

Thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

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Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

The preparation of this report was based on the information provided by the following public authorities:

- . Institute for Nature Conservation (Ministry of Urban Affairs, Spatial Planning and Environment)
- . Madeira Regional Directorate for Environment (Madeira Regional Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources)
- . Azores Regional Directorate for Environment (Azores Regional Secretary for Environment)

In Portugal mainland the establishment and management of protected areas (of national interest) is a competency of the Institute for Nature Conservation (ICN). Protected areas of regional/local interest are established under proposal of, and managed by local authorities (municipalities), with the participation of ICN national authority. The establishment of local protected areas may also be proposed by private bodies that become responsible for their management. The designation of areas classified for their European Community importance in terms of biodiversity (at the European Union level) - Natura 2000 network – is a responsibility of ICN. Natura 2000 management and spatial planning are under the responsibility of ICN, local authorities and other authorities with relevant territorial and sectorial jurisdiction.

In the Autonomous Region of Madeira the establishment and management of Protected Areas (of national interest) is a competency of several entities within the Regional Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources (Regional Directorate for Environment, Regional Directorate for Forests, Parque Natural da Madeira). Local interest areas may also involve local authorities.

In the Autonomous Region of Azores the establishment and management of protected areas (of national interest) is a competency of the Regional Secretary for Environment (Regional Directorate for Environment) in close co-operation with Regional Directorate for Forestry Resources. Local interest areas may also involve local authorities.

The designation of Natura 2000 areas in both autonomous regions is also a competence of national authority (ICN) under proposal of the respective above mentioned Regional Government authorities, which are responsible for their management in the same way as mentioned above.

The designation of areas classified due to its international importance under Ramsar Convention, European Network of Biogenetic Reserves (Council of Europe) and Biosphere Reserves (Man and Biosphere - UNESCO) is a responsibility of ICN. Their management must be ensured by the national authority (ICN) in mainland and (where relevant) by regional authorities in both Autonomous Regions.

Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

System of protected areas

1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process		<p>X - There is no general national process in place; however national and european level regulations and criteria do exist as a support to the designation and implementation of the national system of protected areas (Law-Decree n. 19/93, of 23 January, related to the National Network of Protected Areas, and its adaptation to the Azores Autonomous Region: Regional Law-Decree n. 21/93/A, of 23 December) and also of the (european) Natura 2000 network (European Union Directives n. 79/409 and n. 92/43; both Directives are regulated in Portugal trough Law-Decree n. 140/99, of 24 April, and its adaptation to the Azores Autonomous Region: Regional Law-Decree n. 18/2002/A, of 16 May).</p> <p>At the same time the designation and implementation of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites are supported by land planning regulations (Law n. 48/98, of 11 August and Law-Decree n. 380/99, of 22 September) and several territorial instruments or plans at several levels: national level (under preparation), regional level, sectorial (e.g. forestry regional plans), coastal plans, municipality level plans.</p>			
3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity?					
a) no					
b) an assessment is being planned for					
c) an assessment is being undertaken		<p>X - Albeit there is not a specific and targeted assessment scheme in place, the process used for designation of Natura 2000 network during last decade (and yet in course) was also used to (re-)evaluate the representativeness of the national protected areas network (besides allowing the designation of the areas with european interest to integrate in Natura 2000 network).</p> <p>During this process, nation wide inventories of biodiversity and the estimates of its numbers and geographical distribution allowed both the assessment of the existing national network of protected areas and the establishment of the Natura 2000 network.</p>			
d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made					

Regulatory framework

4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents	<p>X - (see also 2d))</p> <p>Policy framework and enabling legislation in place for the establishment and designation of national and local interest protected areas is given through Law-Decree n. 19/93, of 23 January, (related to the National Network of Protected Areas). The Azores Autonomous Region has already adapted this legislation to its territory through Regional Law-Decree n. 21/93/A, of 23 December.</p> <p>Policy framework and legislation for Natura 2000 network areas (of european interest) is given through European Union Directives n. 79/409 and n. 92/43, both regulated in Portugal trough Law-Decree n. 140/99, of 24 April; the Azores Autonomous Region has already adapted this legislation to its territory through Regional Law-Decree n. 18/2002/A, of 16 May.</p> <p>Land planning and management of national protected areas and Natura 2000 network is also ensured through Law n. 48/98, of 11 August and Law-Decree n. 380/99, of 22 September and specific management plans for each area.</p> <p>Areas classified under international agreements (<i>e.g.</i> wetlands of international importance, Man and Biosphere) are regulated through its specific regimes and always overlap with national protected areas, whose management plans must ensure the achievement of those international compromises.</p> <p>National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation also gives a policy framework for the implementation and management of protected areas.</p>
5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	
d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets	X - Guidelines, criteria and targets to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas are given by the policy framework and legislation referred to in 4d).

