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# **PORTUGAL National Report**

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## **UNESCO Man & Biosphere Programme 2018**

**National Committee of the UNESCO MAB Programme**

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## 1. Portugal and the UNESCO MaB Programme

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Portugal is associated with the Man & the Biosphere Programme (MaB) since late 1981, when our first Biosphere Reserve - Paul do Boquilobo was classified. Currently contributes with 11 Biosphere Reserves (BR) to the total World Network of 669 reserves, three of which are transboundary – Gerês/Xurês, Meseta Ibérica and Tejo/Tajo Internacional, part of the 20 Transboundary Biosphere Reserves (TBR) , belonging to the MaB Programme and existing in 122 countries.

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

The Portuguese Biosphere Reserves covers different types of ecosystems, from mainland (Atlantic and Mediterranean ecosystems) to the archipelagos of Azores and Madeira (Macaronesian ecosystems). These are territories where Man-Nature integration binomial, reflects history, tradition and equitable, balanced and sustainable development territorial models. In map 1 and table 1 it is possible to understand how these Biospheres Reserves are distributed geographically, while some figures are showed and described in Portuguese network of Biosphere Reserves.



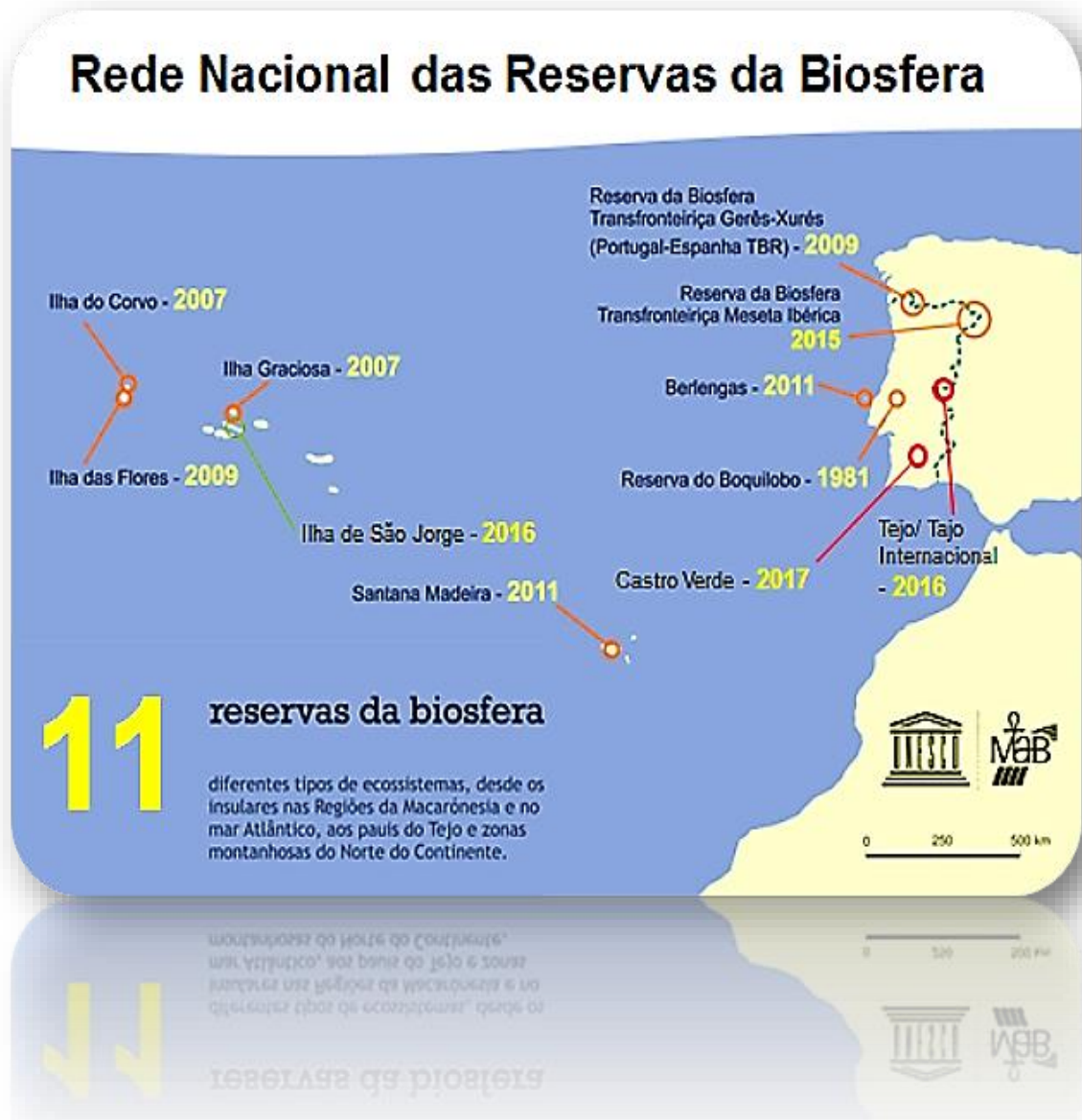


Fig. 1. Map of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves Network (April 2019)

Biosphere Reserves	Year of Nomination	Total area (ha)	Land area (ha)	Marine area (ha)	Population (total)	Portugal (ha)	Spain (ha)	Zoning (% ou ha)
Boquilobo	1981	5896			8400			Núcleo- 13,8% Tampão- 17,50% Transição-68,7 %
Corvo	2007	25.853	1.713	24.141	430			Núcleo- 11,7% Tampão- 88% Transição-0,3%
Flores	2009	57.644	14.112	43.532	3793			Núcleo- 3% Tampão- 12% Transição-85%
Graciosa	2007	10.786	6.076	4.710	4391			Núcleo- 5% Tampão- 18% Transição-77%
Geres-Xurês	2009	267.958			76.301 total 66.177 PT 10.124 SP	196.838 (76%)	62.819 (24%)	Total Núcleo- 16% Tampão- 32% Transição-52%
Santana - Madeira	2011	15.218			7.795			
Berlengas	2011	18.708	701	18.007	70+27.752			Núcleo - 0,1% Tampão – 4,6% Transição -95,3%
Meseta ibérica	2015	1.132.606			169.745total 133.940 PT 35.805 SP	657.365 (58%)	475.241 (42%)	Total Núcleo- 9,29% Tampão- 56,36% Transição-34,35%
Fajãs de S. Jorge	2016	98.114,17	24.382,77	73.731,40	9.171 total Núcleo 188 Tampão 767 Transição 8217			Núcleo-8,52% Tampão- 11,28% Transição- 80,2%
Tejo/Tajo Internacional	2016	428.274				169.201 (39,5%)	259.073 (60,5%)	Total Núcleo-13,1% Tampão- 30,7% Transição-56,2%
Castro Verde	2017	56.942			7.276 total Núcleo 5 Tampão 784 Transição 6487			Núcleo-10,5% Tampão- 46,7% Transição- 42,8%

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

TBR – Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

Total area in Portugal is 1.312.565 ha

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## 2. MaB National Committee

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The MaB National Committee is chaired by the national authority for nature conservation and biodiversity (Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests - ICNF) and in 2018 it met twice. The first meeting (29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May) took place in a Biosphere Reserve territory, as it has been agreed to follow the chronological creation dates (year of designation in the World List of Biosphere Reserve). Although this strategy involves a more complex organization, it allows all members of the Committee to visit the territory and promotes a direct contact with local stakeholders (Mayors, Presidents of the Parish Councils, social and local development key-actors, research institutions, schools, NGOs). It also allows a broad debate *in situ* about the Biosphere Reserves manager's challenges and opportunities they face.



This year, **the first meeting** took place in the Transboundary Biosphere Reserves of Gerês-Xurês (TBRGX). During two days it was possible to have an inside view of the territory (Portuguese and Spanish) of our first TBR, designated in 2009. The visit to the territory included the passage through core, buffer and transition areas, contacts with a nature tourism activities businessman, technicians of the Municipalities of Ponte da Barca and Melgaço and the representative of the Local Development Association - ADERE - Peneda Gerês. There were also interactions with the Spanish side (Antonio Mosquera) who explained the history prior to the application of the RBTGX, namely the memorandum between the Natural Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurés Natural Park (Spain) and the Peneda - Gerês National Park (Portugal) (1994), and the 1997 cross-border agreement for joint actions.

The long-standing (over 25 years) and excellent technical relationship between the two sides of the borders were always been highlighted as well as the existence of common management activities and projects.

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

**The second meeting** (20<sup>th</sup> of November), the 7<sup>th</sup> National committee meeting, was held in Lisbon, at the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forestry (ICNF) headquarters, the entity that coordinates the Committee (created by Despacho nº 9051/2015, 13<sup>th</sup> of august), and was attended by 25 people. There were representatives from ten of the eleven Biosphere Reserves.

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



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### **3. Portugal Action Plan 2018-2025**

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Portugal adapted the Lima Action Plan 2016-2025, as recommended by the UNESCO MaB Program Secretariat. The document operationalizes the Strategy MaB 2015-2025, for the reality of the Biosphere Reserves in Portugal.

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

The final document went through several versions that were revised and improved until its approval at the 7th National Committee meeting, which took place in November 2018 in Lisbon.

The application responsibility rests with all the agents involved in the application of the MaB Program in Portugal and with the managers and stakeholders of the Biosphere Reserves.

In this way, representatives of the different sectors such as the public administration in their areas of competence related to these territories, the autonomous governments of the Azores and Madeira, the educational and research institutions, the social actors, local and regional development actors and the general population must be involved.

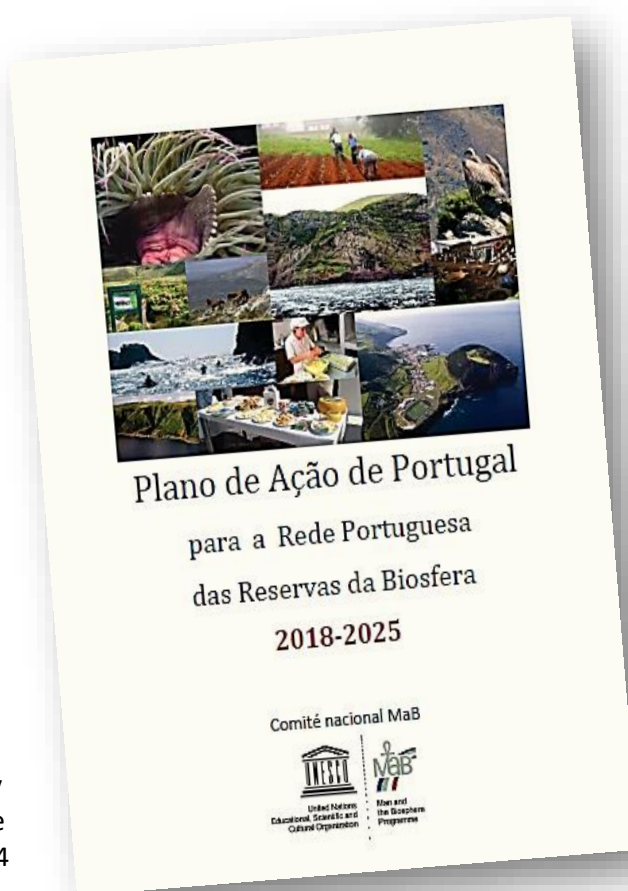
The overall evaluation of this Action Plan will follow the standard established by UNESCO for the evaluation of the Lima Action Plan and will be reported to the MaB Secretariat in accordance with the guidelines of the MaB Program.

An interim evaluation is planned for 2021 and the results will be indicative of the needs to reorient actions in order to meet the objectives set for 2025.

With the approval of the Portuguese Action Plan, Portugal commits itself to UNESCO and to the main objectives of the MaB Program and the good management of its Biosphere Reserves.

A type of management that aims to respond to the challenges of today in order to build a global partnership to improve human lives, protect the environment and promotes qualification and marketing of the territory, always within a perspective of future generations and a balanced and sustainable development.

So, the RB management is guided by Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (ODS), namely goals 14 (Life below water) and 15 (Life on the Land).



