

EVALUATION REPORT

Ilhas Selvagens (Selvagens Islands)

Location: North Atlantic

Global Ocean Refuge Status: Nominated (2018), Evaluated (2018)

MPAtlas.org ID: 6575

Manager(s): Autonomous Region of Madeira, Institute for Forests and Nature Conservation

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Figure 1: Portugal's Autonomous Region of Madeira in North Atlantic Ocean. The Selvagens Islands are ~300 km (163nmi) southeast of Madeira (Source: Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM, 2017).

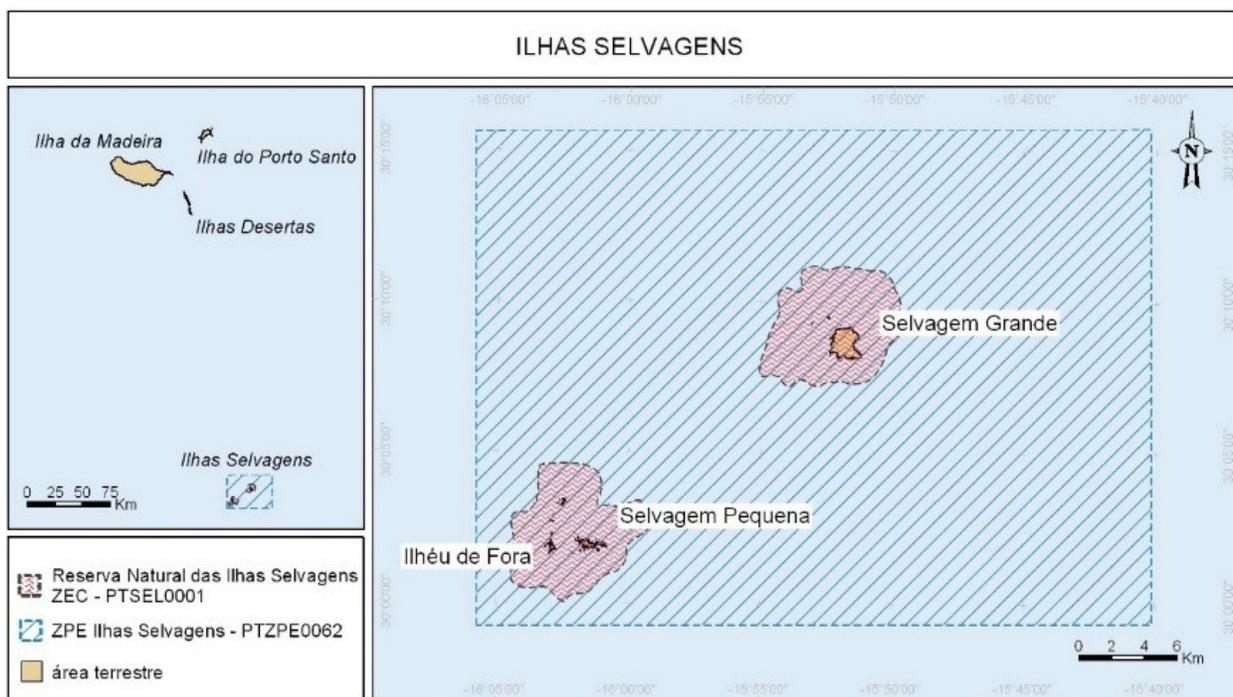


Figure 2: The Selvagens Islands (Selvagem Grande, Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Flora) and islets. The marine protected area includes two Natura 2000 zones: red areas indicate the Special Area of Conservation (SAC—also classified as a Nature Reserve) (94.71 km²); blue area indicates the Special Protection Area (SPA) (1245.30 km²) (Source: Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM, 2017).

