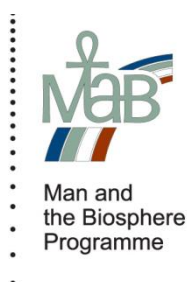
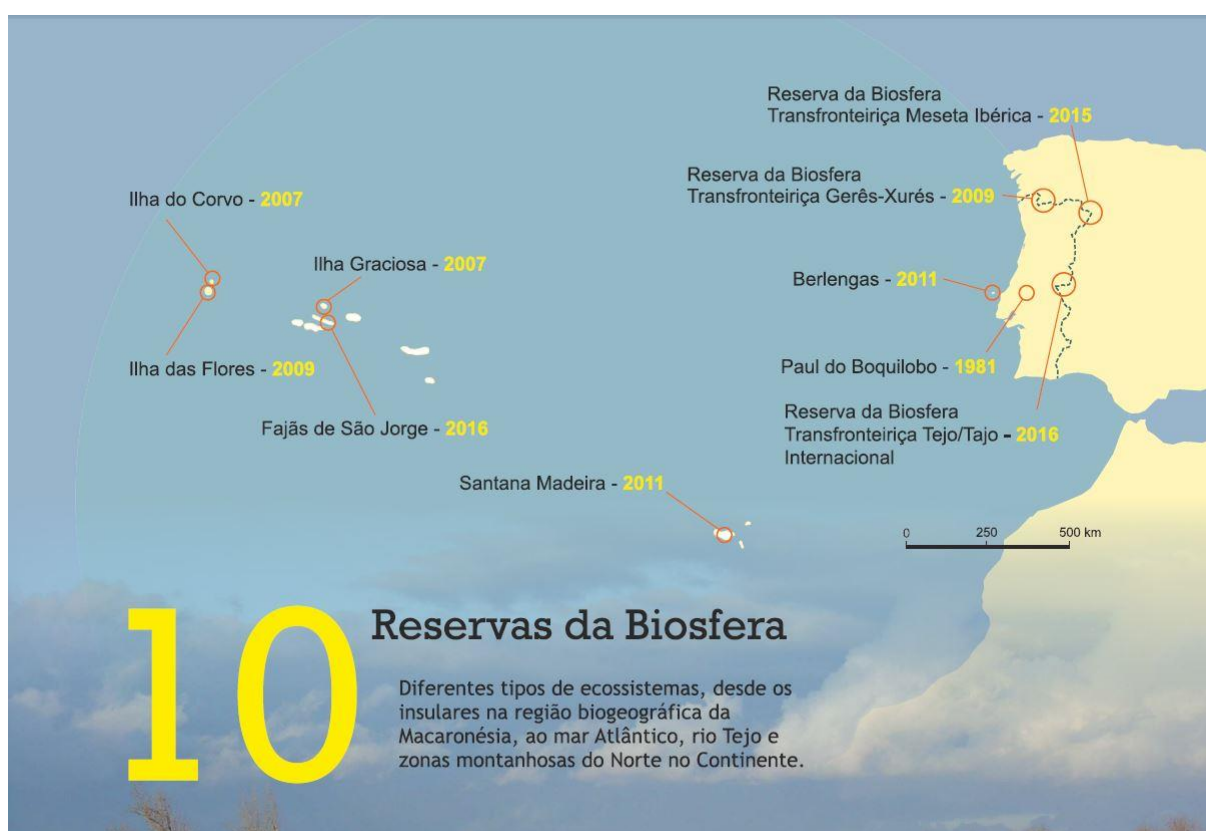


Man and the Biosphere (MaB) Programme, UNESCO

Portugal

National Report 2017



National Committee of the UNESCO MAB Programme

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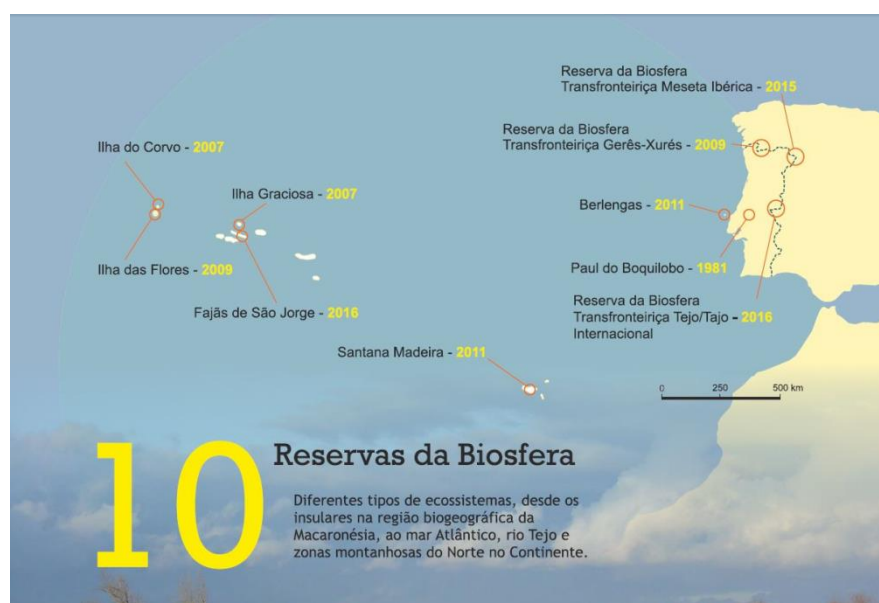
1. Portugal and the UNESCO MaB Programme

Portugal is associated with the Man & Biosphere Programme (MaB) since late 1981, and currently contributes with 10 biosphere reserves (BR) to the total World Network of 669, 3 of which are transboundary: Gerês-Xurês, Meseta Ibérica and Tejo/Tajo Internacional. The latter are part of the 16 transboundary biosphere reserves (TBR) present in the 120 countries of the MaB Programme.

We consider that 10 biosphere reserves is a significant number for a country with the geographic size of Portugal and is a good indicator of the recognition of the gains related to the classification of an area where the conservation of nature and cultural heritage are encouraged, along with a sustainable development and all functions related to knowledge, training and dissemination of information.

Portuguese biosphere reserves cover different types of ecosystems, from the islands in the regions of Macaronesia and the Atlantic sea, to the wetlands of Tejo and mountainous areas and valleys in the Northern part of the continental country.

We present below a map of the territories with this UNESCO designation and some figures associated with the characterization of the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves (map 1, table 1).



National Biosphere Reserves map

	Designation year	Total area (ha)	Land area (ha)	Marine area (ha)	Population	Portugal (ha)	Spain (ha)	Zoning (%)
Boquilobo	1981	5896			8400			Core – 13,8% Buffer- 17,50% Transition-68,7%
Corvo	2007	25.853	1.713	24.140	430			Core – 11,7% Buffer- 88% Transition-0,3%
Graciosa	2007	10.786	6.067	4.710	4391			Core - 5% Buffer- 18% Transition-77%
Flores	2009	57.644	14.112	43.532	3793			Core - 3% Buffer- 12% Transition-85%
Geres-Xurês (TBR)	2009	267.958			76.301 total 66.177 PT 10.124 SP	196.838 (76%)	62.819 (24%)	Core - 16% Buffer- 32% Transition-52%
Santana	2011	15.218	4.175	1.708	7.795			Core – 38,6% Buffer- 4,6% Transition-56,6%
Berlengas	2011	18.708	701	18.007	70*+27.752			Core - 0,10% Buffer- 4,6% Transition -95,3%
Meseta ibérica (TBR)	2015	1.132.606			169.745 total 133.940 PT 35.805 SP	657.365 (58%)	475.241 (42%)	Core - 9,29% Buffer- 56,36% Transition-34,35%
Tejo/Tajo Internacional (TBR)	2016	428.274				169.201 (39,5%)	259.073 (60,5%)	Core – 13,1% Buffer- 30,7% Transition -56,2%
Fajãs de São Jorge	2016	98.114	24.383	73.731	9.171			Core – 8,52% Buffer-30,7% Transition -56,2%

2. MaB National Committee

The first MaB National Commission was established in 1985 (Order n° 43/1985, october 7, signed by the Secretary of State for Environment). It was subject to many subsequent amendments, the last of which occurred in 2015 (Order n°. 9051/2015, 13th august, signed by the Ministers of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Economy and Environment).

This Order determined the constitution of a new National Commission now termed as "MaB National Committee", with a new composition and operating dynamics. The biosphere reserve managers became part of the Committee and the meetings were open to other entities and interlocutors, depending on the issues under discussion, as well as the promoters of new BR applications and UNESCO Chair in Biodiversity and Conservation for Sustainable Development, as observers/guests. Representatives of autonomous institutions (National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development), economic activities (Tourism of Portugal) and UNESCO National Commission are also full members of the MaB Committee.

In 2016, the Committee met twice and, among other things, decided that the meetings would take place in territory of the biosphere reserve, in chronological order of their designation. This situation, although having a harder logistics, allows all members of the Committee to get acknowledge the territory, thus promoting direct contact with local stakeholders and the discussion in loco of (un) successful cases. The second meeting of 2016 was held in the first Portuguese biosphere reserve, Paul do Boquilobo - whose membership in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves dates back to 1981 - already submitted to a periodic review, as well as change of boundaries, zoning and governance model.

The chairman of the Committee also takes part in the governing bodies and advisory Council of some biosphere reserves, such as the Steering Committee of the Gerês-Xurê Transboundary Biosphere Reserve or the Advisory Council of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve.