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

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

- ✓ *18th meeting of the Iberomab Network (May 7-9, Colombia). The key theme was the discussion on the Lima Action Plan. In addition, were also discussed governance, funding, awareness and capacity building, communication issues and visibility ("most people do not know that they live in a Biosphere Reserve") and the importance of the involvement of the young people in decision-making.  
At that meeting, 3 specific working groups were established: (i) governance of BR, (ii) gender equality and (iii) involvement of young people in the management of BR as representatives of future generations.  
The participation in that meeting was supported by the Spanish and Colombian government.*
- ✓ *Seminar of the Iberomab Network on "Risk management and natural threats in the IberomaB and Caribbean Region: Protected natural spaces as areas of action" (November 6-9, Akumal, Mexico). In this context, the most pressing themes for Portugal were focused on drought, fires and depopulation of the interior of the country. The participation in that meeting was supported by the Spanish and Mexico government.*
- ✓ *Contribution to the survey, promoted by the EuroMAB Network, on Biosphere Reserves and European funding | 22 June*
- ✓ *Participation on a first monitoring document of the implementation of the Lima Action Plan in Portugal | MaB Program Secretariat;*
- ✓ *Exchange of material for the preparation of a book (edition of the ABERTIS Foundation) on the Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Network.*

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

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

Following the invitation of the UNESCO Office in Maputo, Mozambique, technical support and coordination was provided to Mozambique's first application. Quirimbas integrated the World Biosphere Reserves Network since the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Coordination Council, in July 2018.

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## 6. Political involvement

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Institutional contacts were made with the Madeira Regional Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / UNESCO National Commission, as well as the inclusion of the subject Biosphere Reserves in ministerial contacts between the Portuguese Minister of the Environment and its Spanish homologous:

- ✓ *Two meetings with the Regional Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources of Madeira, Prof. Dr Susana Prada, about the MaB Program, the Biosphere Reserves as a sustainability laboratory and the application of Porto Santo as Biosphere Reserve| 8th of January and 28th of November;*
- ✓ *Meeting with the new President of the UNESCO National Commission, Ambassador Moraes Cabral, about the National MaB Committee agenda|5th of July;*
- ✓ *Support note to include the topic of Transboundary Biosphere Reserves in the agenda of the meeting between the portuguese Minister of the Environment, João Pedro Matos Fernandes and the spanish Minister of Ecological Transition. Teresa Ribera Rodriguez|25<sup>th</sup> of June;*
- ✓ *Support note to include the subject Transboundary Biosphere Reserves on the Declaration of the 11th Luso-Spanish Commission for Cross-Border Cooperation, Seville |29<sup>th</sup> of October 29.*

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

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

In accordance with MaB Programme statutory framework, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary also corresponds to the first Periodic Review process, where reports are developed and submitted to the MaB Secretariat.

The national committee evaluated both documents in a positive way and sent its technical opinion to the MaB Secretariat in Paris.

According to the 30<sup>th</sup> MaB ICC report and the direct letters sent to both territorial managements, the Advisory Committee welcomed the first Periodic Review of the Corvo Island Biosphere Reserve and Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve and considered that both sites meet

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the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves criteria, without any special recommendation.

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

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## **8. National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity 2030**

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The Nature Conservation and Biodiversity National Strategy was approved by the Council of Ministers (Resolution of the Council of Ministers nº. 55/2018, 7<sup>th</sup> of May), which presents the strategic guidelines to be developed by 2030, in compliance with the national policy guidelines, European and international commitments.



This strategic document makes reference to the important role of Biosphere Reserves as privileged territories for the nature conservation and promotion of sustainable development practice, defining them as areas classified under international commitments with a supranational designation.

[https://www.portugal2020.pt/Portal2020/Media/Default/Docs/Legislacao/Nacional/RCM55\\_2018.pdf](https://www.portugal2020.pt/Portal2020/Media/Default/Docs/Legislacao/Nacional/RCM55_2018.pdf)

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## **9. Training and capacity building**

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A training workshop was made and focused on Communication and Digital Marketing (under the coordination of Filipa Cardoso, Director of Communication of Turismo de Portugal, I.P.).

The workshop key issue, was the importance of communication as a factor of visibility for the territories integrated in the RB. Also, in the same context, it focused on the target audiences to be achieved, the need to define in detail what one wants to communicate, the importance of continuous communication, the relevance of creating emotions and will in the public, the quality of the content, the possibility of using content produced by social networks users, the definition of the right moment and time of day to inform and communicate and the use of existing social networks to transmit information, as they are easy, cheap and quickly to reach a considerable number of people.

Several concrete cases were presented and many examples were shown with the Turismo de Portugal I.P. work. The session ended with a well-attended and highly participated debate.

The Committee prepared two supporting notes on MaB Programme. The first (Note 1/2018) - **Support for the application process** - and is addressed to those who want to start a designation of a Biosphere Reserve candidature for the UNESCO MaB Program. It contains basic information on what is a Biosphere Reserve, what are the criteria for assessing the qualification of the territory proposed, the procedures of preparing the application process (which is more than completing the form), and the assessment and approval processes.



The second (Note nº2 / 2018) - **Diagnostic checklist and support for an adaptive management**, aims to support those responsible for the management of Biosphere Reserves. It is a checklist that helps reflect on key areas to implement in the territory, the primary functions of a Biosphere Reserve and thus promote a more active, participated and adaptive management.

Both notes can be consulted on the ICNF website, on the address dedicated to Biosphere Reserves

<http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/pn/biodiversidade/ei/MaB>

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## 10. Research activities

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Some Master's and PhD theses related with Biosphere Reserves and sustainable development are currently being developed at the University Nova de Lisboa. The National Committee supports, whenever requested, students as well as teachers.

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## 11. UNESCO Chair in Biodiversity and Conservation for Sustainable Development

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Among the 12 UNESCO chairs in Portugal, the Biodiversity and Conservation for Sustainable Development chair, University of Coimbra, established in 2013 and renewed until 2021, is with whom the National MaB Committee has developed a greater partnership. The year 2018 was essentially devoted to Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The UNESCO Chair is an active member of the National MaB Committee, participating in meetings and working groups, particularly during this year, in adapting the Lima Plan Action 2016-2025 to the reality of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves.

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## **12. Support for the preparation of two new Biosphere Reserves applications forms**

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

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## **13. EEA GRANT – MFEEE (EFTA Fund)**

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

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

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

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

In that context, we are developing an EEA Grants (Fundo EFTA) application to the promotion of the “**Sustainable Development of Biosphere Reserves Territories**” project with €2.200.000 allocation that will enhance a deeper knowledge about the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves:

- (i) *to promote capacitation actions for public entities and managers of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves concerning the promotion of best practices on the use of endogenous resources;*
- (ii) *(ii) to implement actions to improve local information level about the value of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves;*
- (iii) *(iii) to adopt handbooks with common guidelines for the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves and*
- (iv) *(iv) to carried out campaigns to raise the perception and the knowledge of local communities regarding the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves values.*

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

The expected outcome is the increase on the sustainable development actions promoted by Biosphere Reserves territories, by implementing living sustainability laboratories solutions, one in each Biosphere Reserve, where the promotion and sustainable use of endogenous resources initiatives, in cooperation with the populations and the local development actors are experienced, in order to achieve nature conservation objectives and improvement of life quality.

The programmatic content of the application was approved on 10/10/2018, but the program contract will only be approved in mid-2019.

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## **14. Other Funding sources**

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Berlengas Biosphere Reserves applied for a Regional Fund, related with the Fishing sector (GAL Pesca OESTE-MAR2020) It got a funding of € 130.000, mostly related with the creation of an information and interpretation gate center in Peniche, called "Portas da Biosfera Berlengas".

Meseta Ibérica TBR, together with other partners were involved in a project, still subject to appreciation by the Structural Financing Programs (SUDOE Program), in the area of pastoral landscape modeling. The PATRIMPASTO project is based on the assumption that pastoralism shapes the mountains by valuing natural resources in ecosystem goods and services, both cultural and economic. However, this practice is decreasing in the SUDOE space, causing the progressive loss of collective management of mountains, cultural heritage, biodiversity and the gradual abandonment of territories by the local population. The project aims to bring together all users and stakeholders to identify factors affecting pasture and pastoral areas and the assets generated, to build prospective scenarios for the future, to propose and implement action plans at pilot sites and concrete proposals to integrate in the public policies of each region.

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

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## 15. Communication and information dissemination on Biosphere Reserves

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Despite the actions taken in each BR, described in section 17 of this report, it is worth mention activities in the Media (local and national news) and participation in Seminars, workshops and conferences, described below, highlighting some relevant initiatives were MaB National Committee is present in order to disseminate and promote the MaB Program and its criteria as well as the National Network of Biosphere Reserves to different target audiences.

- ✓ *Meeting with stakeholders in Porto Santo, Madeira, included in the application process from Porto Santo to the Biosphere Reserve | 9<sup>th</sup> of January*
- ✓ *Participation in the World Oceans Day celebrated in the Berlengas Biosphere Reserve, in Peniche, at the School of Tourism and Technology of the Sea | June 8th.*
- ✓ *Seminar "Porto Santo - UNESCO Biosphere Reserve: Opportunities and Challenges", on the Island of Porto Santo (Madeira) | November 28th, 29th and 30th.*
- ✓ *Support and participation in the Conference "UNESCO territories and Climate change : challenges and solutions" at Academia das Ciências de Lisboa | January 25th.*
- ✓ *News on Facebook and on the MaB UNESCO Program website:  
- Paul Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve of the day (advertised on facebook) | April 10th;  
- 6th meeting of the National MaB Committee in the Gerês-Xurês Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (advertised on the website and on facebook) | June 22nd.*
- ✓ *News on the ICNF website and facebook about various activities of the National MaB Committee as a way of increasing the visibility of Portuguese Biosphere Reserves*
- ✓ *Interviews - Agrotejo magazine, one national newspaper, two regional newspaper (Funchal and Porto Santo)*



Other:

Searching on Google by *Reservas da Biosfera Portugal*, it retrieves **1.700.000** results.

And hundreds of videos can be found on a Youtube search:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=reservas+da+biosfera+portugal](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=reservas+da+biosfera+portugal)





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## 16. 2018 highlights

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Of all the activities carried out in 2018, due to their relevance and significance in international terms, we highlight the followings:

- ✓ *Visit of the General Secretary of the World Tourism Organization/ONU to Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve, created in June 2017 | 23 rd of January*
- ✓ *Integration of 3 national experts and elements of the national MaB Committee into 3 groups of the Team formed for the development of technical guidelines for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (monitoring and data management, Zoning and Policy, Management and Business Plans)| June*
- ✓ *One member of the national MaB Committee (António Domingos Abreu) assumes the role of Program Specialist in the Division of Ecological Sciences of the UNESCO MaB Program | October*

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## 17. Main Initiatives developed by the 11 Biosphere Reserves

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Herewith is a report of the most relevant activities of the eleven Portuguese BR developed during 2018:

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1. *Reserva da Biosfera do Paul do Boquilobo*

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  2. *Reserva da Biosfera da Ilha do Corvo*

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  3. *Reserva da Biosfera da Ilha da Graciosa*

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  4. *Reserva da Biosfera da Ilha das Flores*

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  5. *Reserva da Biosfera de Santana, na Madeira*

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  6. *Reserva da Biosfera Transfronteiriça do Gerês-Xurês*

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  7. *Reserva da Biosfera das Berlengas*

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  8. *Reserva da Biosfera Transfronteiriça da Meseta Ibérica*

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  9. *Reserva da Biosfera Transfronteiriça do Tejo/Tajo internacional*

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  10. *Reserva da Biosfera das Fajãs de São Jorge*

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  11. *Reserva da Biosfera de Castro Verde*

## 1. Reserva da Biosfera do Paul do Boquilobo

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### INTRODUCTION

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The year of 2018 was another important milestone for the Biosphere Reserve of Paul do Boquilobo. We continue to strengthen the implementation and development of a set of activities and strategies that we consider important, of which we highlight here the ones that contribute most to the objectives set by the MAB Program.



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### GOVERNANCE ACTIONS

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During 2018 a series of regular meetings of the management body (MB) and the Extended Advisory Board (EAB) were held to discuss and develop the strategy for the Paul Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve.

Various financial participation possible sources were identified and promoted, with a view to the economic sustainability of the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve. Paul Baquilobo's objectives and development strategy were disclosed to several entities. The first steps were taken to stimulate RBPB as a biodiversity research observatory in collaboration with the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar.