1.1 Eligibility Criteria: Biodiversity Value (must satisfy at least one)

- a. *Includes area of high species richness or endemism within the context of the biogeographic region.*

The Selvagens Islands Marine Protected Area harbors one of the last intact marine ecosystems in the North Atlantic and maintains high coastal fish species diversity within a small area.¹ It is also known for its abundance of marine invertebrates, specifically mollusks and crustaceans (shrimp).²

Intertidal areas host an endemic and endangered limpet (*Patella candei*), and two species of endemic sea snails, *Manzonia boucheti* and top snail (*Phorcus atratus selvagensis*).^{3,4} The ichthyofaunal richness present within Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve, also known as the Special Area of Conservation, or SAC (see Figures 2 and 3), is remarkable in light of its small size; researchers have identified roughly 90 coastal fish species, most of which have “tropical affinities.”⁵ In an archipelago comparison study between the developed Madeira and isolated Selvagens Reserve, Selvagens Islands demonstrated robust and diverse benthic algal communities⁶ and high fish biomass (3.2 times greater than at Madeira), including an abundance of large fished species.^{7,8}

Sightings of 9 cetacean species have been documented within surrounding waters of Selvagens Islands, but even higher species usage of the area is predicted, as neighboring archipelagos have recorded up to 29 species.⁹ There are also 216 confirmed species of mollusks of which *Sticteulima lata*, *Alvania dijksrai*, *Alvania freitasi*, *Alvania harrietae*, *Manzonia boucheti* and *Phorcus atratus selvagensis* are endemic to the Selvagens Islands.¹⁰ Additionally, a new species of heteropod mollusk, *Atlanta selvagensis*, was described in a study conducted in the MPA.¹¹

¹ Almada, F., et al. (2015) Ichthyofauna of the Selvagens Islands. Do small coastal areas show high species richness in the northeastern Atlantic? *Marine Biology Research* 11:49-61.

² Meeuwi, J.J., et al. (2015) *Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health of Ilhas Selvagens, Portugal*. National Geographic Pristine Seas, p. 4.

³ González-Lorenzo, G., et al. (2015) Ineffective conservation threatens *Patella candei*, an endangered limpet endemic to the Macaronesian islands. *Biological Conservation*. 192: 428-435.

⁴ Meeuwi, J.J., et al. (2015) *Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health of Ilhas Selvagens, Portugal*. National Geographic Pristine Seas, p. 13.

⁵ World Heritage Centre (2017) Selvagens Islands. *UNESCO World Heritage Convention*. Retrieved January 2018 from <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6217/>.

⁶ Meeuwi, J.J., et al. (2015) *Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health of Ilhas Selvagens, Portugal*. National Geographic Pristine Seas, p. 3.

⁷ Friedlander, A.M., et al. (2017) Contrasts in the marine ecosystem of two Macaronesian islands: A comparison between the remote Selvagens Reserve and Madeira Island. *PLOS ONE* 12:1-24.

⁸ Meeuwi, J.J., et al. (2015) *Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health of Ilhas Selvagens, Portugal*. National Geographic Pristine Seas, p. 14.

⁹ World Heritage Centre. (2017) Selvagens Islands. *UNESCO World Heritage Convention*. Retrieved January 2018 from <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6217/>.

¹⁰ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 32, English translation: p. 32.

¹¹ De Vera, A. and Seapy, R.R. (2006) *Atlanta selvagensis*, a new species of heteropod mollusc from the Northeastern Atlantic Ocean: (Gastropoda: Carinariioidea). *Vieraea* 34:45-54.

