

PROJECT LIFE09 NAT/PT/000041

**LIFE ISLETS OF PORTO SANTO
STOP THE LOSS OF EUROPEAN BIODIVERSITY THROUGH THE
RECUPERATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES OF THE ISLETS OF PORTO
SANTO AND SURROUNDING MARINE AREA**



**MADEIRA NATURE PARK SERVICE
AND PORTUGUESE SOCIETY FOR BIRD STUDIES**

DELIVERABLE E6.I

AFTER-LIFE CONSERVATION PLAN

After-LIFE Conservation Plan

LIFE Islets of Porto Santo Project (LIFE09 NAT/PT/000041)

1. Framework

Between 2010 and 2015, the Madeira Nature Park Service (SPNM), in partnership with the Portuguese Society for Bird Studies (SPEA), implemented the project entitled ‘Stop the Loss of European Biodiversity through the Recuperation of Habitats and Species of the Islets of Porto Santo and Surrounding Marine Area’ (LIFE09 NAT/PT/000041). The long-term objective of the project was to see the ecosystems of the Natura 2000 Network site (classified as a Site of Community Importance), as well as the surrounding marine area, attain a favourable and stable self-sustained state of conservation. As for the specific objectives, these included the elimination of the pressures that limited the proper functioning of the ecosystem in order to promote the recuperation of the most vulnerable species, and the creation of conditions for the appropriate enjoyment of the area. According to the content of the Final Report of the LIFE Islets of Porto Santo Project, the execution of this project can be called a success, seeing that everything could not have gone better, and without a shadow of a doubt crucial steps were taken for the conservation and management of the species found in the Islets of Porto Santo and their habitat. The collaboration between the Madeira Nature Park Service and its partners was excellent so that a set of measures was developed that will make it possible to carry on with the objectives of the project after it has ended.

Because the end of the project is approaching (December 2015), this document is being produced to support one of the specific objectives of the project, which is to ensure the continuity of the conservation works in the long term.

2. Future outlook

The actions to be carried out are intended to embrace: i) the proposals of the Action Plans for the 14 target species of the LIFE Islets of Porto Santo project (six marine birds: *Puffinus lherminieri baroli*, *Sterna hirundo*, *S. dougalii*, *Calonectris borealis*, *Bulweria bulwerii*, and *Hydrobates castro*; four plants: *Monizia edulis santosii*, *Sideroxylon mirmulans*, *Phagnalon lowei*, and *Chamaemeles coriacea*; and four land molluscs: *Hystricella turricula*, *Idiomela subplicata*, *Cassidulus commixtus*, and *C. calculus*) as found in the document that constitutes ANNEX A12 of the Final Report; and ii) the other actions for ongoing monitoring, which are:

- i) **Monitoring the security barrier preventing the reintroduction of the rabbit population on Ilhéu de Cima**, using the methodology that has been used up to the present time, spotlight counts;
- ii) **Monitoring the security barrier preventing the reintroduction of mice on Ilhéu de Baixo**, through the placing of traps;
- iii) **Controls for monitoring/follow-up of the invasive plant species introduced on the Ilhéus de Cima and de Ferro** (*Nicotiana glauca* in particular);
- iv) **Implantation of new methodologies to control the population of the Argentine ant *Linepithema humile*** in the areas of distribution of the priority species of land molluscs;
- v) **Continuous application of the measures to control the nesting population of the Atlantic yellow-legged gull on the Islets of Porto Santo** (Ilhéu de Cima, Ilhéu de Ferro and Ilhéu da Cal);
- vi) **Continuous monitoring to evaluate the pelagic and coastal marine bird species' response to the actions implemented**, especially on Ilhéu de Cima, through the evaluation of the reproductive success of the Cory's shearwater;
- vii) **Continuous maintenance of the trails in the areas for visitors**, always making them compatible with the assets to be protected, strictly controlling the areas being trodden;
- viii) **Continuous maintenance of the information panels, and the signage** found along the trails;
- ix) **Continuous promotion of visits to Ilhéu de Cima** by different target audiences, with a visit to the Micro Centre.

Because the management of the Network of Protected Marine Areas of Porto Santo (RAMPPS)—the area where the LIFE Islets of Porto Santo Project was carried out—is the responsibility of the SPNM, all the actions for continuity, as well as the other management actions mentioned previously and that become necessary, will be implemented by the personnel working with this Service (Technicians and Nature Wardens). Likewise, all the logistics and costs associated with the management and conservation of the species and their habitat will be basically supported by the budget of this Service, as was the case with other LIFE Projects undertaken by the SPNM.

The implementation of these proposed measures will produce long-term effects, by ensuring the continuity of the project beyond the end of the external financing

3. Partnerships developed

Following up on the valuable collaboration between the Coordinating Beneficiary (SPNM) and the Associate Beneficiary of this project (SPEA) over the course of other projects, there are currently various projects underway with LIFE financing:

- SPNM as the Coordinating Beneficiary and SPEA as the Associate Beneficiary:
 - LIFE Recover Natura (LIFE12 NAT/PT/000195), which began in October 2013 and will end in September 2017, the main objectives being to guarantee that the ecosystems of the Natura 2000 Network sites of Ponta de São Lourenço (PTMAD0003) and Ilhas Desertas (Deserta Grande and Ilhéu Chão) (PTDES0001) attain a favourable and stable self-sustained state of conservation.
- SPEA as the Coordinating Beneficiary and SPNM as the Associate Beneficiary:
 - LIFE Madeiran Sparrowhawk (LIFE 12 NAT/PT/000402), which began in July 2013 and will end in June 2017, its main objective being the conservation of a priority subspecies through the recuperation and protection of its natural habitat - the laurisilva forest of Madeira.

- Fundação CBD-Habitat as the Coordinating Beneficiary and SPNM as the Associate Beneficiary:
 - LIFE Madeira Monk Seal (LIFE 13 NAT/ES/000974), which began in June 2014 and will end in May 2018, its main objective being to better understand and improve the conservation of the monk seal in the Madeira archipelago and thereby guarantee its sustainability in the long term.

The Madeira Nature Park Service is also a consultant on other projects, and for some of them this commitment extends beyond the period of the LIFE Programme:

- Islands Sanctuary for Marine Birds “*Ilhas Santuário para as Aves Marinhas*” (LIFE07 NAT/P/000649), was a pioneer project for the conservation of the colonies of marine birds through the recuperation of their habitat and the measures for the control and eradication of invasive species that have been introduced.
- LIFE Project+ Sustainable Laurisilva “*Projeto LIFE+ Laurissilva Sustentável*” (LIFE07 ENV/P/000630), was a project aimed at the recuperation and conservation of the laurisilva forest in the Azores, one of the most threatened ecosystems, on which various endemic species of Macaronésia depend.
- LIFE Project Berlengas “*Projeto LIFE Berlengas*” (LIFE13/NAT/PT/000458), is a project that seeks to contribute to the sustainable management of the Special Protection Area (SPA) of the Berlengas, with the goal of conserving their habitats, endemic plants and marine bird populations.

4. Approval of the After-LIFE Conservation Plan

In accordance with the proposal in the application of the LIFE Islets of Porto Santo project, this conservation plan has been approved (signed on 11th December 2015) by the members of the Scientific and Consultative Committees of the project, on the Portuguese version (‘DELIVERABLE E6 - Plano de Conservação After-LIFE’ of the Final Report).



Secretaria Regional
do Ambiente e Recursos Naturais