6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures, for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors, or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples)	<p>X - There are incentive measures in place that may be used to support the management of protected areas, although they are not yet used in an extensive way in all protected areas.</p> <p>Some of these incentives are a result of domestic policies and others of European Union funds, policies and instruments.</p> <p>A resolution from the Portuguese Government (Council of Ministers nº 102/96) establishes that all government departments and sectors should implement concrete measures for the sustainable development of protected areas. Among those that have already been put into practice reference is made to measures related to sustainable tourism and local-based product certification. Priority is given to the approval of economic development projects which lead to the creation of employment within the protected areas, while priority and the maximum rate of joint participation is allocated to those local authority projects which have an effect on the National Network of Protected Areas.</p> <p>In 1998 it was created the National Program for Nature Tourism, to be implemented within protected areas, with specific guidance and financial support to the development of sustainable touristic projects relying on the landscape, social, and natural characteristics of protected areas (Law-Decree n. 47/99, of 16 February, and related regulations)</p> <p>In several protected areas hunting agreements have been established with local hunters and hunting associations, which include incentive measures for hunting management and also a priority access of local associations and populations to hunting activities, regarding hunters from neighbouring locations or places outside protected areas.</p> <p>Agri-environmental measures are also very useful instruments that act as incentive and compensation measures for local rural producers inside protected areas. This measures integrate the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union and the budget allocated pretends to co-finance rural development in the EU, supporting the maintenance of sustainable agriculture and forestry practices, which is very important to the conservation of biodiversity namely within protected areas.</p>
c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples)	

Management approach

7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so that programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is being planned for c) an assessment is in process	<p>There is no global/comprehensive assessment of the threats to the biodiversity of protected areas. However the development and implementation of a demanding framework on environmental impact assessment of projects (also programs and plans, under development), during last years, particularly those that may affect protected areas, allowed the identification of major threats for biodiversity nation wide.</p> <p>Threats for particular protected areas and relevant biodiversity components have been assessed and measures are in place to deal with them. Red data book for vertebrate species and also flora species are been revised or under elaboration.</p> <p>Agreements with relevant sectors and integration of biodiversity concerns have been progressively developed allowing minimisation of identified impacts through the establishment of specific programmes and policies. Most relevant examples relate to threats resulting from the following activities: hunting; forestry and agriculture practices; distribution and transport of energy; wind farms; tourism; water quality; prevention, and control/eradication of invasive alien species, specially in island habitats .</p>
d) yes, an assessment has been completed	
e) programmes and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken)	
8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some areas	X
c) yes, in all areas (please provide details)	
9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes?	
a) no, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes	
b) many areas have similar objectives/management regimes, but there are also some exceptions	
c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details)	<p>X - There are different types of protected areas of national interest, for which management objectives and regimes vary according to the protection category they are included in. Law-Decree n. 19/93 establishes seven types of protected areas: natural monuments, natural reserves, natural parks, national parks, regional or local protected areas (protected landscapes), classified sites, and private protected areas (“sites of biological interest”).</p> <p>More recently new type was considered (Law-Decree n. 227/98): marine protected areas, designated as “marine parks or “marine</p>

reserves”.

The general framework regarding management objectives and types of protected areas of national interest follow the one established by IUCN.

Areas important at the European Union level and included in Natura 2000 network also have specific management objectives and regimes, established through the policy and legal instruments referred to in question 4.

Areas classified under international agreements (Ramsar Convention, UNESCO Man and Biosphere, and Council of Europe Biogenetic Reserves) must obey to management objectives defined in respective agreements.

When overlapped, areas pertaining to the three major groups above are usually under legal management regimes defined to national protected areas.

In order to ensure an ecological spatial continuum, it is also established a national ecological “reserve”, that regulates the land use of particularly sensitive areas defined according bio-physic criteria.

The National Network of Protected Areas

In Portugal mainland the National Network includes 44 protected areas: one National Park, twelve Natural Parks, nine Natural Reserves, seven (regional/local) Protected Landscape Areas, ten Classified Sites and five Natural Monuments. Together they cover approximately 7% of mainland territory.

There are also, formally designated, one marine park and one marine reserve, both connected to coastal protected areas.

In the Autonomous Region of Madeira there are four Natural Reserves (including also coastal marine areas) and the Madeira Natural Park, which embraces around two thirds of the island (56,700 ha) and includes the whole of the *Laurissilva* woodland, the central mountainous massif, zones which include the basal level of the indigenous flora, some humanized traditional landscapes and some recreational areas for the local population.

In the Autonomous Region of Azores there are 32 protected areas (including several marine reserves), comprising eleven Natural reserves, five Protected Landscape Areas and sixteen Partial Natural Woodland Reserves throughout the various islands which make up the archipelago.

The Natura 2000 Network (European Union interest areas)

This network incorporates both Special Protection Areas (SPA), designated for the conservation of bird species of european interest, including their habitats, and Special Areas for Conservation Zones (SAC), designated for the conservation of habitats, and non-bird fauna and flora species of european interest, according to specific biogeographical regions .