The 2017 management plan lists all the marine flora and fauna that can be found in the Selvagens Islands indicating also which species are endemic to the region.¹²

- b. *Includes demonstrated historic or predicted ecological refugia.*
- c. *Includes rare, unique, or representative ecosystems.*

Due to their isolated geographic location, the Selvagens Islands protect habitats that are representative and important for the conservation of the marine biodiversity of Macaronesia. These oceanic volcanic islands and their surrounding waters are a unique example of a very well preserved Macaronesian biota and one of the last remaining pristine ecosystems in the eastern Atlantic.^{13,14}

The Selvagens Islands and surrounding ocean harbor an extensive diversity of natural habitats, including those of community interest: sandbanks permanently covered by shallow sea, mudflats and open sand at low tide, coves and shallow bays. There are also pelagic and deep-sea habitats of community interest and under the protection of Natura 2000.¹⁵ Deep water habitats are either sandy, flat areas with limited relief, or high relief island slopes consisting of basalt rock with sand channels and are dominated by grenadiers and cutthroat eels. Shallower communities (100-300m) consist of high relief basalt covered with sponges, gorgonians and black coral.¹⁶

Selvagens Islands are influenced by the general circulation of superficial currents of the North Atlantic and probably also by some of the currents that drift from the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. As a result, Macaronesia archipelagos represent a fundamental role in the larval dispersal of species from various geographical origins and could in fact act as a “vector” for the colonization of new areas. These circumstances determine the existence of faunal elements common to geographical regions as diverse as Europe, Africa and the Caribbean Sea, which offer these archipelagos a remarkable biogeographical importance.¹⁷

- d. *Includes area important for threatened species (including those identified by the IUCN Red List or national legislation), keystone species, or foundational species. Important areas include migration pathways and breeding, nursery, feeding, or assembly areas.*

¹² Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: pp. 85-91, 97-108. (please refer to the Portuguese version for tables)

¹³ World Heritage Centre (2017) Selvagens Islands. *UNESCO World Heritage Convention*. Retrieved January 2018 from <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6217/>.

¹⁴ Friedlander, A.M., et al. (2017) Contrasts in the marine ecosystem of two Macaronesian islands: A comparison between the remote Selvagens Reserve and Madeira Island. *PLOS ONE* 12:1-24.

¹⁵ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 9, English translation: p. 9.

¹⁶ Meeuwi, J.J., et al. (2015) *Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health of Ilhas Selvagens, Portugal*. National Geographic Pristine Seas, p. 33.

¹⁷ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 10, English translation: p. 10.

Being confined to a small geographical area, fauna and flora of Selvagens are inherently threatened, according to present IUCN criteria.¹⁸ Species of concern include: the endemic white-faced storm petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*, LC/IUCN¹⁹), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*, EN/IUCN²⁰), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*, EN/IUCN²¹), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*, VU/IUCN²²), three fish species (dusky grouper [*Epinephelus marginatus*, EN/IUCN²³], island grouper [*Mycteroperca fusca*, EN/IUCN²⁴] and barred hogfish [*Bodianus scrofa*, VU/IUCN²⁵]).^{26,27} The Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve protects many seabird communities, including significant breeding populations:²⁸ about 30,000 breeding pairs of Cory's shearwater (*Calonectris borealis*, LC/IUCN²⁹) breed on the Selvagens Islands; this constitutes the world's largest breeding aggregation of Cory's shearwaters.^{30,31}

e. Qualifying Designations

It is not yet designated, however a portion of the area protected by the Selvagens Islands MPA is on Portugal's tentative list for World Heritage nomination.³²

Classified as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) in 2008.³³

¹⁸ Hedwigia, N. (2010) The Selvagens Islands bryoflora and its relation with islands of the Madeira and Canary Islands Archipelagos. *Beiheft* 138:187-199.

¹⁹ BirdLife International (2016) *Pelagodroma marina*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. Retrieved June 2018 from <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T22698453A89659253.en>.

²⁰ Casale, P. and Tucker, A.D. (2017) *Caretta caretta*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. Retrieved June 2018 from <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2017-2.RLTS.T3897A119333622.en>.

²¹ Reilly, S.B., et al. (2013) *Balaenoptera physalus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. Retrieved June 2018 from <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2013-1.RLTS.T2478A44210520.en>.

