santana's Gastronomy exhibit



World's Tourism Day celebration



Poster and photo of ethnographic shows





- Photography Competition

As part of the 20th Anniversary celebrations of Rocha do Navio Nature Reserve, one of the two core areas of the biosphere reserve, the 5th edition of the photography competition, which theme was precisely that ephemeris. This year, and with a record number in terms of participation, the competition had 43 participants, with a total of 294 submitted photographs.



Poster and photo contest winners and participants

- Rocha do Navio Nature Reserve 20th anniversary celebrations

The Biosphere Reserve celebrated the 20th anniversary of Rocha do Navio Nature Reserve, one of its two core areas, with a series of activities, from which stand out a photography contest, in a partnership with Delta Cafés, which resulted in a limited edition of sugar packets prints celebrating Rocha do Navio anniversary and the painting of a mural next to Rocha do Navio cable car, by the polish artist Olga Drak. A promotional video of Rocha do Navio was also produced.





- Participations

Santana – Madeira Biosphere Reserve was present in the 5th meeting of the National Committee MaB, held on the 28th of November, at ICNF headquarters located in Lisbon, with official representation by city council Márcio Dinarte Fernandes.



Portuguese MaB Committee



Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas

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Lisbon, April 2018