

**Template for Submission of Scientific Information
to Describe Areas Meeting Scientific Criteria for
Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas**

Title/Name of the area: *Aveiro-Nazaré*

Abstract (*in less than 150 words*)

The area is important for the Critically Endangered and OSPAR-listed Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*, with estimates of up to 3,000 individuals using the site during their migration and winter period.

Introduction

(To include: feature type(s) presented, geographic description, depth range, oceanography, general information data reported, availability of models)

The area is important for the Critically Endangered and OSPAR-listed Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*, with estimates of up to 3,000 individuals using the site (BirdLife International 2019a). The importance of this site for the migratory and wintering habitat of the Balearic Shearwater was confirmed during the Marine IBA LIFE project (2008). The site has been classified as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area by BirdLife International (BirdLife International 2019b). <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/figueira-da-foz-iba-portugal>. The boundaries of the IBA stretch from 4 km north of Praia de Mira and 4 km south of Praia da Vieira. The water depth increases from 10 to 70 m at the end of the IBA, 25 km from the coast. The coast is characterized by an extensive chain of dunes and some limestone cliffs in the Figueira da Foz area. In terms of fishing, the Figueira da Foz harbour is one the most important in the country for off-loading pelagic species such as the sardine, since dragnet fishing and longline fishing are residual in this area.

Location

(Indicate the geographic location of the area/feature. This should include a location map.)

Aveiro-Nazaré is 1,067 km² and is located on the central coast (Coimbra/Leiria district) of Portugal (40.22N/-8.96W) (Figure 1).

Feature description of the proposed area

(This should include information about the characteristics of the feature to be proposed, e.g. in terms of physical description (water column feature, benthic feature, or both), biological communities, role in ecosystem function, and then refer to the data/information that is available to support the proposal and whether models are available in the absence of data. This needs to be supported where possible with maps, models, reference to analysis, or the level of research in the area)

Feature condition and future outlook of the proposed area

(Description of the current condition of the area – is this static, declining, improving, what are the particular vulnerabilities? Any planned research/programmes/investigations?)

Assessment of the area against CBD EBSA Criteria

(Discuss the area in relation to each of the CBD criteria and relate the best available science. Note that a proposed area for EBSA description may qualify on the basis of one or more of the criteria, and that the polygons of the EBSA need not be defined with exact precision. And modeling may be used to estimate the presence of EBSA attributes. Please note where there are significant information gaps)

CBD EBSA Criteria (Annex I to decision IX/20)	Description (Annex I to decision IX/20)	Ranking of criterion relevance (please mark one column with an X)			
		No information	Low	Medium	High
Uniqueness or rarity	Area contains either (i) unique (“the only one of its kind”), rare (occurs only in few locations) or endemic species, populations or communities, and/or (ii) unique, rare or distinct, habitats or ecosystems; and/or (iii) unique or unusual	X			

	geomorphological or oceanographic features.				
Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents)					
Special importance for life-history stages of species	Areas that are required for a population to survive and thrive.				X
Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents) The area is important for the Critically Endangered and OSPAR-listed Balearic Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> , with estimates of up to 3,000 individuals using the site during their migration and winter period. After breeding on the Balearic Islands, the global population passes through the Strait of Gibraltar and along the coast of Portugal to post-breeding grounds on the Bay of Biscay and Iberian coast where they undergo their annual flight-feather moult (Mayol-Serra <i>et al.</i> , 2000), coinciding with the spawning of small pelagic fish in these areas.					
Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats	Area containing habitat for the survival and recovery of endangered, threatened, declining species or area with significant assemblages of such species.				X
Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents) The area is important for the Critically Endangered and OSPAR-listed Balearic Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> , with estimates of up to 3,000 individuals using the site during their migration and winter period (BirdLife International 2019a). After breeding on the Balearic Islands, the global population passes through the Strait of Gibraltar and along the coast of Portugal to post-breeding grounds on the Bay of Biscay and Iberian coast where they undergo their annual flight-feather moult (Mayol-Serra <i>et al.</i> , 2000), coinciding with the spawning of small pelagic fish in these areas.					
Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery	Areas that contain a relatively high proportion of sensitive habitats, biotopes or species that are functionally fragile (highly susceptible to degradation or depletion by human activity or by natural events) or with slow recovery.				X
Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents) The Balearic Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> is classified as Critically Endangered and was listed by OSPAR as a threatened and/or declining species in 2008. This species was considered to have a very low resistance, due to its very small breeding range (<10 km ²) and nesting behaviour, making it susceptible to predation by introduced mammals, habitat loss and degradation and disturbance (Aguilar, 1999; Arcos and Oro, 2004). Away from the breeding colonies, the species' tendency to congregate in large numbers in coastal waters, often near harbours, makes it vulnerable to oil spills, particularly in the moulting quarters (Aguilar, 1999; Mayol-Serra <i>et al.</i> , 2000), and its tendency to aggregate in the most productive waters (Louzao <i>et al.</i> , 2006), also make the species susceptible to interactions with commercial fisheries, <i>e.g.</i> by-catch on longlines (Arcos <i>et al.</i> , 2008). It was also viewed to have very low resilience as birds do not breed until at least their third year, are long-lived, and reproduce slowly (adults are known to skip breeding some years), and hence were considered very sensitive to human activities which increase adult mortality, such as longline fishing (Aguilar, 1999; Arcos and Oro, 2004; Oro <i>et al.</i> , 2004).					
Biological productivity	Area containing species, populations or communities with comparatively higher natural	X			

	biological productivity.				
<i>Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents)</i>					
Biological diversity	Area contains comparatively higher diversity of ecosystems, habitats, communities, or species, or has higher genetic diversity.	X			
<i>Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents)</i>					
Naturalness	Area with a comparatively higher degree of naturalness as a result of the lack of or low level of human-induced disturbance or degradation.	X			
<i>Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents)</i>					