The Chairman of the Committee also represents the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF), the legal authority whom the Portuguese government attributed the presidency of the MaB Committee.

2016, was a very rich year in terms of activities.



MaB National Committee meeting - Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve - Nov 2016

3. IV International Congress of Biosphere Reserves, Lima, Peru (March 14-17)

Portugal was present at the IV International Congress of Biosphere Reserves, in Lima, Peru, with two representatives of the MaB National Committee and representatives of four biosphere reserves (Corvo, Flores, Fajãs de São Jorge and Meseta Ibérica). In addition to the active participation in the discussion of the themes on the agenda, with special emphasis on the Lima Plan of Action, and the obvious importance of this type of events to acquire knowledge and share experiences, it was relevant our role as co-organizers, together with Spain, of two workshops under the following themes:

- Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBR) and International Cooperation;
- Gender Equality and Sustainable Development.

In both events, where Portugal also assumed the chair and the role of rapporteur, there were oral communications by the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of Meseta Ibérica.

In the first event, the Executive Director of Meseta Ibérica made a brief outline of this TBR, presented the main fragilities, opportunities for improvement and future challenges of the territory. In the second one, the Chairman of this TBR presented the case of Celmira Macedo as an example of a woman who makes the difference, through the creation and promotion of the LEQUE Association. This Association, headquartered in Alfândega da Fé, is linked to the 3rd sector and its main objective is to improve the quality of life and the physical and emotional well-being of people with special needs, namely by associating their activities with tourism in a rural context.

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

As members of the IberoMaB Regional Network, which includes Portugal, Spain and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, we were active at the 17th meeting which took place on March 15, 2016, in Lima, Peru, where, among other matters, the new MaB Program Strategy and Lima Action Plan were discussed. Also in the context of this Network, we participated in a Seminar on Financing Sources (La Antigua, Guatemala, November 7-11).

We were also present at the working meeting of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in Islands and Coastal Zones, which took place in Lima, Peru, in March.

Flores, Corvo, Graciosa, S. Jorge and Santana Biosphere Reserves are members of the REDBIOS - Macaronesian and West Africa Biosphere Reserves Network, under which scope the Macaronesian Territorial Custody Network was created. Applications for cooperation projects under the scope of the PCT-MAC Cross-Border Cooperation Program were submitted, resulting in the approval of a project involving the 4 BR of the Azores and La Palma Biosphere Reserve, in Canary Islands, Spain.

The Gerês-Xurê Transboundary Biosphere Reserve joined the Mediterranean BR Network (MedBRN), which already included Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve and the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve. The latter produced an informative brochure together with the Secretariat of the Network.

We made contacts with Portuguese speaking countries (Brazil, Príncipe Island, Angola and Mozambique) and all recognize the need to organize a meeting of the Community

of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) on biosphere reserves, for training and sharing of experiences.

Also in the contacts established with Spain, through the representatives of several biosphere reserves, it was expressed the importance of promoting a meeting on Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (Portugal currently have 3 of the 16 integrated in the World Network) and another one on Iberian Peninsula biosphere reserves.

We must highlight the excellent relationship and cooperation with the Spanish MaB Committee, which has enabled training actions, participation in meetings and joint projects applying to European Union financial funds.

5. Two new Biosphere Reserves - Fajãs de São Jorge and Tejo/Tajo international (TBR)

The Biosphere Reserve of Fajãs de São Jorge, in the Azores archipelago, and the TBR Tejo/Tajo International, on the mainland, were included into the World Network of Biosphere Reserves at the 28th session of the International Coordination Council (ICC) on March 19, 2017, in Lima, Peru.

Fajãs de São Jorge

The MAB Council welcomed this proposed biosphere reserve that integrates the entire Island of São Jorge, which is situated in the Azores archipelago, stretches about 55 km in length, has a maximum width of 7 km (between Fajãs das Pontas and Portinho da Calheta), and covers an area of 243.8 km² and close to 140 km of coastline. It is the 4th largest island in the archipelago, and its highest elevation is Pico da Esperança at 1,053 m.

The combination of high altitude and coastal ecosystems has resulted in a wealth of endemic terrestrial flora, of which 60 species are native to São Jorge. These ecosystems provide an excellent habitat for a diversity of invertebrate, terrestrial arthropod, mollusc and bird species.

With 9,171 inhabitants in 2011, the island of São Jorge represented only 3.7% of the Azorean population. The Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve aims to make a

contribution towards improving the quality of life and economic development in the local community, based on the conservation of the island's biodiversity, landscape, and cultural and historical identity.

The biosphere reserve designation would bolster the efforts and commitment of government bodies and the local population to conserve species and ecosystems, and promote a model of development that both preserves these natural values and uses them to create new opportunities for investment and job creation, thereby encouraging people to remain in the region, especially youth and those who possess qualifications.

This biosphere reserve would thus serve as a platform for development and public participation, promoting environmental training and information among economic agents and the general community. This would be supported by the knowledge created by research activities and by national and international cooperation with other biosphere reserves, with whom Fajãs de São Jorge would work to explore new models for sustainable development and to find solutions to common problems.

The Regional Directorate for the Environment of the Azores, the promoters and the managers of this new BR, already has the experience in the implementation of the MaB Programme with 3 biosphere Reserves in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves - Corvo Island and Graciosa Island (2007) and Flores Island (2009).

Tejo/Tajo International Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

The MAB Council welcomed this new proposal for a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve submitted by the Portuguese and Spanish authorities. This TBR covers a total area of 428,176 ha (Core area: 55,927 ha; Buffer zone: 131,413 ha; Transition area: 240,835 ha). It is located in the western region of the Iberian Peninsula shared between Spain and Portugal, and its main axis is the Tajo River.

The area is characterized by low altitude and sharp relief. The vegetation consists largely of sclerophyllous and cork oak formations and abundant patches of scrub, as well as cultivated areas, extensive pastures and open stand formations. Among the most significant plant taxa are different species of orchids. The principal occupations of the territory are livestock and forestry, with sheep, cattle and pigs forming the

basis of the local economy, along with other traditional farms such as cork extraction, honey collection and the cultivation of cereals.

The fauna is typically Mediterranean and includes a large number of threatened or endangered taxa, some of which are endemic to the peninsula. Among the most important species are the European imperial eagle, Bonelli's eagle, the black stork, the black vulture, the Egyptian vulture, the lesser kestrel, the great bustard, the little bustard, the otter, the green lizard, along with the extensive fauna of the Mediterranean rivers.

The population is small and concentrated in small and medium areas, which are markedly rural in composition. The overall population is aging with a depopulation trend observed over recent decades, especially on the Spanish side. This demographic weakness is one of the main challenges facing the region.

This new TBR is symptomatic of the strong level of collaboration and joint work between Spain and Portugal, and will further broaden and deepen the process of cross-border territorial cooperation between the two countries, in line with the objectives, guidelines and recommendations of the MaB Programme.

6. Follow-up to MAB COUNCIL recommendations to Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve

It was an extremely important issue for Portugal, in the context of the agenda of the 28th session of the ICC, the decision on the adaptation of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve to new concepts and challenges of the MaB Programme, in response to the Recommendations issued at the 26th session of the ICC (2014).

We had good news. The MAB Council welcomed the follow-up information provided by the Portuguese authorities with regard to its recommendations of 2014.

The MAB Council noted that the requested map with appropriate zonation has been submitted. The management of the biosphere is being undertaken by 2 entities: the Executive MAB Council (the most important body) constituted by representatives of the communities, NGOs and the government; and the Monitoring Committee, consisting of several local agents, as well as agents from areas concerned with the

environment and nature conservation, economic activities, public administration institutions and different scientific fields (no limit of participants).

The MAB Council also noted that the biosphere reserve has developed a well-defined participation plan for the local communities. The plan incorporates a variety of financial resources to implement the proposed projects and activities.

Taking into account these submissions, the MAB Council concluded that this site meets the criteria of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

We highlighted this process as a pioneer, by the transformation of a 1st generation biosphere reserve, the first Portuguese BR to join the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, in 1981, into a modern, dynamic and participative management model.

7. Presentation of a new Biosphere Reserve application - Castro Verde

Until August 2016, the MaB National Committee evaluated, reviewed and proposed improvements to the application for the Biosphere Reserve of Castro Verde, submitted to the MaB Program Secretariat, in Paris, in September 2016.

This was an initiative of the Municipality of Castro Verde, with a non-governmental organization - Liga para a Proteção da Natureza (LPN) and the Farmers Association of Campo Branco, which, for this purpose, celebrated a collaboration agreement and formed a management body.

The remarkable natural heritage of Castro Verde, in Alentejo, is widely recognized as well as its importance as a vital stopping point for many migratory birds, especially those migrating between northern Europe and the African continent.

In addition to those values, there is still the singularity of the peneplain landscape, created by a vast open plain dominated by the cultivation of dryland cereals, the cultural heritage (such as “cante alentejano” and the Mediterranean diet both classified as World Heritage by UNESCO), and the increasing value of local services products.

The application was fully consistent with the objectives, guidelines and recommendations of the MaB Programme and was submitted to the Secretariat of the MaB Programme, in Paris. We wait for the final decision at the 29th session of ICC, which will take place in Paris, at UNESCO headquarters, from 11th to 15th of June.

8. Proposal for a New Biosphere Reserve

The MaB Committee has provided technical support in the process of preparing a new application for the Biosphere Reserve of Arrábida, through the participation in meetings and information sessions. This new Portuguese application is intended to take place in 2018.

9. Establishment of the National Biosphere Reserves Network



The National Biosphere Reserves Network was established on September 2, 2016, in a public event with great media diffusion, in Biosphere Reserve of Berlengas (in the framework of the 35th Anniversary of the Berlengas Nature Reserve).

The event was attended by the Prime Minister, António Costa, the Minister of Defense, Azeredo Lopes, the Minister of Environment, João Pedro Matos Fernandes, the President of UNESCO National Commission, the mayors of all the territories designated as biosphere reserves, the MaB National Committee president, the managers of the 10 biosphere reserves as well as other personalities.

This National Network is an initiative of the UNESCO National Commission, and its work is coordinated by a Commission consisting of 2 biosphere reserves and the UNESCO National Commission. They are responsible for ensuring the functioning of the network and conducting its meetings.

The purpose of this National Network is to promote the approach between Portuguese biosphere reserves, the exchange of knowledge, the joint participation in projects and initiatives for the promotion and dissemination of information on the territories, thus collaborating in the diffusion of the concept of biosphere reserve in Portugal and in the World.

This event was widely publicized in local and national media (newspapers, television and radio) as well as news and posts on social networks.



10. Search for financing

A proposal for an application to EEA Grants (EFTA Fund) was drafted, named “Biosphere.Reserves@UNESCO: Creating value with natural heritage”, worth 3.5 million euros, and with the following specific objectives:

- 1- Perform research on natural values and harmonize monitoring methods (Knowledge);

- 2 - Identify sound sustainable development practices focusing on a multi-stakeholder approach, local capacity building, map concurring ecosystem services, and draw up action plans with the involvement of local communities (Development);
- 3 - Create and promote a common image for the UNESCO National Network of the Biosphere Reserves (Promotion);
- 4 - Share skills and strategies within and beyond national borders (Cooperation);
- 5 - Biosphere Blitz

11. Lima Action Plan

The Lima Action Plan was presented and discussed among biosphere reserves managers in the 2nd MaB National Committee meeting.

It is envisaged that the objectives and actions of Lima Action Plan is naturally incorporated in the management procedures of all Portuguese biosphere reserves, and in that sense, this report may show this approach and may function as part of the monitoring process based on the Lima Action Plan indicators.

We are now developing a specific system for reporting the implementation of Lima Action Plan.

12. Communication and information dissemination on Biosphere Reserves

Despite the actions taken in each biosphere reserve, which are described in section 13 of this report, and several more technical meetings, we identify below some relevant initiatives promoted by the MaB National Committee to disseminate and clarify the meaning of the Program MaB to different political sectors.

- Meeting with the Portuguese Tourism Institute to evaluate the importance of the "Biosphere Reserve" brand and the opportunity for its national and international dissemination, since the climate, the diversity of the landscape, the cultural resources and the biodiversity, are valuable resources as destinations for the practice of certain sustainable tourism activities. These designated territories enable the revitalization of traditional economic activities, the valorization of national, regional and local cultural specificities and the creation of employment

opportunities, contributing to the inversion of the phenomenon of desertification (March).

- Visit of the deputies of the Portuguese Parliament to the Biosphere Reserve of Paul do Boquilobo and to the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Tejo/Tajo International, respectively the newest and the oldest Portuguese biosphere reserve, in order to get acquainted with the territory and its potential for social and economic development (4th and 5th of April).
- Meeting with the coordinator of the “Task force for depressed areas development” to demonstrate the potential of biosphere reserves as tools for local development of low population density regions (20 April). This Task force produced a strategic document entitled “National Program for Territorial Cohesion”, approved by the Council of Ministers (RCM nº 76/2016) where biosphere reserves are mentioned in relation with the territory's sustainability, through the initiative called “Development of actions to promote and use biosphere reserves and geoparks. Favoring network dynamics for the valorization and internationalization of the territories recognized by UNESCO”.
- Hearing with the Minister of the Environment, aiming to raise awareness and draw the attention of the media to these territories, through his presence in a visit to the 10 Portuguese biosphere reserves and to obtain financial support for the preparation of materials for the promotion and dissemination of the National Biosphere Reserves Network (July 6).
- Technical meeting with the MaB National Committee and the UNESCO Chair of the University of Coimbra to list possible cooperation themes to be developed at the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves Network (November, Golegã).

13. Initiatives developed by the 10 Biosphere Reserves

We present below the report of the more relevant activities developed during the year 2016 by each of the Portuguese biosphere reserves.

A. Mainland



BIOSFERA
PAUL DO BOQUILOBO

A.1 - Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve (1981)

Managed by ONGATEJO, Golegã Municipality and Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF, IP).

After The year of 2016 was a landmark for the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve (PBBR).

After developed a set of activities to adapt the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve to the Seville strategy, namely the decentralization of management, the definition of a new zoning and the inclusion of people and economic activities in the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve, in 2016 the International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) has accepted this new model, on 03/19/2016 in Lima.

This decision of the ICC has reinforced and allowed the development of a set of activities throughout the year, where we highlight the following:

Management Activities

During the year of 2016 a series of periodic meetings were held between the management body and the Extended Consultative Council to discuss and implement the new strategy for the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve.

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

Community funds applications were identified and promoted for the investments required for Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve development strategy.

Under this new strategy, the Logo and the Brand for the biosphere Reserve were registered and approved.

Applications for Financing Projects

In order to develop and promote the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve in 2016 a set of applications were presented for funding of the necessary investments, in which we highlight:

1. Within the scope of the Alentejo Regional Operational Program (Alentejo 2020), the Municipality of Golegã presented two applications in the area of Cultural and Natural Heritage: The Maintenance of the Photographic Studio of Carlos Relvas, valued at € 740,000.00 and the Rehabilitation, Requalification and Conservation of the Paul do Boquilobo Natural Reserve/Biosphere, worth € 220,000.00, which aims to create new trails and improve existing ones, set up new bird observation structures, improve habitat, the implementation of new signage allusive to the Reserve and its new limits and the production of environmental awareness materials.
2. The rehabilitation of the Alverca Lagoon banks (Golegã) through an application submitted to the Urban Regeneration Plan of Action (URPA) developed by the Municipality of Golegã. The investment includes the requalification of the existing Equuspolis Urban Park, the creation of a floating bridge that will cross the lagoon, a picnic area, a playground and physical maintenance equipment.
3. The General Directorate for Heritage Culture (DGPC), in partnership with the Municipality of Torres Novas, visited Vila Cardílio in August to evaluate the state of conservation of the mosaics. A topographic and photographic survey was carried out, which will serve as the basis for valuation project for those Roman ruins.



Investments

A set of investments were made by our partners to revitalize and beautify several spaces of observation, conservation and recreation, of which we highlight:

1. Works of conservation on trails and signage of the Paul do Boquilobo Nature Reserve, by the ICNF;
2. The requalification of the Almonda river banks was inaugurated on April 30. In an afternoon filled with various cultural moments, offered by the associations and artists of our region, the high adherence of the community stands out, which in this way manifested its pleasure for the inauguration of a work that had long been ambitious;



3. Several materials were developed to promote the biosphere reserve, the region and the potential of the territory. This included leaflets, promotion in magazines, articles of opinion and presence in fairs and other events;
4. A mobile app were developed to support the visitors.



Conservation Activities

In 2016, a series of nature conservation activities were carried out in the PBBR, of which we highlight the following:

1. The maintenance of the constant-force banding station under EURING;
2. Continuation of the conservation actions of the *Narcissus fernandesii* with the objective of maintaining the current nucleus and establishing another one in the lands that belong to the state;
3. The recovery of the water lily areas continues (*Nynphae alba*) with the implantation of two different populations;
4. The certification of the ash populations (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) integrated into a national plan for the maintenance of healthy populations for the collection of seeds and control of potential forest pests;
5. Regular bird censuses with emphasis on waterfowl and colonial species;
6. Implementation of a monitoring program for fish species in the reserve with the collaboration of trainees from the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar;
7. Mapping of weed species areas which are important from the point of view of conservation;
8. Water and climate monitoring in the PBBR

Development and Sustainability Activities

The development and sustainability activities that occur on the PBBR during 2016 were the following:

- The promotion of the biosphere reserve within national institutional entities;
- Adhesion to 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 Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve.



Communication and Disclosure Activities

The main activities carried out in connection with the communication and disclosure of the RBPB to third parties were essentially related to:

- Development and online publication of the site www.pauldoboquilobo.pt
- Publication of news, events and photos of the biosphere reserve in the Facebook;
- Promotion of Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve within the RB Mediterranean Network;
- Online edition of a periodical newsletter of the biosphere reserve news and events;
- Photographic survey of places of interest of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve;
- Promotion of cultural animation activities in the region;
- Representation in fairs and exhibitions

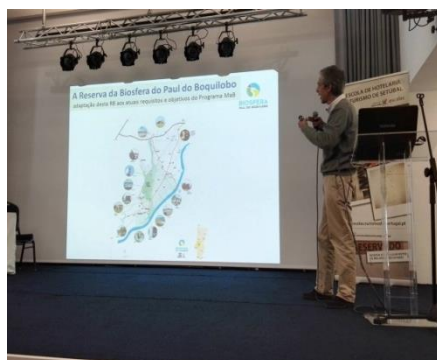


In the communication and disclosure activities we must highlight:

1. Within the framework of the 1st 2020 Portuguese Route for Agriculture, with the presence of the President of the Republic and Minister of Environment, organized by the Portuguese Farmers Confederation (CAP) and supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation, on the theme "Sustainable Intensification and Efficiency in the Use of Resources in Portuguese Agriculture ", the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve presented his experience of managing areas classified by UNESCO where agriculture and biodiversity have a common project.



