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BEST III and the challenges of defining coastal and marine key biodiversity areas in Macaronesia

Luísa Madruga(1), Francisco Wallenstein(1)
José M.N. Azevedo(2)
(1) Fundo Regional da Ciência e Tecnologia; (2) GBA/CE3C and Universidade dos Açores

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain
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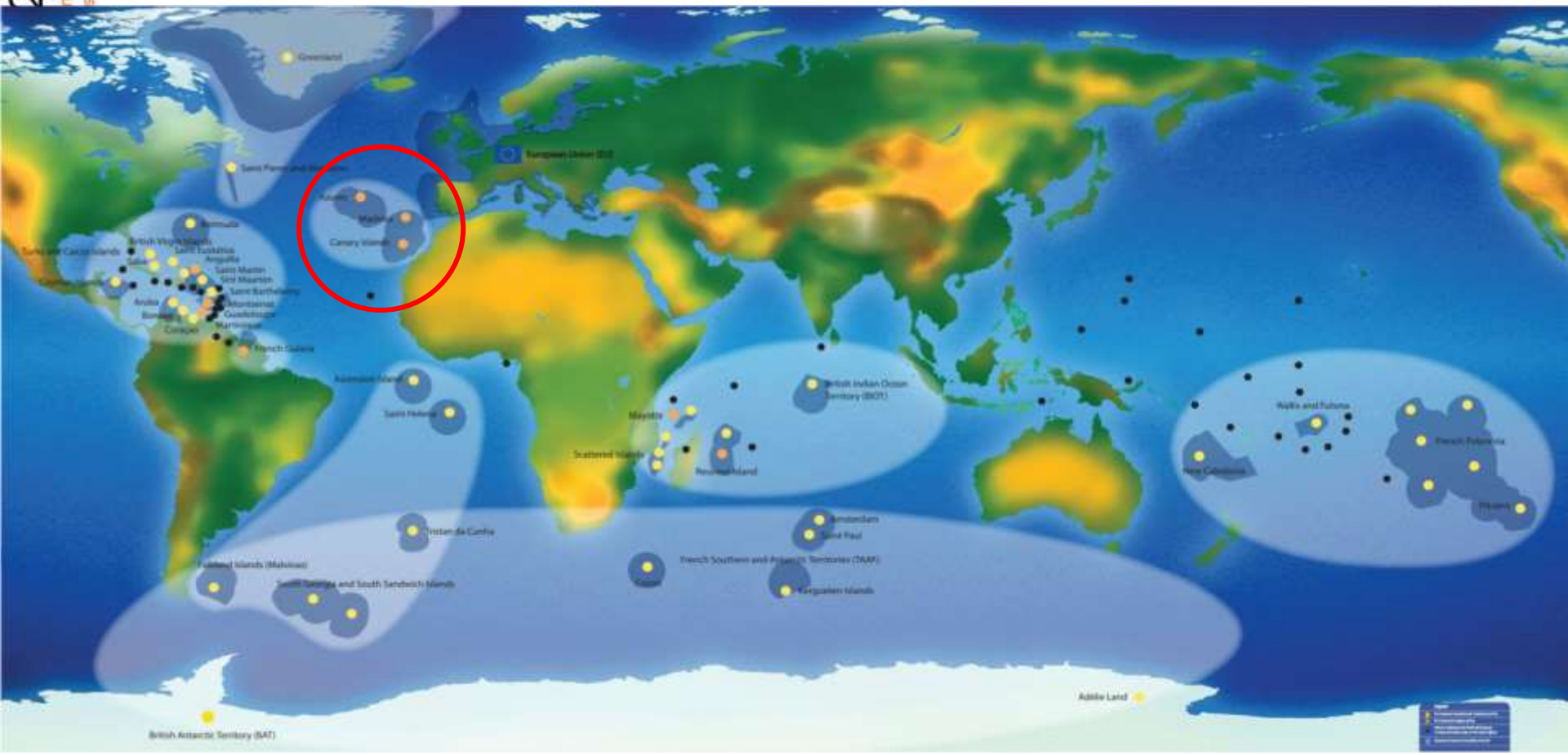

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Ecosystem profile

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION
2. BACKGROUND
3. BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE AREA
4. CONSERVATION OUTCOMES
5. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT
6. LEGAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT
7. CURRENT STATUS OF THE CONSERVATION COMMUNITY
8. THREATS AND PRESSURES ON BIODIVERSITY
9. ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT INVESTMENTS
10. CONCLUSIONS

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KBAs- because extinction is forever

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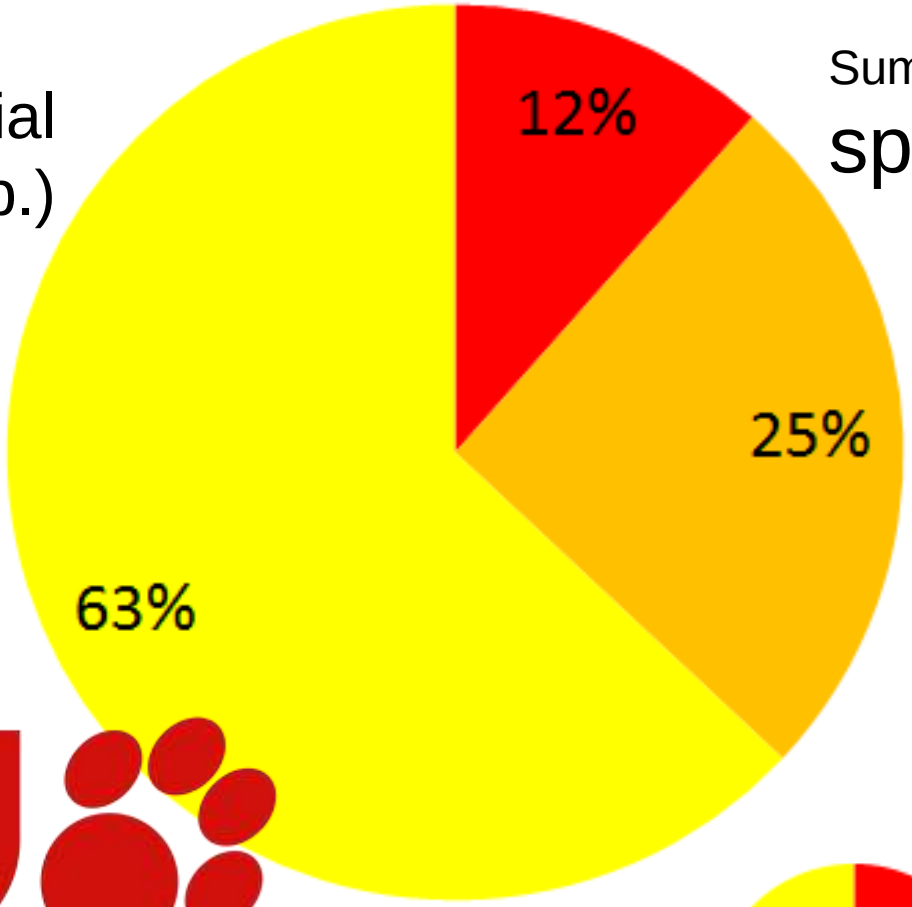
Summary of
species outcomes

Terrestrial
(453 spp.)



