

BESTVOLUNTARY SCHEME
FOR BIODIVERSITY AND
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
IN TERRITORIES OF
EUROPEAN OVERSEAS

Highlights and funding needs

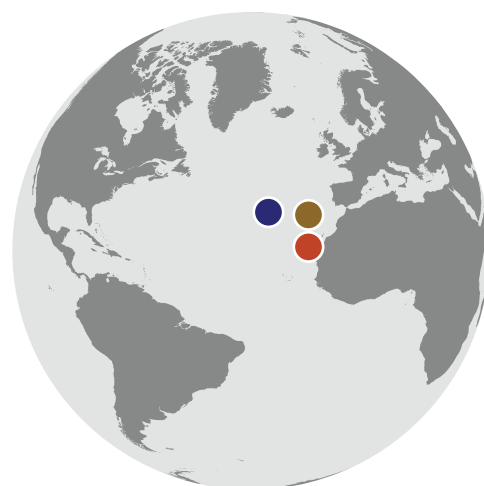
Macaronesia

Azores

Madeira

Canary Islands

Among the planet's recognized biodiversity hotspots, Macaronesia is composed of three European Overseas Regions in the northeast Atlantic: Portugal's Azores and Madeira, and Spain's Canary Islands. These volcanic archipelagos (two islands in Madeira, seven in the Canary Islands, and nine in the Azores), all share a gentle climate, varied landscapes, rich biodiversity and particularly high levels of terrestrial plant and animal endemism.



Species

5,300 endemic**553** globally threatened**564** trigger species for KBAs

Protected areas

59% terrestrial area protected6,290 km² out of 10,570 km²**3%** marine area protected62,623 km² out of 1.8 million km²

This document has been developed as part of the project 'Measures towards Sustaining the BEST Preparatory Action to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in EU Outermost EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories'. The document does not represent an official, formal position of the European Commission.

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Macaronesia Ecosystem Profile and Investment strategy key figures

194 Key Biodiversity Areas identified

46 Priority Key Biodiversity Areas in 4,723km²

153 new projects needing funding

Total investment needed
30.6 million euros

2014-2017 Consultation efforts for the Ecosystem Profile and the Regional Investment Strategy

Over **123 regional stakeholders** were mobilized for the BEST III Ecosystem Profile and Regional Investment Strategy, from government organizations, the scientific community, NGOs and the private sector. **21 workshops** were organized across the three archipelagos between 2014 and 2016, in addition to specific interviews and expert consultancies.



NATURA 2000

Coordinated network of EU protected areas. Macaronesia, the only EU Overseas region included in the network, has 290 sites over 32,500 km² on land and sea.

The BEST Ecosystem Profile for Macaronesia highlighted important gaps in conservation:

- Territorial mismatches between Natura 2000 sites and identified KBAs
- Many endangered species are not covered by European directives

Why to invest in conservation in the Macaronesia

International Recognition of Biodiversity

- 14 Ramsar Wetland Site
- 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- 12 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves
- 11 OSPAR Marine Protected Areas
- 290 "Natura 2000" sites
- 119 Important Bird Areas
- 1 Particularly Sensitive Area
- 1 Large Marine Ecosystem

People

2.6 million inhabitants (2015 census)
Density of 106/km² (Azores), 323/km² (Madeira), 283,08/km² (Canary Islands)

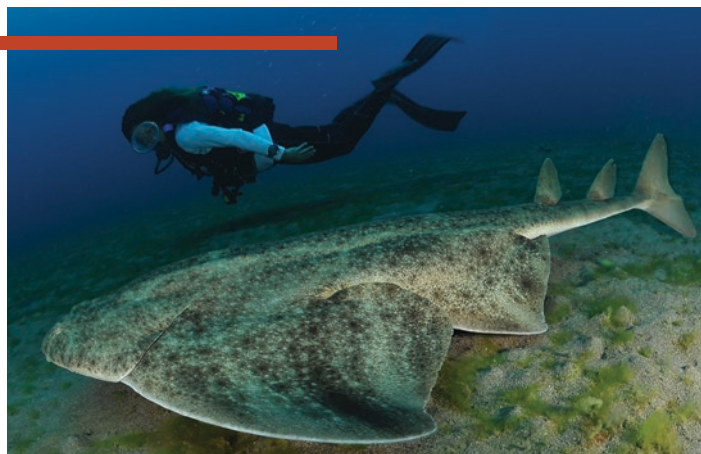
Income sources: Services (tourism, trade and financial services), fishery construction, agriculture.

Azores geopark was recognized by UNESCO by its geological formations and extensive system of active submarine mounts, volcanoes and hydrothermal vents with rich and unique marine life (over 160 coral species). The archipelago is an important seabird breeding area, with the world's largest population of cory's shearwater (over 180,000 couples, 4/5 of the European population). It also hosts the endemic Azorean bat and endangered Azores bullfinch.



Madeira has the largest surviving Atlantic laurel forest, UNESCO World Heritage "Laurisilva of Madeira". Diversity per unit area of terrestrial molluscs among the highest on Earth, and over 70% endemic. There is a small colony of Mediterranean Monk seals on Desertas Islands, one of the world's most endangered pinniped species.

The **Canary Islands** Large Marine Ecosystem characterised by one of the world's major upwelling systems, with highly productive nutrient-rich waters. Also one of the world's 16 Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs). Designated Endemic Bird Area by Birdlife International (together with Madeira). Among the temperate world's most biologically rich areas with a high level of endemism (3,800 of 14,300 terrestrial species, even 83% endemism for gastropods).



More information at <http://ec.europa.eu/best>

The Macaronesia EP and RIS are the knowledge products of the BEST consortium funded by the BEST initiative and coordinated by IUCN. FRCT was the partner for the Macaronesia region.