2. The Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve was presented at the meeting "Application of the Arrábida to the MaB UNESCO Programme", where the application of the Arrábida was publicly presented to the community.



3. The visit of the Committee on Environment, Spatial Planning, Decentralization, Local Power and Housing of the Portugal Assembly of the Republic to the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve, during the visit to the Tagus River.
4. The day was also marked by the signing between the Municipality of Golegã and the Institute for Conservation of Nature and Forestry (ICNF).of the Collaboration Agreement for the Local Platform for Operation and Management of the Natural Reserve of Paul do Boquilobo for the implementation of the Natural.PT brand.



Awareness Activities

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

- Raising awareness among farmers to a set of measures they must take towards environmental sustainability such as the Agro-environment measures, the rules of phytopharmaceuticals applications, licensing rules and good agricultural practices;
- The Paul do Boquilobo Nature Reserve Anniversary with the visit to the existing trails, the recreation of traditional agricultural practices and cultural lecture;



- Actions to raise awareness of the Almonda River water quality.

Participation in Research / Development / Inventory Projects

During 2016 the PBBR participated in a series of projects with other entities in the areas of nature conservation, agriculture, tourism, social solidarity and spatial planning. The objective of this participation was the development and sustainability of the entire biosphere reserve.

PAUL DO BOQUILOBO BIOSPHERE NEWSLETTER AND FACEBOOK



UNESCO aprova adaptação da Reserva da Biosfera do Paul do Boquilobo e mantém a sua integração na Rede Mundial do Programa MaB

A UNESCO, através do Conselho de Coordenação Internacional do Programa MaB, reunido no dia 19 de Março em Lima, no Perú, decidiu favoravelmente as adaptações propostas pelo órgão de gestão da Reserva da Biosfera do Paul do Boquilobo.



A.2. -Berlengas Biosphere Reserve (2011)



During 2016, the Biosphere Reserve of Berlengas/Peniche (BRB) had promoted or supported several activities to achieve a balance between conservation activities with sustainable development.

A special attention was given in 2016 to the tourist experience on the BRB. For that, it was defined and promoted a training program for tourism operators that develop its activity on the Berlenga island.

The BRB activities are supported by several national institutions and coordinated by the working-group composed by ICNF, Municipality of Peniche and School of Tourism and Maritime Technology - Polytechnic Institute of Leiria .

Since 2015, it was defined 3 strategic axis for BRB, namely: (1) Monitoring, research and education; (2) Ecosystems conservation and (3) Cultural, economic and social development. At Table 1 are listed the main activities developed or concluded during 2016 with a brief explanation and indication of the partner institution.

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 2016	ESTM-IPLeiria, Municipality of Peniche and Forum Estudante
1b	Visitors monitoring Assessment of the visitors number to berlenga island during summer season	Jul-Sept 2016	LIFE Project
1c	Volunteer program for young people Di	Started on 2014	ESTM, ICNF and Municipality of Peniche
1d	Training program for Tourism operators Promotion of a free training program in order to increase the quality of the RBB tourism experience	Started on Nov 2016	ESTM, ICNF, CMP
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 Erradication 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 population on the berlenga island by egg destruction.		ICNF, SPEA
2c	Do Mar ao prato A reference book, that complies gastronomy receipts thourg an innovative approach – biology, scientific illustration and gastronomy (modern and traditional). RBB support this first edition	Public presentation – Sept 2016	ESTM
3 - Cultural, economic and social development			
3a	Implementation of a Co-management Comitte for Pollicipes pollicipes artisanal harvesting R&D project proposal submmited for European funding	Submitted	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



1a - Semana Tanto Mar



1a - Semana Tanto Mar



1c - Visitors profile and motivation



1d - Jornadas do conhecimento



1e - Berlengas watch



1f - Marineye



2a - LIFE Project



2b - Seagull population control



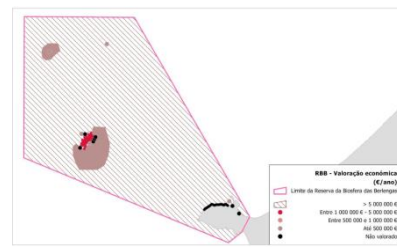
2c - Do Mar ao Prato



3a - Peniche seabirdcount



3b - Marketing plan for Maritime-tourism activities

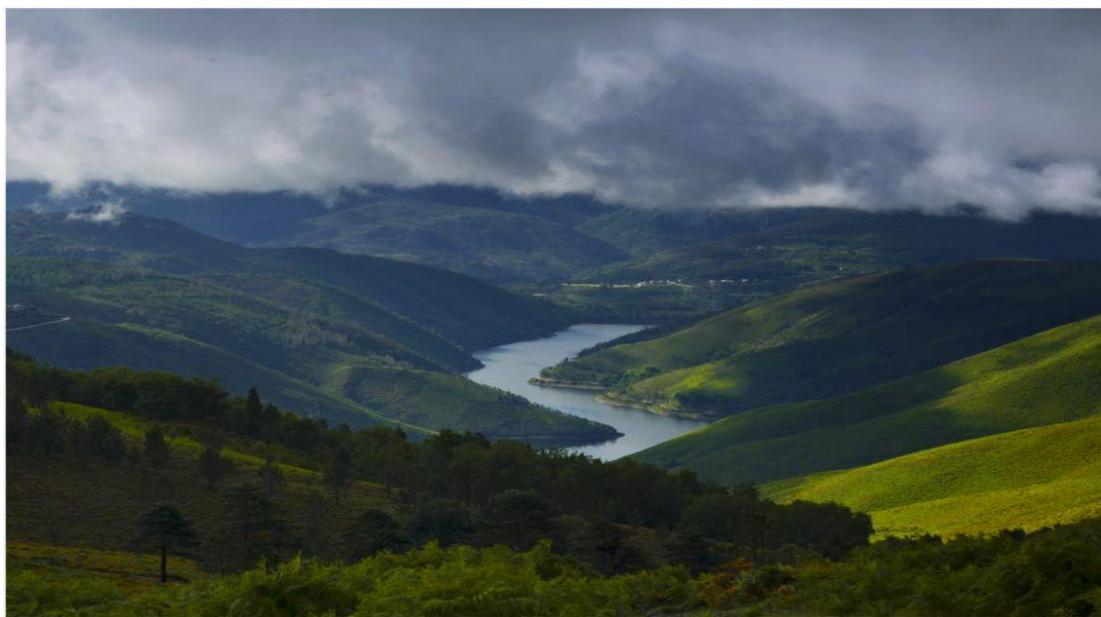


3c - Ecosystems valoration

A.3 - Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (2009)



Managed, in Portugal, by the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF, IP).



Various activities were held during 2016 in the context of the Action Plan of the Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of (TBRGX).

These activities are hereby presented in accordance with each of the main functions of the biosphere Reserve:

Landscape, ecosystems and species conservation:

Following the submission of applications of common-lands to non-productive investments (INPS) within ITI/PRODER (UE Funds from Rural Development Program) resulted in the actions of heritage recovery and densification of forest areas with native species;

These interventions have helped to protect many areas from forestry fires, with a decrease of its occurrences in many of the involved areas and also the recovery of vast areas of pasture. Shepherd themselves have recognized the benefits of trenching the bushes to the improvement of grassland instead of the fire;

Also the forest areas already experience the recovery of native forest mostly oak and holly groves.



Enhancing knowledge in the area:

In partnership with the University of Aveiro, the census of the population of Mountain goats of the TBRGX was made. This action is part of a monitoring program in place since 2011, whereby routes in their area of distribution were traversed and fixed observation points were defined to count individuals and subsequently calculate population parameters;

The update of existing data on wildlife is still occurring in the Database on Fauna of TBRGX;



Monitoring of losses attributed to wolf continued through inspections made to sites where attacks happened;

The census of the wolf packs in the TBRGX and its surroundings were also carried out;

To enhance wolf conservation practices and mechanisms that promote the minimization of losses caused by the wolf were also developed, namely:

- meetings with shepherd and other groups with an interest in the matter;
- delivery of flock guard dogs by *Grupo Lobo* of Portugal to interested shepherd;
- cleaning of vegetation in areas where there are more attacks and improvement of pastures near the more affected villages, to prevent those attacks (ITI/Zonal support);

Planning, protection and restoration of flora

In order to protect the habitats of native forest, vegetation clean-up actions were performed, resorting to bush trenching, planting and replacement;

Regarding the conservation of native climax forest habitats of *Quercus robur*, (Habitat - 9230 "Galician-Portuguese oak woods of *Quercus robur* and *Quercus pyrenaica*") occurring in TBRGX, restrictions were implemented to the transit of motorized vehicles in Albergaria woods, the more significant habitat of this kind in Portugal. This conditioning took place, as usual, between 1st June and the 30th September;

Life project "TAXUS - Restore yew groves [9580 * Mediterranean *Taxus baccata* woods]" continued to be developed, with the aim of contributing to the conservation and regeneration of yew forests existing in TBRGX. This project is being promoted by Quercus - National Association for Nature Conservation, a national environmental non-governmental organization, with the close collaboration of ICNF;

Another important project is ongoing on the conservation of the population of TBRGX autochthonous scots pine (*Pinus silvestris*), which includes the genetic study of the population, production in nursery of plants from this population and subsequent planting to conserve this population. A large area of around 9000 trees was already planted in Gerês in 2016;

For the restoration of flora the collection of seeds of rare tree species for CENASEF reproduction and later planting in the TBRGX was also performed;

Social, cultural and environmental sustainable development:

On the 11th May the Executive Committee of the Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Biosphere Reserve had a new meeting in Gerês to do the follow-up of the Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Biosphere Reserve activities;

The main aim of the Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Biosphere Reserve for the following years is the implementation of the "Action Plan for Development and Territorial Cohesion of TBRGX 2015-2020", carried out by ICNF in partnership with the 5 Portuguese Municipalities integrated in it: Ponte da Barca, Arcos de Valdevez, Terras de Bouro, Melgaço and Montalegre and Natural Park Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurés in Galicia, Spain;

This Plan calls for the period 2015-2020, the strengthening of cooperation and joint work between the two border regions of TBRGX: 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 seeks for the preservation of nature and environment, enhancement of endogenous resources, the conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, the promotion of sustainable tourism and preservation of fauna and flora.

