



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



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

The Biogeographical Process in the Macaronesian Region so far

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Context & Background

Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

Habitats Directive (92/43/CE)

- **Objective:** *"to ensure biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora on European territory".*

Natura 2000 Network

- **Art 3.1.** *"coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation (...) which must ensure the maintenance or, where necessary, restoration to a favorable conservation status".*

EU Biodiversity Strategies

- **EC, 2011.** *"Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of the EU's ecosystem services, and restoring them as far as possible".*

Natura 2000 Biogeographic Process

- **EC, 2012.** *"cooperation process at biogeographical level, including seminars, workshops and activities to improve management of the Natura 2000 network".*



Two core obligations in focus

Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

Habitats Directive (92/43/EC): Art. 3

- *"A **coherent** European ecological network of special areas of conservation, to be known as "Natura 2000", is hereby established. This network, composed of the sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and the habitats of the species listed in Annex II, shall ensure the maintenance or, where appropriate, the re-establishment, at a **favorable conservation status**, of the natural habitat types and the habitats of the species concerned in their natural range".*



Still needs to be **defined** today:

- ✓ Ecological coherence.
- ✓ Favorable conservation status.



Harmonization of concepts, criteria and methodologies among Member States is essential.



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Funchal (Madeira, PT), September 2018

Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

Objectives

- ✓ Definition of the bases of the Biogeographic Process in the Macaronesian region.
- ✓ Establish a common roadmap between the two Member States (Spain and Portugal) to advance towards:
 - Maintaining a **favorable conservation status** (ECF) of all habitat types and species of Community interest.
 - Ensuring the **ecological coherence** of the Natura 2000 network.



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Roadmap

- ✓ Need to develop a specific **interpretation manual** for the Macaronesian region.
- ✓ Harmonization of procedures for the **evaluation of habitat types**.
- ✓ Harmonization of criteria and procedures for determining **favourable reference values**.
- ✓ Elaboration of **action plans** at biogeographic region level.
- ✓ Establishment of the minimum elements of a **management plan** for Natura 2000 sites.
- ✓ Assess the contribution of each SCI to **ecological coherence**.



From Madeira (2018) to Azores (2023) and beyond

Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

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Constitution of two working groups (at present)



GROUP 1. Ecological coherence



GROUP 2. Action plan



From Madeira (2018) to Azores (2023) and beyond

Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

GROUP 1. Ecological coherence



Definition of **ecological coherence** and development of methodologies for its assessment.

GROUP 2. Action plan



Development of an **action plan** for maintenance/restoration of favorable conservation status.



This will allow:

- ✓ *"To ensure biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats" (Habitats Directive).*
- ✓ *"To ensure the maintenance or restoration of favorable conservation status" (Habitats Directive).*
- ✓ *"Cooperation at biogeographical level to improve management of the Natura 2000 network" (Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process).*
- ✓ *Ecological coherence*

A high-angle photograph of a lush, green landscape. In the foreground, there are dense, vibrant green trees and ferns. The middle ground shows a wide valley with a large, irregularly shaped lake or wetland area. The background consists of rolling hills and mountains covered in dense forest, with some areas appearing slightly hazy or misty. The overall scene is a beautiful, natural landscape.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION