

Man and Biosphere Programme, UNESCO

Portugal

National Report

2015



Portuguese National Committee of the UNESCO MAB-Programme





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1. Portugal and the MaB Programme

Portugal is associated with the Man & Biosphere Programme (MaB) since late 1981, when Paul do Boquilobo received the award of Biosphere Reserve and joined the World Network of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves.

Currently, Portugal contributes with 8 Biosphere Reserves (BR) to the total of the 650 World Network, 2 of which are transboundary - Gerês/Xurês and Meseta Ibérica. These latter are part of the only 15 Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBR) existing in the 120 countries of the MaB Programme (see map 1 for localization of each one and Table 1 with some numbers associated to them).

We consider that 8 is a significant number for a country with the geographic size of Portugal and it's a good indicator of the recognition of gains related to the classification of BR. It really promotes the conservation of nature and cultural heritage, sustainable development and all functions related to knowledge, training, and disclosure of information.

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



Biosphere Reserves map

Biosphere Reserves	Designation Year	Total area (ha)	Land area (ha)	Marine area (ha)	Population	Portugal (ha)	Spain (ha)	Zoning (%)
Boquilobo	1981	550/5896*						
Corvo	2007	25.853	1.713	24.140	430			Core - 11,7% Buffer- 88% Transition-0,3%
Graciosa	2007	10.784	6.066	4.718	4391			Core - 5% Buffer- 18% Transition-77%
Flores	2009	58.619	14.102	44.517	3793			Core - 3% Buffer- 12% Transition-85%
Geres-Xurê's (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	18.502	726	17.777	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	657365	475.241	Core - 9,29% Buffer- 56,36% Transition-34,35%

Biosphere Reserves on fingers (declaration year, area, population, zoning)

TBR – Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

*Extension proposed

**inside the island

2. National MaB Committee - new model and composition

In 1985, the first National MaB Commission was established, by Order n°. 43/85 of 7 October, signed by the Secretary of State for Environment. It was subject to many subsequent amendments, most recently by Order n°. 2365/2006 of 12 January 2016.

Since December 2012, the 5 elements of the National MaB Commission, including its coordinator, for reasons of a different order, failed to perform their duties. Because of that, between 2013 and 2015, we had a transitional situation and a Focal Point has been designated to not jeopardize the operation or the normal relationship between Portugal and UNESCO in this regard.

Last 13th of August 2015, a new Order (no. 9051/2015, 2nd series of the Diário da República 157) signed by the Ministers of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Economy and Environment, was published and a new National Commission now termed "National MaB Committee " was created.

With that Order it was intended to give a new momentum to the dynamic and activity of the National Committee of the MaB Programme. In terms of composition, in addition to the Institute for Nature and Forestry Conservation, I.P. (ICNF, IP), which is the responsible and suitable body for Biosphere Reserves and who presides de Committee, the different interlocutors of each Biosphere Reserves already classified joined it, as well as representatives of Turismo de Portugal, IP, given the potential for tourism and visitation of these hazardous areas, the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNADS), both by the experience and the importance of their action on the integration of social elements, economic and environmental issues, and the UNESCO National Commission (CNU) joined as well, as a facilitator in the contact with the Secretariat of the MaB Programme.

This new structure is now fully operational and had its first meeting on December 3rd 2015, where its internal operating rules and the activity plan for 2016 were adopted.



National MaB Committee meeting - December 2015

3. A new Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR) - Meseta Ibérica

The Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve has inside its limits a remarkable natural heritage in high proportion included in the Natura 2000 network, as well as important historical and ethnographic values. It is a land of exceptional environmental quality where conservation projects can be developed as well as ecological restoration, recovery of traditions and historical aspects or research, education and environmental awareness projects aimed at different target groups.

The TBR Meseta Ibérica contributes to the sustainable development, conservation of natural values and the broadening and deepening of cross-border territorial cooperation process between the two countries, in a coherent logic with the objectives, guidelines and MAB programme recommendations.

Meseta Ibérica was declared as a TBR on the 27th session of the International Coordination Council (ICC), June 2015, in Paris.

4. Presentation of two new applications

In September 2015, two new applications for BR were submitted to the Secretariat of the MaB Programme, in Paris.

One of them is a transboundary application - Tejo / Tajo International, sponsored by the Nature Conservation and Forestry Institute (ICNF) and the Regional Government of Extremadura, which results from a commitment made by the Portuguese Republic and the Kingdom of Spain during the Luso-Spanish Summit Zamora (22 January 2009) and achieved through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on cross-border collaboration in the international area of the Tejo / Tajo river.

According to this document, in addition to the creation of an international park (already made), a proposal for an application of a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve to UNESCO MaB Programme should be worked out and presented.

This application regards part of the territory located in the western region of the Iberian Peninsula, widespread between Spain and Portugal, whose main axis is the course of the River Tejo. It is the result of a joint work, developed over the last few years, both at technical and political levels, with the involvement of stakeholders and local populations.

The other application is Fajãs of São Jorge, in the Azores. An application promoted by the Autonomous Region of the Azores / Regional Secretariat for Agriculture and Environment/Regional Environment Directorate corresponding to the entire land area of the island of São Jorge and a surrounding marine area up to 3 miles offshore. It is a process that began in 2014 and which has the unequivocal support of the local population and the main economic actors in the island of São Jorge.

We are waiting for the final decision to be taken on the 28th session of the ICC, which will take place in Lima, Peru, on the 18th and 19th of March, 2016.

5. Extension of Paul Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve

Paul do Boquilobo BR reacted to the challenge made by the International Coordinating Council (decision of the 26th session) and presented a proposal to extend its territory in a way that it's compatible with the three main functions of a

BR and duly justified on the physical and biological criteria of the new zoning in core, buffer and transition areas.

With regard to the governance model, it is an innovative model in Portugal as it distances the direct management of Biosphere Reserves from the public entities, which despite being present in the executive team do not preside it. Also, having the advisory body of a broad spectrum and no limit of elements enables the participation of any local agent or citizen.

It is evident that local and national actors endorse and support the document and have the will to share responsibility and take into account and consideration the present and future management of this BR.

We should highlight the great progress made and take this case as a case study on the transformation of this 1st generation biosphere reserve into a modern, dynamic and participatory governance model.

We wait for the final decision in the 28th session of ICC, which will take place in Lima, Peru, on the 18th and 19th of March, 2016.

6. Support to new applications

The National MaB Committee has given support in the process of developing two new applications for BR - Castro Verde and Arrábida, by participating in meetings and information sessions.

7. Participation and Cooperation with Regional Networks

Portugal is part, either by its Biosphere Reserves or the MaB Committee, of regional Networks as REDBIOS - BR of Atlantic and Macaronesia, the Latin American and Caribbean Network (IberoMaB) - BR in Latin America, Portugal and Spain -, the Global Network of Coastal Islands and zones and, more recently, the newly established BR Network of the Mediterranean, where it participates in meetings and the development of joint work.

In June 2015, the BR Boquilobo and TBR Meseta Iberica participated in the meeting for the Mediterranean Presentation Biosphere Reserves Network (MedBRN) and in the

1st Meeting of Managers MedBR in Barcelona. The BR Boquilobo joined the BR Network of the Mediterranean.

In August, and on the context of the application of Biosphere Reserve of Fajãs de S. Jorge, the Azores Regional Government organized an international seminar under the title "Biosphere Reserves - territories of cooperation and development", where the Committee MaB was present, which included visits to the territory, public seminars and conferences involving representatives of biosphere reserves in the Azores, REDBIOS Network (Fuerteventura, La Palma, El Hierro, Lanzarote), the World Biosphere Reserve Network in Islands and Coastal zones (Menorca and Jeju - South Korea) as well as the UNESCO MaB programme Secretariat.