This Action Plan provides for the implementation of actions in the 4 strategic areas of action:

- Image and identity of the Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Biosphere Reserve;
- Socio-economic development;
- Nature conservation;
- Social participation and integration of the community and actors involved in the Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Biosphere Reserve;

A valorisation Plan was also developed in direct contact with other Portuguese authorities, in order to seek for the funds to put this action Plan in place. Some of its measures are already integrated in the INTERREG V-A application program.

On the 30th January 2016 in Gerês, Spain assumed the next 2 years of the Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Biosphere Reserves' Presidency.

Research, monitoring, dissemination and environmental education:

Under the project “Gerês-Xurés Value”, several materials were produced to help visitors and inhabitants to visit and know the area and the highlights of the TBRGX:

- A communication Plan for the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of Gerês-Xurés Gates;
- A promotional Video;
- A promotional advertisement;
- The modelling of the Transboundary map;
- The correction and modelling of the PNPG promotional brochure;
- The Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of Web page;



Other informative material:

- An exhibition about the Mountain goat;
- The edition of the Peneda-Gerês map;
- Several environmental education sessions and activities about the TBRGX natural and cultural values, biodiversity and sustainable tourism were held, namely in the context of initiatives such as the "Forest Day", the "Green Days", "Animal Day" and "Autochthonous Forest Day", sowing and planting of native species, with a total participation of 375 persons;



Profiting from the work that is done in the wild fauna recovering centre in Gerês several sessions releasing recovered birds (mainly birds of prey) were developed, namely in several kinder garden or 1st cycle schools of the Park; other similar sessions were also done in collaboration with the Environment Police (SEPNA/GNR), one with SIC television transmission;



Around 183 persons participated in volunteer activities towards planting oak forest trees and controlling invasive plant, mainly with volunteer programs in an area that had a forest fire in 2010 and where it is essential to control the invasive species in order to allow the natural regeneration;

In the information centres throughout the territory of TBRGX a total of 93840 visitors were recorded to visit these centres to collect information on the territory;

Various guided visits to the territory of TBRGX took place, mainly related to the observation and interpretation of natural heritage and also the cultural heritage, in a total of 352 participants;

The trails promoted by the TBRGX and several of others promoted by the municipalities and development associations of the territory were subject to remarking and cleaning;

Environmental Animation Enterprises, associations or informal groups developed 151 conditioned activities in the with TBRGX with a recorded number of 8426 participants;

In their everyday offer to the TBRGX visitors Environmental Animation Enterprises developed 657 activities in which 5340 persons participated. From their biannual reports we can say that the more frequent activities are *Cannoning* (403 activities with 3343 participants), trekking (109 activities with 864 participants), and arborism (89 activities with 833 participants).

Sustainable tourism promotion

In this context, it is noteworthy the participation of the European Space Agency as a partner in the European project "Sensa - Ecotourism - Sustainable, Environmental and Safe Tourism in Protected Areas", involving the preparation of digital information to help visitors and to put them in permanent contact with the local ICNF administration. A lot of work was done to prepare and perform the Test phases and a final version of this project and its final implementation is expected during the 2nd semester of 2017.



The Nature Sports Charter of Peneda-Gerês was prepared, with the respective regulation and cartography which establish the rules, places and activities that can be developed inside the TBRGX. It is an essential tool in the regulation of nature tourism and sports in this territory, which is being each year more and more visited.

A.4 - Meseta Iberica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (2015)

Managed by an European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation ZASNET, a European legal figure. Meseta Iberica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR) has an extension of 1.132.606ha, with 42% being Spanish territory, and 58% Portuguese territory. It should be noted that the population density is low, around 14 inhabitants/km². With 5 natural parks and several other spaces Natura 2000, this is a territory of heritage excellence, particularly with regards to natural and heritage values.

In this territory man is an integral part of the landscape and the ecosystem. It should be noted that in the territory of TBR Meseta Ibérica we also find a territory of high geological value, also with UNESCO seal, the Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros.

Regarding the cultural, material and immaterial heritage, it is very rich and diverse, difficult even to enumerate in few lines. Since the “Mirandesa” language to masks and winter festivals among other cultural manifestations perfectly rooted in the traditions that still remain and that have in their genesis the ray influence, passing also by the architectural and archaeological patrimony.

We can state with conviction that in the territory of the TBR Meseta Ibérica there is a whole natural and cultural heritage cross-border.

Over the last year the managing entity of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica, ZASNET EGTC, developed several activities, of which the following stand out:

- Presentation of TBR Meseta Ibérica in regional fairs and in international tourism fairs, to promote the territory and its products;
- Registration of the Meseta Ibérica, Transboundary Biosphere Reserve brand and the regulation for the use of this mark, already being used by companies in the territory. Work was also started for the international registration of the same and the regulation of use of the brand for the agro-food sector;



- Edition of tourist brochures of TBR Meseta Ibérica, in Portuguese, Spanish and English, distributed in several events and tourist offices;
- Participation in meetings of national networks, namely, Council of Managers of biosphere reserves of Spain and MaB Committee of Portugal;
- Support for the constitution of the National Biosphere Reserves Network of Portugal;
- Exchanges with biosphere reserves of several countries, namely Spain, Peru and Ecuador;
- Participation in actions promoted by the agents of the territory, namely in the Workshop "Climate Change Project ClimaAdaPT.Local", invigorated by the municipality of Bragança and in the project JAT - Near the Earth, promoted by EDP and the municipalities of the lower Sabor (river);
- Participation in the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Lima, Peru;
- Information, clarification and awareness sessions for municipalities (Town Councils), school communities and entrepreneurs;



- Lectures in various Congresses, Seminars and Conferences promoted inside and outside the territory, subordinated to various themes, namely on sustainable tourism, rural tourism and Smart Rural;

- Contest Recipes from the "Meseta Ibérica" from which resulted 2 menus with traditional recipes with a brushstroke of innovation, for editing a cookbook;



- Accreditation, by the Scientific-Pedagogical Council, of the training course “Environmental Educational Projects: Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica”, for teachers of the territory;
- Integration of the consortium of the project "Collaborative Laboratory: Mountains of Research".



www.biosfera-mesetaiberica.com

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

Twitter: RBT Meseta Ibérica@rmesetaiberica

A.5 -Tejo/Tajo Internacional Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (2016)

The Tejo/Tajo International Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBRTI), Managed (in Portugal) by ICNF, I.P - Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests, has a total area of 428 167 ha, of which 169 103 ha are in Portugal and 259 064 ha in Spanish territory. In Portugal, the municipalities of Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Ródão are part of the TBRTI.

Despite being a very recent biosphere reserve, during the year 2016, developed several activities, of which the following stand out:

1 - Dissemination and environmental education

1.1. - Awareness actions in schools

During the 2016/2017 school year, two thematic actions were carried out per class, in 9 classes belonging to schools inserted in the area of the TBRTI, with a total of 228 students involved.

In the first action it was introduced the biosphere reserve and its goals and in the second action the characterization of the main natural values of the TBRTI was carried out.

In the meantime, a billboard about the TBRTI is being drawn up, for each participating group, for dissemination, in strategic locations, of the different municipalities.



1.2 - Creating an E-mail Box

A specific e-mail box was created for the TBRTI (rbtt@icnf.pt), where the events held in all the territories (in Portugal and Spain) are published.

2 - Involvement of stakeholders

2.1 - Meeting with the Task Force on the Development of depressed areas

In April, a meeting was held with the coordinator of the Task Force for the Development of the Interior, where the MaB Program and biosphere reserves were presented as an instrument with strong potential for the promotion of sustainability processes in the innermost regions of the country, where there are already 2 Transboundary Biosphere Reserves - Meseta Ibérica and Tejo/Tajo International and manifested the availability for any support in the elaboration of the final document.

2.2 - Visit of the deputies of the Portuguese Parliament



Important visit of the Parliamentary Commission for Environment and Spatial Planning to the region of the river basin of the river Tagus, in May, where it was possible to present the objectives of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of Tejo/Tajo Internacional.

