

## Natura 2000 Seminar for the Macaronesian Region



8 – 10 November 2023  
Angra do Heroísmo, Portugal

Habitat restoration and IAS management:  
Which are the new challenges? The Madeira case study

## MAP OF THE TALK

- Madeira, biodiversity and natural history / Protected Areas
- Vertebrate Invasive Species in Madeira
- Eradication and control of IAS
- The future:
  - Are we facing the end?
  - Are we all going to jail?

# MADEIRA: ISLANDS, SMALL ISLANDS AND ISLETS



- 741 Km<sup>2</sup>
- 42 Km<sup>2</sup>
- 251.000 inhabitants
  - 42% at Funchal
- 75% pop. in 13% of the territory



# MADEIRA: BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL HISTORY

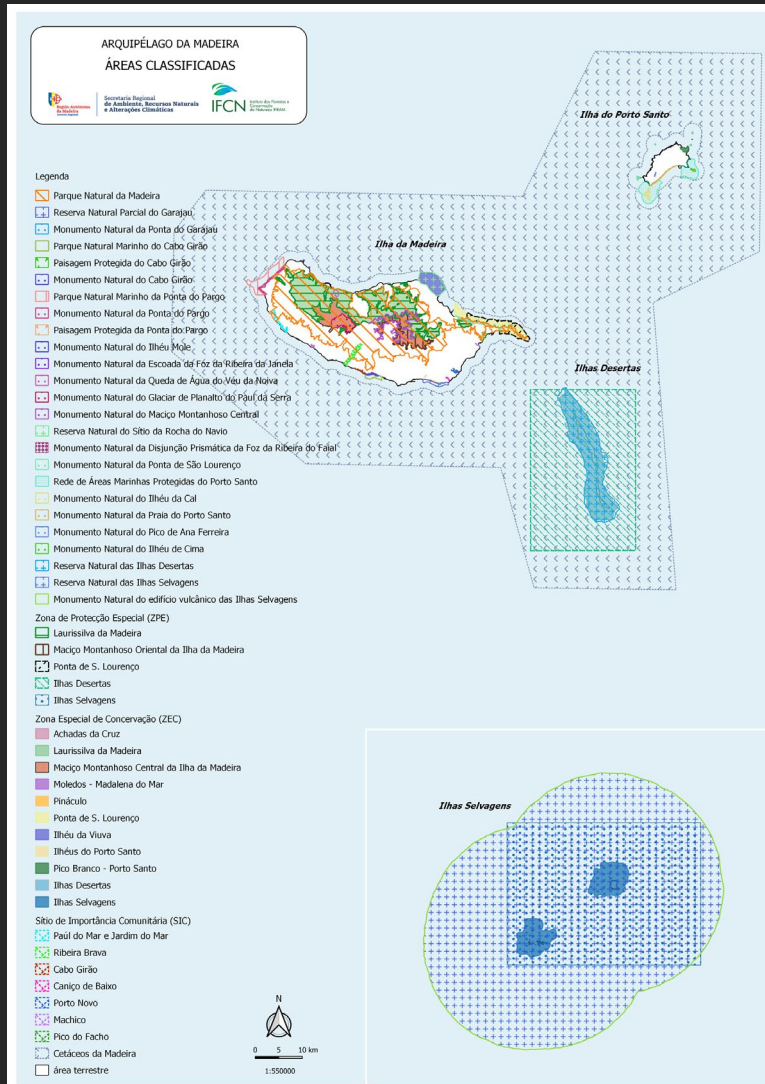


- Diversity of habitats
- 7571 taxa (2008)
- 1419 taxa are endemic (20%)
- Many vulnerable or in danger due to the threat of IAS



# MADEIRA: PROTECTED AREAS

## Protected Areas and Natura 2000 sites



- 25 Protected areas
- 19 Natura 2000 Sites
- 58 % of the territory
- 89 % of the territorial sea

“INVASIVE ALLIEN SPECIES ARE  
A MAJOR DRIVER OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS”

“INVASIVE ALLIEN SPECIES MANAGEMENT IS A KEY  
MEASURE TO ENSURE CONCRETE, EFFECTIVE AND LONG  
LASTING RESULTS IN TERMS OF NATURE  
CONSERVATION”