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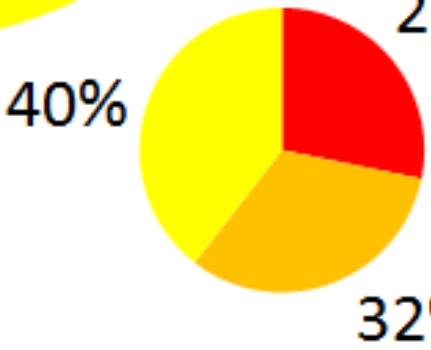

Marine
(55 spp.)

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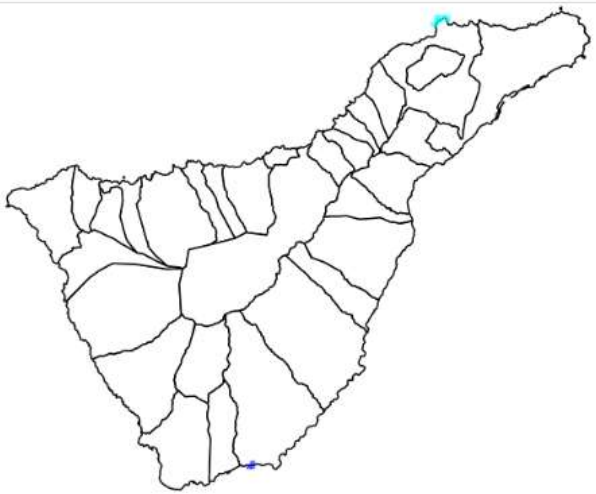
Banco de Datos de Biodiversidad de Canarias

Gobierno de Canarias

Banco de Datos de Biodiversidad de Canarias



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INTERREG III B

KBA selection principles

Criterion	Threshold
Vulnerability Regular occurrence of a globally threatened species	Critically Endangered (CR) and Endangered (EN) species – presence of a single individual Vulnerable species (VU) – 30 individuals or 10 pairs
Irreplaceability Site holds X% of a species' global population at any stage of the species' lifecycle	Species with a global range less than 50,000 km2 5% of global population at site (etc)

Delineation of marine KBAs

First technique

Apply the criteria at the species level.

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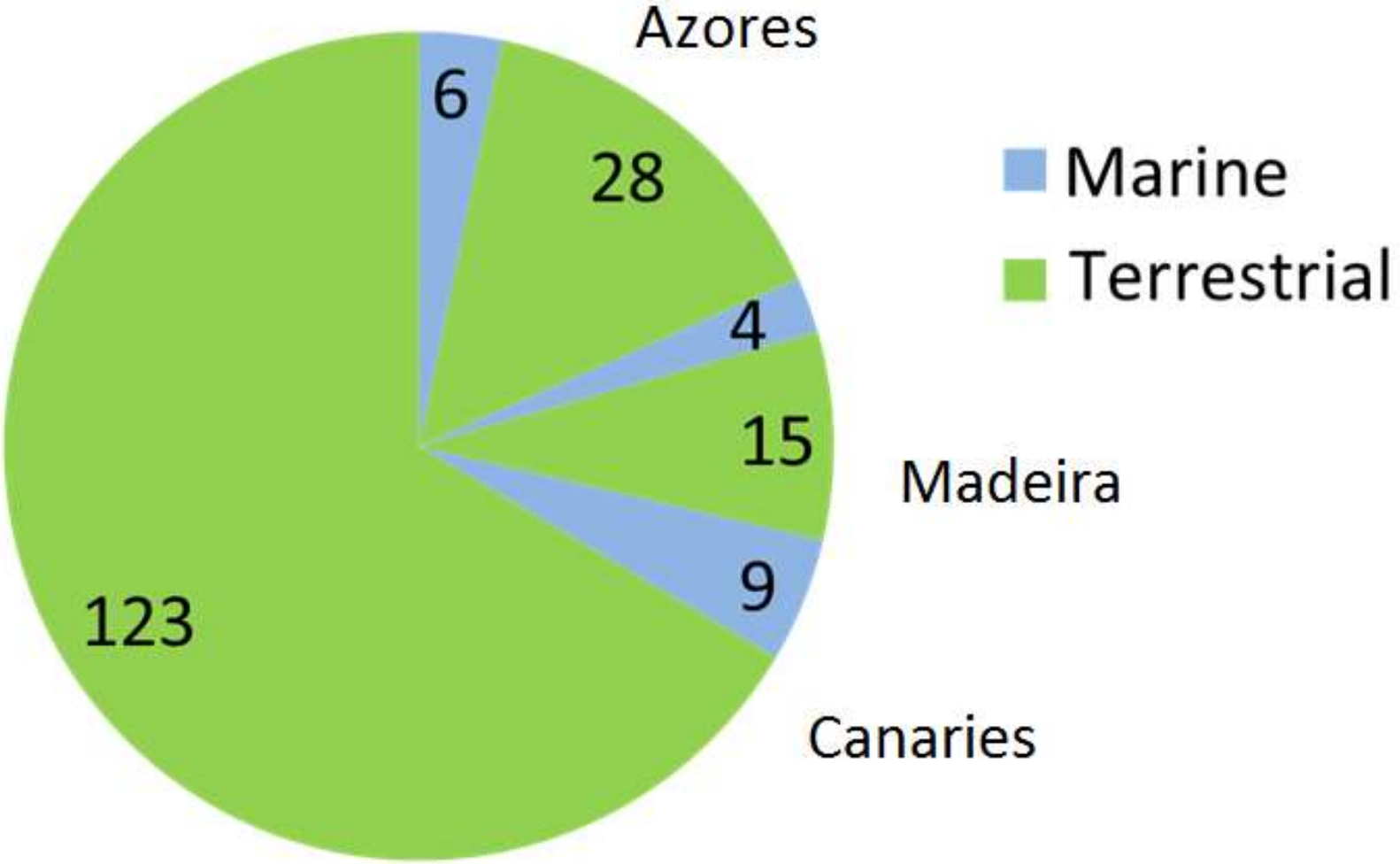
Summary of
site outcomes-
number of KBAs



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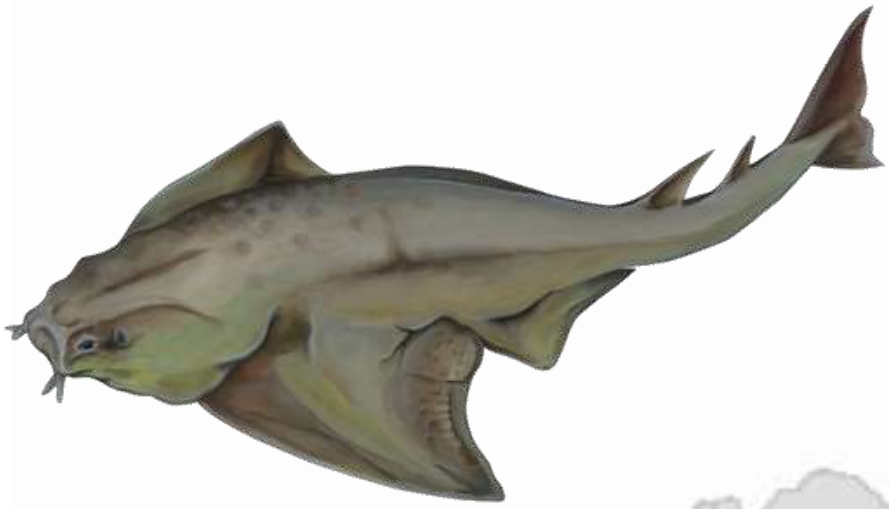