2.3 - 1st TBRTI Meeting

On July 18, the 1st TBRTI meeting was held in Castelo Branco, in which the MaB National Committee, ICNF, the municipalities and the Junta de Extremadura (Spain) were present. In this meeting, among other issues, the TBRTI and the expected management model were discussed.

3 - Events

3.1 - ULTRAMARATHON

On August 19 and 20 ULTRAMARATHON pass through TBRTI area. This event began in the county of Belmonte and ended in Proença-a-Nova and had the participation of several dozen national and international athletes.



3.2 - Feast of the shepherds

On 20 August in Lentiscais, in the municipality of Castelo Branco, the traditional Pastoral Feast took place, which was attended by several dozen sheep breeders and gathered several hundred animals.



B. AZORES ARCHIPELAGO

The Azores Biosphere Reserves brand



B.1. Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve (2007)

Hereby we list the activities carried out by the Graciosa Environment Service (GES)/ Natural Park of Graciosa (NPG), in 2016, fitting in the object of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve (GIBR) and discriminated by the three functions that it must ensure:

1. Conservation function

1.1 Implementation of PRECEFIAS - Regional Plan for the Eradication and Control of Invasive Plant Species in Sensitive Areas.



1.2 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).



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



1.4 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 Tolpi.

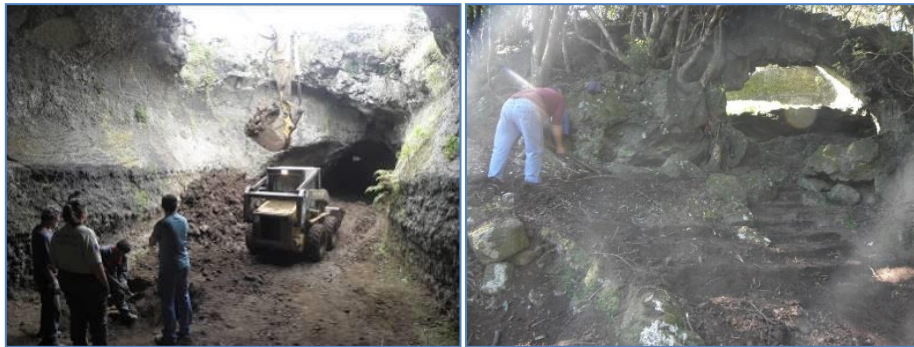


1.5 Collaboration in the AzorLit research project, coordinated by the Institute of the Sea (IMAR), which has as partners the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Azores Sea Observatory (OMA) and the Regional Directorate for Maritime Affairs (DRAM), which aims to monitor marine litter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



1.6 Presentation at the seminar 'Good Practices in Ornithological Tourism', held on April 15 and 16 at the Auditorium of the DOP /University of the Azores, Horta, of a communication entitled "Case study - A visitation code for scientific and environmental education in the Ilhéu da Praia".

1.7 Cleaning of several Graciosa volcanic cavities present in the Catalog of the Azores Volcanic Cavities, namely Furna do Abel and Furna da Maria Encantada.



2. Development function

2.1 Carried out the survey of the rilheiras/rows in the scope of the "Inventory and Protection of the Azores Rilheiras" according to Draft Resolution No. 114/X of the Regional Legislative Assembly of the Azores.



2.2 Support in the promotion and attribution in the island of Graciosa of the Miosotis Azores Prize which aims to promote sustainable tourism and reward good environmental practices in Azores tourist developments.



2.3 Management and maintenance of the Furna do Enxofre Visitor's Center.



2.4 Support to the Information and Surveillance Center of the Azores/Vulcanology Center Geological Risk Assessment (CIVISA/CVARG), in the maintenance of the "System of monitoring, alert and alarm for the safety of visitors of Furna do Enxofre, Graciosa.



2.5 Collection of information / inquiries on Agricultural Residues with a view to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Management of Waste in the Azores (PEPGRA).

2.6 Elaboration of the "Record of occurrences in rivers", referring to Graciosa water lines, as a contribution to the elaboration of "RERA - State Report of the watercourses of Azores, 2016".

3. Logistic support function

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



Ilhéu da Praia, 2015.01.26



Ilhéu de Baixo, 2015.06.17

3.2 Various activities in partnership with the Azores Geopark Association, such as the World Earth Day, European Week of Geoparks or Geosites Monitoring.



3.3 On September 8 and 9, 2016, the workshop organized by the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA) in Graciosa was held at Graciosa on the theme "Painho-monteiro: The next step for the definition of the Plan of Action", in the framework of the Life EuroSAP project that brings together 10 European countries around the preservation of 16 species



3.4 Celebration of the International Day of Biosphere Reserves (November 3) with the publication of a traveling exhibition on the classification of GIBR, which was patent from 3 to 17 at the Agrarian Development Service and from November 20 to 30 at the Health Unit of the Island. On that same day, the documentary "Graciosa Island, Biosphere Reserve" was also exhibited at the Social and Parish Center of Nossa Senhora da Luz.



3.5 Promotion and implementation of numerous actions of environmental education and sensitization, programs of which we highlight Open-Park and School-Park, the Eco-Schools program, the Campaign SOS Cory's shearwater, the Azores program Entre-Mares, the contest ECO Parish: Clean parish, the Azores Waste Week, More Endemic's; Partners for Sustainability; Miosotis; Blue Flag, Accessible Beach Flag and commemorative dates



Eco-Schools program



Azores program Entre-Mares 2016



Campaign SOS Cory's shearwater 2016



International Day of Forests 2016



Cleaning the coastline



World Ocean Day



European Day of Natural Parks

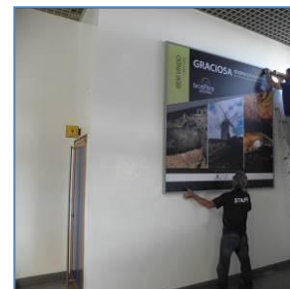
4. Management Activities

4.1 Elaboration in January of the annual report of the activities carried out by the GES in 2015 in the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve, as a contribution to the elaboration of the annual report of the activities developed in the national biosphere reserves, to be submitted to UNESCO.

4.2 Installation of two panels announcing "Welcome to the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve", namely at Graciosa aerodrome and Graciosa commercial port.



4.3 Installation in the landing room of Graciosa aerodrome a panel of "Welcome to the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve".



4.4 On May 12, the 8th regular meeting of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve Management Council was held at the headquarters of the GES/NPG.

4.5 On June 2 the chairman of the Management Council of Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve participated in the 2st meeting of the MAB Committee, held in ICNF headquarters in Lisbon.

4.6 In July, GIBR sent the new version of the technical file on GIBR for publication in the "World Network of Biosphere Reserves for Islands and Coastal Areas".

4.7 In August it was sent the opinion of GIBR was sent regarding the application of Castro Verde to MaB Programme, promoted by Liga para a Proteção da Natureza (NGO), Castro Verde Town Hall and the Monte Branco Farmers' Association.



4.8 On September 2, the GIBR manager was present at the signing of the "Agreement for the Creation of the National Biosphere Reserves Network of UNESCO", chaired by the Prime Minister, António Costa, which took place on the Island of Berlenga in the framework of the Ceremony Commemorative of the 35th Anniversary of the Berlengas Nature Reserve.



4.9 On June 2 the GIBR manager participated in the 3st meeting of the MAB Committee, which was held in the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve - Golegã.



4.10 On December 13, the 9th regular meeting of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve Management Council was held at the headquarters of the GES/NPG.

B.2. Corvo Island Biosphere Reserve (2007)

Hereby it is a list the activities developed by the Environment Service/Corvo Natural Park, related to the mentioned period and included within the scope of the Biosphere Reserve of Corvo Island (BRCI) and described by the three functions that it must ensure:

1. Conservation Function

1.1. Implementation of PRECEFIAS - Regional Plan for Eradication and Control of Invasive Plant Species in Sensitive Areas.



1.2 Execution of several Census of Birds (Census of Bats, Census of the Wood Pigeon (Project AZORPI), Terns census. Collaboration with SPEA (Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds) in the accomplishment of the Census of Common Birds (CAC), Census of Coastal Winter Birds and the Nesting Birds Atlas of Portugal.

1.3. The biosphere reserve in collaboration with SPEA, monitors and plants the Caldeirão Protected Area, in order to propagate *Myosotis azorica*. This 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, coordinated by the Botanical Garden of Faial.

1.4. One of the priorities is to promote the constant afforestation and reforestation of different areas, effecting the reintroduction of native flora, both in and outside protected areas. This action aims to promote and preserve the island's biodiversity.



1.5. 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 the bathing area of Corvo Island, under the Action Plan for Marine Litter in the Azores (PALMA).



1.6. Throughout 2016 BRCI carried out cleaning and waste collection works in different places along the coast, paying particular attention to the shortcut of the "Poço-da-faca", which is part of the "Indian face" pedestrian route.



2. Development function

2.1. Carrying out the survey of the rows in the scope of the "Inventory and Protection of the Azores Rilheiras" in accordance with Draft Resolution 114 / X of the Regional Legislative Assembly of the Azores.

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



2.3. Support to the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA) - within the framework of the LIFE Post-Project Action Plan "Sanctuary Islands for Seabirds", which gives continuity to the commitments of the LIFE Project Sanctuary Islands for Seabirds (LIFE07 NAT / P / 000649) - in the execution of the actions necessary for the maintenance of the structures implemented in the ambit of said project.