In October, the MaB Committee participated for the first time at a meeting of IberoMaB Network. This was the sixteenth meeting of the Network held on the 20th-22nd of October at the Castillo de Castellet (Castellet i la Gornal, Barcelona, Spain) and where, among other issues, the new strategy of the MaB Programme and Action Plan (in preparation) was discussed, which would be approved in Lima, Peru. It was in this forum that Portugal was invited to organize, together with Spain, two side events to develop in the fourth World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (14th to 17th March 2016, Lima, Peru). One on Transboundary Biosphere Reserves, because of the experience in the management of 2 of the only 15 BRT existing all over the world, and another one on Women, Gender equality and Development where the objective is to present good examples existing in the territories of BR.

In November 2015, within the anniversary celebration of La Palma Biosphere Reserve (Canary Islands), there were meetings of the World Biosphere Reserve Network in Islands and Coastal Areas and other events with the participation of the Autonomous Region of the Azores and REDBIOS Network, where the constitution of the Land Custody Network Macaronésia was signed.

The Portuguese manager of TBR Gerês-Xures participated, as a trainer, by invitation of the organization, on the seminar "Desarrollo Sostenible para Gestores y Técnicos de Reservas de la Biosfera de Iberoamérica y El Caribe" held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, among the 9th to the 13th November, 2015.

8. Communication and information dissemination on Biosphere Reserves

Despite the actions taken in each Biosphere Reserve which are described in section 9 of this report, and several more technical meetings for dissemination and clarification of the MaB Programme, as are examples the Paul do Boquilobo BR Advisory Council and the meeting of the Technical Commission for preparation of the application of Arrábida (with representatives of the three Municipalities - Setúbal, Sesimbra and Palmela, the National Authority for Biodiversity and Forestry Conservation - ICNF, IP and Municipalities Association of Setúbal Region), there are identified below the national initiatives where the national MaB Committee was present, made a presentation and/or chaired the sessions.

- Technical meeting "Outlook of cooperation between the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves and the UNESCO Chair at the University of Coimbra," July 10th, Coimbra;
- Seminar - Biosphere Reserve Application of Fajãs de São Jorge and Workshop on Biosphere Reserves - Areas of Cooperation and Development, 26th and 27th August, São Jorge Island, Azores;
- World Day of Science at the service of peace and development included in the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, November 10th, at the Nations Park - Knowledge Pavilion, Lisbon;
- Participation on the first Seminar on the Biosphere Reserve of Berlengas, December 10th, Peniche.

9. Initiatives developed by the 8 Biosphere Reserves

We present below the report of the activities developed during the year 2015 by each one of the Portuguese Biosphere reserves.

A. Mainland Portugal

A.1 - Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve, 1981

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

After being signed on June 2014, the protocol for the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve new management model of Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve (PBBR) and have been developed a number of preparatory activities that year, in 2015 were carried out a set of activities that matters systematize.

In this document are summarized the main activities that were developed during 2015, grouped by category of intervention.

Management Activities

During 2015 were developed a series of regular meetings by the Management and Extended Advisory Council Body in order to discuss and implement the new strategy for the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve. This new strategy is associated with a new delimitation and zoning of the Biosphere Reserve.

The new strategy was approved by the full range of partners and was presented to UNESCO in September.

Under this new strategy a Logo and Brand for the Biosphere Reserve were developed.



Conservation Activities

In 2015 it was carried out a number of nature conservation activities on the PBBR, of which we highlight the following:

- The actions to increase the population of *Narcissus fernandesii* continued with the purpose to maintain the current population and the establishment of another population in the area owned by the state. Sowings were carried out in situ and nursery in which germinated about 250 seedlings and current population was counted.
- The recuperation of the Water-Lilies area (*Nynphae alba*) continues with the implementation of two different populations.
- The survey to maintain the certification of the Ash populations (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) continues part of a national plan for maintaining healthy populations to collect seeds and control seeds and control the potential forest.
- Regular census of birds occurring in the reserve with special emphasis on the wildfowl species and the breeding species, in the herons colony;
- The regular ringing station, under the terms of the EURING , was consolidated and 830 birds were ringed , of 39 different species in 26 sessions with the participation of 35 volunteers;
- Participation of the reserve in the ATLAS census of the breeding birds, that is carried in Portugal and Europe as well as in the red legged partridge national census;
- A program to monitor the fish species within the reserve has started with the collaboration trainees of IPT (Tomar Polytechnic School) and two other studies have been conducted related with the impact of grazing cattle in vegetation and the agriculture cultures in the reserve;
- With participation the Superior Agrarian School of Santarém a study has been made related with the heron species;
- The areas of occurrence of weeds and plants important in terms of nature conservation were mapped;
- Artificial nests , provided by a local business, were placed in a high school;

- The monitoring of the surface and groundwater levels inside the RNPB limits;
- The monitoring of the region climatic data;
- Control of the microbiological quality in different agricultural products.



Development and Sustainability Activities

In 2015 were carried out a series of actions that should be mentioned:

- In June a conference was organized under the subject Boquilobo Marsh, Natural Reserve/ Biosphere Reserve;
- In September, in response of a demand from the municipality, the II triathlon of the Golegã, was partially realized inside the reserve;
- In October, with the collaboration of three non-government environmental associations (AGROMAIS QUERCUS and SPEA) the reserve participate in the EurobirdWatch 2015 event;
- In November a horse ride, related with the annual International Horse Fair the reserve, associated with Golegã Municipality was organized;
- Torres Novas Municipality continued the program to improve water quality of the Almonda River and a new industrial water sewage treatments station started with visible improvements in the water quality ;
- Regarding a archeologic site, a primary inventory was made, with the collaboration of the local archeologic authority;

- Reception of national institutional entities such as the Civil House of the Republic President, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries or the Planning and Policy Office.
- Three local and national Tourist Associations were authorized to perform visits and contacts have been made with the national for equestrian tourism to implement a horse trail;
- A program to implement a new natural trail and to improve the existing trail was implemented with the collaboration of the Golegã Municipality, regarding pedestrians visits, horse riding and cycling visits ;
- A short film was held in the reserve in which the marsh ecosystem play an important role in terms of framework;
- A presentation was held to the young participants in a summer camp regarding the importance of the Biosphere Reserve ;
- In the international Forest Day a photographic safari activity was performed with the collaboration of a regional photographic association;
- A volunteer program was implemented specially designed to the maintenance of the interpretation trail and another program was implemented with a national volunteer association specially focused to the participation of young persons.
- Several certification processes were encouraged and started, mainly in the agricultural area, of which we highlight the Integrated Production, the Global Gap and the Efficient Use of Water;
- The land consolidation project of agricultural land, inside the Biosphere Reserve, was initiated with the aim of optimizing agricultural production and the protection of existing natural values;
- Membership of working groups and collaborative networks, such as the Portuguese and Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Network, the Committee MAB and the local operation platform - Natural.pt;
- Participation in a wide range of seminar and information activities among which we highlight the Meeting for the Mediterranean Presentation Biosphere Reserves Network (MedBRN), the 1st Managers Meeting MedBRN, the LIFE

Programme Call 2015 - Environment and Climate Action, the 1st Portuguese Congress of Equestrian Tourism and The Agriculture and Water Resources Planning in Portugal;

- Participation in technical meetings with the National MAB Committee and other National Biosphere Reserves.