Sharing experiences and information applying other criteria (Optional)

Other Criteria	Description	Ranking of criterion relevance (please mark one column with an X)			
		Don't Know	Low	Medium	High
<i>Add relevant criteria</i>		X			
<i>Explanation for ranking (must be accompanied by relevant sources of scientific articles, reports or documents)</i>					

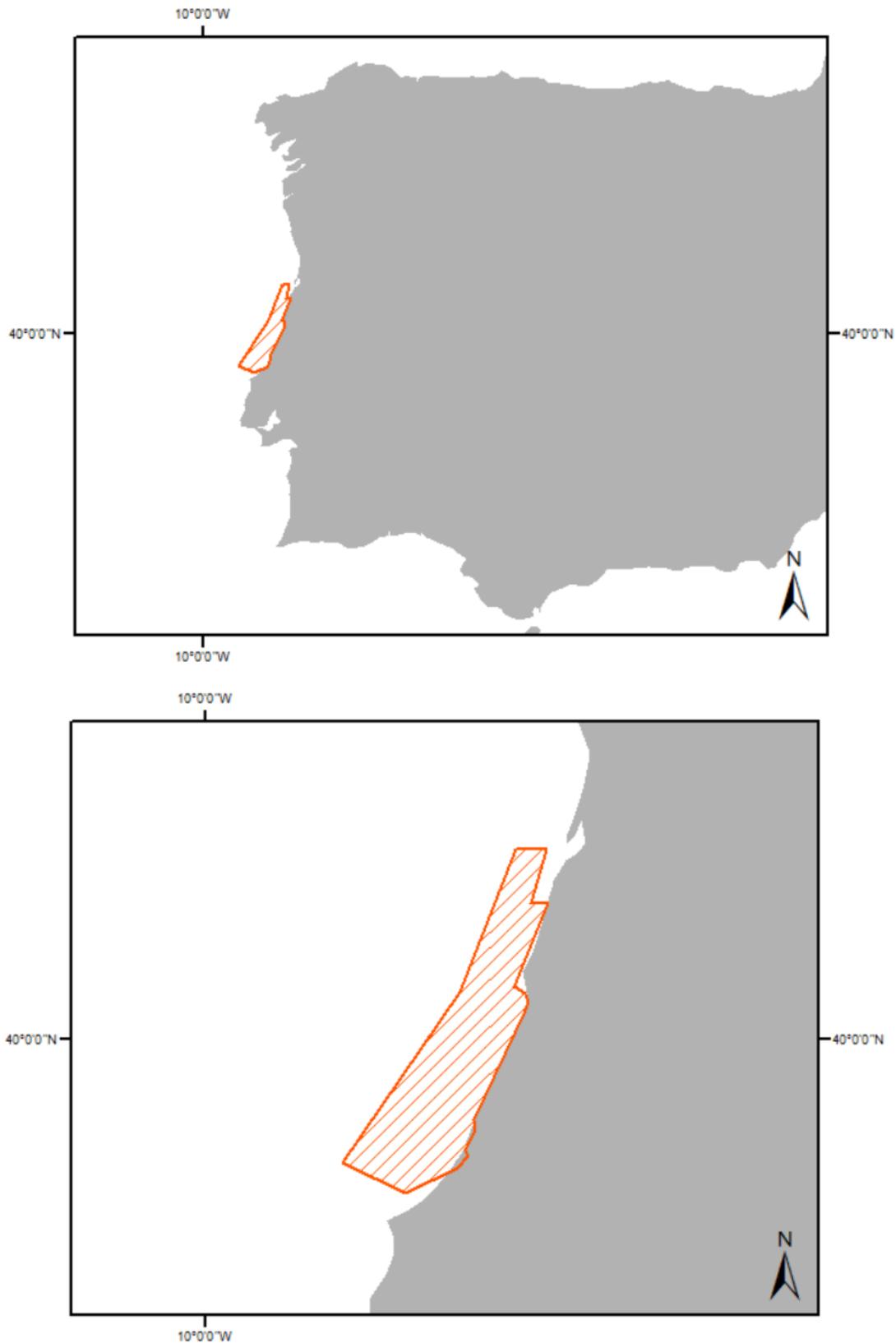
References

(e.g. relevant documents and publications, including URL where available; relevant data sets, including where these are located; information pertaining to other relevant material, models, etc.)

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Maps and Figures



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