The participation in meetings and working groups was effective. We highlight the following:

- ✓ *Organisation of working groups within the broad Advisory Council;*
- ✓ *Participation in Working Groups/collaborative Networks, as in the case of the Portuguese and Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Networks and the MaB Committee;*
- ✓ *Participation in technical meetings with the MaB National Committee and other National Biosphere Reserves;*
- ✓ *Participation in the Municipal Tourism Council of Torres Novas*
- ✓ *Participation in ADIRN's Group of Rural development experts*

## Financing Sources

During 2018, applications were identified and promoted to E.U.funds for investments necessary for the development strategy of the RB of Paul do Boquilobo, highlighting:

- ✓ *Within the Environmental Fund, ONGATEJO has submitted applications for the development of awareness-raising actions for biodiversity conservation through the Environmental + Sustainable Education program;*
- ✓ *Within the framework of the Science and Technology Foundation, AGROTEJO presented, as a partner, an application for a research project aimed at optimizing green infrastructures in irrigated agricultural valleys for the promotion of environmental quality and Biodiversity*
- ✓ *In the context of the CIM Tejo the municipality of de Torres Novas presented a final candidacy for rehabilitation of surrounding spaces in the Natural Reserve of Paul do Boquilobo – Almonda Route.*

## Investments

The MB partners developed and executed a set of investments with a view to revitalize and make beautiful spaces for conservation, observation and leisure, highlighting:

- ✓ *By the Management Body's partners, Were Developed various materials for dissemination and promotion of the potential of the territory, namely leaflets, promotion in magazines, articles of opinion and presence in fairs and other certames.*
- ✓ *By the ICNF, works of Conservation of rails and signage of the Nature Reserve of Paul do Boquilobo.*
- ✓ *Under the Regional Operational Program of Alentejo (Alentejo 2020), the Municipality of Golegã continued and finalized the rehabilitation and requalification of the trails.*



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## CONSERVATION FUNCTION

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In 2018, a set of activities to conserve nature in the RBPB were carried out. We emphasize the following:

- ✓ *By the ICNF, the maintenance of the ring station of constant effort in terms of the EURING;*
- ✓ *Continuation of Conservation actions *Narcissus fernandesii*;*
- ✓ *The recovery of the water-lily areas continues (*Nynphae Alba*);*
- ✓ *Maintenance of the certification of the ash populations (*Fraxinus angustifolia*);*
- ✓ *Conducting Regular census of birds;*
- ✓ *Implementation of a monitoring program of fish species existing in the reserve;*
- ✓ *Mapping of the areas of occurrence of species of infested flora;*
- ✓ *Climate and water levels monitoring in RBPB.*



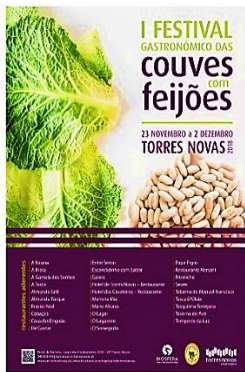

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## DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

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2018 was a year where a set of development and sustainability actions were held that deserve to be mentioned:

- ✓ *Participation in the Milho Amarelo project;*
- ✓ *Participation in the pilot project of energy certification developed by ADENE;*
- ✓ *Promotion of local products from the Biosphere Reserve*



- ✓ *Monitoring of the consequences of water scarcity verified at the beginning of 2018;*
- ✓ *Follow-up of guided visits, with actions of environmental education in the RNPB;*
- ✓ *Conducting various actions of sensitization and solidarity.*

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## LOGISTIC FUNCTION

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During 2018 several actions were developed in the areas of scientific research, monitoring, education and environmental awareness among the community and of the different local agents, of which the following are highlighted:

- ✓ *Raising awareness among farmers of a set of measures that they must take towards environmental sustainability, including the use of plant protection products and the use of water resources;*
- ✓ *Awareness raising for the prevention of rural fires;*
- ✓ *Promotion and information of the Paul do Boquilobo fauna;*
- ✓ *Collaboration with ICNF on the Anniversary of the Paul do Boquilobo Nature Reserve.*

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## COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

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

- ✓ *Online publications update in the site [www.pauldoboquilobo.pt](http://www.pauldoboquilobo.pt)*
- ✓ *Disclosure on Facebook of news and all activities developed in the Biosphere Reserve;*
- ✓ *PBBR's publicity on MaB Unesco's international Facebook as "Booking of the Day";*
- ✓ *Promotion of Paul do Boquilobo BR on the Biosphere Reserve Mediterranean Network*
- ✓ *Promotion of RB in cultural and sporting events;*
- ✓ *RBPB news integration in the editorial line of AGROTEJO Magazine 2018;*
- ✓ *Photo competition and exhibition on the new Paul do Boquilobo BR rails.*




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## OTHER ACTIVITIES / OTHER PROJECTS / PARTNERS

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During 2018, the RBPB participated in a number of projects and initiatives with other entities in the fields of nature conservation, agriculture, tourism, social solidarity and regional planning, towards the development and sustainability of the entire Biosphere Reserve. We highlight the following:

- ✓ Projeto RESTOLHO – [www.restolho.org](http://www.restolho.org)
- ✓ Projeto CERTAGRI – <https://www.adene.pt/certagri>
- ✓ Projeto SmartCrop – <https://www.smartcrop.info/>
- ✓ Projecto ENTOVALOR – <http://www.inia.v.pt/projetos-de-investigacao/entovalor>
- ✓ Projeto MaiSolo – <https://maissolo.webnode.pt/>

## 2. Reserva da Biosfera da Ilha do Corvo

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### INTRODUCTION

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Throughout 2018, several works out carried were in the Biosphere Reserve of Corvo Island:

- ✓ *Maintenance of rails, belts and signage inserted in protected areas;*
- ✓ *Collection of waste along the coastline in urban areas;*
- ✓ *Cleaning and monitoring of water lines;*
- ✓ *Conservation actions of nature;*
- ✓ *Promotion of environmental awareness and education activities.*

However, the celebration of the 10 years of the creation of the Corvo Natural Park was a moment of particular significance for the island, since the Natural Parks constitute the management unit of the Protected Areas of the Azores, covering all the classified areas of each of the islands.



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### GOVERNANCE ACTIONS

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Holding of the two regular meetings of the Council of Management of the Island of Corvo Biosphere Reserve (RBIC), recommended in paragraph 4 of article 54 of Regional Legislative Decree no. 15/2012 / A, of April 2.

Participation, on behalf of the Biosphere Reserve of the Azores, at the event: "Porto Santo - Unesco Biosphere Reserve: Challenges Opportunities" held on that island on 28, 29 and 30 November.



Presence at the two meetings of the National Committee of the Man and the Biosphere Program (MaB), established by Order no. 9051/2015, of August 13, namely between May 29 and 30 in the Gerês-Xurês Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (RBTGX) and on November 20 at the headquarters of the Institute for Conservation of Nature and Forests (ICNF) in Lisbon.





During the course of 2018, several working meetings took place between the four biosphere reserves of the Azores and SIMBIENTE AÇORES - Engenharia e Gestão Ambiental, Lda. In the framework of the preparation of the Action Plans for Biosphere Reserves of the RAA, as recommended in the Resolution of the Council of the Government no. 65/2017 of June 22.

On October 29, the application form of the Biosphere Reserve of Graciosa Island sent was to the Technical Office of the Biosphere Reserve of Menorca to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves Islands and Coastal Areas / World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere

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## CONSERVATION FUNCTION

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Collection of several seeds and georeferencing of endemic species to the Azores Seed Bank.

The Natural Park maintains the collaboration with SPEA in the monitoring and planting of plants in the Caldeirão Protected Area (RBIC core zone), in order to propagate *Myosotis azorica* and *Myosotis maritima*. The action is part of the recovery plans of the priority species and habitats of the Region, developed by the Government of the Azores throughout the archipelago, under the coordination of the Botanical Garden of Faial. Realização de vários censos, designadamente, Censo de Morcegos dos Açores, Censo do Pombo-torcaz (Projeto AZORPI), Censo de Garajaus, Censo de Aves Comuns (CAC), Censo de Aves Costeiras Invernantes (Projeto Arenaria) e Censo para o Atlas das Aves Nidificantes de Portugal.

Within the framework of the Azorean Cetacean Arromenting Network (RACA), marine animals recorded are on the Coast of Corvo Island, mainly cetaceans, pinnipeds and sea turtles.

An inventory / signage campaign was carried out on the presence of exotic grasses of the species *Pennisetum clandestinum* and *Pennisetum villosum* on Corvo Island.

During the year 2018, the work of monitoring coastal litter on the beaches of the Region continued also was, in accordance with the standardized criteria of the OSPAR Convention and the study on micro plastics and their impact on the marine ecology of food, under the project LIXAZ.

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## DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

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During the year 2018, the first "Participatory Budget of the Azores" (OP Azores) presented was. The thematic areas chosen were Environment, Social Inclusion, Youth and Tourism. Based on an overall amount of € 600,000, it was up to Corvo Island to decide how to grant € 20,000.00.

Under the project "Territory Custody and Ecotourism in Macaronesia - CdTECoTur" co-financed by the Madeira-Azores-Canarias (POMAC). Operational Program for Territorial Cooperation 2014-20 and with an overall budget of € 572,692.96, around € 136, 000, 00. Addressed area to the four reserves of the biosphere of the Azores and aim, through small actions on the ground, to conserve and protect the environment, promote resource efficiency



and increase attractiveness in natural areas of tourist interest.

Support in the promotion and awarding of the Miosotis Azores Green Lodgings Award - which aims to promote sustainable tourism and reward good environmental practices in Azorean tourist developments. In 2018, the first award awarded was to a Local Accommodation unit. Dissemination and support to Eco Escolas, an international program that intends to encourage actions and recognize the quality work developed by schools, in the ambit of Environmental Education / Education for Sustainable Development. EBS Mouzinho da Silveira - Corvo, which has been part of this program for several years, has achieved good results.

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## LOGISTIC FUNCTION

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Throughout 2018, regular monitoring of the three priority geosites of the island of Corvo carried was out, that is, the sites of geological interest that are part of the Azores Geopark (UNESCO). Accomplishment of several actions of promotion, education and environmental awareness, inserted in the programs Open Park, School Park, Eco Schools and Azores Entre-Mares.



Support of the Corvo Biosphere Reserve to the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries of the University of the Azores (PDO / UAç) in the work of marking 23 Meros (Epinephelus marginatus) (between 106 and 38 cm in total length) in the Voluntary Reserve of the Caneiro and place 12 moorings and respective acoustic receivers in the reserve and around Corvo Island.

In September, a questionnaire on Maritime Spatial Planning and Cross-Border Cooperation up drawn was up under the European project MarSP - Macaronesian Maritime Spatial Planning, which aims to support the implementation of maritime spatial planning (OEM) processes in the three outermost regions of Macaronesia - Azores, Madeira and Canarias.



In October, the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (WNICBR) presented was with a selection of actions prioritized by RBIG for WNICBR's 2018-2022 Action Plan.

On December 20, the project 'LIFE AZORES NATURA - Active Protection and Integrated Management of the Natura 2000 Network' approved was. With a global direct investment of around 19.1 million euros over the next nine years, of which 14.1 million euros earmarked area for the terrestrial component,

corresponding to a very large set of interventions in these areas of the Natura 2000 Network of the Azores considered is the largest conservation project ever conceived for the Azores.

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## COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

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Elaboration of a form for the book "Biosphere Reserves of the IberoMaB Network".

Contribution in the elaboration of articles / news and audiovisual production, highlighting the "Documentary of the 10 years of Natural Parks in the Azores" by Paulo Henrique Silva.

In June 10 anniversary of the Biosphere Reserves of the Corvo and Graciosa islands announced was in the 13th Newsletter of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (WNICBR).



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## OTHER AREAS NOT INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS THEMES

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At the end of last year, the Corvo Natural Park promoted the expansion and rehabilitation works, namely the creation of a quarantine room, expansion and improvement of aviaries, as well as the installation of new furniture and various equipment - Raven's Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center (CERAS/Corvo).

This Center, pioneer in the Azores, inaugurated in 2010, has as main objective the recovery of injured or weakened wild birds in order to return them to nature in safety.

The Center also serves as a point of dissemination and environmental awareness of the population, alerting to the good practices of handling injured animals and making known the birds of the Region as well as those that pass through the archipelago.