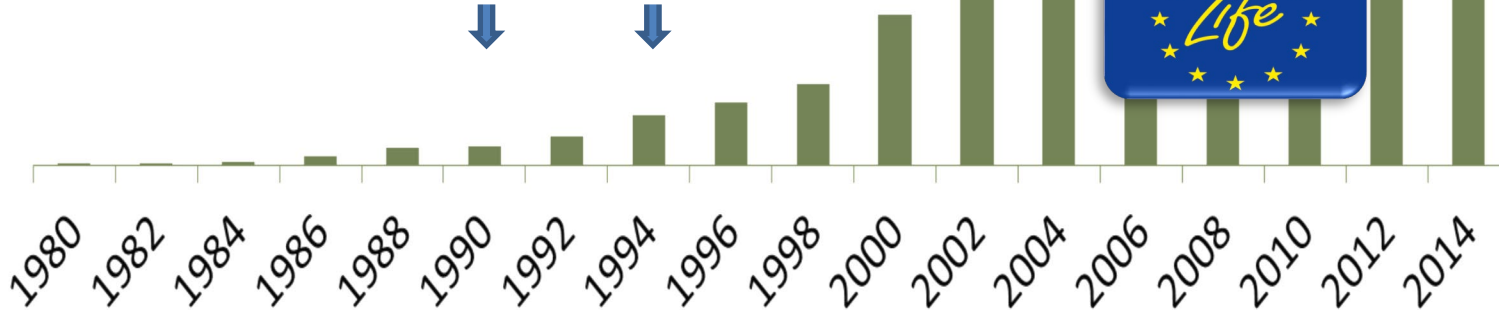






# ERADICATION PROJECTS

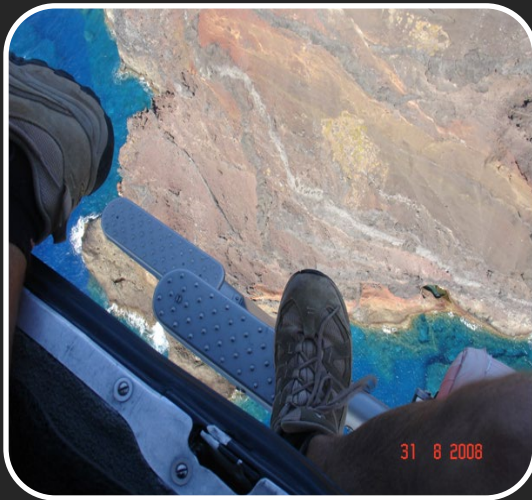
- THE 1st ERADICATION PROJECT • 1995 (Rabbits and goats)  
PROJECT • Deserta Grande (1100 ha\479 m)



# METHODS



- Methods
  - Bait
    - Broadcast by Hand (by foot)
    - Broadcasts by Hand (by helicopter)
  - Shooting
  - Trapping