Disclosure and Communication Activities

The main activities carried out under this category to third parties held mainly with:

- Public presentation of the new management model;
- Co Organization of the Paul do Boquilobo Seminar;
- Disclosure of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve in the different communication channels, local and national;
- Participation in the AGROTEJO Journal;
- Daily broadcasting of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve in a digital placard on Golegã village;
- Edition of promotion flyers of the PBBR for the Red IberoMaB;

- Promotion of PBBR next to the Mediterranean Biosphere Reserve Network;
- Development and Publishing of the PBBR website: www.pauldoboquilobo.pt;
- Periodic on-line newsletter of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere;
- Photographic survey of interesting places inside the PBBR;
- Promotion of cultural animation activities in the region;
- Presence in fairs / exhibitions such as Bodo Party (Azinhaga), National Horse Fair (Golegã), World Science Day (UNESCO - Lisbon), etc;
- Technical visits with foreign farmers and with regional and national companies and partners.

Awareness Activities

A wide range of awareness-raising activities were held near the community and the different local actors:

- Accomplishment of a competition with broad participation of students to choose the Biosphere Reserve logo, having been all works exhibited to the public in the Natural Reserve Interpretation Center
- Disclosure of the campaign “Portugal sem fogos depende de todos!”;
- Regular SMS to farmers for awareness-raising like the collection of agricultural plastics, empty containers, burnings, etc;
- Training actions on Green Growth / Greening;
- Irrigation advisory through moisture probes;
- Awareness actions near farmers to display a group of measures that they must run in the direction of environmental sustainability, such as the Agri-Environmental measures, rules for the application of plant protection products, the licensing rules and good agricultural practices;
- Awareness of the importance of the brand “Natural.pt” near the local agents;
- Bird ringing collaboration session in the commemorative local holiday;

- Partnership with the Group “Fotografia do Ribatejo”
- Development of a communication and promotion strategy (ongoing)
- Awareness and denounce actions of the water quality on the Almonda River.



Participation in Research / Development / Inventory Projects

During 2015, the PBBR participated in joint projects with other entities in fields of nature conservation, agriculture, social solidarity, tourism and spatial planning, towards the development and sustainability of the entire Biosphere Reserve. Among these projects the following stand out:

- Involvement in the application for POSEUR one project named TARAMBOLA that includes the development of outreach activities for the conservation of nature and biodiversity based on the Almonda River (Torres Novas County);
- Collaboration on the agriculture study of the crops produced in the protection area, in order to develop a spatial database of agricultural crops per year and location (Tomar Polytechnic School)
- Participation in a monitoring study of bird populations of the Ciconiformes species in the PBBR, from the years 2000 to 2015 (ESAS);
- Collaboration on the Ebook “Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve: monitoring, conservation and tourism”. This project intends to publish online the different papers presented at the symposium “ Paul do Boquilobo Natural Reserve. Biosphere Reserve ”, on June 23, 2014, by Luis Mota Figueira, Cespoga - IPT (Tomar Polytechnic School);

- Participation in a study called "Dynamics of Environmental Monitoring in the PBBR since 2010" Environmental and Biological Engineering and Land Management Courses, coordinated by Cecilia Baptista and Luis Santos from IPT;
- Collaboration in the study "Assessing the quality of aquatic environments at Paul do Boquilobo" essentially developed by 3rd year students from the Environmental and Biological Engineering course at IPT;
- Collaboration in the study "Analisi dei servizi ecosistemici nella riserva naturale" ERASMUS Master Student from the Università degli Studi di Ferrara - Lorenzo Pieretti;
- Participation in the curricular internship within the Management and Planning Reserve curricular subject, 3rd year student José Lopes of the Land Management course at IPT;
- Participation in the "Conservation and Restoration of the PBBR insect collection ", developed by 2nd year students Alice Lamb, Ines Reis, Leonor Bastos and Maria Costa, from the Conservation and Restoration course at IPT;
- Collaboration on the work "Valorization of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve Gastronomy", conducted by Andreia Talaia for the degree of Master;
- Participation in the Echo Project - Active Citizenship in the context of promoting environmental responsibility, organizing guided tours to the Paul Boquilobo Natural Reserve;
- Involvement in the cooperation project "Yellow Corn" whose goal is valuing the marginal areas on a farm from the standpoint of increasing biodiversity;
- Involvement in "Bioplastics Project" that has for objective the use of biodegradable plastics in agriculture;
- Involvement in a project called "Restolho" that aims to collect agricultural products and their distribution to the people in need;
- Participation in the Environmental Impact Study of rural land consolidation project Azinhaga, Golegã and Riachos;



Main investments

During 2015 a series of investments that are considered preponderant were made for the development and sustainability of the entire Biosphere Reserve. The most important ones were the following:

Revitalization of the Almonda River margins - Azinhaga (Golegã County);

Cleaning actions in PBBR (ICNF);

Embellishment of public spaces (Golegã and Torres Novas County);

Adaptation of Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Riachos (Ribatejo Water Company);

Internet page: www.pauldoboquilobo.pt.



A.2. -Berlengas Biosphere Reserve, 2011
managed by the Municipality of Peniche and Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF, IP)

During 2015, the Biosphere Reserve of Berlengas (BRB - UNESCO) had promoted or supported several activities in order to achieve a balance between conservation activities with sustainable development. The BRB-UNESCO activities are supported by several national institutions and coordinated by the working-group composed by ICNF, Municipality of Peniche (Portugal) and School of Tourism and Maritime Technology - Polytechnic Institute of Leiria (Portugal).

For 2015, it were defined 3 strategic axis for (BRB - UNESCO), 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 2015 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	5 Sept 2015	ESTM-IPLeiria, Municipality of Peniche and Forum Estudante
1b	Visitors monitoring Assessment of the visitors number to berlenga island during summer season	Jul-Sept 2015	LIFE Project
1c	Visitors profile and motivation Definition of the visitor profile of Berlenga islands and evaluation of main motivation and degree of satisfaction	Started on 2014	ESTM, ICNF and Municipality of Peniche
1d	Jornadas do conhecimento da Reserva da Biosfera da Berlenga Public event for knowledge transference and good practices dissemination between portuguese biosphere reserves	10 Dec 2015	ESTM, ICNF, CMP
1e	Berlengas watch Monitoring of plankton communities and hydrological	Since 2013	ESTM-IPLeiria, IPMA and ICNF

	parameters.			
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
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 population on the berlenga island by egg destruction.			ICNF, SPEA
2c	Peixes das Berlengas Scientific illustration book edition focus on the fish species occurring on berlenga island.	Public presentation – Nov 2015		ESTM
3 - Cultural, economic and social development				
3a	Peniche seabirdcount R&D project for monitoring seabird migrations and evaluate the potential for ecotourism activities.	Sept-Nov 2015		Leila Cardoso, Helder Cardoso, Johan Elmberg and Erik Hirschfeld
3b	Marketing plan for Maritime-tourism activities Marketing plan proposal for	End 2015	Dec	ESTM, ICNF
3c	Ecosystems valoration I&D projet aimed to the economic valoration of the Biosphere reserve	Concluded in 2015		ESTM-IPLeiria
3d	Berlengas brand marketing Definiton of a brand image for BRB	Ongoing		ESTM, ICNF, Municipality of Peniche
3e	Natural heritage brochures Edition of visitors support information related with natural heritage (fauna and flora)	Ongoing		ESTM, ICNF, Municipality of Peniche



1a - Semana Tanto Mar



1b - Visitors monitoring



1c - Visitors profile and motivation



1d - Jornadas do conhecimento



1e - Berlengas watch



1f - Marineye



2a - LIFE Project



2b -Seagull population control



2c - Peixes das Berlengas



3a - Peniche -seabird count



3b - Marketing plan for Maritime-tourism activitys



3c - Ecosystems valoration

A.3 - Gerês-Xurés Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, 2009

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

Various activities were held during 2015/2016 in the context of the Action Plan of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of Gerês-Xurés (TBRGX). These activities are hereby presented in accordance with each of the main axis of the Action Plan.