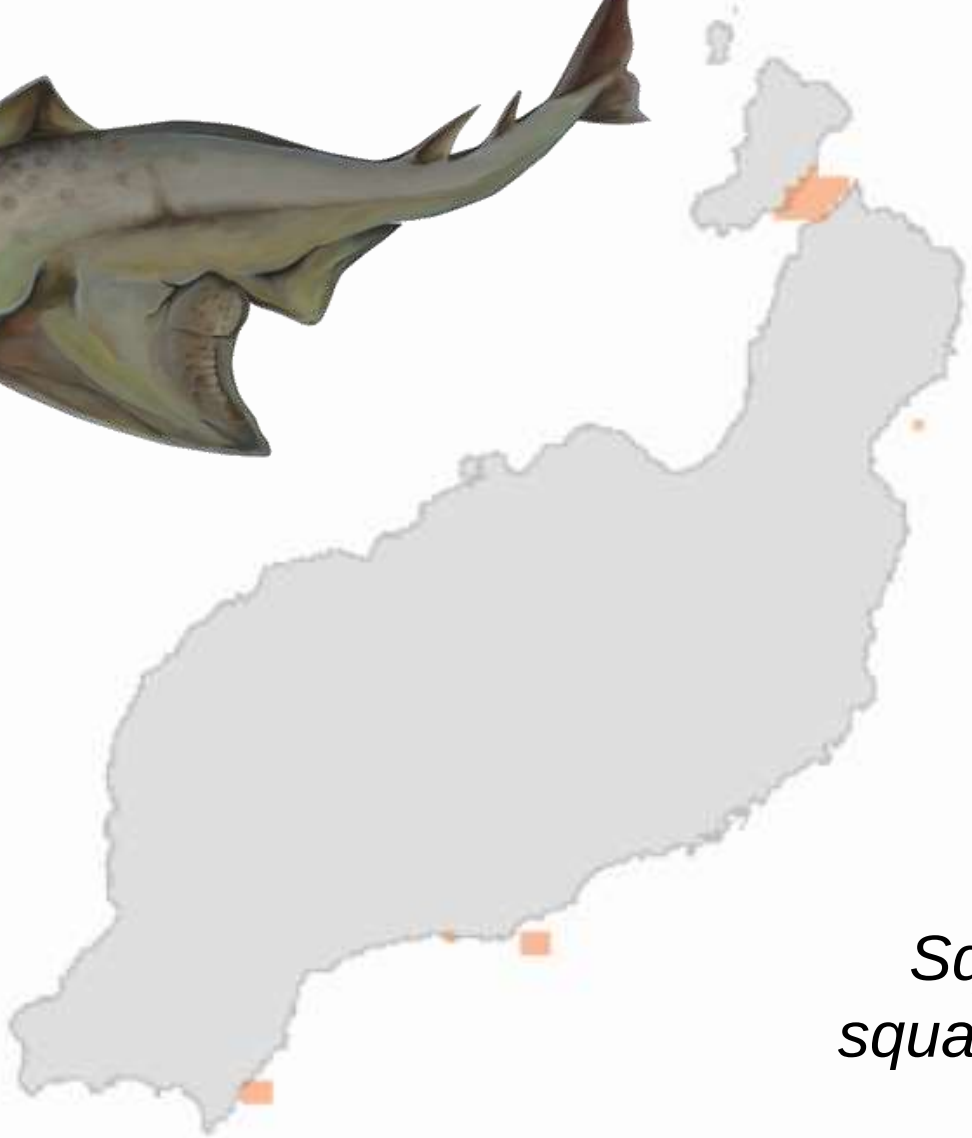

Squatina squatina (CR)

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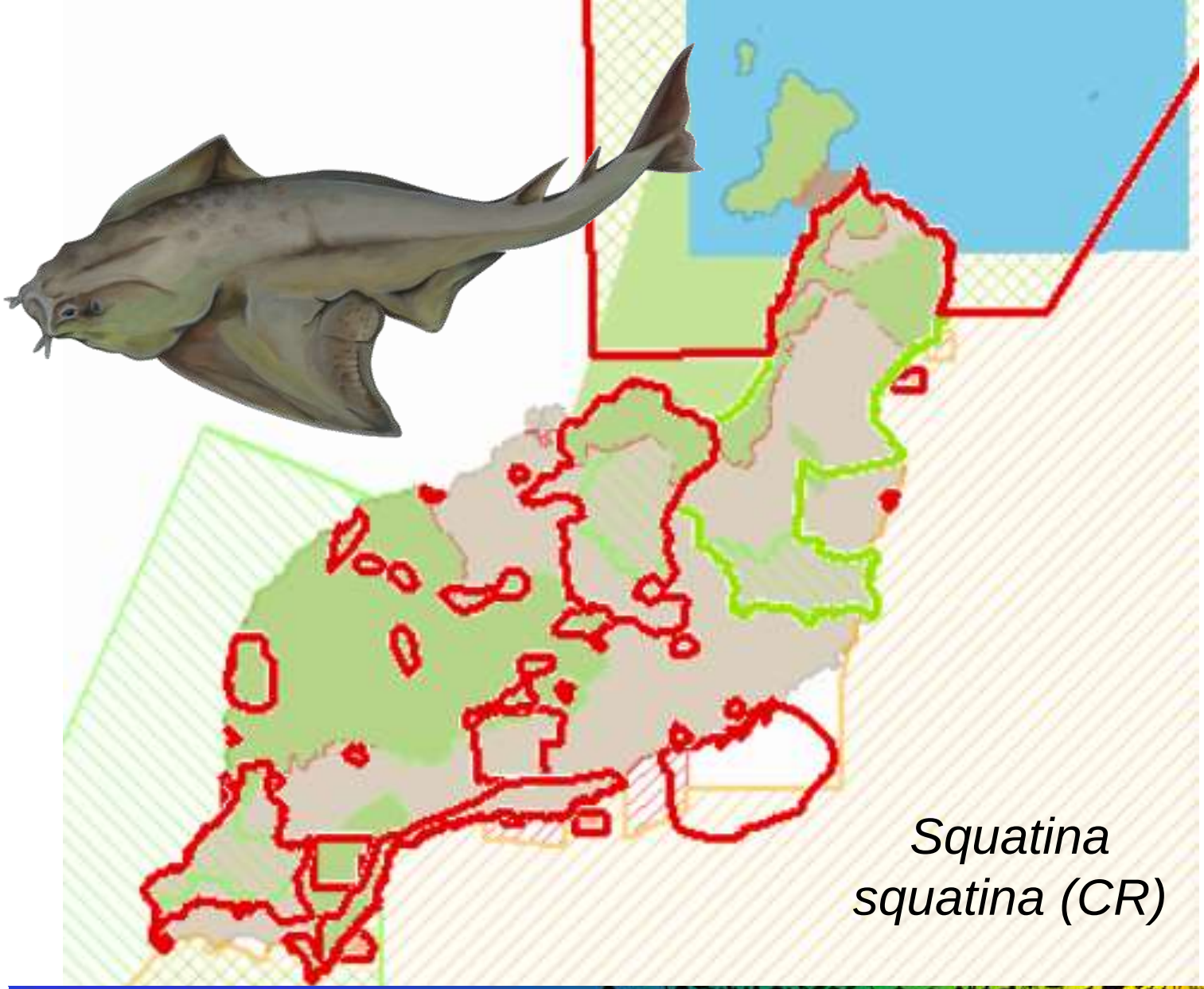