Bugio Island



Cima Islet 31 ha/124 m – 2600 snares

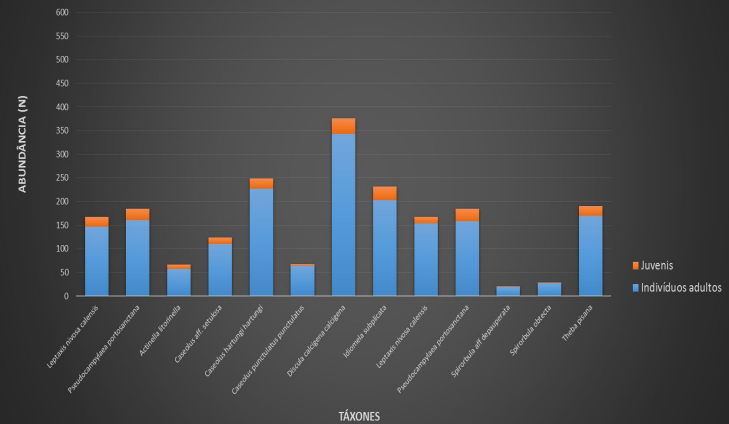
# RESULTS



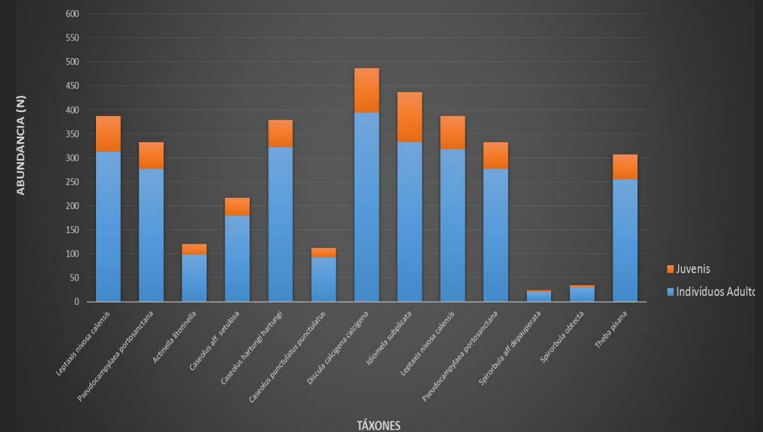
Land snails in I. Baixo  
(Porto Santo)

Erradication of rabbits  
and mices

Abundância dos táxones alvo de predação  
Ilhéu de Baixo (2012)



Abundância dos táxones alvo de predação  
Ilhéu de Baixo (2014)

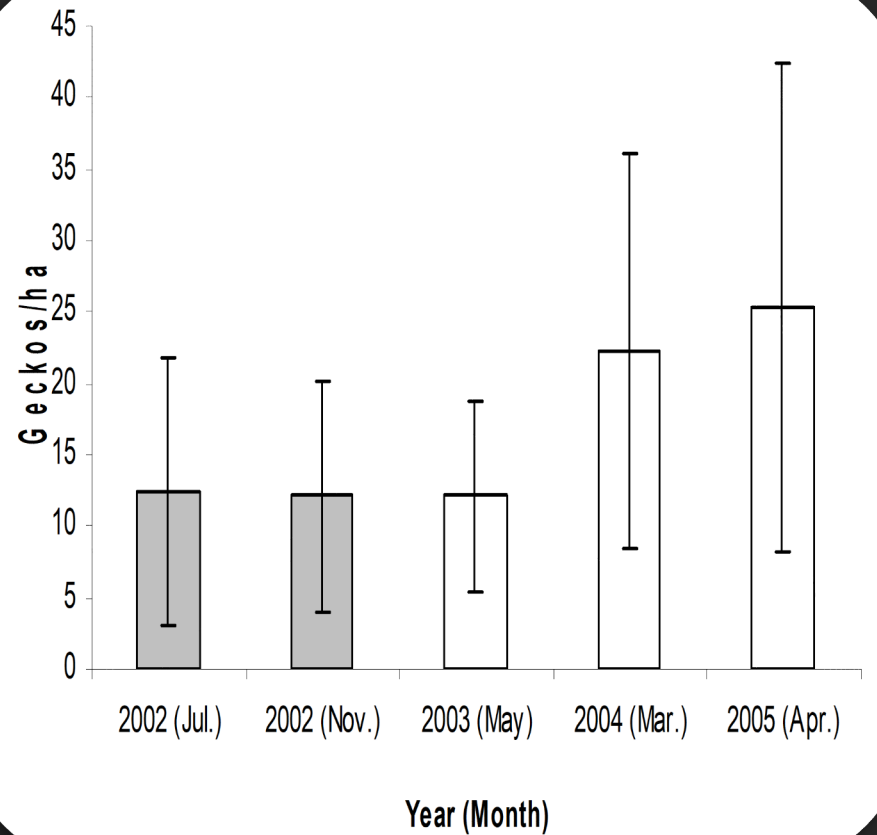




# RESULTS

## Geckos in Selvagem Grande

Erradication of rabbits and mices



## THE PRESENT CHALLENGES

- Legislation conflict and lack of specific legislation
  - EU Regulation 1143/2014  
On the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.
  - EU Regulation 528/2012  
Concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products.
    - Biodiversity is mentioned only 2 times!
    - Nature conservation is not mentioned!



## THE PRESENT CHALLENGES

- Legislation conflict and lack of specific legislation
  - National legislation
    - Shooting
      - Legally what we do is “density control” of cinegetic species!
    - Feral/wild cat control
      - Euthanasia - only performed by a vet.
      - Currently, the animals are captured and handed over to an animal rights association, which keeps them in cages.
  - Prohibited means and methods of capture or killing - non-selective traps (Decree law n.38/2021).



## THE PRESENT CHALLENGES

- Lack of communication skills
  - Extreme Animal Lovers/Rights Movements





THANK YOU

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