This Action Plan provides for the implementation of actions in the following strategic 4 areas of action: Image and identity of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Gerês-Xurés; Socio-economic development; Nature conservation; Social participation and integration of the community and actors involved in the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Gerês-Xurés.

This Plan calls for the period 2015-2020, the strengthening of cooperation and joint work between the two border regions of 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 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.

In June 2015 in Gerês, the Advisory Council of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Gerês-Xurés took place and this Plan was approved.



1st meeting of the Advisory Council of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Gerês-Xurés

A new meeting of the Executive Commission also took place in the same day.



Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Gerês-Xurés Executive Commission

Afterwards a valorisation Plan was 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.

The constitution of the New Strategic Council of the Peneda-Gerês National Park, needed because of a changing in the Portuguese legislation, was also prepared and a new meeting of this advisory council shall be briefly scheduled in order to guarantee the cooperation among the entities present in the Biosphere Reserve to maximize the development and promotion of the territory.

Axis 1 - Image and Identity of the Biosphere Reserve

1.1 Communication and image of the Biosphere Reserve

Under the project “Gerês-Xurés Value”, several materials was produced to help visitors and inhabitants to visit the area and known 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 PGNP promotional brochure;
- the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of Gerês-Xurés Web page;

- An exhibition of the natural values of the RBTGeres-Xures was also done:



Mountain goat exhibition

Axis 2 - Socio-economic development

2.1 Training and awareness-raising

In 2015/2016 several environmental education activities were held in the context of initiatives such as the "Forest Day", the "Green Days", sowing and planting of native species, "Animal Day" and "Autochthonous Forest Day" with a total participation of 832 persons: The Forest Day was especially commemorated in Montalegre with 24 children of the kinder garden and 1st cycle school who planted autochthonous trees as oak, cork oak, and chestnuts:



Planting autochthonous trees

- In the "Green Days"/"Biodiversity Day", a field trip named "Carrilheiras de palmo e meio" was held with 90 children of the kinder garden in Montalegre:



Field trip “Carrilheiras de palmo e meio”

- In the "Animal Day" several sessions releasing recovered birds of prey were developed, namely in several kinder garden or 1st cycle schools of the RBT: Cabril, Ferral, Soajo, and Gerês, involving 87 children; 2 similar sessions were also done in collaboration with the Environment Police (SEPNA/GNR), one with Sic television transmission:



Releasing recovered birds of prey

- In the and "Autochthonous Forest Day" the children of Cabril sowed and planted native species of oak;



Around 35 persons participated in volunteer activities towards invasive plant control, mainly with volunteer companies programs (EDP), continuing the work initiated in 2013 in an area of 10 hectares of a place that had a forest fire in 2010, where it is

essential to control the invasive species in order to allow a natural and regeneration;



Invasive plant control

Other volunteer group came to the RBT to visit and help cleaning the park: SYnergia Academy, with an international group, and a Portuguese group of Scouts;

In the information centres throughout the territory of RBTGX a total of 86833 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 392 participants.



*Guided visit to the territory of TBRGX
(transboundary roman road "Geira")*

Several environmental education sessions about the TBRGX natural and cultural values, threatened biodiversity and sustainable tourism, among others were performed reaching 418 participants;



Environmental education session about the TBRGX natural values

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 100 conditioned activities in the with RBTGX with a recorded number of 4387 participants;

In their everyday offer to the TBRGX visitors Environmental Animation Enterprises developed 122 activities in which 1137 persons participated. From their biannual reports we can say that the more frequent activities are trekking (32 activities with 445 participants), *Canyoning* (72 activities with 566 participants), and horseback adventures (14 activities with 40 participants).

Already in 2016, we attended a Workshop of the “ClimAdapt.Local” project and developed several environmental education sessions about the RBTGX natural and cultural values and again the recovering of birds of prey.

2.2 Conservation and Valorisation of cultural, material and immaterial heritage

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;



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, verifying that pastors 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.

2.3 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 Alpha Test phase which was developed from the 4th to the 7th February 2015 and the Beta Test which occurred May and June 2015.

The Nature Sports Charter 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.

The renovation of the European Sustainable Charters for the Portuguese part of the TBRGX was dealt with success, with an awarding ceremony in December 2015 in Brussels.

Axis 3 -Nature Conservation

3.1 Enhancing knowledge in the area

In partnership with the University of Aveiro, the winter census of the population of Mountain goat 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.

3.2 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 single habitat of its kind in Portugal. This conditioning took place between 1st June and the 30th September.



Conditioning motorized vehicles transit in Albergaria forest

Life project "TAXUS - Restore yew groves [9580 * Mediterranean *Taxus baccata* woods]" is still occurring, with the aim of contributing to the conservation and regeneration of yew forests existing in RBTGX. This project is being promoted by Quercus - National Association for Nature Conservation, a national environmental non-governmental organization, with the close collaboration of ICNF. A delegation of the Wigierski Park Narodowy came to the RBTGX for a visit and exchanging of experiences.



Wigierski Park Narodowy delegation visit

A 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.

Axis 4 - Social participation and integration of the community and local actors involved in RBTGX

4.1 Public information and social participation

In January 2015 in Lobios, Spain a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Gerês-Xurés took place. The object of this meeting was the approval of the "Action Plan for Development and Territorial Cohesion of TBRGX ", 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).



Reserva
da biosfera transfronteiriça
Gerês-Xurés

A.4 - Meseta Iberica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, 2015

Managed by ZASNET - AECT - European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

The Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, MESETA IBERICA was declared the June 09, 2015, at the 27th Session of the CIC of UNESCO's MAB Programme, in Paris. Attended on behalf of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation ZASNET , Francisco Iglesias García and Pilar García (Diputación de Salamanca) , Fernando Maíllo - Toribio and Iria Romero (Diputación de Zamora), Berta Nunes (Municipalities Association "Terra Quente Transmontana") Jorge Fidalgo (Municipalities Association " Terra Fria Transmontana) and Margarida Rodrigues , director of the EGTC ZASNET.



"UNESCO approved the Meseta Ibérica as the 15th cross-border biosphere reserve on 9 June 2015. This initiative was led by the ZASNET- European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation and the reserve will be the first to be managed by an EGTC. ", in European Commission - Directorate -General for Regional and Urban Policy, Territorial Cooperation in Europe - a Historical Perspective, Regional and Urban Policy, by Birte Wassenberg and Bernard Reitel in cooperation with Jean Peyrony Rubió, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union 2015, pages 65, 66(ISBN 978-92-79-499-4)



Principal activities developed during the year 2015:

From May 27 to August 23. Photographic Exhibition "Transboundary Biosphere Meseta Ibérica Iberian, patent Centro Cultural Adriano Moreira - Bragança



<http://videos.sapo.pt/l3Fr71Y7QzHEJODGsnfE>

Day 18 and 20 June. Participation in the opening ceremony of the UNESCO Centre of Barcelona; Presentation of the Mediterranean Network of Biosphere Reserves and 1st technical meeting.

Participants: Berta Nunes (Vice - President of the EGTC ZASNET) Joanna Branco (EGTC ZASNET), Iria Romero (Diputación de Zamora)

Day July 10. Participation in the Technical Meeting "Prospects of cooperation between the Portuguese Network of Biosphere Reserves and the UNESCO Chair" at the University of Coimbra, Coimbra.