### 3. Reserva da Biosfera da Ilha da Graciosa

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#### INTRODUCTION

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In 2018 Graciosa Island celebrated the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Graciosa Natural Park and the recognition of the Monteiro's storm-petrel (*Hidrobates monteiroi*) as an endemic species. It is important to note that in Portugal there are only three endemic seabirds, and for the most recent, the Monteiro's storm-petrel, it is only proven to nest in the Natural Reserve of the Praia Islet, which is part of the natural park and the core area of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve.

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#### GOVERNANCE ACTIONS

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Holding of two ordinary meetings of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve Management Council (GIBRMC), foreseen in article 54.º, paragraph 4, of the DLR no. 15/2012/A, of April 2, namely on 4 July (14th meeting) and 26 November (15th meeting).

Participation at the two regular meetings of the National Committee of the Man and the Biosphere Program (MaB), established by Order n.º 9051/2015 of August 13, namely, between May 29 and 30 in the Gerês-Xurê Transboundary Biosphere Reserve and on November 20 at the headquarters of the Institute for Conservation of Nature and Forests (ICNF) in Lisbon.

During the course of 2018, several working meetings took place between the four biosphere reserves of the Azores and SIMBIENTE AÇORES - Engenharia e Gestão Ambiental, Lda., in the framework of the preparation of the Action Plans for Biosphere Reserves of the RAA, as recommended in the Resolution of the Council of Government N.º 65/2017 of June 22.

On 29 October, the application from Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve for membership in the Red Mundial de Reservas de Biosfera Islas y Zonas Costeras / World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves was sent to the Technical Office of the Biosphere Reserve of Menorca.



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#### CONSERVATION FUNCTION

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

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

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

Support to the project team "Roseate Tern LIFE Recovery Project" (LIFE14 NAT / UK / 000394), which visited the colonies of seabirds in the Natural Reserve of the Praia Islet.

Within the framework of the Azorean Cetacean Stranding Network, known as RACA - *Rede de Arrojamentos de Cetáceos dos Açores*, marine animals are recorded on the coast of Graciosa Island, mainly cetaceans, pinnipeds and sea turtles.

An inventory/signage campaign was conducted for the presence of the exotic grasses of the species *Pennisetum clandestinum* and *Pennisetum villosum* on Graciosa Island and the collection of seeds of *Tolpis succulenta* and *Juncus acutus* for the Azores Seed Bank.

During the year 2018, the work of monitoring coastal litter on the beaches of the Region was also continued, in accordance with the standardized criteria of the OSPAR Convention and the study of microplastics in these same coastal areas, under the project "*Establishing a Baseline on Marine Litter in the Azores – AZORLIT*".



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## DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

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During the year 2018 the first "*Participatory Budget of the Azores*" (OP Azores) was presented. The thematic areas chosen were Environment, Social Inclusion, Youth and Tourism. Based on an overall amount of € 600,000.00, it was up to Graciosa Island to decide how to grant € 31,000.00.

In 2018, support was given to 10 new applications prepared under Regional Regulatory Decree 24/2014/A, of December 15, which approves the "system of incentives for the maintenance of traditional landscapes of the vineyard, in corrals and in terraces, and of orchards of traditional species", "integrated in natural parks of island and reserves of the biosphere". In Graciosa there have already been a total of 35 applications for the preservation of a total of 51 vineyards (13.9 ha) and 24 orchards of traditional species (4.6 ha), with an overall support of around € 35,000.00 year.

Under the project "*Territory Custody and Ecotourism in Macaronesia - CdTEcoTur*", co-financed by the Madeira-Açores-Canarias (POMAC) Operational Program for Territorial Cooperation 2014-20 and with an overall budget of € 572,692.96, around € 136,000.00 are destined to the four Azorean biosphere reserves and aim, through small actions on the ground, to conserve and protect the environment, promote resource efficiency and increase attractiveness in natural areas of tourist interest.

As part of the project "*MacaroAves - Ornithological Tourism and Rural Development in Macaronesia*", supported by the Transnational Cooperation Program of Macaronesia (PCT-MAC), the installation of an interpretative panel entitled "Bird Watching on the Praia Islet" was promoted.

In June, the regulation for access to the land area of the Natural Reserve of the Praia Islet was approved by Administrative Rule n.º 65/2018 of June 20, which aims to establish the regime of access and movement of people in the protected area, making compatible the enjoyment and conservation of the natural values present in the Islet.




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## LOGISTIC FUNCTION

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Throughout 2018, the 9 geosites identified in Graciosa were regularly monitored, that is, the sites of geological interest that integrate the Azores Geopark (UNESCO).

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



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

Participation in the 4rd working meeting of the Monteiroi Task Force, organized by SPEA from September 27 and 28 on Graciosa Island, which had as main objective to discuss the next steps in the conservation of the Monteiro's storm-petrel species (*Hidrobates Monteiroi*), under the LIFE EuroSAP, coordinated by BirdLife International.

In January it was filled the questionnaire titled "Current status of the development of the Biosphere Reserve brand identity at the local level"; in May the "Planning process of Biosphere Reserve and its impact on implementation" survey, prepared by by "PhD student Lihi Golan from the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology" it was also filled; and in September it was filled out a questionnaire on the "Maritime Space Planning and cross-border Cooperation", developed within the European project MarSP - Macaronesian Maritime Spatial Planning, which intends to support the implementation of maritime spatial planning (OEM) processes in the three outermost regions of Macaronesia - Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands.

In October, a selection of priority actions was sent to the World Network of Coastal Biosphere Reserves (WNICBR), for the WNICBR Action Plan 2018-2022, and filled up and sent a questionnaire written by María Maestro, doctoral student at the University of Cadiz (Spain), on the management of marine protected areas in the Azores.

In December, support was provided to Belgian photographers Bart Vercruyse and Leopold Dewulf, specialists in nocturnal photography of seabirds, who stayed in the Natural Reserve of the Praia Islet to photograph the local marine birds.



On December 20, the project 'LIFE AZORES NATURA - Active Protection and Integrated Management of the Natura 2000 Network' was approved. With an overall direct investment of around EUR 19.1 million over the next nine years, EUR 14.1 million of which is earmarked for the terrestrial component, corresponding to a very large set of interventions in these areas of the Azores Natura 2000 network, is considered the largest conservation project ever conceived for the Azores.

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## COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

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On World Water Day - March 22 - a photography exhibition by Paulo Henrique Silva on the "Graciosa Island Water Architecture" was inaugurated. Promoted by Ecoteca da Graciosa, under the "Parque Aberto" program, and the Municipal Council, which was shown in "Reservatório do Atalho" and made news in the "Portugal em Directo" program of the RTP1 channel.



In April president of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve Management Council collaborated in the program on Antena1 and RDP International "Vou ali e Já venho", by journalist Rui Gomes, talking about the natural values of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve.

Under the "VIII Meeting of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserve", which was held in Menorca (Balearic Islands - Spain) between 22 and 26 May, a presentation was prepared entitled "Ecological restoration of Praia Islet - Graciosa Island BR" and the pertinent article for publication in the respective book of abstracts.

In June the celebration of the 10 years of the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve and Corvo Island Biosphere Reserve were news in the 13th Newsletter of the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (WNICBR).



Celebration of the International Day of Biosphere Reserves (November 3) through a traveling exhibition on the Graciosa Island Biosphere Reserve and the presentation of the documentary "Graciosa Island, Biosphere Reserve", which circulated from November to mid-December through the four parishes of the island.

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### Other areas not covered in previous themes

On July 21 we held the first race of open water swimming "In the kingdom of Monteiro's storm-petrel", an initiative of the Graciosa Natural Park which aimed to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the recognition of this endemic species of the Azores. The event was organized by AGRAPROME - Graciosense Association for the Promotion of Events, in partnership with the Graciosa Natural Park, the Graciosa Island Sports Service and the Swimming Association of the Azores.





## 4. Reserva da Biosfera da Ilha das Flores

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### INTRODUCTION

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There are continuous works on the Biosphere Reserve of Flores Island, through the year of 2018, mostly in:

- ✓ Maintenance of trails, viewpoints and signage inserted within the classified areas;
- ✓ Collection of coastal waste in urban areas;
- ✓ Cleaning and monitoring of water lines;
- ✓ Nature Conservation Actions;
- ✓ Promotion of environmental education activities.

Throughout the year there was support and followed the process of elaboration of the Action Plan of the Biosphere Reserve of Flores Island.

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### GOVERNANCE ACTIONS

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Holding of two ordinary meetings of the Flores Island Biosphere Reserve (FIBR) Management Council, foreseen in article 54º, paragraph 4, of the DLR no. 15/2012/A of April 2. (F1) and (F2)

Participation at the two regular meetings of the National Committee of the Man and the Biosphere Program (MaB), established by Order n.º 9051/2015 of August 13, namely, between May 29 and 30 in the Gerês-Xurê Transboundary Biosphere Reserve and on November 20 at the headquarters of the Institute for Conservation of Nature and Forests (ICNF) in Lisbon. (F3)

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

On October 29th was sent to the Technical Workshop of the Biosphere Reserve of Menorca the form of adhesion of the Flores Island Biosphere Reserve to the “World Red Biosphere Reserves Islas y Zonas Costeras/World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves”.

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### CONSERVATION FUNCTION

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- ✓ Collection of several seeds and georeferencing of endemic species to the Azores Seed Bank.
- ✓ The Natural Park maintains the monitoring and planting of plants in the Protected Area of Central Zone and Landscapes of West Coast, in order to propagate *Myosotis azorica* and *Veronica Dabneyi*. The action is part of the recovery plans of the priority species and habitats of the Region, developed by the Government of the Azores throughout the archipelago, under the coordination of the Botanical Garden of Faial.
- ✓ Within the framework of the Azorean Cetacean Arrondissement Network (RACA), marine animals recorded are on the Coast of Flores Island, mainly cetaceans and sea turtles.
- ✓ Periodic monitoring (4 times per year) of the water quality of the Flores Island lagoons, coordinated by the Laboratory of the Directorate of Water Resources and Spatial Planning - Regional Directorate for the Environment. The study aims to create an information base

to support a more targeted and effective management of the areas of the basin that raise a greater environmental risk associated with the eutrophication process of these lagoons in Flores Island (some are RAMSAR site)

- ✓ An inventory / signage campaign was carried out on the presence of exotic grasses of the species *Pennisetum clandestinum* and *Pennisetum villosum* on Flores Island.
- ✓ Collaboration in the AzorLit research project, coordinated by the Institute of the Sea (IMAR), which has as partners the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Azores Sea Observatory (OMA) and the Regional Directorate for Maritime Affairs (DRAM), which aims to monitor marine litter, within the framework of the Action Plan for Marine Litter in the Azores (PALMA). (F4)
- ✓ Conducting various Census in Flores (Bats Census, Census of the Wood Pigeon (AZORPI Project) and Terns Census. (F5)
- ✓ Implementation of PRECEFIAS - Regional Plan for the Eradication and Control of Invasive Plant Species in Sensitive Areas - in all protected areas, or in classification, of Natural Park of Flores island.
- ✓ Collaboration with the Azores Biodiversity Group on "Long Duration Ecological Study of Natural Forests of the Azores", within the Project NETBIOME ISLANDBIODIV.
- ✓ Support to the project team "Roseate Tern LIFE Recovery Project" (LIFE14 NAT / UK / 000394), which visited the colonies of seabirds in the islets of Flores.
- ✓ Support in the implementation of the Monitoring system of the process of Seismicity of Fajãzinha. (F6)

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#### **DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION**

Under the project "Custody of the Territory and Ecotourism in Macaronesia – CdTEcoTur" co-financed by the Operational Program for Territorial Cooperation Madeira-Azores-Canary Islands (POMAC) 2014-20 and with a global budget of €572,692.96, about €136,000.00 have as recipients the four reserves of the biosphere of the Azores and aim, through small actions on the ground, to conserve and protect the environment, promote resource efficiency and increase attractiveness in natural areas of tourist interest.

Promotion and attribution in the Flores Island of the "Miosotis Azores Award" which aims to promote sustainable tourism and reward good environmental practices in Azores tourist developments.

Dissemination and support to Eco Escolas, an international program that intends to encourage actions and recognize the quality work developed by schools, in the ambit of Environmental Education / Education for Sustainable Development.

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

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#### **LOGISTIC FUNCTION**

Conducting various actions of promotion, education and environmental awareness, highlighting the programs Open Park and School Park.