Squatina squatina (CR)

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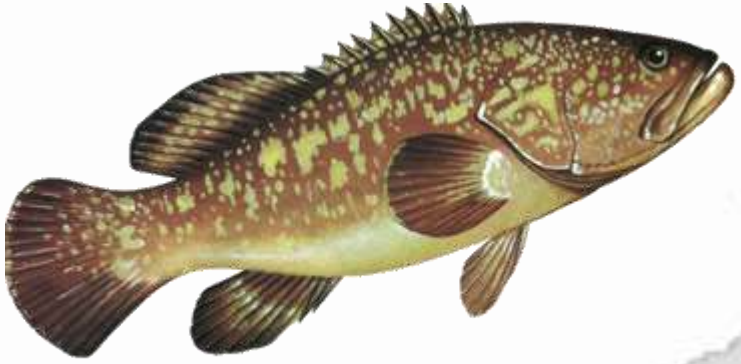

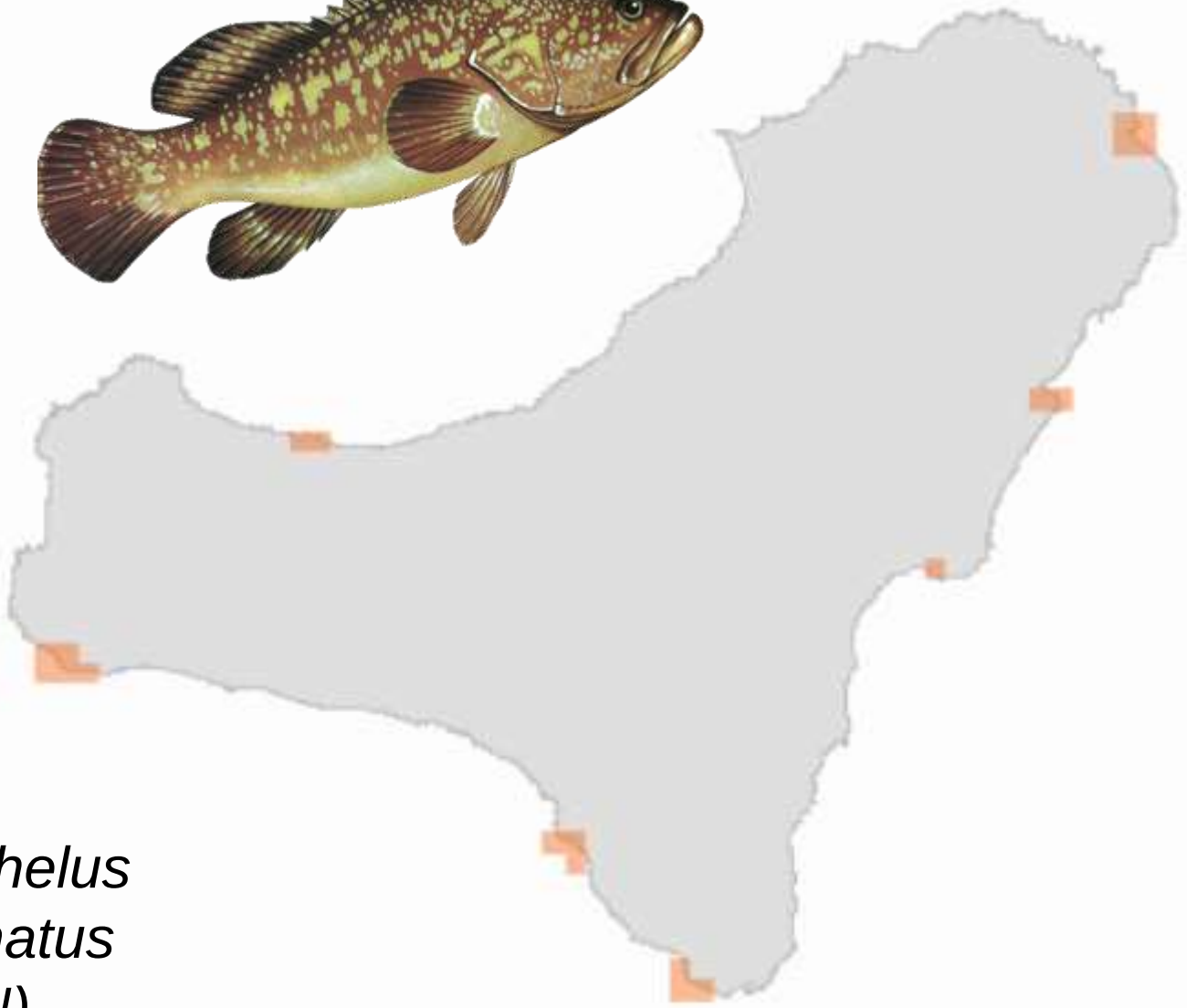

Epinephelus marginatus (EN)

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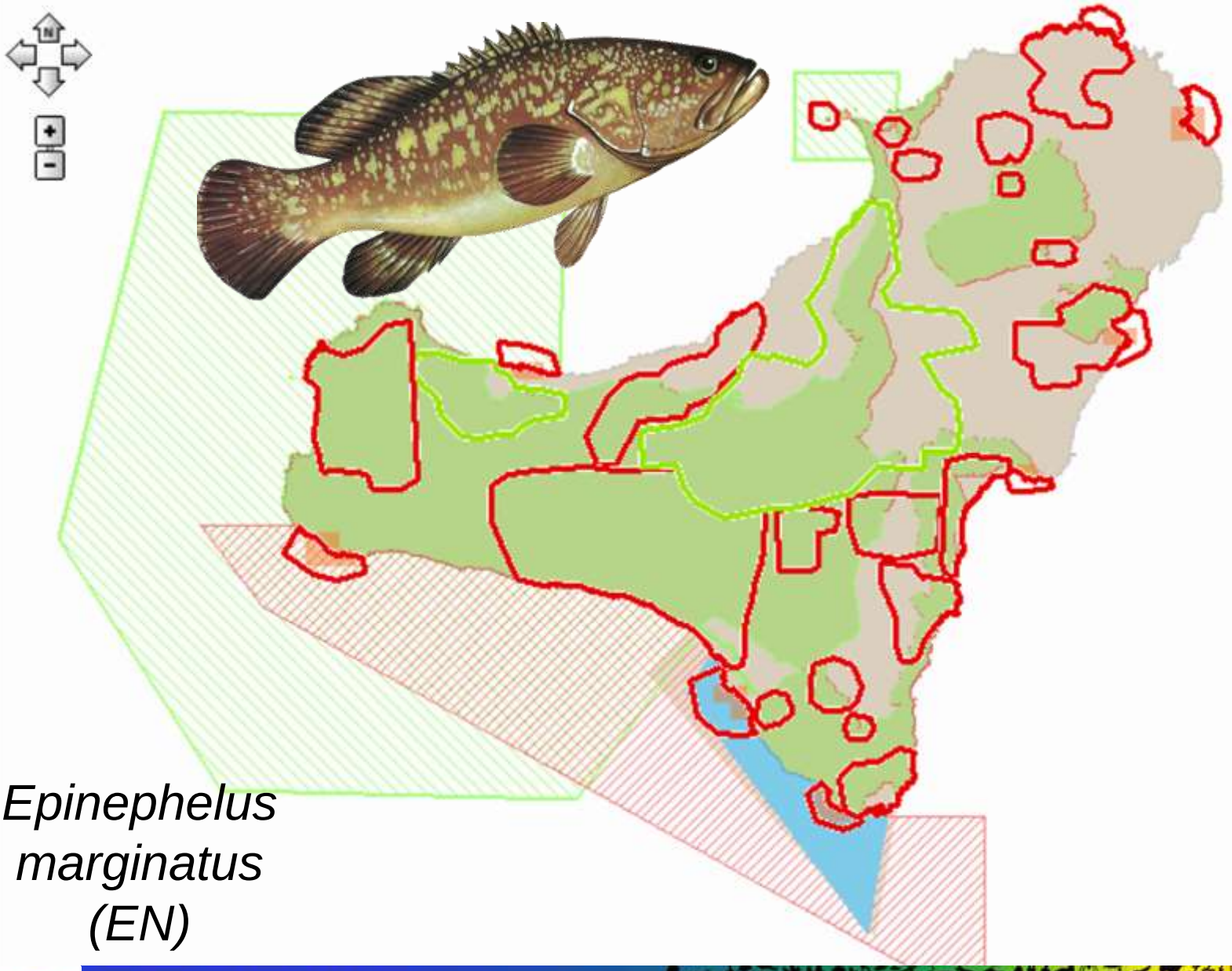