Participants: Berta Nunes, Jorge Fidalgo, Joanna Branco (EGTC ZASNET)

Day August 19. Took possession of the new director, Helena Videira

Day September 1. Meeting of the Technical Commission of the EGTC ZASNET preparation of the Management Organ of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica and new project proposals

Day September 17. Participation in the Meeting of the Board/ Council of Managers of the Spanish Network of Biosphere Reserves Network (RERB), Madrid (Spain)

Day October 8. Meeting with groups of schools and private institutions of social solidarity, the municipality of Bragança, for training activities with schools (students from 9 to 11 years) and implementation of the Curriculum Unit "Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica - environmental education

From 10 to 12 October. Participation in the fair Ecocultura 2015 in Zamora (Spain), for publicity and information of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica



Day 19 October. Adhesion to the Mediterranean Network of Biosphere Reserves (RRBMED)

Day November 6. Submission of the project “REDBIOSUDOE”, first call, SUDOE INTERREG VB

Project BIO partnership



Labs (Laboratories and Biodiversity: Intermediate with IPB, CCDRN, ICNF

Day November 7. Participation in the “People’s Council” in Varges (Bragança), organized by DART, Civic Movement. Speaker Director of EGCT ZASNET, Helena Videira| Presentation |”The population´s involvement in the Action Plan of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica



Day November 10. Participation in the World Science Day, commemorating the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, Lisbon | Knowledge Pavilion Promotion Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica - show cooking with products of the territory





Day November 12. Committee of the Regions: Joint Workshop “European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs) and European Territorial Cooperation (ETC, Speaker Director of EGCT ZASNET, Helena Videira| Presentation case study “The Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica”



Day November 13. Committee of the Regions | the Conference “The future of cross-border cooperation in Europe”

Day November 17. Luso-Spanish Technical Meeting “cross-border cooperation”

Presentation “Transboundary Biosphere Reserve “Meseta Ibérica”, Mértola, Alentejo



Day November 21. Participation in the "People’s Council " in Vinhais, organized by DART Civic Movement : Opening Session , President of ZASNET , Berta Nunes and Speaker Director of EGCT ZASNET, Helena Videira| Presentation |”The population’s involvement in the Action Plan of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica

26th and 27th of November. World Charter for Sustainable Tourism +20, which was discussed in the World Summit on Sustainable Tourism +20, celebrated in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain



Day 27 November. INTUR Tourism Fair Interior, Valladolid, Spain
Las Edades del Hombre y la Reserva de la Biosfera, los puntales de Intur

La llegada de la Alta Velocidad a Zamora, uno de los reclamos que la provincia llevará a Valladolid este mes



09.11.2015 | 06:10

Feria de Intur de la pasada edición. Foto L. O. Z.

- [Fotos de la noticia](#)

T. SUTIL Las Edades del Hombre de Toro y la declaración de la **Reserva Biosfera Meseta Ibérica** serán los dos puntales que el Patronato de Turismo de la Diputación Provincial de Zamora llevará a la Feria de Turismo Interior (Intur), que se celebrará en Valladolid del 26 al 29 de este mes.



Day November 3. Submission of proposal to the Secretariat MAB in Spain for selection of cases relating to biosphere reserves that are representative of each regional network of the MAB Programme BRs| IberoMaB Network (a total of 177 BRs) ;

December 2015. Beginning of the brand registration process Transboundary Biosphere Reserve- Meseta Ibérica |INPI and later international registration (WIPO_world intellectual property organization)

Day December 3. Participation in the 1st Meeting of the Committee MAB Portuguese at the headquarters of ICNF, Lisbon, Portugal

Day December 4. Moderation of the round table, "Greater Transboundary Biosphere Reserve in Europe, Meseta Ibérica" under the Smart Travel 2015 event



December. Draft BIOSPHERE recipes "Biosphere menu" / biosphere cookbook Spanish network of biosphere reserves (RERB)

Day 18 December. Meeting with Community Development Institute, Valladolid
 TOPIC- Call identifier: H2020-RU- 01-2016 - Consolidated policy framework and governance models for synergies in rural-urban linkages | *"Rural Renaissance - Fostering innovation and business opportunities"*

Identification and proposal development for the side event "women, Equality and Development" | 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves

Registrations | 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, Lima, Perú

December. Submission of the projects first call, POCTEP INTERREG V-A:



"ZASNET Meseta Ibérica" - Cultural heritage, local products, nature and tourism as a socio-economic development of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica, first call, POCTEP INTERREG V-A

“CITIZENSHIP ZASNET” - Promotion of Identity and Citizenship mobilization on the Transboundary ZASNET Territory and in Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, “Meseta Ibérica”

“DESTINATION BORDER” - The results of the project will contribute positively to the development of tourism in the region of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica, through the construction of new tourist products based on their endogenous resources. More falls if its contribution to the consolidation of cooperation throughout the Portuguese-Spanish border fostering the participation of public and private stakeholders in local / regional development and reduction of regional asymmetries context transforming costs into competitive advantages

Preparation of the proposed regulations governing use of the brand and logo Transboundary Biosphere Reserve “Meseta Ibérica”



10 a 12 Outubro -

<https://www.facebook.com/reservabiosferatransfronteiricamesetaiberica/photos/pb.305467656273238.-2207520000.1456392447./569602666526401/?type=3&theater>

7 Novembro

<https://www.facebook.com/reservabiosferatransfronteiricamesetaiberica/photos/pb.305467656273238.-2207520000.1456392447./575354019284599/?type=3&theater>

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13 Novembro

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27 Novembro

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3 Dezembro

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4 Dezembro

<https://www.facebook.com/reservabiosferatransfronteiricamesetaiberica/photos/pb.305467656273238.-2207520000.1456392443./583620608457940/?type=3&theater>



Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Meseta Ibérica.

A common nature that defies boundaries!

Come to visit us!

www.biosfera-mesetaiberica.com

AZORES ARCHIPELAGO

The Azores Biosphere Reserves brand



Graciosa

Corvo

Flores

Under the provisions of the Regional Legislative Decree No. 15/2012/A, of April 2nd, the Biosphere Reserves (BR) located in the Autonomous Region of the Azores are administered within the Natural Park of the island where they are located, and are coordinated by the Services of the Regional Directorate of Environment.

The Azores have three areas awarded under the MAB Programme, the Biosphere Reserve of Corvo Island, the Biosphere Reserve of Graciosa Island, both approved in 2007, and the Biosphere Reserve of Flores Island, adopted in 2009.

The area of each Biosphere Reserve includes all land area of the respective island and the surrounding marine area.

The management strategy of the Azores Biosphere Reserves aims to promote the sustainable development of local communities through projects and actions, with the aim of fulfilling the three basic functions of BR.

B.1. Biosphere Reserve of Graciosa Island, 2007

Managed by the Natural Park and supervised by the Services of the Regional Directorate of Environment

Hereby we list the activities carried out by the Graciosa Environment Service (GES) / Natural Park of Graciosa (NPG), in 2015, fitting in the object of the Biosphere Reserve of Graciosa Island (BRG):

-
1. In the academic year 2014/2015, the Primary and Secondary School of Graciosa promoted the realization of the 3rd school competition "The water that unites us", organized by UNESCO, in the sub-theme Biosphere Reserves.

-
2. Promotion of Biosphere Reserve of Graciosa island in the contributions collection session for the preparation of the "Strategic Plan and Marketing for Tourism of the Azores - Horizon 2020", held at the Cultural Center of Santa Cruz Graciosa on April 22, 2015.