In September, a questionnaire on Maritime Spatial Planning and Cross-Border Cooperation up drawn was up under the European project MarSP - Macaronesian Maritime Spatial Planning, which aims to support the implementation of maritime spatial planning (OEM) processes in the three outermost regions of Macaronesia - Azores, Madeira and Canarias.

In October, the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (WNICBR) presented was with a selection of actions prioritized by FIBR for WNICBR's 2018-2022 Action Plan.

On December 20, the project 'LIFE AZORES NATURA - Active Protection and Integrated Management of the Natura 2000 Network' approved was. With a global direct investment of around 19.1 million euros over the next nine years, of which 14.1 million euros earmarked area for the terrestrial component, corresponding to a very large set of interventions in these areas of the Natura 2000 Network of the Azores considered is the largest conservation project ever conceived for the Azores.

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

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## **COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS**

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Elaboration of a record for the book "Biosphere Reserves of the IberoMaB Network".

Contributed to the elaboration of articles/news and audiovisual production, featured the "Documentary of the 10 years of Natural Parks in the Azores", conducted by Paulo Henrique Silva.

## Photographic credits



(F1)



(F2)



(F3)



(F4)



(F5)



(F6)

## 5. Reserva da Biosfera de Santana, Madeira

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### INTRODUCTION

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Since June 2011, Santana – Madeira Biosphere Reserve, is part of the Biosphere Reserves World Network and is runned by the Santana Municipality, at Madeira Island.

Santana’s Biosphere Reserve, in addition to the continuity of the developed projects, led the outline of local action strategies, based on the guidelines defined by UNESCO.

Over the years it has been possible to witness that the biosphere reserve has increasingly been used as a resource by local key players, and as an example, several actions were carried out by stakeholders and partners (though not being organized by the Reserve management itself), had as main theme the “Biosphere Reserve”.

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### GOVERNANCE

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. Meeting with SPEA (the Portuguese society for bird study) in the scope of the project LuMinAves “Light pollution and conservation in the archipelagos of the Macaronesia: reducing the harmful effects of artificial light on seabird populations”, which is being developed by SPEA Madeira alongside the Territorial Cooperation Programme INTERREG MAC (MAC/4.6c/157). Santana City Hall aims to invest 200.000 euros in replacing lamps and equipment’s, in order to ensure greater energy efficiency, and will take into account this study presented by SPEA.

. Meeting with Xarabanda (music and cultural association) targeting to establish a partnership which aims the gathering of songs, singing, music and lullabies of the county.

. The Biosphere Reserve was present, through the city councillor Márcio Dinarte Fernandes, in the 7th Meeting of the MaB National Committee, which took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, at ICNF headquarters, in Lisbon.

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### CONSERVATION ROLE

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Santana - Madeira Biosphere Reserve was a promoter and partner in the following:

. **Awareness Campaign “Recycle is good for the Planet”** – partnership with ARM (Madeira's Water and Waste company), which campaign objective was to raise awareness for the separation of waste, plastic, metal, paper and cardboard packaging, glass and correct placement in the Eco points, thus ensuring their recycling.

**. Recycled Fashion Show – elementary schools + Municipal and Social centres**

County’s social centers and school’s participation; practices adoption for selective waste collection and use of recyclable materials in the production of clothes. Activity developed in the context of the celebrations of the Environment Day.

**. Thatching of typical houses**

Santana City Hall invested, in 2018, 38.000 euros recovering 12 typical houses, a bet on the recovery and improvement of the local heritage, and the local ex-libris and from Autonomous Region of Madeira.



**DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

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**. Compadres Festivity + “Small Compadres and Comadres” exhibition – under the theme European Year of Cultural Heritage**

This event is one of the highlights regarding local culture, that combines satire with local ethnography and was a perfect fit in the year that the European Year of Cultural Heritage was celebrated.

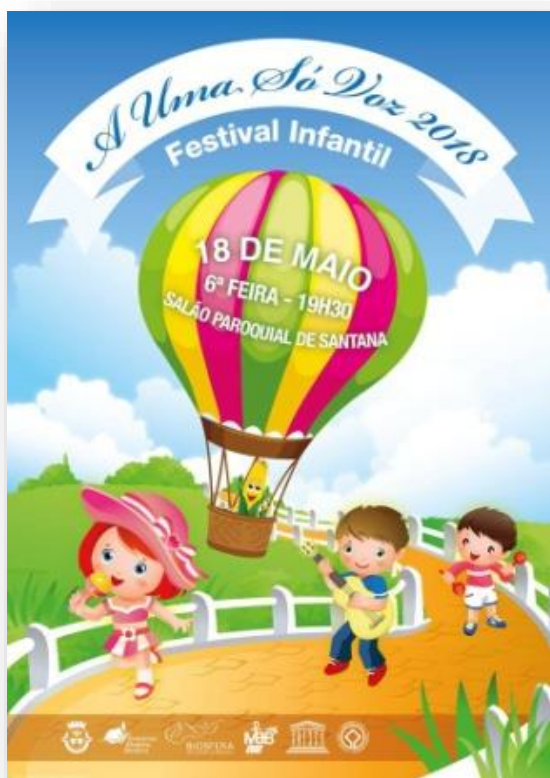
An exhibition was held with the partnership of all the participating schools, showing the costumes produced in recent years. This exhibition was present in one of the biggest shopping centers in Madeira, where the work was displayed.



### . Children Festival “A Uma só Voz” (One Voice)

The Biosphere Reserve has sought to intervene in various fields, in the sense of providing the satisfaction for a set of needs demonstrated by the community in general, through initiatives and projects of cultural and educational nature.

The Festival “A UMA SÓ VOZ” mainly aims to present a chance to elementary students from the municipality of Santana with talent for the musical area, namely singing, in order to have socializing and leisure moments, in addition to encourage the creation of bonds of friendship among all the participants. This festival has the production of a cd distributed by the students of all the schools of the country.



### . Eco Christmas – elementary schools + social centres

Production of recycled decorative motifs alluding to the Christmas season made by the social and municipal centres, as well as schools of the county, placed in public areas around the Municipality.



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## LOGISTIC SERVICE

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### . Fair Saúde Sê+/Forum “Corpo a mexer faz saúde florescer” (Be + Health / A moving body prospers health)

Activity developed within the projects “Pinocchio for Science” and “Enferbot” who competed for the 15th edition of the Science Prize at the Ilídio Pinho School Foundation, which main objective was to promote, publicize and raise awareness of the importance of physical exercise in the community.

Of the various initiatives that took place, the highlight is the holding of a Forum that was attended by different health and education professionals in the panel of speakers, as well as

**FEIRA DA SAÚDE SANTANA**  
20 A 22 ABRIL  
PRAÇA DA CIDADE

**Sexta 20 abril**  
10H00 Abertura da feira  
11H00 Mindfulness  
11H30 Demonstração de Boccia  
12H30 às 14H00 Pausa para almoço  
14H30 Atividade física para os idosos  
17H00 Qi-gong e Taichi

**Sábado 21 abril**  
09H00 Fórum “Corpo a mexer faz saúde florescer”  
10H00 Abertura da feira  
12H30 às 14H00 Pausa para almoço  
15H00 Prova de Duatlo  
15H30 Zumba  
16H00 Esgrima e patinagem  
18H00 Bodycombat

**Domingo 22 abril**  
Color Run SÊ +  
08H00 Concentração e entrega de dorsais  
08H45 Aquecimento para a prova  
09H00 Color Run SÊ +  
09H30 Caminhada  
11H00 Entrega de prémios

**FÓRUM**  
CORPO A MEXER FAZ SAÚDE FLORESCER  
21 ABRIL | 09H00  
SANTANA - SALÃO NOBRE C. M.S.

“A Criança e as novas tecnologias - benefícios e riscos”  
Dr. José Luis Nunes (pediatra)

“Exercício físico como agente de prevenção da osteoporose”  
Dr. José Anacleto (ortopedista)

“Nutrindo o equilíbrio”  
Dr.ª Márcia Elias (psicóloga)

“Criatividade um desafio na educação atual”  
Prof. Doutor João Gabriel (professor)

“Educação alimentar em meio escolar”  
Doutor Bruno Sousa (nutricionista)

the Color Run “Sê+” race.

### . Proposal to create a new Walking Route (PR)

As a way to potentiate the territory and offer new tourism products within the biosphere reserve, in partnership with the Institute of Forests and Nature Conservation (IFCN), it was carried out the monitoring and a first-hand evaluation to the proposed recommended Walking Route “Levada das Travessas”. This levada has an extension of 10km and presents great potential considering its location and good conservation status.





### . Workshop “Marine litter and its consequences in ecosystems”

Activity carried out in partnership with the Whale Museum and inserted in the Blue Flag programme, assisted to address the following issues: marine litter, its consequences (threats to wildlife and marine ecosystems, transport of exotic species, habitat damage, economic costs and health risks), the problem of plastics and microplastics (persistent organic pollutants and bioaccumulation). There were a participation of 70 secondary school students.

In addition to this activity, a leaflet was also produced on "Sea Garbage" to be distributed to the population in general.



## . 51<sup>st</sup>WACA Congress (World Airlines Companies Association)

Santana's City Hall, through the Biosphere Reserve, supported the holding of the WACA Congress (World Airlines Companies Association), which the Interline Clube Portugal is part of. All 160 conference participants visited Santana, including the City Hall, that motivated their interest in promoting Madeira in their countries of origin. The Interline Clube Portugal president agreed to cooperate with the municipality in future interesting promotional actions.



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## COMMUNICATION AND DISCLOSURE ACTIONS

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### . Production of promotional video "Caminho Real de Santana (S. Jorge/Santana)"

The biosphere reserve was associated with the European Year of Cultural Heritage celebrations, and as a way of publicising its cultural heritage, a promotional video of Caminho Real 23 (Royal Route) was produced. The diversity and specificity of the natural and cultural heritage, the ease access to these sites, the direct contact with the unique biodiversity and the natural landscape, are the pillars of the "Paths and Levadas in Madeira", and "Caminhos Reais", considered one of the main products of the tourism offer of the Autonomous Region of Madeira, conferring an unique brand differentiation.

### . Tourism promotion in the municipal bus stop shelters

Municipal tourism promotion, and subsequently of the biosphere reserve, through the "big windows" are placed at the bus stop shelters. This is a way of increasing the drivers' interest, especially tourists,



making data available with the map, such as distance, travel time, GPS coordinates and QR code.

### “A Royal Route for the Future” Themed photography competition



In the Cultural Heritage celebration, as a way to promote and value the Madeira, Santana cultural heritage, the proposed theme was "A Royal Route for the Future", given the extension of the royal path still existing throughout the county. There were 53 contestants presenting a total of 265 pictures.



### Competition “I live in the Laurissilva Forest”

Raising awareness for environmental issues is one of the objectives of this project, which also aims to promote and disclose the environment as well as conservation, defense, research and implementation. In a partnership with Santana Cidade Solidária Association and some county schools, this competition was created, resulting in the production of cloth bags, notebooks and book markers. The book markers contained a brief description of the Laurissilva Forest, in Portuguese and English, and were delivered at the Tourist Office, in the local hotels and restaurants, as a way of publicizing this world’s heritage.



## 6. Reserva da Biosfera Transfronteiriça do Gerês-Xurês

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### GOVERNANCE ACTIONS

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In February and April 2018, Advisory Committee meetings of the Gerês-Xurês Transboundary Biosphere Reserve took place in Vidoeiro. The main objective of those meetings was the presentation and definition of the implementation strategies for the 2015-2020 Action Plan. All the stakeholders underlined the importance of the reinforcement of cooperation and joint work between the two frontier regions of the RBTGX: Peneda-Gerês, in Portugal and Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurês, in Galicia, Spain. The valorisation of endogenous resources, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, promotion of sustainable tourism and the preservation of fauna and flora are the corner stones of the RBTGX strategy for the territory.

The 6th meeting of the MaB national committee was held at the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of Gerês-Xurês (RBTGX) and took two days (May 29th to May 30<sup>th</sup>)

During the first day the managers of the Portuguese Biosphere Reserves, some observers and the representatives of the UNESCO National Commission and the UNESCO Chair in Biodiversity and Conservation for Sustainable Development, a total of 20 people, had the opportunity to visit the Portuguese and Spanish territory of RBTGX (core, buffer and transition areas). During the visit, they contacted with several stakeholders and discussed the significance and the social and economic impact of a biosphere reserve according to UNESCO's designation. The topics of carrying capacity in sustainable tourism and the importance of well-prepared tourist guides were also discussed.