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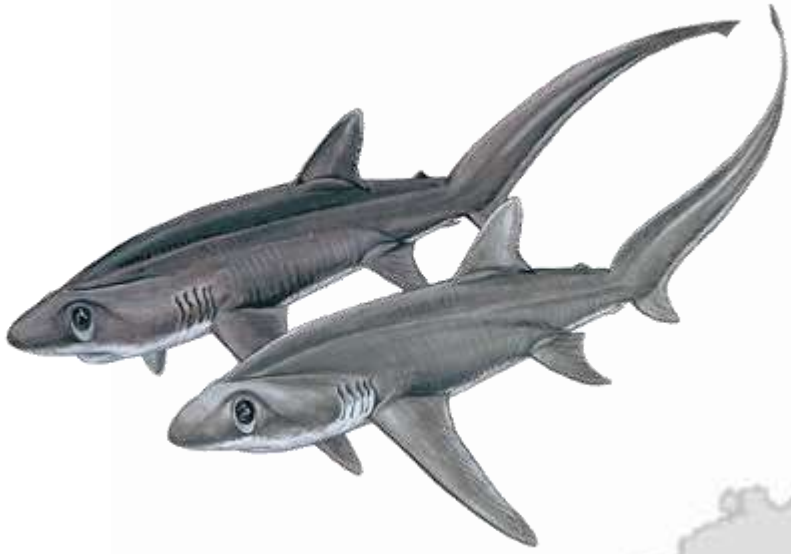

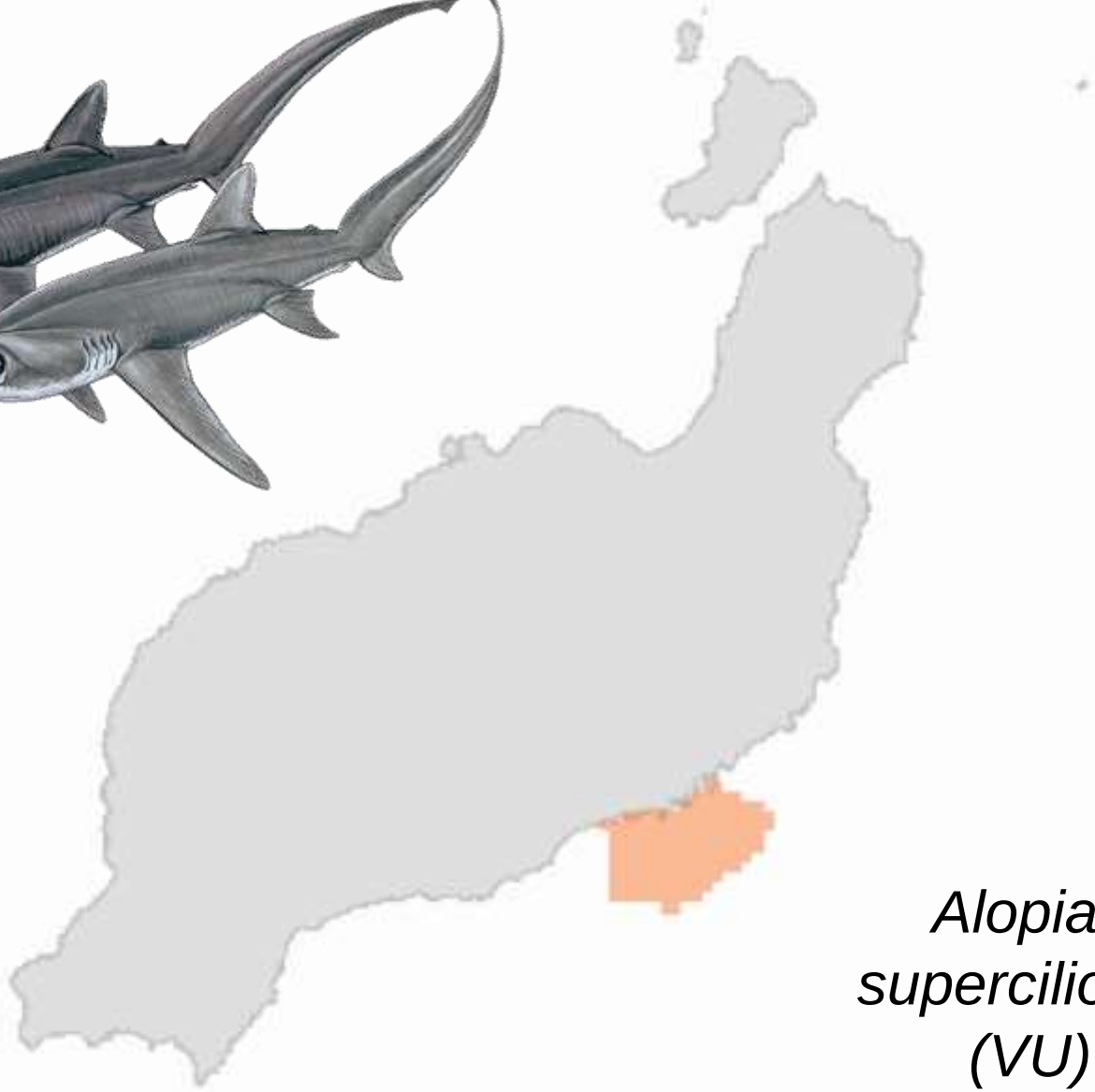

Alopias superciliosus (VU)