-
3. Production, in May, of the annual report of the activities developed by SAG in the Biosphere Reserve of Graciosa island as a contribution in preparing the annual report of the activities developed in national biosphere reserves, to be submitted to UNESCO at the 27th session of the International Coordination Council (CCI) which took place from 8 to 12 June at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

-
4. Filling, in June, a UNESCO questionnaire under the MAB program, entitled "Natural Hazards in World Network of Biosphere Reserves".

-
5. Participation of the chairman of the Management Council of Biosphere Reserve of Graciosa island at the Technical Meeting on the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, held in the Department of Life Sciences, University of Coimbra



-
6. On June 15 was held at the headquarters GES/NPG the 6th regular meeting of the Management Council of the Biosphere Reserve of Graciosa Island.



-
7. Participation of the chairman of the Management Council of Biosphere Reserve of Graciosa island at the "Workshop: Biosphere Reserves - Cooperation spaces and Development", held in St. George on 26 and August 27, 2015.



-
8. Sent to the Chairman of the National Committee of MAB input on the proposed "Action Plan MAB 2016-2025" contained in the document entitled "First Draft Action Plan for Lima UNESCOs MAB Progr and its WNBR 2016-2025.

-
9. On 5 November the SAG responded to the questionnaire prepared by the Environmental Observatory of Menorca (OBSAM), under the "study for the creation of a system of monitoring indicators of the Global Network of RB Islands and Coastal Areas".



-
10. Exposure to mark World Day of Biosphere Reserves, which circulated, between the months of November and December, by the City Council of Santa Cruz of Graciosa, Museum of Graciosa, Graciosa Sports Service and the Basic School and Secondary of Graciosa.



-
11. On December 3 the chairman of the Management Council of Biosphere Reserve of Graciosa island participated in the 1st meeting of the MAB Committee, held in ICNF headquarters in Lisbon.



12. On December 10 was held at the headquarters GES/NPG the 7th regular meeting of the Management Council of the Biosphere Reserve of Graciosa Island.



Under the other responsibilities of this Environment Service / Natural Park, next is also listed a diverse set of other actions and activities that can be related to the promotion and management of the Biosphere Reserve of Graciosa Island:

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



Ponta da Restinga, 2015.08.19



Ponta Branca, 2015.09.17

- 2. Conducting various Census in Graciosa (Common Birds Census, Census of Coastal Birds, Common Buzzard Census, Census of Wintering and Migratory Birds Atlas, Terns Census and Bats Census)**



Common Buzzard Census 2015



Terns Census 2015

3. 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 monteiroi*).



RN Ilhéu da Praia, 2015.01.26



RN Ilhéu de Baixo, 2015.06.17

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



5. Various activities in partnership with the Azores Geopark Association, such as the World Earth Day, European Week of Geoparks, Geosites Monitoring or the examinations of the Regional Stage of Portuguese Olympics of Geology 2014/15.



Monitorização de Geossítios Fase Regional das Olimpíadas Portuguesas da Geologia 2014/15.

- 6. In 2015 the PING started the cleaning of various volcanic cavities of Graciosa present in the Catalogue of cavities Volcanic of the Azores, namely the Cavern of Abel, the Forninho Gallery and the Cavern of the Mill.**



Furna do Abel, 2015.04.14



Galeria do Forninho, 2015.09.08

- 7. On July the PNG supported the team of researchers led by Dr. Tonyo Alcover of Univ de Mallorca, who returned to the caves of Graciosa under the project "Holocene changes in animal biodiversity of the islands of the Macaronesian and baleares".**



8. Between 20 and 21 April 2015 was held in Graciosa the workshop organized by SPEA in Graciosa on the theme "Monteiro's storm-petrel: Opportunities and Challenges" and meeting the so-called "Taskforce monteiroi" under the title "Monteiro's storm-petrel project (phase 1)" supported by Bird Life International under the Programme "Preventing Extinctions "(PEP).



9. Collaboration with Dr. Monica Moura, from the CIBIO / EU in the study of reproductive isolation and hybridization in endemic Tolpis, together with the University of Kansas (USA).



10. Realization in December, together with the Agricultural Development Service of Graciosa, of the 2015 Environmental Conditionality controls, particularly in the control of the requirements "Birds and Habitats". (Natura 2000).

11. 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; Partners for Sustainability; Miosótis; GreenSpiritAzores; Blue Flag and Accessible Beach Flag and commemorative dates.



School Park Program/Eco-Schools program



School Park Program/Azores program Entre-Mares 2015



School Park Program/Campaign SOS Cory's shearwater 2015



School Park Program/Much "More Endemic" in 2015



School Park Program/World Day of the Tree and Forests 2015



Open Park program - Walking with donkeys of Graciosa (local breed) under the European Sustainable Mobility Week



Open Park program - Concert with Eco "- Conducting a concert of children's choir of St. Matthew inside the Sulfur Cavern.

Open Park program - Representation in Sulphur Cavern the birth of Jesus.



Contest ECO Parish: Clean parish 2015

B.2. Corvo Island Biosphere Reserve, 2007

Managed by the Natural Park and supervised by the Services of the Regional Directorate of Environment

The presentation of this report aims to list the activities carried out by Corvo Natural Park, for the mentioned period and as the management of the Biosphere Reserve of Corvo Island (BRC).

In addition to the actions described, this service provides a number of environmental oriented campaigns that the Regional Environment Directorate celebrates annually, in order to raise public awareness of the importance of these issues, namely: Open Park, School Park, Eco Schools program, SOS Cory's Shearwater Campaign, Campaign "Azores Between-seas", Contest ECO Parish: Clean parish, school competition "Water that unites us," the Azores Waste Week, More Endemics; Partners for Sustainability; Miosotis - Green Lodging; Greenspirit Azores; Quality Coast Award, as well as various events of environmental anniversaries.

1. The Regional Government in collaboration with the Azorean Electricity Company, and in partnership with the Municipality, installed solar panels and heat pumps in all houses. This pioneering project aimed at replacing equipment using liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for renewable energy. The range - in the medium term - of the project "Sustainable Corvo" aimed at using hydropower, which will be complemented by windpower. The aim is to reduce dependence on hydrocarbons in Corvo to 20 to 25 percent within a few years.



Sustainable Corvo Project



Solar panels

2. Support to the ONG SPEA on the Post-LIFE project, the execution of work to be done in Greenhouse, aiming at the production of endemic plants for replanting in natural areas.



Greenhouse

3. The BRC in collaboration with SPEA proceeded to place a protection in the Protected Area of the Caldeirão, in order to protect a population of *Myosotis azorica*, popularly known as "Forget-me-not." This action is part of the recovery plan for priority species and habitats in the Region, developed by the Regional Government of the Azores, through the coordination of the Botanical Garden of Faial.



Propagation of *Myosotis azorica*

4. One of the priorities of the BRC is to promote afforestation, made through the reintroduction of native flora, both in protected areas and outside them. This action aims at the promotion and preservation of island biodiversity.



Plantation of endemic plants

5. Cleaning works and periodic waste collection in the fullest extent of the coastline shortcut of "Poça da faca" that is a part of the pedestrian path "Cara do Índio" - PR1COR



Waste collection in coastal zone

6. The CBR provides endemic plants (Cedro-do-mato, Uva-da-serra, Pau-branco and Sanguinho) to various entities in Corvo. The planting of 580 trees, results from large-scale production of endemic plants by the Biotechnology Centre of the Azores - UAç.



Offering plants

7. Support for the SPEA - Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds - under the Post-LIFE project "Sanctuary Islands for Seabirds" - in the repair and rehabilitation of the hedges of the Corvo Biological Reservation.