	<p>So far Portugal has classified 29 SPA on the mainland, 4 in the Autonomous Region of Madeira and 15 in the Autonomous Region of the Azores.</p> <p>Regarding SCZ there are 60 areas classified in the Atlantic and Mediterranean biogeographical regions (mainland) and 34 areas in the Macaronesian region (11 in the Autonomous Region of Madeira and 23 in the Autonomous Region of Azores).</p> <p><u>Other classified areas</u></p> <p>At international level Portugal is also integrated into other networks of interest to the conservation of biodiversity, namely:</p> <p>a) the European Network of Bio-genetic Reserves, which is composed of a group of areas intended to “ensure the biological balance and consequently the conservation, potential, genetic diversity and representative nature of the various types of habitats, biocoenoses and ecosystems”. This international instrument was created by the Council of Europe in 1976 via Council of Ministers Resolution (76)17; there are ten areas in Portugal designated as Bio-genetic Reserves;</p> <p>b) areas issued with a Diploma from the Council of Europe, which include the Ilhas Selvagens (in Madeira);</p> <p>c) the Biosphere Reserves created under the terms of the UNESCO “Man and Biosphere” Programme, which include the Paul do Boquilobo (mainland);</p> <p>d) wetlands of international importance classified under the the Ramsar Convention, which was approved for ratification by Decree nº 101/80, dated 9th October 1980. The Convention establishes the criteria and categories that allow the designation of areas as Ramsar wetlands, and the signatory countries commit themselves to promote their conservation and sustainable use. There are currently ten areas that have been designated as Ramsar sites by the Portuguese Government.</p>
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10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) with some, but not all protected areas	X
c) yes, always (please provide details of experience)	

11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognized in any formal manner?	
a) no, they do not exist	X - although they are legally foreseen
b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized	
c) yes, they exist and are formally recognized (please provide further information)	

Available resources

12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas?	
a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	X - most relevant shortfalls are related to: a) social and economic specificities: most of land is private, with small proprietaries with low rural incomes (agriculture and forestry) and high pressure for intensification of rural practices; extensive interior areas with acute desertification problems and consequent pressure in coastal areas; b) still insufficient level of sectoral integration of biodiversity concerns in some areas; c) still insufficient availability of incentive measures or regimes to support sustainable economic frameworks (specially those related to primary sector activities) and a consequent lack of availability to compensate or minimize loss of income of local communities; d) low level of awareness and evaluation of the benefits or valuing biodiversity (including ecological functions and services provided); e) insufficient institutional resources to improve some scientific biodiversity-related areas, particularly taxonomy studies of non-vertebrate species, lichens and fungi, and population conservation studies of vascular flora, including bryophytes; f) insufficient resources to preserve micro-habitats and wild flora occurring on peri-urban mosaics through the implementation of micro-reserves; g) some well identified gaps in training and availability of qualified personnel; g) reduced or not adequate processes of public participation on designation and management processes, specially in areas related to economic or social sciences approaches to local communities and stakeholders; h) insufficient resources allocated to surveillance and inspection activities.
c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
d) yes, good resources are available	
13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas?	
a) no	X - Funding has been received through European Union programmes to the establishment and management of protected areas, namely LIFE instrument, Structural Funds (POA, FEOGA, INTERREG), and Cohesion Funds.

b) funding has been requested, but not received	
c) funding is currently being requested	
d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents)	

Assessment

14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints?	
a) no	X - However some constraints have been already evaluated, particularly the need of a set of management (and biodiversity) indicators for protected areas, whose designing is in course. Actions are also in place for some of the already assessed constraints: for instance, the improvement of the participation of local authorities in management bodies; agreements with local communities and stakeholders to ensure compliance of some activities to biodiversity conservation goals (e.g. hunters, fisheries in some marine coastal areas).
b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information)	
c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further information)	
15. Is a programme in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information?	
a) no	X
b) yes, a programme is under development (please provide further information)	
c) yes, a programme is in place (please provide further information)	
16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is planned	X
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information)	

Regional and international cooperation

17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighbouring countries in the establishment and/or management of transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X - Portugal is involved in several bilateral transboundary cooperation initiatives involving Spain to reinforce biodiversity management efforts (e.g. Iberian-lynx recovery in Iberia; conservation of endangered fauna species of the Alentejo, Centro and Extremadura regions, involving several protected areas and Natura 2000 areas in both countries; biodiversity and environmental initiatives between the regions of Madeira, Azores and Canarias). Co-operation regarding the establishment or management of transboundary protected areas is also relevant.

	<p>One example is the establishment of the transboundary Park Gerês-Xurés. This project involves the Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês and the Parque Nacional da Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurés (Spain). The project aims at the development of standardized procedures related to conservation measures, and of joint actions on exchange of human resources and expertise, promotion of sustainable tourism, development of policies for the protection of traditional knowledge and associated social, ecological and economic values.</p> <p>There is also a Co-ordinating Committee between Spain (Galiza) and Northern Portugal to regulate co-operation between both countries related to transboundary protected areas.</p> <p>Other examples are frequent in some north and center transboundary areas associated with shared important rivers such as Arribas do Douro portuguese and spanish Parks.</p>
18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience?	
a) no	X (although there are portuguese members of the Commission)
b) yes	
c) information is not available	
19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognised or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them.	
21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X - The development and implementation frameworks for sustainable tourism activities in protected areas, specially related to nature tourism and involving sports, lodgment, local-based activities. Other example is invasive alien species eradication, specially in oceanic small islands and islets (e.g. rodents and goats).

Further comments

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