²² Taylor, B.L., et al. (2008) *Physeter macrocephalus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. Retrieved from June 2018 <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T41755A10554884.en>.

²³ Cornish, A. and Harmelin-Vivien, M. (2004) *Epinephelus marginatus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. Retrieved June 2018 from <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2004.RLTS.T7859A12857009.en>.

²⁴ Rocha, L., et al. (2008) *Mycteroperca fusca*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. Retrieved June 2018 from <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T64409A12778169.en>.

²⁵ Russell, B., et al. (2010) *Bodianus scrofa*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. Retrieved June 2018 from <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2010-4.RLTS.T187495A8551178.en>.

²⁶ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 10, English translation: p. 10.

²⁷ World Heritage Centre (2017) Selvagens Islands. *UNESCO World Heritage Convention*. Retrieved January 2018 from <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6217/>.

²⁸ World Heritage Centre (2017) Selvagens Islands. *UNESCO World Heritage Convention*. Retrieved January 2018 from <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6217/>.

²⁹ BirdLife International (2017) *Calonectris borealis*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. Retrieved June 2018 from <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2017-1.RLTS.T22732244A111148655.en>.

³⁰ ISPA (n.d.) Savage Islands. *MPAs Portugal*. Retrieved January 2018 from http://mpas-portugal.org/project/savage_islands/.

³¹ Meeuwi, J.J., et al. (2015) *Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health of Ilhas Selvagens, Portugal*. National Geographic Pristine Seas, p. 35.

³² MPAtlas (2018) Ilhas Selvagens. *Atlas of Marine Protection*. Retrieved January 2018 from <http://www.mpatlas.org/mpa/sites/6575/>.

³³ BirdLife International (2018) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Selvagens - Oceânica. *Birdlife International*. Retrieved April 2018 from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/selvagens--oceânica-iba-portugal>.

Natura 2000 Special Area of Conservation Area (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA)³⁴

1.2 Eligibility Criteria: Effective Management & Compliance (must satisfy all)

- a. *The MPA is designated by a legitimate and functional government representing the interests of civil society, and the MPA's implementation meets the IUCN standards for recognizing indigenous peoples' rights.*

Portugal, a representative democratic republic, acquired and designated the Selvagens Islands and surrounding maritime zone a reserve in 1971.³⁵ Prior to the Portuguese State purchase, the Selvagens Islands were privately owned and had seen a number failed attempts at human colonization.³⁶ The remote archipelago has never been colonized by people for more than brief periods of time due to aridity and lack of fresh water.³⁷ Nowadays, Selvagens Islands are inhabited by nature wardens, National Maritime Authority operationals and scientists who acquire a permit to carry out studies on the biodiversity of the islands.³⁸

- b. *The MPA is designated to enhance the biodiversity value of the site.*

Selvagens Islands are listed as an IUCN Protected Area Category Ia, strictly set aside to protect biodiversity.³⁹

- c. *The MPA designation is permanent or is effective for at least 25 years.*

The Selvagens Islands Marine Protected Area was created 47 years ago through a national law decree which was later reinforced by an additional regional legislative decree. Protected areas created by a regional legislative decree do not have a duration limit, being tacitly considered as definitive. The existence of temporary reserves is not foreseen in the legal regime for biodiversity in Portugal, meaning that the existing reserves are all definitive. The “declassification” of a natural reserve would require the intervention of the Regional Legislative Assembly, because this situation is not foreseen in the legislation itself, which is something that has never occurred in the past nor is it

³⁴ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza (2016) RN2000 na Região Autónoma da Madeira. *Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza*. Retrieved April 2018 from <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/pn/biodiversidade/rn2000/rn-pt/RN-Madeira>.

³⁵ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: pp. 35, 40, English translation: pp. 35, 40.

³⁶ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: pp. 35-36, English translation: pp. 35-36.

³⁷ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 37, English translation: p. 37.

³⁸ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: pp. 9, 36, English translation: pp. 9, 36.

