



2nd Natura 2000 Macaronesian Seminar Angra do Heroísmo, Azores, Portugal



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

Working group
Maintenance of the ecological coherence of
the Natura 2000 network in the
Macaronesian region



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- **Setting a common background:** From Madeira to Açores
- **The conceptual definition of coherence:** Results from MAC WG #1
- **Common needs:** standardized data and metrics
- **Multi-level management and coherence:** An approach for N2K
- **From the theory to practice:** How coherence should NOT turn into another administrative burden



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- **Setting a common background: From Madeira to Açores**
 - Before Funchal... we had “A coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation”
 - But we also had:
 - Lack of common definitions on HTs (and Annex 3 attributes)
 - Lack of common procedures for evaluating CS (especially S&F and FP)
 - This implied the impossibility to establish top-down COs
 - **Thus, there was an evident lack of coherence**



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- **Setting a common background: From Madeira to Açores**
 - Was the coherence of ecological PA networks easy to define?
 - Where there any inspiring experiences across the EU?
 - Limited literature: Only a few papers, deriving from OSPAR and HELCOM commissions for MPA networks

esa

ECOSPHERE

Journal of Applied Ecology



Assessing the ecological coherence of a marine protected area network in the Celtic Seas

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Free Access

Ecological coherence of marine protected area networks: a spatial assessment using species distribution models

Göran Sundblad ✉ Ulf Bergström, Alfred Sandström

First published: 30 November 2010 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2010.01892.x> | Citations: 59

Part of the *Developments in Hydrobiology* book series (DIHY, vol. 1247)

1247 Accesses | 4 Citations

Conference paper

Jeff A. Ardron ✉

The challenge of assessing whether the OSPAR network of marine protected areas is ecologically coherent

Home > Challenges to Marine Ecosystems > Conference paper



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- **Setting a common background:** From Madeira to Açores
 - Was coherence a concerning issue for ES in the MAC BGR?
 - Not specially, in the terrestrial environment (high %), but highly concerning in the Marine MAC BGR
 - And really concerning for defining COs and the relevance of a site for preserving a species or a HT
 - So, we pushed for the 1st BGS in the MAC BGR, as a way to start gaining coherence (among other things, and combined with the MED)



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- **Setting a common background: From Madeira to Açores**
 - In Funchal, 2018, we started a journey. And for this journey we needed:
 - A routemap (defined in Funchal)
 - A vehicle (MAC WGs)
 - Fuel (ES funds)



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- **Setting a common background: From Madeira to Açores**
 - Key elements of the routemap:
 1. Establishing a WG for developing a manual on common HT definitions
 2. Establishing a WG for common procedures for the CS evaluation (**MED routemap**)
 3. Elaborating criteria and procedures for defining FRVs (**MED routemap**)
 4. Elaborating criteria for selecting HT and species for action plans and the AP itself
 5. Establishing a WG for common procedures for the CS survey
 6. **Creating a WG for defining ecological coherence (MAC WG #1)**



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- **Setting a common background: From Madeira to Açores**
 - Key aspects of the vehicle (MAC WG #1):
 1. Highly motivated and engaged participants from Açores, Canary Islands and Madeiran authorities, and coordinated by Gabriel del Barrio (scientific) and Ricardo García Moral (technical)
 2. 5 online meetings since 2022
 3. Another meeting before the end of the year
 4. To discuss many ideas about the components of the coherence



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- **Setting a common background: From Madeira to Azores**
 - Some aspects of the fuel:
 1. To be told at the end of the session