Corvo Biological Reserve

8. Conducting various census (Census of Common Birds; Census of Coastal Birds, Terns and Bats, in collaboration with the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds and the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries - University of the Azores. Census of the Blackbird; Starling, Wood Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove and Rock Pigeon, carried out under the AZORLIT project.



Tern Monitoring

9. Carrying out monitoring work and cleaning of watercourses - Streams.



Stream cleaning



Stream monitoring

10. Support to the Services of Water Resources and Regional Planning at the level of photographic surveys and geo-referencing, in order to define the locations for the installation of meteorological, udometric and limnigraph stations, to be installed in different parts of the island.



Implementation of the monitoring network for the hydrological cycle

11. Recuperation of the last existing traditional “atafona” in Corvo, a mill used for production of flour. This is another point of interest to anyone visiting the island and its Environmental Interpretation and Cultural Center (CIACC).



Corvo typical “atafona”



Grinding mill

12. Periodic maintenance work, improvement work and support of the technicians from the Regional Tourism and Transport Department, for the placement of signs on the pedestrian paths (Cara do Índio and Caldeirão) embedded in classified areas.



Pedestrian paths maintenance



Improvement of the paths

13. Preparation, in May, of the annual activities report developed by the services of the Biosphere Reserve of Corvo Island, as a contribution to the annual report of the activities developed in in National Biosphere Reserves, to be submitted to UNESCO at the 27th session the International Coordination Council (ICC) which took place from 8 to 12 June at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

14. Filling a UNESCO questionnaire under the MAB program, in June, entitled "Natural Hazards in World Network of Biosphere Reserves".

15. Participation of the Chairman of the Management Council of the BRC in the Technical Meeting "Prospects of cooperation between the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves Network and the UNESCO Chair of the University of Coimbra", promoted by the Department of Life Sciences of University of Coimbra.



Meeting at the Coimbra University



16. Participation of the Chairman of the Management Council of the BRC in the Workshop “Biosphere Reserves - Areas for Cooperation and Development”, which took place in the island of São Jorge on 26th and 27th August 2015.



Workshop in S. Jorge Island

17. On 5th November the BRC filled the questionnaire prepared by the Observatorio Socioambiental de Menorca (OBSAM), under the “study for the creation of a system of monitoring indicators of the Global Network of RB Islands and Coastal Areas”.



18. Participation of the Chairman of the Management Council of the BRC in the first meeting of the MAB Committee, held in ICNF headquarters in Lisbon on December 3rd.



Meeting - ICNF Headquarters.

Other activities connected with the promotion of the Biosphere Reserve of Corvo Island:

19. Guided tour - within the campaign Açores Entre-Mares - to the Biological Reserve of Corvo, by students from pre-school “Creche e JI Blue Planet”.



Visit of the pre-school students to the Corvo Biological Reserve

20. Conducting a guided sea tour of the coastal surrounding of the BRC. As part of the activities of the Campaign Açores “Between-Seas”.



Sea tour

21. Monthly monitoring of Corvo Island Geosites, in partnership with the Azores Geopark.



Corvo Geosites

22. Collaboration with the Forestry Service of Flores and Corvo, in the maintenance of existing endemic pots in the air terminal Corvo.



Pots with endemic plants at Corvo air terminal

23. Collection of endemic seeds for production in the greenhouse for later planting in several areas of RBC. Collection of priority species for seed bank of the Botanical Garden of Faial Island.



Seeds collection

24.Prize awarded to the municipality of Corvo / 2014 certificate for excellence in Eco Parish, clean parish.



25.Controlling flora invasive species in protected areas of RBC.



Cana (*Arundo donax*)



Silva (*Rubus ulmifolius*)

26.Prize awarded "Green accommodation - Miosotis Azores" in 2015, to the Guest House Comodoro, unit that reached the level 4. This prize rewards good environmental practices in tourism enterprises of the Azores.



Miosotis Award

27. Promotion of the Eco Schools program in the Primary and Secondary School Mouzinho da Silveira. Participation in the meetings of the Council Eco Schools. Periodical audit of the Eco Schools implementation by the school.



Periodical audit of the Eco Schools



Participation in the meetings of the Council Eco Schools

28. Twice a year (February and April) the RBC provides collaboration to the "My Azores, My Loves" - Senior Tourism, by promoting the RBC.



Guided tour to the CIACC with senior tourism

29. Various activities in partnerships: with the Geopark Azores, Earth Day commemoration and European Week of Geoparks. With Azorina S.A. - Exhibition on Natural History of the Azores vegetation. With SPEA and the Scouts, in making Atlantic clean-ups.



Atlantic clean-up



Guided tour to the exhibition



Geopark walk

Briefing session on the monitoring of Geosites Corvo, under the partnership between the Azores Geopark and the Island Parks.



Geossítio “Fajã Lávica de Vila do Corvo”

Guided tour to a group of inhabitants of Corvo, to protected areas of Biosphere Reserve of Flores, and the other places of the island, as part of the exchange between the BRF and the BRC.



Grupo da Ilha do Corvo (Sta. Cruz das Flores)

Cutting vegetation and cleaning areas in the Pedestrian Routes. Maintenance of the Signs inserted in classified areas



Percurso Pedestre “Cara do Índio”

Carrying out eradication efforts and flora control of the Invasive Plants in Sensitive Areas - protected areas of the Corvo Biosphere Reserve.



Eliminação de Cana (*Arundo donax*)

Priority species seed collection for production in the greenhouse for later planting in protected areas, to be sent to the Botanical Garden of Faial Seed Bank and for afforestation and reforestation different locations of the BRC.



Seed collection

Implementation of various census in Corvo (Common Birds Census, Census of Coastal Birds, Terns Census and Bats Census), in collaboration with the Azores University-DOP and SPEA.



Censo de Aves Comuns (CAC)

Repair and rehabilitation of the fence of the Biological Reserve of Corvo.



Reserva Biológica do Corvo

Support for the DOP in monitoring actions of marine resources - marine area of the Biosphere Reserve - providing the boat.



Embarcação "Maré Viva I"

Between 21 and 27 September 2014 the director of the Corvo Biosphere Reserve participated in the XII International Meeting of REDBIOS Network - East Atlantic Biosphere Reserve Network, sponsored by UNESCO and the Government of the Azores, held on the islands of Faial, Pico and São Jorge.



Encontro REDBIOS (visit to Ilha do Pico)

Participation in the XI Regional Meeting Environmental Education and Eco Schools, held in the city of Horta, on 16, 17 and 18 October.



XI EREA - Horta

Implementation of a campaign of sterilization and marking of domestic and wild cats. Campaign developed in partnership with the Agricultural Development Office of Flores and Corvo.



Cats sterilization

Rehabilitation of a juvenile turtle rescued in Flores and sent to Biosphere Reserve of Corvo, which sent her to the Aquarium of Porto Pim - Faial. Collaborative action between the Services of Flores and Corvo.



Turtle rescued

Rehabilitaion and treatment of birds (sent to treatment by the Region Natural Parks) in the Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center of Corvo (CRAS).



Birds rehabilitation by CERAS

In addition to the actions described, the Reserve of the Biosphere of Corvo participates and promotes in various Campaigns that the Regional Environment Directorate promotes annually, in order to raise awareness of the importance of these issues, namely: Open Park, School Park, Eco Schools program, SOS Cory's Shearwater Campaign, Campaign Açores Entre-Mares, Contest ECO Parish: Clean parish, school competition "Water that unites us," the Azores Waste Week, More Endemics; Partners for Sustainability; Miosotis - Green Lodging; Greenspirit Azores; Quality Coast, as well as various events of environmental anniversaries.

