



Second series of workshops, part I (Madeira and Canary Islands)  
5-13<sup>th</sup> October, 2015

## **KBA definition and prioritization Financing**

### *Main conclusions*

#### **Terrestrial ecosystems**

- Madeira
  - The major limitation to KBA definition was the lack of detailed distribution information. The alternative used was to rely mostly on the existing protected areas. However, this leaves out coastal and mid-altitude ecosystems, precisely those most affected by human pressures. This was compensated with the designation of smaller KBAs in areas with available data, mostly from land molluscs and a few plants.
  - Recent cartography actions by the Museu Municipal do Funchal have shown pockets of areas with conservation value scattered among the urban areas. The Funchal municipality is considering the Valencian model of micro-reserve to manage these areas, and its example could be followed by the remaining municipalities. These micro-reserves could be candidate KBAs.
- Canaries
  - The stakeholders generally approved the KBA methodology and results, but warned that the information base used does not accurately reflect species distribution.
- Major steps were given in the assessment of the vulnerability of the KBA sites. A general methodology was put forward: to consider as low vulnerability the sites within IUCN levels 1 and 2 protected areas, medium vulnerability those within other kinds of protected areas and as high vulnerability the unprotected sites. In the Canaries this approach can be fine-tuned with information on internal zonation of the protected areas- there may be a restricted access area within a rural park, for instance. This information will be requested to the Cabildos, the island governing bodies.
- The issue of priority actions and financing needs was more difficult.
  - All regions have produced PAFs for their Natura 2000 networks and this is an indication of the investment which will be made in the region.
  - The need to obtain baseline distribution and abundance information in Madeira is critical to plan and prioritize conservation actions, but no cost estimation could be produced at this stage.
  - The creation of micro-reserves may be a good instrument for conservation of species in fragmented habitats, such as urban areas. The costs of implementing such a scheme could not be obtained at this stage.
  - In Madeira there is also a critical need to organize the existing distribution information in a database similar to those in place in the Azores and the Canaries. The intention to join PORBIOTA (Portuguese E-Infrastructure for Information and Research on Biodiversity. International initiatives) will address this issue.

- The Canaries have produced about 30 recovery plans for threatened species- this can be used as a basis to produce a broad estimate of the cost of recovering all the endangered species.
- Stakeholders also put forward an average cost of 20,000€ annually to monitor the conservation state of a plant species, looking at basic population and phenological parameters.

### Marine ecosystems

- Coastal species
  - Comprehensive distribution data is lacking, most existing information resulting from studies focused on limited areas.
  - The agreed strategy was to consider MPAs as KBAs as long as records exist to fulfil the definition criteria. An effort to collect and analyse this scattered information is ongoing, with the help of stakeholders.
  - Outside MPAs, KBAs can be designated if enough information is available. To sources will be explored:
    - Studies of particular habitats (e.g. seagrasses) may document its importance for the life cycle of target species;
    - Citizen science initiatives may provide enough information to fulfil some of the KBA criteria. While this information is not systematic, it is nevertheless focused on areas where cultural ecosystem services are likely to be more appreciated (e.g. areas used by divers).
  - KBA vulnerability will be assessed based on their protection status.
  - The priority action in this environment is to produce a comprehensive mapping of habitat and species distribution, together with human use.
    - The work done on La Palma Island is a good practice, and estimates of costs can be extrapolated from it.
- Oceanic species
  - Species like cetaceans or sea turtles have wide distribution ranges, and no critical habitats known in European Macaronesia (e.g. nesting places for sea turtles).
  - Stakeholders proposed to classify as KBAs areas
    - of main threats, which for cetaceans correspond to places of documented and frequent ship strikes in the Canaries;
    - where oceanic animals spend more time, i.e. submarine banks.



### *Workshop attendance*

We greatly appreciate the participation of the following experts:

#### **Funchal, Madeira Island** (Clube Naval do Funchal, meeting room)

October 5

- 9:00-12:00, terrestrial plants
  - Juan Silva (Museu de História Natural do Funchal)
  - Rúben Faria da Paz (Museu de História Natural do Funchal)
  - Susana Fontinha (ISOplexis Germobanco UMA)
- 14:00-17:00, sea
  - Luís Freitas (Museu da Baleia da Madeira, Machico)
  - Filipe Alves (CIIMAR- Madeira e SPNM)
  - Ana Dinis (CIIMAR- Madeira)
  - Thomas Dellinger (Universidade da Madeira)
  - Mafalda Freitas (Estação de Biologia Marinha do Funchal)
  - Cláudia Ribeiro (CIIMAR- Madeira e OOM)

October 6

- 9:00-12:00, terrestrial vertebrates
  - Cátia Gouveia (SPEA Madeira)
  - José Jesus (Universidade da Madeira)
  - Sérgio Teixeira (Company?)
- 14:00-17:00, terrestrial invertebrates
  - Dinarte Teixeira (Direcção Regional de Florestas e Conservação da Natureza)
  - Ysabel Gonçalves (Museu de História Natural do Funchal)

#### **La Laguna, Tenerife Island** (Sección de Biología, Universidad de La Laguna, Aula B)

October 8

- 9:00-12:00, land plants
  - Nieves Zurita Pérez (Gobierno de Canarias, Servicio de Biodiversidad)
  - José-Maria Fernández Palacios (Universidad de La Laguna)
  - José Luis Martin Esquivel (Gobierno de Canarias)
  - Juan Ramón Acebes Ginovés (Universidad de La Laguna)
  - Marcelino José Del Arco Aguilar (Universidad de La Laguna)
- 14:00-17:00, terrestrial vertebrates
  - Nieves Zurita Pérez (Gobierno de Canarias, Servicio de Biodiversidad)

October 9

- 9:00-12:00, land invertebrates
  - Nieves Zurita Pérez (Gobierno de Canarias, Servicio de Biodiversidad)
  - Esther Martín González (Museo de Ciencias Naturales de Tenerife)
- 14:00-17:00, sea
  - Nieves Zurita Pérez (Gobierno de Canarias, Servicio de Biodiversidad)
  - Jacobo Marrero Pérez (Asociación Toniña, Tenerife)
  - Ana Crespo Torres (Asociación Toniña, Tenerife)
  - Alejandro Escárcz Pérez (Asociación Toniña, Tenerife)



**Las Palmas, Gran Canaria Island** (Facultad de Geografía, aula B2)

October 13

- 9:00-12:00
  - Ricardo Haroun Tabraue (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)
  - Agustín Naranjo Cigala (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)
  - Francisco Otero-Ferrer (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)
  - Juan Martínez Barrio (Gobierno de Canarias, Servicio de Biodiversidad)

E-mail exchanges have also been conducted with

- Alberto Brito (Universidad de La Laguna)
- Cristina Maria Costa Abreu