On the last day, the meeting started with a presentation by the Spanish authorities of the RBTG-X focused on understanding the particularities of managing a shared territory. The common work plan was also presented. Afterwards the participants exchanged experiences, examined the achievements and challenges of each biosphere reserve, and best practices were highlighted. The Lima Action Plan for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025) was presented and a draft proposal to adapt the document to the Portuguese reality was discussed.



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### CONSERVATION FUNCTION

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

Updating of existing wildlife data in the Wildlife Database was ongoing.

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

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)

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

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

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

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

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

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## DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

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The project named Peneda-Gerês CompetiTUR has as a priority the competitiveness of SMEs in the tourism sector, and in particular the nature tourism (walking product) in the region of Peneda-Gerês.

The initiative aimed was developed, and the business environment was favorable to the strategy of valorization, organization and differentiation of the product and the tourist destination RBTGX, while focusing on the qualification of the walking product.



It involved more than 70 companies in the tourism sector in a business cooperation / cooperation strategy.

Peneda-Gerês CompetiTUR “Caminhar Conhecendo”. The project named “Caminhar Conhecendo” has as main objectives the implementation of the Great Peneda-Gerês Route, a pedestrian route that crosses the entire Portuguese RBTGX territory. In addition to the implementation of the infrastructure itself and the execution of its signaling component, the project includes the development of two platforms, GR's website (which will provide all the useful information of the route and the supporting tourist services) and the mobile application for guidance on the ground.



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## LOGISTIC FUNCTION

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

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



- ✓ The “Forest Day” was especially celebrated in Gerês with 85 children from Terras de Bouro kindergarten with a lecture about fires and planting native trees such as oak and chestnut;
- ✓ In the "Animal Day", release sessions were developed with recovered birds of prey involving more than 100 children.
- ✓ In the "Native Forest Day", children from 6 schools attended Educative Sessions about native forest and planted native species of oak;

**Volunteering: native tree planting / Invasive species control**

- ✓ More than 300 people participated in volunteer activities collaborating in the planting of native trees, in control of invasive plants, in garbage collection and in Forest Surveillance and Prevention. These actions, besides contributing to the conservation of the forest, also have a character of relevant environmental awareness.

**Visitors and activities developed**

- ✓ In the information centres of the Portuguese territory of the RBTGX, 93.600 visitors were registered.
- ✓ Under PNPG guidance several guided tours were carried out, mainly related to the observation and interpretation of the natural heritage, but also to the cultural heritage of the RBTGX territory.
- ✓ Several environmental education sessions were held on the natural and cultural values of the RBTGX;
- ✓ 14 of the hiking trails of the Portuguese territory of the RBTGX were monitored, cleaned and corrected or had revived signalling;
- ✓ A total of 5.320 participants were involved in touristic activities conditioned by the PGNP Management Plan in the Portuguese territory of the RBTGX
- ✓ In their daily offer the environmental animation companies that operated in the PGNP developed 298 activities in which 3.200 people participated. The more frequent activities are the Canyoning, the walks and the horseback riding.



## 7. Reserva da Biosfera das Berlengas

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### GOVERNANCE

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The year of 2018 was marked by a change on the management structure of this Biosphere reserve as a result of the local elections. The former manager António José Correia was substituted by the present mayor of Peniche Henrique Bertino. The co-manager Sérgio Leandro, representative of Polytechnic Institute of Leiria maintained his position on the management structure, as well as Maria Jesus Fernandes from ICNF.

Additionally, in 2018 the permanent working group of Berlengas Biosphere Reserve continued the review process of the management structure in order to address the main challenges listed on Lima Action Plan as well as on the MAB program. It was identified potential stakeholders to integrate the management structure in order to be more inclusive and to include different sectors (e.g. social, economic and R&D).

It was established a consortium to create and management of the Marine Science and Technology park on the territory of this Biosphere reserve. It is expected that during 2019 will start the construction of SmartOcean, a project that will transform the local economy and will contribute positively to the aims of the program Man and Biosphere. It is our intention to include SmartOcean on the management body of Berlengas Biosphere Reserve.

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### CONSERVATION FUNCTION

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During the last years, significant efforts are being performed on ecosystem restoration and on the control of invasive species that occurs on Berlenga island. Started in 2014, the project LIFE Berlengas will contribute to the sustainable management of the Berlengas Special Protection Area (SPA), aiming the conservation of its habitats, seabird populations and endemic plants. To achieve this, the focus will be on developing strategies to minimize or remove the main threats to the natural values of Berlengas, both on land and at sea.



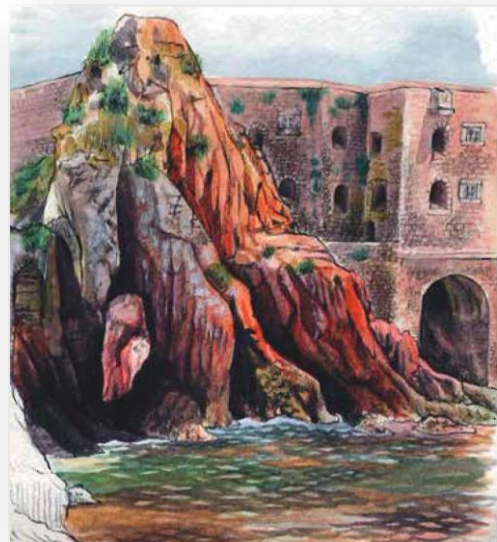
At the same time the project will promote the sustainable use of the Berlengas SPA, focusing on three key activities: fishing, recreational activities and tourism. A framework to prepare and approve an effective management plan for the Berlengas SPA will be implemented.

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

The different actions of LIFE Berlengas have been developed according to the schedule, good results have been achieved and can be consulted at:

<https://www.berlengas.eu/en/results> .

During 2018, Berlengas Biosphere Reserve has seen the approval of two important projects: COPESCA 2 – Co-management for the stalked barnacles harvesting in Berlengas Nature Reserve (MAR2020 funding program) and BERLENGAS GATE – Promotion and diffusion of Berlengas Biosphere Reserve natural values (GAL PESCA MAR2020).



## Porta das Berlengas / Biosfera

Promotor:



Apoio:

Grupo Trabalho Permanente RBB  
(CMP, ESTM-IPLeia e ICNF)



Cofinanciado por:



## LOGISTIC FUNCTION

During 2018, Berlengas Biosphere Reserve promoted or supported several activities to achieve a balance between conservation activities with sustainable development. Continuing the strategic approach adopted at 2015 - (1) Monitoring, research and education; (2) Ecosystems conservation and (3) Cultural, economic and social development, it was developed a set of activities that are listed on the table below.

Strategic axis	Action	Date	Partner(s)
<b>1 - Monitoring, research and education</b>			
1a	<b>Semana Tanto Mar</b> Environmental activities for students, with the presence of the Portuguese Prime-Minister	3 Sept 2018	ESTM-IPLeiria, Municipality of Peniche and Forum Estudante
1b	<b>Visitors monitoring</b> Assessment of the visitors number to berlenga island during summer season	Jul-Sept 2018	LIFE Project
1c	<b>Volunteer program for young students</b> Development of conservation actions and visitor surveys	Started on 2014	LIFE Project
1d	<b>AMALIA</b> Adding value to marine invasive seaweeds of the Iberian northwest	Started on 2017	ESTM
1e	<b>Berlengas watch</b> Monitoring of plankton communities and hydrological parameters.	Since 2013	ESTM-IPLeiria, IPMA and ICNF
1f	<b>Marineye</b> Development of a multisensor for ocean monitoring. BRB will be one of the test sites.	Started in 2015	ESTM, IPMA, INESC and CIIMAR
1g	<b>Jellyfisheries</b> R&D project aiming to evaluate the impact of jellyfish on the planktonic	Started in June 2016	ESTM, MARE-IPLeiria, ICNF, IPMA, CIIMAR, CCMAR
<b>2 - Ecosystems conservation</b>			
2a	<b>LIFE project</b> Eradication of plant invasive species and exotic mammals control	Since 2014	SPEA, ICNF, Municipality of Peniche, ESTM, FCSH-UL
2b	<b>Seagull population control</b> Annual control actions of seagull population on the berlenga island by egg destruction.		ICNF, SPEA
<b>3 - Cultural, economic and social development</b>			
3a	<b>Implementation of a Co-management Comittee for Pollicipes pollicipes artisanal harvesting</b> R&D project proposal submited for European funding	Started on December 2017	Leila Cardoso, Helder Cardoso, Johan Elmberg and Erik Hirschfeld
3b	<b>Marketing plan for Maritime-tourism activities</b> Public presentation of the marketing plan proposal for RBB tourism a	Jan 2016	ESTM, ICNF
3c	<b>Ecosystems valoration</b> I&D projet aimed to the economic valoration of the Biosphere reserve	Started on 2015	ESTM-IPLeiria
3d	<b>Berlengas brand marketing</b> Promotion of RBB in all events supported by the Municipality of Peniche	Ongoing	ESTM, ICNF, Municipality of Peniche
3e	<b>Natural heritage brochures</b> Electronic and physical distribution of brochures for supporting the natural heritage of RBB	Ongoing	ESTM, ICNF, Municipality of Peniche

## 8. Reserva da Biosfera Transfronteiriça da Meseta Ibérica

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### INTRODUCTION

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The main goal of RBT Meseta Ibérica is the development of a project that is transversal to its Action Plan, aiming to protect and enhance the cultural and natural heritage of the territory. This TBR presents a landscape, historical, cultural and natural wealth that is intended to be preserved and enhanced. Through tourism as a major axis for cross-border economic development; by mobilizing and preserving all potentialities in a sustainable way, in accordance with the ZASNET 2020 Strategic Plan for Territorial Cooperation and Development. Reference for cross-border intercultural identity, capable of promoting competitiveness while the Meseta Ibérica Action Plan provides the adequate signage identity. A network to generate added value, promoting sustainable tourism and quality.

Along with this great project, with numerous actions, we continuously promote environmental awareness actions with the youths of the territory, together with other partners.

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### GOVERNANCE ACTIONS

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The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation ZASNET EGTC has established cooperation networks between several entities, namely with local and regional entities for the management of the Meseta Ibérica RBT, among them the cooperation with the CIM TTM (Intermunicipal Community Terras de Trás-os-Montes and its Mountain Research Center (CIMO), EDP, Local Action Groups (LAGs), Local Products and Services Associations and NGO's, Turismo Porto and Norte de Portugal, the Geopark de Macedo de Cavaleiros. With all these entities, working meetings were established and the activities in which the ZASNET EGTC participates and / or is represented in order to achieve the best governance position, as well as to involve the community in this governance and to promote and value the territory.

*Working meeting with the partners of the Project Junto à Terra - EDP, Association of*



*Municipalities of Baixo Sabor, IPB, Grupo Lobo, Grupo Nordeste, APFNT, PALOMBAR, AEPGA and GEOPARK Terras de Cavaleiros.*

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## **CONSERVATION FUNCTION**

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The Action Plan RBT Meseta Ibérica is in the planning stage of the execution, namely the Action 1.2 - BioCarbon Fund - Meseta Ibérica Transboundary Biosphere Reserve is an important one.

The objective of this project is to promote riparian forest, diverse bio-sown pastures, non-destructive methods of weed control and other ways of increasing carbon-fixing potential, biodiversity in the region and soil and water conservation through construction of a specific fund applied to the territory of the Biosphere Reserve.

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## **DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION**

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ZASNET, managing entity of RBT Meseta Ibérica, is developing a project in the area of quality and responsible tourism. The project is called ZASNET\_Meseta Ibérica and co-financed by the POCTEP Program. This project has the following objectives:

- ✓ *Creation of an innovative tourist quality mark for the territory ZASNET and RBT Meseta Iberian to increase the number of visitors: obtaining the Certification BIOSPHERE of Tourist Destination through the Institute of Responsible Tourism; The integrated management of resources and potential are a clear international projection: declaration as Intangible Heritage of Humanity of the Masks of Iberian winter festivals; The valuation and economic improvement of the services associated with the natural and cultural heritage in a logic of participatory sustainable development: joint tourist itineraries and the Valorization of agricultural products: the creation of the gastronomic itinerary of products and flavors to increase the number of visitors and consumers.*

With this project we intend to value the territory, its natural and economic ecosystems in a transversal way, in order to consequently value people and the natural environment.