³⁹ Friedlander, A.M., et al. (2017) Contrasts in the marine ecosystem of two Macaronesian islands: A comparison between the remote Selvagens Reserve and Madeira Island. *PLOS ONE* 12:1-24.

likely to occur in the future. Consequently, it is reasonable to assume that the designation of this MPA is permanent.

- d. *A management plan, updated within the last 15 years, sets measurable conservation targets, identifies and prioritizes significant threats to biodiversity and addresses those threats with planned activities. The resources and capacity to implement the management plan are identified and secured.*

Overseen by the Institute for Forests and Nature Conservation, the latest revision of the Selvagens Islands Management Plan (POGIS) was approved in 2017.⁴⁰ The Strategic Analysis of the Management Plan initially covers strong points, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Threats to the Nature Reserve include unregulated human pressure, soil erosion and illegal fishing within the reserve boundaries.^{41,42}

Management of the Selvagens Islands lists six strategic objectives aimed at achieving protection and conservation for the area: preserve, improve, and protect all ecosystems; promote, coordinate and support research aimed at improving the knowledge of species and habitats; improve support and knowledge of the general public regarding the conservation site and maintain international appreciation of the conservation value of the site; manage tourism to add value without diminishing its conservation value; improve the legal conditions for a more efficient site management; and manage the site effectively under the guidelines.⁴³ Operational objectives and actions are identified for each of these strategic objectives.⁴⁴ Some of the operational programs and actions include creating a proceedings manual for visitors to prevent the introduction of exotic species; providing ship landing areas with equipment that prevents the transportation and introduction of exotic species; and implementing a video surveillance system.⁴⁵ As of 2016, there is a new permanent post for the Maritime Police at Selvagem Grande. The main purpose of the police presence is to provide navigation safety as well as help prevent illegal fishing and pollution, which is facilitated by the use of a radar.⁴⁶

See 1.2.f for more information on identified and secured resources and capacity of Selvagens Islands MPA.

⁴⁰ INCM (2018) Aviso n.º 15/2017/M. *Diário da República Eletrónico*. Retrieved April 2018 from <https://dre.pt/home/-/dre/107071148/details/maximized>.

⁴¹ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: pp. 42-44, English translation: pp. 42-44.

⁴² Meeuwi, J.J., et al. (2015) *Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health of Ilhas Selvagens, Portugal*. National Geographic Pristine Seas, p. 8.

⁴³ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: pp. 44-46, English translation: pp. 44-46.

⁴⁴ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: pp. 46-54, English translation: pp. 46-54 (English version incomplete tables).

⁴⁵ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: pp. 46-49, English translation: pp. 46-49.

⁴⁶ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 36, English translation: p. 36.

- e. *Regular monitoring of habitat and/or wildlife is conducted to measure progress with respect to conservation targets. A report of monitoring data is required at each GLORES audit after designation. Any negative biological trends identified through monitoring must be addressed in management plans. Progress toward identifying threats and addressing them must be documented.*

While the Institute for Forests and Nature Conservation IP-RAM (IFCN) conducts much of the ecological monitoring in the Selvagens Islands MPA, many other academic and government scientists also have ongoing research projects in the MPA that help to inform management. These ongoing projects include:

- marine birds have been studied and monitored since 1992 by Madeira Nature Park Service (MNPS);
- marine bird migrations have been monitored with satellite transmitters and data-loggers by the Museum of Natural History of Paris and of Funchal and the Max Plank Institute since 1995;
- Herring gull *Larus michahellis* has been monitored since 2001 by the MNPS;
- several studies of Cory's Shearwaters have been conducted since 1968 by Museu de História Natural do Funchal, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle Paris, ISPA-IU and MNPS (including one on survival rates in relation to the development of new, potentially threatening, fisheries from outside of the MPA);
- marine fauna and flora have been monitored since 2008 by the MNPS;
- toxic species of microalgae have been monitored, along with ciguatera toxin in organisms since 2009 by MNPS (along with the Direcção Regional das Pescas, Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries and Investigação e Transferência de Biotecnologia); and
- marine debris have been monitored on beaches of protected areas throughout the Autonomous Region of Madeira since 2013 by the MNPS and the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the New University of Lisbon.⁴⁷