2.4. Elaboration of the "Record of occurrences in rivers", referring to Corvo water lines, as a contribution to the elaboration of "RERA - Report of the State of the Ribeira dos Azores, 2016".



2.5. Management and maintenance of the Corvo Environmental and Cultural Interpretation Center.



2.6. Support to the sealing works of the rubbish dump and construction of a landfill, measured according to the Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Management of Waste in the Azores - PEPGRA.



2.7. Maintenance, improvement and support to the technicians of the Regional Secretariat of Tourism and Transportation, in the placement of signage on the pedestrian routes (Cara do Índio and Caldeirão).



3. Logistics role

3.1. Carrying out various activities in partnership with the Azores Geopark Association, such as World Earth Day, European Geopark Week or the (periodic)



Monitoring of Geosites.

3.2. Celebration of the International Day of Biosphere Reserves - November 3, with awareness raising actions addressed to the students of EBS Mouzinho da Silveira. Also on that day was the documentary "Corvo Island - Biosphere Reserve" at the Center for Environmental and Cultural Interpretation of Corvo.



Portuguese annual MaB report 2017



3.3. Promotion and implementation of numerous education and awareness actions environmental program, which we highlight: School Programs, Eco Schools Program/ ECOXXI Program, SOS Cagarro Campaign, Azores Entre-Mares Program, Eco Parish Contest: clean parish, Azores Waste Week/European Waste Prevention Week, More Endemic; Partners for Sustainability; Friend of the Natural Parks, Miosotis Azores



Award - Green lodgings, Quality Coast Program and commemorative dates.

3.4. Collaboration with other bodies and services of SREAT (Regional Secretariat for Energy, Environment and Tourism). Collaboration with other organs and services of the GRA (Regional Government of the Azores).



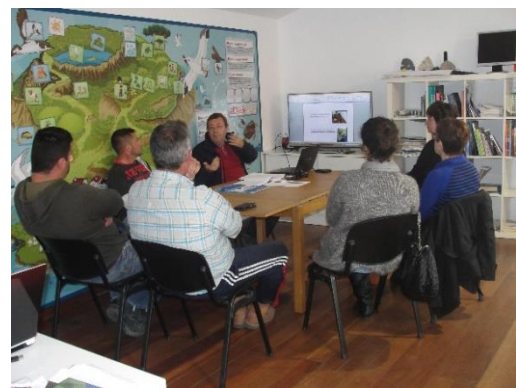
4. Management Activities

4.1. Elaboration in January of the annual report of the activities developed by SAC throughout the Corvo Biosphere Reserve in 2015, as a contribution to the preparation of the annual report of the activities developed in the national biosphere reserves, to be submitted to UNESCO.

4.2. Participation in the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves and the 28th International Coordination Council of the MAB Program, held in March in the city of Lima, Peru, as manager of the Corvo Biosphere Reserve.



4.3. On January 29, the manager of the Corvo Biosphere Reserve met at the headquarters of the SAC / PNC, with the Executive Director and the Coordinator of SPEA Azores.



4.4. On May 24, a meeting of the Management Council of the Corvo Biosphere Reserve was held at the SAC/PNC headquarters.

4.5. On June 2, the manager of the Corvo Biosphere Reserve participated in the 2nd meeting of the MaB Committee, held at ICNF headquarters in Lisbon.

4.6. In July, the new version of the technical file, referring to this Biosphere Reserve, was published by the RBIC for publication in the "World Network of Biosphere Reserves of Islands and Coastal Zones".



4.7. In August, the opinion of the RBIC was sent, referring to Castro Verde's to MaB UNESCO Programme, promoted by Liga para a Proteção da Natureza (NGO), Castro Verde Municipal Council and the Monte Branco Farmers' Association,

4.8. On 2 September, the RBIC manager was present at the signing of the "Agreement for the Creation of the National Network of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves" chaired by the Prime Minister, Dr. António Costa, which took place on Berlenga Island in the of the 35th Anniversary of the Berlengas Natural Reserve.



4.9. On November 22, the RBIC manager participated in the 3rd Meeting of the National Committee for the Man & Biosphere Program (MaB), held in the Paul do Boquilobo - Golegã Biosphere Reserve.



4.10. On December 6, a meeting of the Management Council of the Corvo Biosphere Reserve was held at the SAC/PNC headquarters.



Other activities / actions that may be related to the promotion of the Corvo Biosphere Reserve, among others, which are as follows:

Planting of endemics trees in the Village, activity commemorating "World Tree and Forest Day"



Distribution of a set of eco-bags in all the inhabited dwellings of Corvo, within the scope of community awareness, for the selective collection of waste. Action promoted by Resiaçores and City Council in partnership with SAC/PNC.



Guided tour of the Corvo Environmental and Cultural Interpretation Center, addressed to the senior public. Activity commemorating the "International Day of the Elderly"



B.3. Flores Island Biosphere Reserve (2009)

Hereby we list the activities carried out by the Flores Island Environment Service (FIES) / Natural Park of Flores Island (NPFI), in 2016, fitting in the object of the Flores Island Biosphere Reserve (FIBR) and discriminated by the three functions that it must ensure:

1. Conservation function

1.1 Implementation of PRECEFIAS - Regional Plan for the Eradication and Control of Invasive Plant Species in Sensitive Areas.



1.2 Conducting various census in Flores Island (Bats Census, Census of the Wood Pigeon (AZORPI Project), Terns Census, Common Birds Census, Common Buzzard Census.



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



1.4 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).



2. Development function

2.1 Carried out the survey of the rilheiras/rows in the scope of the "Inventory and Protection of the Azores Rilheiras" according to Draft Resolution No. 114/X of the Regional Legislative Assembly of the Azores.



2.2 Support in the promotion and attribution in Flores island of the Miosotis Azores Prize which aims to promote sustainable tourism and reward good environmental practices in Azores tourist developments.



2.3 Collection of information / inquiries on Agricultural Residues with a view to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Management of Waste in the Azores (PEPGRA).

2.4 Elaboration of the "Record of occurrences in rivers", referring to Flores Island water lines, as a contribution to the elaboration of "RERA - State Report of the watercourses of Azores, 2016".

3. Logistic support function

3.1 Various activities in partnership with the Azores Geopark Association, such as the World Earth Day, European Week of Geoparks or Geosites Monitoring.



3.2 Promotion and implementation of numerous actions of environmental education and sensitization, programs of which we highlight Open-Park and School-Park, the Eco-Schools program, the Campaign SOS Cory's shearwater, the Azores program Entre-Mares, the contest ECO Parish: Clean parish, the Azores Waste Week, More Endemic's; Partners for Sustainability; Miosotis; and commemorative dates.



Eco-Schools program



Campaign SOS Cory's shearwater 2016



Cleaning the coastline

4. Management Activities

4.1 Elaboration in January of the annual report of the activities carried out by the FIES in 2015 in the Flores Island Biosphere Reserve, as a contribution to the elaboration of the annual report of the activities developed in the national biosphere reserves, to be submitted to UNESCO.

4.2 Installation of two panels announcing "Welcome to Flores Island Biosphere Reserve", namely at Flores airport and Flores commercial port.

4.3 On May 25, was held the regular meeting of Flores Island Biosphere Reserve Management Council.



4.4 On June 2 the chairman of the Management Council of Flores Island Biosphere Reserve participated in the 2st meeting of the MAB Committee, held in ICNF headquarters in Lisbon.

4.5 In August it was sent the opinion of FIBR was sent regarding the candidature of Castro Verde to the MaB UNESCO Programme, promoted by Liga par a Protecção da Natureza (NGO), Castro Verde Town Hall and the Monte Branco Farmers' Association.



4.6 On September 2, the FIBR manager was present at the signing of the "Agreement for the Creation of the National Biosphere Reserves Network", chaired by the Prime Minister, António Costa, which took place on the Island of Berlenga in the framework of the Ceremony Commemorative of the 35th Anniversary of the Berlengas Nature Reserve.



4.7 On June 2 the FIBR manager participated in the 3st meeting of the MAB Committee, which was held in the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve - Golegã.



B.4. Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve, 2015

Hereby we list the activities carried out by the São Jorge Environment Service (SASJ)/Natural Park of São Jorge (PNISJ), in 2016, fitting in the object of the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve (BRFSJ) and discriminated by the three functions that it must ensure:

1. Conservation function

1.1 Implementation of PRECEFIAS - Regional Plan for the Eradication and Control of Invasive Plant Species in Sensitive Areas.

1.2 Conducting various Census in São Jorge (Bats Census, Census of the Wood Pigeon (AZORPI Project), Terns Census, Common Birds Census, Common Buzzard Census.

1.3 Maintenance of trails, viewpoints and signage.



1.4 Collection of waste in fajãs.

1.5 Life Application - for recovery of species and habitats zones.

1.6 Local operation of the RACA, reporting the launches and carrying out necessary steps.

2. Development function

2.1 Carried out the survey of the rilheiras/rows in the scope of the "Inventory and Protection of the Azores Rilheiras" according to Draft Resolution No. 114/X of the Regional Legislative Assembly of the Azores.

2.2 Support in the promotion and attribution in the island of São Jorge of the Miosotis Azores Prize which aims to promote sustainable tourism and reward good environmental practices in Azores tourist developments.

2.3 Management and maintenance of the Centro de Interpretação da Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo and Casa do Parque.

2.4 Collection of information / inquiries on Agricultural Residues with a view to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Management of Waste in the Azores (PEPGRA).