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## **LOGISTIC FUNCTION**

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ZASNET, together with other partners involved, is still subject to appreciation by Structural Financing Programs (SUDOE Program) in the area of pastoral landscape modeling. The PATRIMPASTO project is based on the following assumptions:

- ✓ *Pastoralism shapes the mountains by valuing natural resources in ecosystem goods and services, both cultural and economic. However, this practice is decreasing in the SUDOE space, causing the progressive loss of collective management of mountains, cultural heritage, biodiversity and the gradual abandonment of territories by the local population.*

*The project aims to bring together all users and stakeholders to identify factors affecting pasture and pastoral areas and the assets generated, to build prospective scenarios for the future, to propose and implement action plans at pilot sites and concrete proposals to integrate in the public policies of each region. Based on the collaboration between Spain, Portugal, France and Euromontana support, the project will disseminate its results, tools and decision support methodologies for farmers, managers of these areas, policy makers, stakeholders and users of pasture areas in Europe.*

The ZASNET\_Meseta Ibérica project, also contemplates training actions for territorial agents, so that they can do more and better within their activities.

- ✓ ZASNET and RBT Meseta Ibérica, were also associated with a program, promoted by EDP ( National Eletrical Company) together with various agents of the territory, namely NGOs, municipalities and schools, whose objective is to educate young people of the 8th and 9th years of schooling.
- ✓ The Next to the Earth Program (JaT) is a sustainability education project where the importance of biodiversity is communicated in a conceptual line from global thinking to local action. It is a process that seeks to create in young people a Sustainability approach made of attitudes, behavioral change and (re) valorization of the territory due to the contribution of natural heritage and ecosystem services to the local economy and the well-being of its community and the general population. In short, "By the Earth" is to be together and in tune, on the side of the Earth, as a planet and as a territory of our community.
- ✓ Promotion of the training course 'Environmental Educational Projects: Reserved Transboundary Biosphere Meseta Ibérica', for teachers of the territory (Teachers of Groups 200, 230, 420 and 520), accredited by the Scientific-Pedagogical Council.
- ✓ Integration of the consortium of the project "Collaborative Laboratory: Mountains of Research", whose leader is the Mountain Research Center (CIMO), IPB Polytechnic Institute of Bragança.



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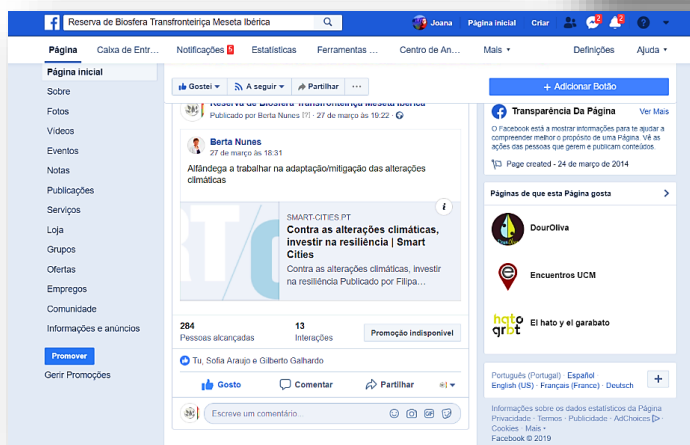
## **COMMUNICATION AND DISEMINATION ACTIONS**

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ZASNET's Action Plan also comprehend communication actions, such as the promotion of individual or partners activities, whether publications in specialized journals, local newspapers or social networks (Facebook and Twitter).

Along with RBT Meseta Ibérica participated in fairs, inside and outside the territory, namely FITUR, INTUR, NATURCyL, RAICES; XANTAR, Solstice,...

It also participated in Seminars, both inside and outside the doors, in order to communicate



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

## 9. Reserva da Biosfera Transfronteiriça do Tejo/Tajo internacional

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### INTRODUCTION

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Throughout 2018 the Tejo/Tajo International Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (RBTTTI) initiated a new stage in its territorial implementation journey that consisted in the definition of a new governance model and in establishing dissemination tools that will allow it to start a course of territorial enhancement in 2019 compatible with the objectives defined by UNESCO.

An internal work team and a new governance model, characterised below, were created, in order to establish an annual action program with different local stockholders that by thematic areas of activity, allow the pursuance of what this environmental valuing award can territorially entail.



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### GOVERNANCE ACTIONS

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During 2018 the Tejo/Tajo International Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (RBTTTI) initiated a new course of action based on the establishment of a new governance model in order to establish a means of action more consistent with the sustainable enhancement of the territory.

During 2018, sectoral meetings were held to form the new governance model (Portuguese territory), which is formally constituted and whose composition is based on a Management Body and an Advisory Council.

The Management Body was established by five entities, the ICNF, I.P. that presides, the Municipalities of Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Rodão, the representative

of the associative sector and the representative of the parish councils of the area of influence of the RBTTTI.

This body has as duties, the management of the environmental and socioeconomic development aspects related to the ambit stated by UNESCO and to serve as the element that coordinates and guarantees the functions and objectives of the Biosphere Reserve.

The Advisory Council, chaired by the municipality of Vila Velha de Rodão, is made up of 36 entities, divided into five thematic groups of activity (Education; Tourism and Cultural Heritage; Hunting and Fishing; Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Farming and Nature Conservation). Its main duties are:

- ✓ to present development, management and functioning proposals of the area designated as Biosphere Reserve;
- ✓ to assess the annual and multi-year proposals of management and investment plans and programs pertaining to the respective areas;
- ✓ to assess the annual and multi-year activity reports.

As this is a transboundary Reserve, contacts were established with the Spanish side, in order to gauge a model of governance based on joint lines to action that will be extended to 2019.



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## LOGISTIC FUNCTION

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Parallel to this course of action, pedagogic projects continued to be fostered at school clusters of Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Rodão municipalities in order to promote the RBTTTI.





## COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

Highlights:

- ✓ Creation of the logo



- ✓ Creation of a Facebook page



- ✓ Preparation of contents for the first RBTTTI brochure



## 10. Reserva da Biosfera das Fajãs de São Jorge

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### INTRODUCTION

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There are continuous works of the Biosphere Reserve of Fajãs de São Jorge:

- ✓ *Maintenance of trails, viewpoints and signage inserted within the classified áreas [F1];*
- ✓ *Collection of coastal waste in urban áreas [F2] and Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo;*
- ✓ *Cleaning and monitoring of water lines [F3];*
- ✓ *Nature Conservation Actions;*
- ✓ *Promotion of environmental education activities.*

Throughout the year it was followed the process of elaboration of the Management Plans of the São Jorge Island Natural Park, Action Plan of the Biosphere Reserve of the Fajãs São Jorge and support to the Integrated Program for Development of Fajãs de São Jorge.

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### GOVERNANCE ACTIONS

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- ✓ *Holding of two ordinary meetings of the Fajãs de São Jorge Biosphere Reserve Management Council, foreseen in article 54º, paragraph 4, of the DLR no. 15/2012/A of april 2, nomely on july 27 with 6 participants [F4], and novembre 27 with 10 participants and 1 guest.*
- ✓ *Participation in an ordinary meeting of the National Committee of the Man and the Biosphere Program (MaB), established by Order n.º 9051/2015 of august 13 and as determined in article 9º of its Internal Functioning Regulation, on november 20 at the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forestry (ICNF) headquarters in Lisbon.*
- ✓ *Participation in the process of alteration of the Planning Plan for the Coast of São Jorge Island and the first evaluation report [F5].*
- ✓ *Participation in several work meetings between the four biosphere reserves of the Azores and SIMBIENTE AZORES – Engineering and Environmental Management, Lda., in the context of the elaboration of the Plans of Action of the Biosphere Reserves of the RAA, advocated in the Council Resolution of Government No. 65/2017 of June 22, 2017.*
- ✓ *On October 29th was sent to the Technical Workshop of the Biosphere Reserve of Menorca the form of adhesion of the Biosphere Reserve of Fajãs of São Jorge to the “World Red Biosphere Reserves Islas y Zonas Costeras/World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves”.*

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### CONSERVATION FUNCTION

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- ✓ *Implementation of PRECEFIAS – Regional Plan for the Eradication and Controlo f Invasive Plant Species in Sensitive Areas – in all protected áreas of Natural Park of São Jorge.*
- ✓ *Collection of seeds of endemic species for the Azores Seed Bank.*
- ✓ *Approval of the Life Application – “LIFE VIDALIA – Valorization and Innovation Directed to Azorina and Lotus in the Azores Islands”, a program of valorization and innovation that allows the conservation of endemic species Azorina vidalii and Lotus Azoricus [F6].*

- ✓ *Conducting various Censuses (Bats Census, the Wood Pigeon (AZORPI Project), Terns, Common Birds (CAC) and Common Buzzard).*
- ✓ *Inventory of the presence of the exotic species *Pennisetum clandestinum* on São Jorge Island.*
- ✓ *Inventory of the distribution populational of the creeper *Ipomea indica* on São Jorge Island.*

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## **DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION**

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- ✓ During the year 2018, was presented the first "Participatory Budget of the Azores" (OP Açores). The thematic areas chosen were the Environment, Social Inclusion, Youth and Tourism. Based on an overall amount of €600,000.00, it was up to the Island of São Jorge to decide how to grant €65,000.00.
- ✓ In 2018, support was provided to 14 new applications elaborated under the Regional Regulatory Decree No. 24/2014/A of 15 December, which approves the "system to maintain the production of vineyard, in corrals and terraces, and of traditional species, in protected landscape areas and coastal fajãs, integrated in the natural parks of the Island and biosphere reserves." In São Jorge there have already been a total of 27 applications for the preservation of vines (14.8 ha) and orchards of traditional species (8.8 ha), with a global support attributed to about €32,000.00 year
- ✓ Under the project "Custody of the Territory and Ecotourism in Macaronesia – CdTEcoTur" co-financed by the Operational Program for Territorial Cooperation Madeira-Azores-Canary Islands (POMAC) 2014-20 and with a global budget of €572,692.96, about €136,000.00 have as recipients the four reserves of the biosphere of the Azores and aim, through small actions on the ground, to conserve and protect the environment, promote resource efficiency and increase attractiveness in natural areas of tourist interest.
- ✓ Under the project "MacaroAves – Ornithological Tourism and Rural Development in Macaronesia", supported by the Macaronesia Transnational Cooperation Program (PCT-MAC), the preparation of an interpretative panel entitled "Observation of Birds in Fajã dos Cubres".
- ✓ Implementation of the regulation on the movement of motor vehicles in Fajã da Caldeira de Santo Cristo and the section of the PR1SJO trail, approved by Ordinance No. 59/2018 of 4 June. Assigned 42 individual licenses and 8 specials [F7].
- ✓ Support the promotion of the trademark "Azores Biosphere", as regulated in Administrative Rule n.º 27/2011 (Regulation of the "Azores Biosphere" brand) and Regional Legislative Decree n.º 15/2012/A, of April 2 (Legal regime for the conservation of nature and biodiversity in the Autonomous Region of the Azores). Request for use of the brand by the tourist resort "Destinos Mágicos, Lda."
- ✓ Promotion and attribution in the Island of São Jorge of the "Miosotis Azores Award" which aims to promote sustainable tourism and reward good environmental practices in Azores tourist developments. 7 new holiday rentals enrolled.

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## **LOGISTIC FUNCTION**

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- ✓ Promotion and follow-up of the "ECO Parish, Clean Parish" Competition, organized by the Regional Secretariat for Energy, Environment and Tourism, aiming to distinguish the efforts

of the parishes and the collaboration of the populations in the cleaning, removal and referral to the final destination of abandoned waste in spaces including water lines and coastlines.