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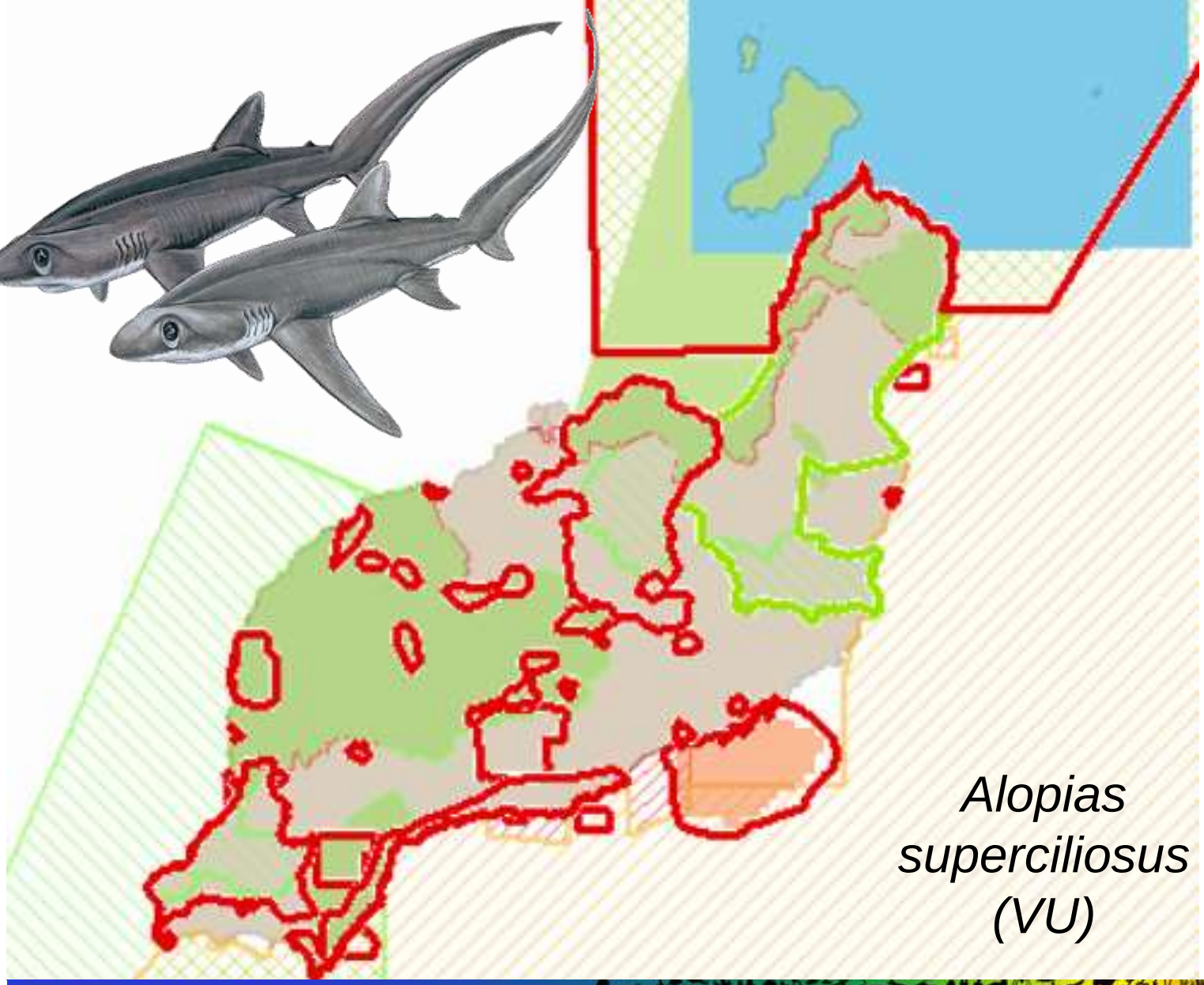

Alopias superciliosus (VU)

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Delineation of marine KBAs

Second technique

Designate MPAs which substancially coincide with the distribution of a CR or EN species

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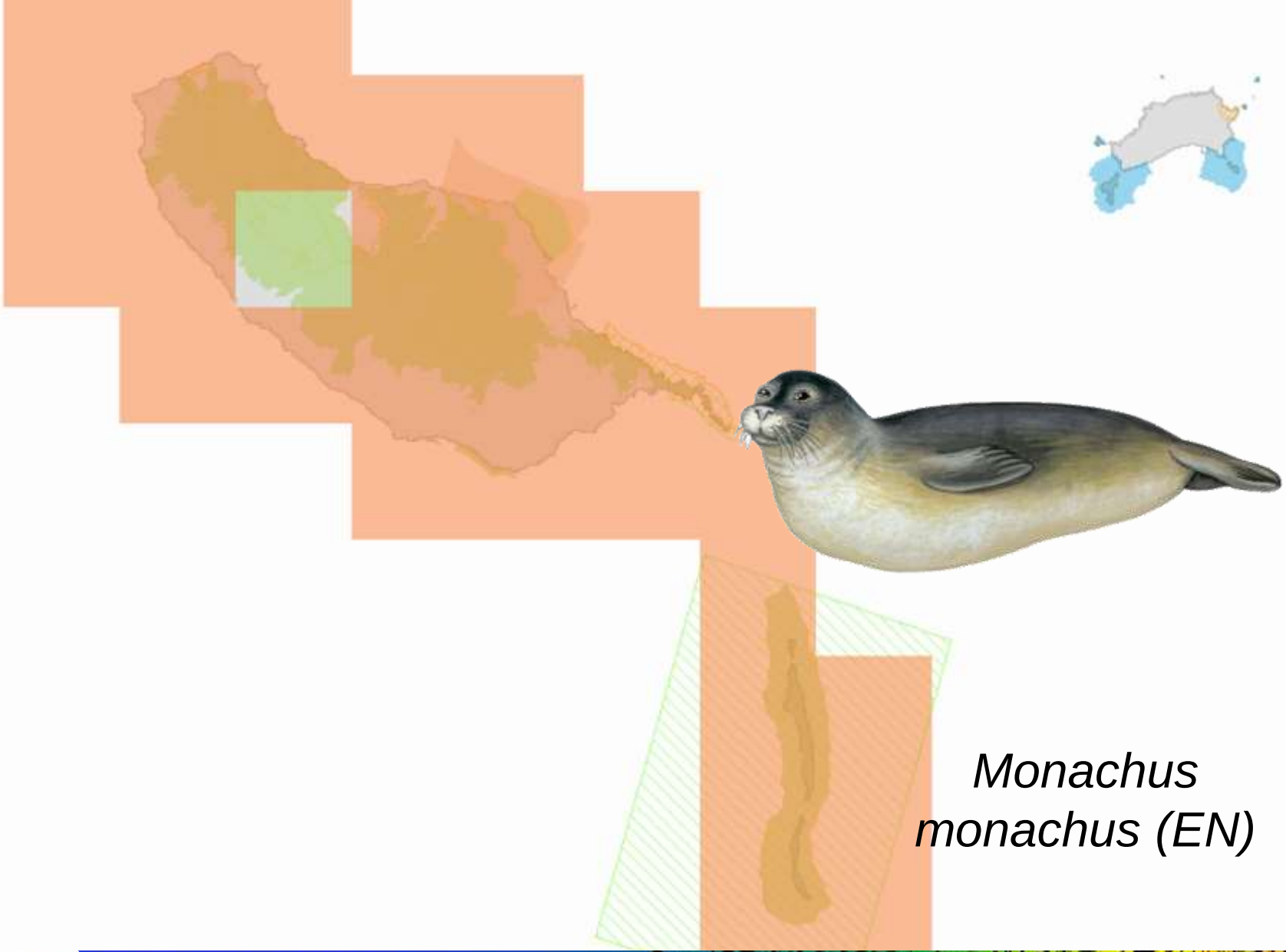