2.5 Elaboration of the "Record of occurrences in rivers", referring to São Jorge water lines, as a contribution to the elaboration of "RERA - State Report of the watercourses of Azores, 2016".

2.6 Participation in product samples of the biosphere reserve.

2.7 Contribution in the production of articles and audiovisual production

2.8 Attribution of the Azores Biosphere brand to two industries - União de Cooperativas Agrícolas de Lacticínios de São Jorge, UCRL - UNIQUEIJO e Santa Catarina - Indústria Conserveira S.A..



2.9 Implementation of the "Incentives Scheme for the Maintenance of Vineyards in Curral and Terraced Fields and Orchards of Traditional Species" (Regional Regulatory Decree No. 24/2014 / A of December 15).

3. Logistic support function

3.1 Various activities in partnership with the Azores Geopark Association, such as the World Earth Day, European Week of Geoparks or Geosites Monitoring.



3.2 Celebration of the International Day of Biosphere Reserves (November 3) with a public presentation on the classification of the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve, which took place on day 3 at the Casa do Parque de São Jorge.

3.3 Participation in the controls of environmental conditionality in partnership with the Agrarian Development Services of São Jorge.

3.4 Diverse and continuous collaboration with municipalities and parish councils.

3.5 Support for the study and monitoring of the lacuna systems of the Fajãs dos Cubres and Caldeira de Santo Cristo, with the University of the Azores.

3.6 Support for the investigation of several entities, such as the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto; Department of Oceanography and Fisheries of the University of the Azores; Section for Nature Conservation Services of the Regional Directorate for the Environment; Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center; Cram-Q-Marine Rehabilitation Center for Quiaios.



3.7 Promotion and implementation of numerous actions of environmental education and sensitization, programs of which we highlight Open-Park and School-Park, the Eco-Schools program, the Campaign SOS Cory's shearwater, the Azores program

Entre-Mares, the contest ECO Parish: Clean parish, the Azores Waste Week, More Endemic's; Partners for Sustainability; Miosotis; Blue Flag, Accessible Beach Flag and commemorative dates.



Contest ECO Parish: Clean parish



Azores program Entre-Mares 2016



Campaign SOS Cory's shearwater



Open Park program

4. Management Activities

4.1 Installation of three panels announcing "Welcome to the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve", namely aerodrome and two São Jorge commercial ports.

4.2 On May 24, the 3th regular meeting of the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve Management Council was held at the headquarters of the Casa do Parque de São Jorge.



4.3 On June 2 the chairman of the Management Council of Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve participated in the 2st meeting of the MAB Committee, held in ICNF headquarters in Lisbon.

4.4 In July, it was sent the new version of the technical file on Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve for publication in the "World Network of Biosphere Reserves for Islands and Coastal Areas".

4.5 In August it was sent the opinion of Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve was sent regarding the application of Castro Verde to the MaB UNESCO Programme, promoted by Liga par a Proteção da Natureza (NGO), Castro Verde own Hall and the Monte Branco Farmers' Association.

4.6 On September 2, the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve manager was present at the signing of the "Agreement for the Creation of the National Biosphere Reserves Network of UNESCO", chaired by the Prime Minister, António Costa, which took place on the Island of Berlenga in the framework of the Ceremony Commemorative of the 35th Anniversary of the Berlengas Nature Reserve.

4.7 In June 2 the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve manager participated in the 3st meeting of the MAB Committee, which was held in the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve - Golegã.

C.MADEIRA ISLAND

C.1. Santana - Madeira Biosphere Reserve (2011)



Santana Madeira Biosphere Reserve has been part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves since June 2011, and it is managed by Santana Municipal Council (Madeira).

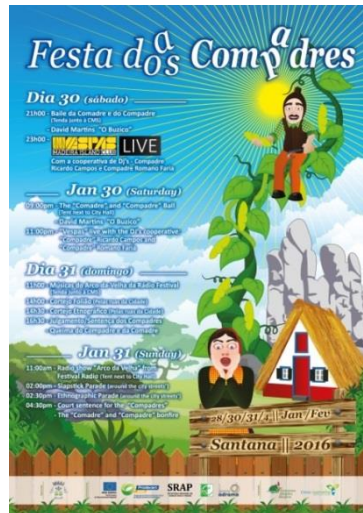
Santana Biosphere Reserve, as an instrument for motivating and catalysing activities based on the conservation and on the sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage, is seen as a reinforcement of opportunities for diversifying and renewing local and regional development, being able to help and promote initiatives that can renew and revitalise the economy and local development.

In addition to continuity of the projects developed, Santana Biosphere Reserve has committed itself to defining local action strategies that are based on guidelines set out by UNESCO.

The following actions are reported on briefly:

- 2016 - International Year of Pulses

As part of the activities for the International Year of Pulses, the biosphere reserve proposed that the theme be marked through a number of activities: the *Festa dos Compadres* (Festival of the Compadres), the start of the carnival celebrations held in the Autonomous Region of Madeira. The various groups taking part in the revellers' and ethnographic processions paraded with storylines and traditions alluding to the theme.



Event poster and photos of the parade showing the revellers' and ethnographic processions

Preserving and showcasing the cultural and natural heritage of Santana Madeira Biosphere Reserve not only enables the local economy to be renewed, but also leads to its social development. The biosphere reserve status granted to Santana and, thus, to the Autonomous Region, leverages a set of initiatives to transform activities and to showcase natural and cultural heritage.

The foregoing shows that Santana Madeira Biosphere Reserve is indeed a site with excellent conditions for providing logistical support for the development of research projects in various disciplines. In addition to leveraging those activities, the Biosphere Reserve classification also offers an opportunity to promote interdisciplinary between the various interventions.

- Erasmus+

Santana Madeira Biosphere Reserve welcomed students taking part in the exchange that is part of the Erasmus+ programme with the Escola Básica e Secundária Bispo Dom Manuel Ferreira Cabral. The motto “Better Environment, Better Future” brought together 19 students and 15 teachers from eight countries: Portugal, Turkey, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Spain, Italy, and Poland, dealing with the theme “Deforestation”.



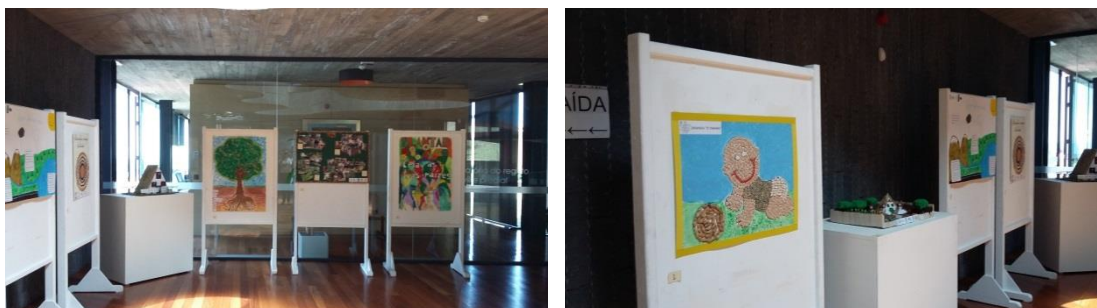
- Study visits

The interest awakened has led to the biosphere reserve being the venue for several study visits from schools in the Autonomous Region: Escola Básica e Secundária de Santa Cruz, and Clube Escola Dr. Ângelo Augusto da Silva. Those visits served above all to raise awareness of the existence of unique ecological and environmental wealth of high importance for conserving biodiversity, together with the existence of a culture that is rich in traditions, usages, and costumes, leveraging human and economic development in a sustainable manner.



- “Biosphere Reserve Schools Network” school competition

As in previous years and under the Biosphere Reserve Schools Network, Santana Madeira Biosphere Reserve has launched the school competition, of which the theme concerning the biosphere reserve is predominant. The competition is interlinked to the “GEA - Mother Earth” Programme, implementing a partnership with the Regional Secretariat for the Environment and for Natural Resources that aims at making an effective contribution in that area of knowledge and at building a culture of risk reduction. That building work begins with education, contributing to an increase in resilience and survival amongst communities as a whole.



Exhibition of works

- Photography competition

The biosphere reserve has launched a photography competition called “A look - an image!” The activity aims at promoting and showcasing the entire council as a World Biosphere Reserve, showing its human, natural, and heritage wealth.

In that way, it is hoped that the final result will reflect the various components that make up Santana Council, ranging from its vast forest to its built environment, its people, and its traditions.



Photography competition - Prizes and exhibition of works

- Making recordings

A 6-person team from the Japanese channel KBS travelled to the biosphere reserve to make a history, cultural, and tourism-promotion documentary.



- Participation

Santana Madeira Biosphere Reserve took part in the 2nd meeting of the National MAB (Man and the Biosphere) Committee, which was held on 2 June in Lisbon and chaired by the Chairperson and Administrator of the Reserve, Dr. Teófilo Cunha.

It took part in the 3rd meeting of the National MAB Committee, which was held on 22 November in Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve (Golegã) in the presence of Councillor Dinarte Fernandes.

The biosphere reserve was present at the signing of the Agreement to establish the UNESCO National Biosphere Reserve Network, which took place at the Berlengas Biosphere Reserve, Peniche, on 2 September and was held in the presence of Councillor Dinarte Fernandes.

Portuguese MaB Committee



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Lisbon, May 2017