B.3. Flores Island Biosphere Reserve, 2009

Managed by the Natural Park and supervised by the Services of the Regional Directorate of Environment

Hereby we list the activities carried out by Flores Island Natural Park (FINP) in 2015, as the management of the Biosphere Reserve of Flores Island (BRF):

1. During the school year 2014/2015, the Basic and Secondary School of Flores participated in the 3rd school competition "The water that unites us" in the sub-theme of Biosphere Reserves, promoted by UNESCO and all the Biosphere Reserves of the Azores.
2. Filling a UNESCO questionnaire under the MAB program, in June, entitled "Natural Hazards in World Network of Biosphere Reserves".



3. Participation of the Chairman of the Management Council of the BRF in the Technical Meeting about Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, promoted by the Department of Life Sciences of University of Coimbra.
4. Participation of the Chairman of the Management Council of the Flores Island Biosphere Reserve in the Workshop "Biosphere Reserves - Areas for Cooperation and Development", which took place in the island of São Jorge on 26th and 27th August 2015.



5. On 5th November the BRC filled the questionnaire prepared by the Observatorio Socioambiental de Menorca (OBSAM), under the "study for the

creation of a system of monitoring indicators of the Global Network of RB Islands and Coastal Areas".



6. Participation of the Chairman of the Management Council of the Flores Island Biosphere Reserve in the first meeting of the MAB Committee, held in ICNF headquarters in Lisbon on December 3rd.



Under the other responsibilities of this Service, here are also listed a diverse set of other actions and activities connected with the promotion of the Biosphere Reserve of Flores Island:

1. Maintenance / recovery of viewpoints, trails and signs in classified areas of the Natural Park of Flores Island.



2. Carrying out monitoring work and cleaning of watercourses - streams.



3. Continued application of the PRECEFIAS program - Regional Plan for the Eradication and Control of Invasive Plant Species in Sensitive Areas - in protected areas, or in the process of classification, from the Natural Park of Flores Island.



4. From February 2014, this service started and still maintains a collaboration with the Biodiversity Group of the Azores University in "Long Duration Ecological Study of Natural Forests of the Azores", under the NETBIOME ISLANDBIODIV Project.



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



6. Conducting various census in Flores (Common Birds Census; Coastal Birds Census; Terns Census and Bats Census).



7. Collaboration with Dr. Monica Moura, from CIBIO / UAz in the study of reproductive isolation and hybridization in endemic *Tolpis azorica*, together with the University of Kansas (USA).



8. Participation in the work of sealing the waste dumps of the two councils of the island (Lajes and Santa Cruz).



9. Collaboration with the “Montanheiros - Speleological Exploration Association”, a non governmental organization for the environment (NGOE), to clean the Natural Monument “Rocha dos Bordões”.



Promotion and implementation of numerous actions of education and environmental awareness programs, of which we highlight the programas “Open Park” and “School Park”, the SOS Cory’s Shearwater campaign, the program “Azores Between-seas”, the concert ECO Parish-clean parish, the Azores Waste Week, the program “More endemics”, Partners for Sustainability, Miosotis - Green lodgings, GreenSpiritAzores, Blue Flag, Accessible Beach Flag and commemorative dates.

1. Program “Open Park”:



24th January, Eco-traditions: Basketry with copper wires



25th february, distribution and plantation of endemic plants



15th March, Exercise class: For you, For the Environment



18th April, Along the paths of Bio and Geodiversity: Pedestrian route Ponta Delgada - Ponta Ruiva



22nd and 23rd April, Aromatic herbs garden



17th May, In communion with nature: Fitness Class with the Gym “Viva Mais”



2nd June, Marine bird watching



27th October, Eco-traditions: Jams and Preserves



21st November, Workshop of Birdwatching



7th December, Display of Flores Island Biosphere Reserve Products

2. " Program "School Park"



Schools visit the Interpretation Center (CIAB)



Exhibition of Azorean Rocks



Peddy-paper CIAB



Biosphere Reserve sessions

3. Eco-Schools Program



Delivering the Eco-Schools Awards 2015

4. SOS Cory's Shearwater Campaign



5. "Azores Between-seas" program



6. ECO Parish, clean parish



Participation in the 6th Azores Waste Week with the development of various activities between 21st and 29nd November.



Workshop "Recycle playing" on 24 and 25 November in the ATL Santa Cruz and Lajes respectively



Session on the topic Waste carried out in collaboration with the Municipality of Lajes das Flores



Free distribution of shopping lists and stickers "Addressed Mail Only"



Cleaning of coastal areas held in collaboration with the Municipality of Santa Cruz das Flores

7. More Endemics program



8. Award Miosotis-green lodgings



9. World Wetlands Day 2015



10. CINE ECO Film Festival , for citizens and in school



C.MADEIRA ISLAND

C.1. Santana - Madeira Biosphere Reserve, 2011

Managed by the Municipality of Santana (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:

9th Atlantic Conference: “Debating Desertification in the International Year of Soils” - Madeira Museum of Printing

At the invitation of the Island Geography Association, the Biosphere Reserve took part in the 9th Atlantic Conference, the theme of which was “Discussing Desertification in the International Year of Soils”. Integrated into economic activities and best practices concerning soil use, the Biosphere Reserve was presented as a contribution to sustainable development. Santana Madeira Biosphere Reserve is a meeting place for various local and regional actors creating opportunities for stimulating initiatives in respect of conserving and showcasing natural and cultural heritage, and mechanisms for highlighting the option for sustainable development presented by Santana Municipal Council.



9th Atlantic Conference - Island Geography Association

Preserving and showcasing the cultural and natural heritage of Santana Madeira Biosphere Reserve enables the renewal and social development of the local economy. The Charter of the Biosphere Reserve under Santana and, consequently, under the Autonomous Region, promotes a set of initiatives for converting activities and for showcasing natural and cultural heritage.

Given the foregoing, Santana Madeira Biosphere Reserve is a site with excellent conditions for providing logistics support for the development of research projects in various disciplines. Classification as a Biosphere Reserve allows those activities to be promoted, and it is also an opportunity to promote interdisciplinarity between various interventions.

Partnership with the University of Madeira

Santana Madeira Biosphere Reserve has set up a protocol for co-operation with the University of Madeira, as part of organising and implementing training, as part of work to be done by students following professional advanced technical courses to work as Nature Guides or in Biological Agriculture.

Partnership with the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds

Given the significance and the acknowledgement of the natural value of the Laurel Forest Special Protection Area / Special Conservation Area, the Biosphere Reserve has entered into a partnership agreement with the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds for putting together the application for “LIFE Governance and Information 2015”.

“Invested local management by Natura Network 2000: apply and share best practice” is the project to be developed. Its objectives are to reinforce environmental

citizenship made up of people and organisations who work for the sustainable management of Natura 2000 sites through information campaigns and other activities.

Biosphere Reserve Schools Network competition

As in previous years and in the context of the Biosphere Reserve Schools Network, Santana Madeira Biosphere Reserve has launched the schools competition, of which the theme concerning the Biosphere Reserve is predominant. This year, 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 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.



Poster produced for the Biosphere Reserve by a design trainee

Photography competition

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

In that way, it is hoped that the final result will be a reflection of the elements that involve Santana Council, ranging from its vast forest to its built environment, its people, and its traditions.



Taking part in marking “World Science Day for Peace and Development - Pavilion of Knowledge” by sending material that advertises and promotes Santana Madeira Biosphere Reserve.

Partnership with Madeira Natural Park

Throughout April, activities will be organised with Madeira Natural Park, with a talk on *Uses of traditional plants from the Madeira Laurel Forest* as well as an exhibition on the subject. The talk has been arranged by Graça Mateus of Madeira Natural Park.



Talk and exhibition in social and municipal centres



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