Monachus monachus (EN)

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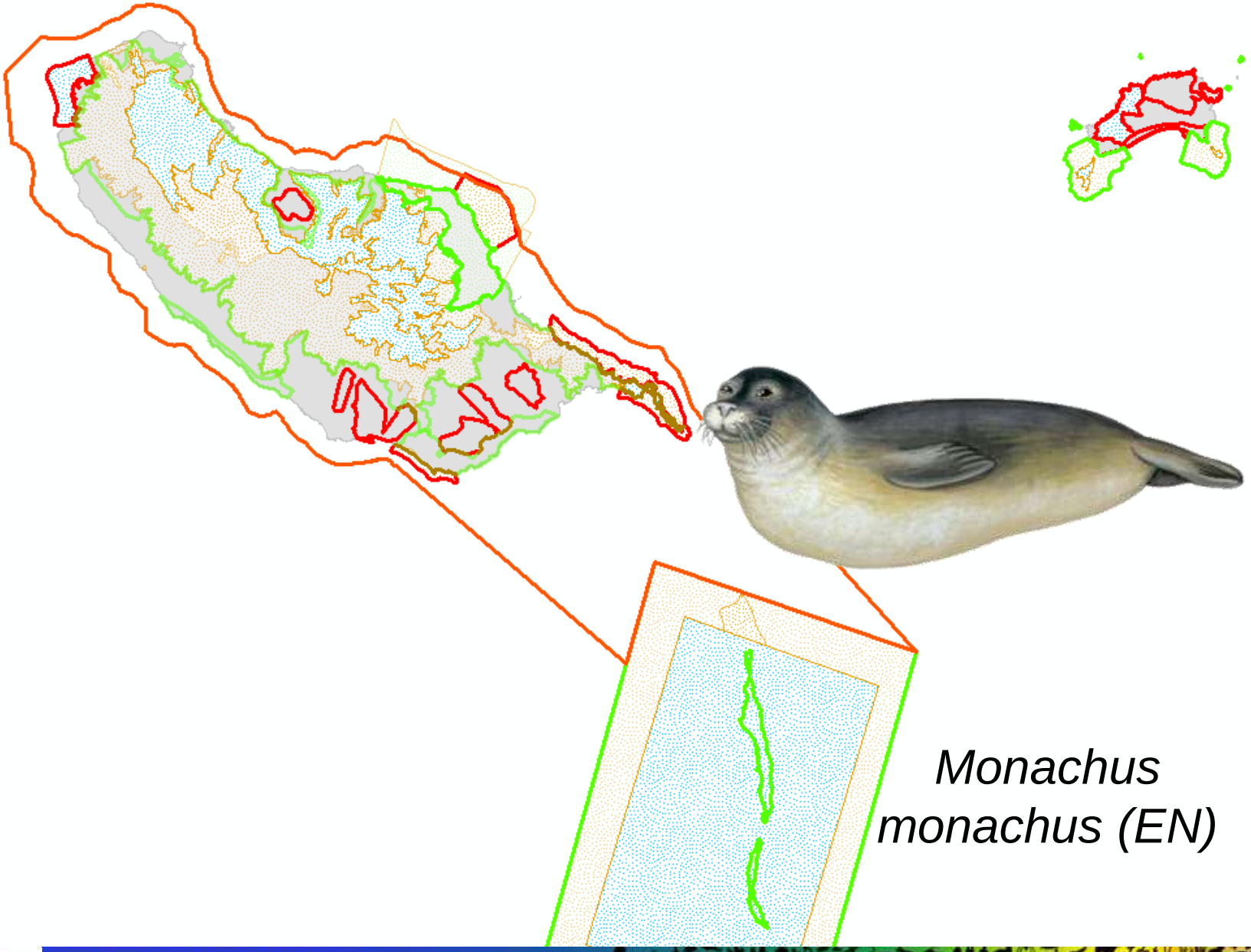

Monachus monachus (EN)

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Delineation of marine KBAs

No KBA designated

Highly mobile species

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Balaenoptera physalus (EN)

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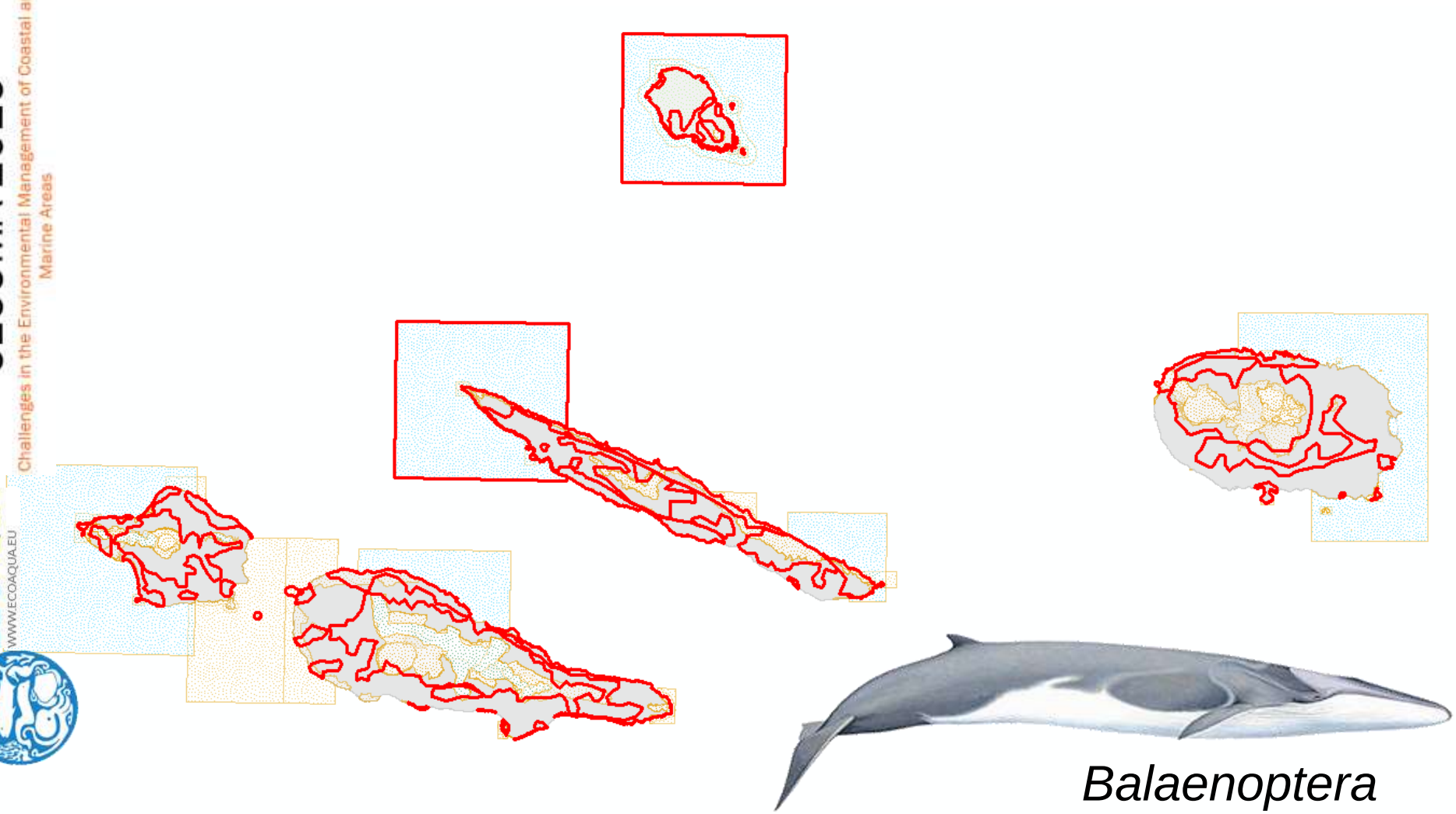