- ✓ Collaboration with University of the Azores, in the study and monitoring of the lagoon of Fajã Cubres and Caldeira de Santo Cristo, notably for water analysis.
- ✓ Conducting various actions of promotion, education and environmental awareness, highlighting the programs Open Park, School Park, Eco-Schools and Azores Entre-Mares [F8].
- ✓ Support to the University of the Azores for the study of the genetics of the species *Tolpis Azorica*, with seed collection.
- ✓ Conducting various activities in partnership with the Geoparque Azores Association, notably in the monitoring of Geossites [F9].
- ✓ Support to CIVISA (Information Center and Seismovolcanic Surveillance of the Azores – University of the Azores) under contract No. 40/DRA/2018 for "Provision of services for the elaboration of the reevaluation of flood risks in the Hydrographic Region of Azores – 2nd Cycle of planning ", namely to carry out the cartography of flooded areas and the inventoriating of the elements of vulnerability affected by the most recent flood events, in the Ribeira Seca watershed.
- ✓ In January was completed the questionnaire titled "Current Status of the development of the Biosphere Reserve brand identity at the local level", in may was completed the survey "Planning process of Biosphere Reserve, and it's impact on implementation", prepared by "PhD student Lihi Golan from the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology".
- ✓ In October was sent to the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (WNICBR) A selection of actions taken as priority, by the Biosphere Reserve of the Fajãs São Jorge, for the Action Plan 2018-2022 of the WNICBR.
- ✓ On December 20, the project "LIFE IP AZORES NATURA - Active Protection and Integrated Management in the Natura 2000 Network" (LIFE17 IPE/PT/00010) was approved. With a global direct investment of 19.1 million euros over the next nine years, of which 14.1 million euros are destined for the terrestrial component, corresponding to a vast array of interventions in these areas of the Natura 2000 Network of the Azores, is considered the largest conservation project ever conceived for the Azores.

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## COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

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- ✓ Elaboration of a record for the book "Biosphere Reserves of the IberoMaB Network".
- ✓ Contributed to the elaboration of articles/news and audiovisual production, featured the "Documentary of the 10 years of Natural Parks in the Azores", conducted by Paulo Henrique Silva.
- ✓ In April the presidente of the Board Management of RBFSJ collaborated in the program of Antena 1 and RDP Internacional 1 "I go there and i come", by journalist Rui Gomes, talking about the natural values of the Biosphere Reserve of Fajãs de São Jorge.

## Photographic credits



(F1)



(F2)



(F3)



(F4)



(F5)



(F6)



(F7)



(F8)



(F9)

## 11. Reserva da Biosfera de Castro Verde

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### INTRODUCTION

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Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve (CVRB) is located in Portugal mainland, in the Baixo Alentejo region, with an area of 569 km<sup>2</sup> that is coincident with Castro Verde municipal limits. The vast plains of the CVRB harbours a high natural and cultural diversity, resulting from the millenary human-nature relationship that characterizes this human shaped ecosystem of high natural value.

One of the most relevant activity that took place in the CVRB during 2018 was the visit of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, on the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Zurab Pololikashvili,



accompanied by the Portuguese State Secretary for Tourism, Ana Mendes Godinho, and by the President of the Regional Tourism of Alentejo and Ribatejo, António Ceia da Silva. During this visit, the three organizations responsible for the CVRB management (LPN, MCV and AACB) had the opportunity to present the natural and cultural values of

this UNESCO territory and the challenges faced towards the promotion of a sustainable tourism activity. The Secretary-General praised the important work carried out in Castro Verde and the touristic potential present, stating *“the example given in nature conservation has an important component of the touristic activity”*. By the end of the visit, students from the Castro Verde primary school showed their talent by singing some traditional songs in *“Cante Alentejano”*, also classified by UNESCO as Intangible World Heritage.

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### GOVERNANCE ACTIONS

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The Management Council, constituted by the three organizations responsible for the CVRB management (MCV - Município de Castro Verde, AACB - Associação de Agricultores do Campo Branco e LPN – Liga para a Protecção da Natureza) had 7 meetings during 2018.

The Advisory Council (AC) was created and 40 local, regional and national private and public organizations were invited to participate, from which 14 already formally confirmed their involvement in the AC. In 2018 two meetings of the AC were held (14/06/2018 and 27/11/2018), with the participation of 39 and 13 organizations present, respectively.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting the CVRB framework, mission and action plan were presented, the AC regulation was approved and the official CVRB logo was publicly presented.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> AC meeting a brief summary of the action plan implementation was carried out and the regulation proposal for the CVRB products and services brand was discussed.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> celebrations of the 1<sup>st</sup> CVRB anniversary were carried out, at the AACB facilities, with the participation of the Advisory Council members and included a visit to the School Exhibition on “Património Campaniço”.

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

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## CONSERVATION FUNCTION

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- ✓ Before the breeding season started, LPN made maintenance activities in several Lesser Kestrel colonies and installed platforms for Iberian-imperial-eagle nesting. Improving the prey habitat of the imperial eagle was also carried out, with the implementation of shelters for wild rabbit populations. Under the LIFE Imperial project, LPN carried out activities to identify wildlife poisoning, namely in Red Kite dormitories, and GNR made canine searches to detect illegal use of poison in wildlife.
- ✓ Natural values monitoring included actions to determine the population of several priority species of the CVRB, namely: Great Bustard (LPN e ICNF), Red-kite (LPN e SPEA), Crane

- (LPN e ICNF), Iberian-imperial-eagle (LPN e ICNF), Sandgrouse (ICNF), Lesser Kestrel and Roller (ISA/CEABN) and wild rabbit (LPN and ICNF).
- ✓ Breeding season monitoring was also carried out for Iberian-imperial-eagle (LPN e ICNF), Lesser Kestrel and Roller (LPN, ICNF e CEABN), as well as 5 Mediterranean temporary ponds (priority habitat 3170\* of the European Union Habitats Directive) by LPN. Somincor maintained the Biological Monitoring Programme to assess the ecological status of the Oeiras River, in collaboration with the Coimbra University for macroinvertebrates, fish, birds and flora.
  - ✓ LPN concluded the Great Bustard Powerline Collision Risk Chart for the Castro Verde Natura 2000 Special Protection Area, which includes a significant part of the CVRB), identifying the most dangerous powerlines. An assessment of the existent electrocution and collision mitigation measures was concluded and mortality due to powerlines interactions was followed.
  - ✓ AACB and LPN followed the implementation of the Agro-environmental Measures, such as the Castro Verde Zonal Plan that supports farmers to implement farming activities which promotes the conservation of the endangered steppe bird populations and their habitats in good environmental conditions, as well as the traditional landscape.
  - ✓ Somincor Mine Company established an Emergency Protocol to the safeguard endemic river mussel (*Unio tumidiformis*) at the Oeiras River, in cooperation of the Coimbra and Évora universities and ICNF.

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## DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION

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- ✓ Concerning agriculture, AACB Experimentation Trials, in partnership with IPBeja, to promote demonstration and applied research in farming cultures adapted to the region were carried out. AACB and LPN began an assessment on predation events in livestock, to determine hotspot areas and periods as well as possible causes.
- ✓ In 2018 took place the “Purple Carrot Fair” (20<sup>th</sup> January), “Entrudanças Festival” having water as the main theme (9 to 11<sup>th</sup> February) and the secular “Castro Fair” (19 to 21<sup>st</sup> October), besides the monthly markets.
- ✓ Since June, MCV also organized on a biweekly basis at Saturdays’ market entitled “Mercadinho na Praça”, to promote local products trades and short market chains.
- ✓ In December a “Christmas Fair” was organized with local craftsmen and producers, as well as a campaign to buy locally.
- ✓ During 2018, CVRB product promotion focused mainly on lamb, with the implementation of the I Festival “Sabores do Borrego” (30 and 31<sup>st</sup> March) and with the promotion of lamb meat trade in local restaurants and butchers in a partnership between MCV and the Agrupamento de Produtores de Carnes do Campo Branco (meat producers association).
- ✓ CVBR Management Council develop a Regulation proposal for the CVRB brand to be used in local products and services, which is still in revision.
- ✓ LPN’s Vale do Gonçalinho Environmental Education Centre and MCV Tourism Office maintained the support for visitors (individual and groups), providing visitation counselling about CVRB. LPN also organized guided birdwatching visits. Besides the investments foreseen in upgrading zinc exploration at the Neves-Corvo Mine, Somincor organized several meetings and field visits in a project aimed to increase nature tourism value.



Castro Verde was once more the Baixo Alentejo municipality with the highest rate in recycling, showing the relevance given by the population to good environmental practices.

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## LOGISTIC FUNCTION

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- ✓ In education several activities to promote environmental and cultural awareness concerning the CVRB were carried out by the Agrupamento de Escolas de Castro Verde (School Organization).
- ✓ The Biosphere Reserve was integrated as a transversal thematic of the Castro Verde School Plan. For pre-school students (3 to 5 years) the activity *“Once upon... in the Biosphere Reserve”* has implemented.
- ✓ To promote *“Cante Alentejano”* UNESCO World Intangible Heritage, which is the traditional singing in the CVRB, weekly classes were provided to children from 3 to 9 years. LPN gave lectures about the CVRB, UNESCO and the MAB Programme to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes and about nowadays environmental challenges to 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes.
- ✓ Under the scope of flexibility given by the Education Administration to the schools to promote local subjects, Castro Verde School Organization defined a subject entitled *“Biosphere”* for 1<sup>st</sup> grade students, with 3 hours/week to teach the natural, cultural and socio-economics behind the CVRB classification.
- ✓ In 2018, Castro Verde School was one of five schools at national level that participated in the *“Science Education Promotion Project”* (Projeto PSE2C), which aimed to test how experimental science teaching could be better promoted. In Castro Verde this project was called *“Património Campaniço”* based on the local historic, cultural and natural heritage of the CVRB, and included the scientific approach in the *“cante alentejano”*, *“viola campaniça”* (traditional guitar), mining and farming activity, fauna, flora, soil, water and gastronomy, involving several local partners amongst them the MCV, AACB and LPN.
- ✓ During school breaks (Easter, summer and Christmas) MCV promote *“Leisure Activities”* that also included the CVRB thematic. LPN and MCV organized *“LIFE Imperial Project Open Day”* presenting the children’s story *“The Adventures of “Aquiles and Albertina”*, which promotes awareness for the conservation of this endangered eagle.
- ✓ LPN’s Vale do Gonçálinho Environmental Education Centre provided several environmental awareness activities, including birdwatching and reconnecting with nature and cultural traditions, besides activities for school students (from pre-school to university graduates).
- ✓ Somincor Mine Company, organized the *“Open House – Biodiversity Trail”*, where 120 participants learned more about the several species present in the vicinities of the Neves-Corvo Mine and the habitat conservation measures and monitoring implemented.

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## COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

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CVRB uses Facebook social network (<https://www.facebook.com/castroverdebiosfera/>), where 59 posts were made during 2018 and reached 1470 “likes” in 2018. Since CVRB does not have a website, information has been provided at LPN’s and MCV’s websites.

To divulge several environmental subjects LPN promotes a weekly programme at the local Castrense Radio, in collaboration with the Cortiçol Association (28 broadcasts). Cortiçol Association produced a replic of a lucerne, with a Great Bustard drawing allusive to the CVRB, available for visitors to buy. Castrense Futebol Club used the CVRB logo in their sportive equipment's. Several merchandising products were produced by the MCV using the CVRB logo, namely pencils, cups, lanyards and t-shirts.

Several MCV's institutional participations under the CVRB scope were held in several events, namely: (i) 30<sup>th</sup> Lisbon Tourism Fair (BTL), in Lisbon (28<sup>th</sup> February until 4<sup>th</sup> March); (ii) Ovibeja, Beja (27<sup>th</sup> April until 1<sup>st</sup> May); (iii) Noites de Santiago, Entradas (28 until 30 of July); Festas de Santa Bárbara de Padrões (24 to 26<sup>th</sup> August)

CVRB was presented in the CNADS Conference "Water and Agriculture in a Climate Change Scenario" in Évora and in the INATEL ODS 2030 Conference on Climate Change in Mértola.



*Experimental Sciences activities about the CVRB fauna of the "Património Campaniço" Project.*



*Castro Verde students after the lecture "Discovering the Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve".*



*Replic of the roman Lucerne with a Great Bustard drawing allusive to the Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve*



*School students that brought “Cante Alentejano” traditional singing and “Viola Campaniça” to the visit of the Secretary-General of the UN World Tourism Organization.*



Celebrations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve anniversary, with the presentation of the school exhibition (1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade students).



Example of the Castro Verde Biosphere Reserve in the sports equipment's of the Castrense Futebol Club.

Canine patrols held by GNR to detect and prevent the illegal use of poison in wildlife.



Stand at the 30th BTL (Lisbon Tourism Fair) and Stand in the 35<sup>th</sup> Ovibeja



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## **2018 PORTUGUESE NATIONAL REPORT**

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April 2019

National Committee of the UNESCO MAB Programme