Balaenoptera physalus (EN)

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Issues with the current approach in Macaronesia

1. Many species have not been assessed
2. Distribution data is incomplete (and we know it)
3. No density or behavioural data
4. Lack of habitat data to help draw the contours

Next steps- for BEST

Fine tune methodology for marine areas

- Redefine thresholds

Improve KBA delineation and prioritization

- Involve a network of experts

Next steps- for regions

Extend the knowledge base

Add layers to Atlantis

- Density
- Behaviour

Improve distribution maps of habitats and species

Evaluate the conservation status of marine species

Next steps- for regions

Improve MPAs definition and management

- Redefine boundaries
- Review management plans

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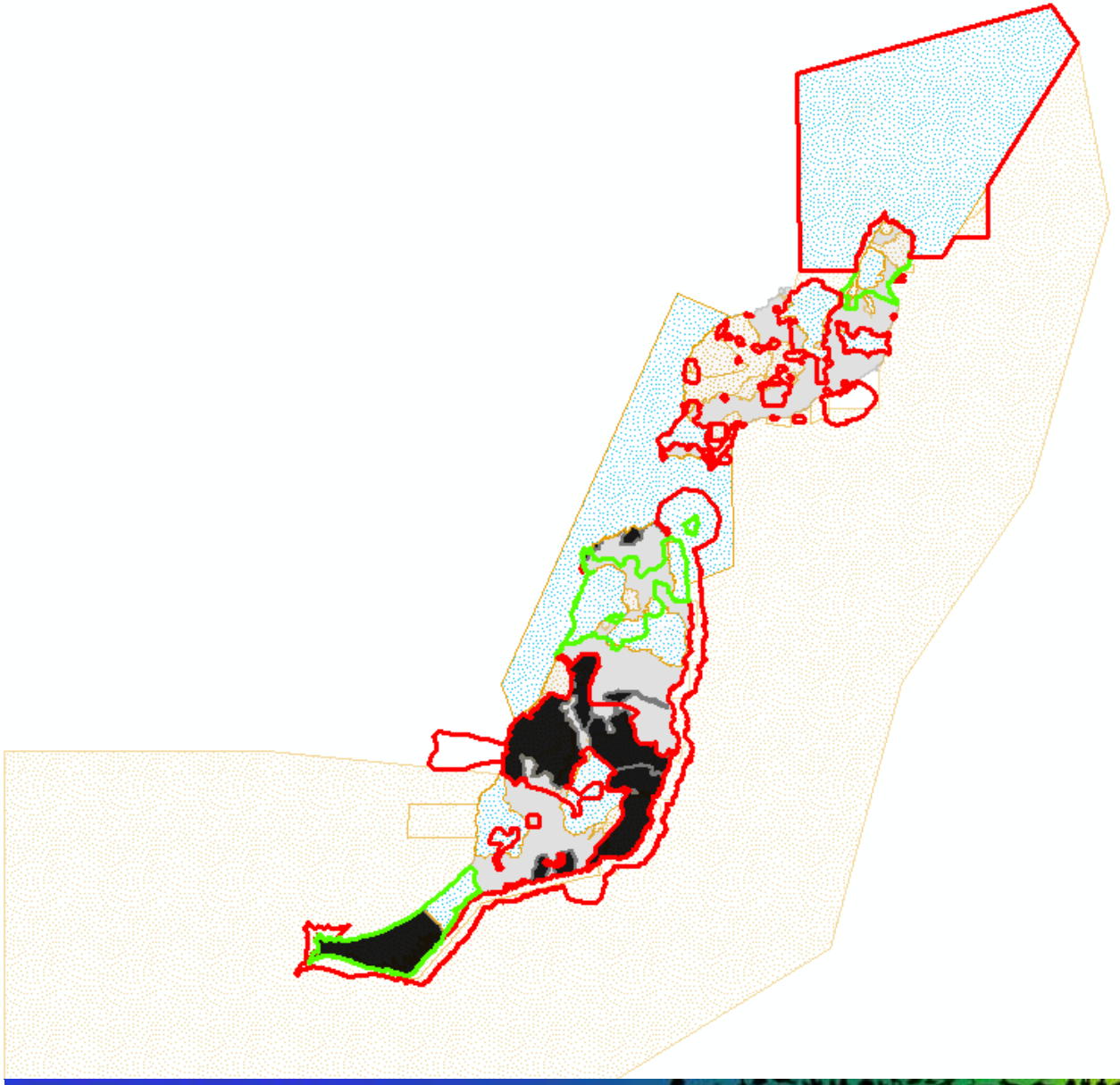

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Summary of species outcomes- terrestrial

	AZO				MAD				CAN			
	CR	EN	VU	**Total**	CR	EN	VU	**Total**	CR	EN	VU	**Total**
Plants	17	16	8	**41**	16	12	25	**53**	77	64	52	**193**
Arthropods		1	1	**2**	2	2	1	**5**	9	13	14	**36**
Mollucs	2	2	3	**7**	19	10	29	**58**	20	12	22	**54**
Fish	1	0		**1**				**0**				**0**
Reptiles				**0**			2	**2**	4	1	1	**6**
Birds		1		**1**				**0**		1	2	**3**
Mammals		2		**2**		1		**1**		3		**3**
Total	*20*	*22*	*12*	***54***	*37*	*25*	*57*	***119***	*110*	*94*	*91*	***295***

Summary of species outcomes- marine

	AZO				MAD				CAN			
	CR	EN	VU	Total	CR	EN	VU	Total	CR	EN	VU	Total
ıstaceans			1	**1**			1	**1**			1	**1**
Fish	3	4	16	**23**	3	4	20	**27**	5	6	26	**37**
Reptiles	1	2	1	**4**	1	2	1	**4**	1	2	1	**4**
Birds			1	**1**		1	1	**2**			1	**1**
Mammals	1	4	1	**6**	1	4	1	**6**	1	4	1	**6**
Total	*5*	*10*	*20*	*35*	*5*	*11*	*24*	*40*	*7*	*12*	*30*	*49*

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