Additionally, several other research and conservation projects that have informed management of the MPA have been completed. Table 1 of the Management Plan for Selvagens Islands lists these projects, which include sea turtle research conducted from 1996 to 2000 (specifically *Caretta caretta*, VU/IUCN) and cetacean research conducted from 2000 to 2004 in the archipelago of Madeira.

- f. *The MPA garners high regulation compliance rate. Evidence of adequate resources and capacity (including budget and staff) for enforcement is required.*

Budgetary resources are managed through a network approach between all PA, MPA and Natura 2000 sites by IFCN—primarily based on two income sources (government allocation and own revenues), a rough annual budget of about 650,000 Euros (US \$758,973) is allocated to the MPA and small number of staff biologists and rangers. This estimate excludes the costs regarding transportation equipment and maintenance and

⁴⁷ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: pp. 14-23, English translation: pp. 14-23 (English version incomplete tables).

external project financing.⁴⁸ An average of 549 people and 122 vessels visit the Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve each year.⁴⁹ The Regional Government of Madeira plans to stimulate the economic activity in the Selvagens Islands by promoting and regulating scientific and ecotourism – these plans will be made in 2018.⁵⁰

IFCN rangers and a Maritime Police unit regulate and oversee activities by having a permanent warden assigned to the Nature Reserve.^{51,52} Additionally, managers use 360° cameras for surveillance from Selvagem Pequena.⁵³

National Geographic Pristine Seas' 2015 expedition to the Selvagens Islands found that only 8% of benthos was covered with sea urchin barrrens – a common symptom of overfishing – suggesting that the area is not overfished.⁵⁴

The protected area's managers characterize enforcement of regulations in the protected area as active and consistent.⁵⁵

2.1 GLORES Award Status Criteria: Regulations **Scores 1-3 = Platinum, 3-4 = Gold, 4-5 = Silver**

Classification and scoring (1-8) of zones based on fishing gear, bottom exploitation, aquaculture, and boating.

Additional consideration: Buffer zones – zones of reduced human impact surrounding core no-take protected areas – enhance the conservation value of core no-take areas. An MPA that includes a large (>100 km²) no-take zone (Zone regulation score 1-3) surrounded by a buffer zone with a score 3-5 may be considered for a GLORES Platinum Award.

The overall regulations score for Selvagens Islands Marine Protected Area is 4.

Regarding the legal framework, Selvagens Islands are protected under:

1. The Regional Government of Madeira Administration and are classified as a Strict Nature Reserve (94.71 km²) which is delimited by the 200 m bathymetric and

⁴⁸ Paulo Oliveira, Director, Selvagens Islands Marine Protected Area and Madeira Natural Park Services, personal communication, 25 February 2018.

⁴⁹ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 39, English translation: p. 39.

⁵⁰ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 52-53, English translation: p. 52-53.

⁵¹ National Geographic (2015) Expeditions, Selvagens Islands. *National Geographic*. Retrieved January 2018 from <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/expeditions/selvagens-islands/>.

⁵² Meeuwi, J.J., et al. (2015) *Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health of Ilhas Selvagens, Portugal*. National Geographic Pristine Seas, p. 8.

⁵³ Paulo Oliveira, Director, Selvagens Islands Marine Protected Area and Madeira Natural Park Services, personal communication, 28 February 2018.

⁵⁴ Meeuwi, J.J., et al. (2015) *Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health of Ilhas Selvagens, Portugal*. National Geographic Pristine Seas, pp. 3, 5, 35, 40.

⁵⁵ Paulo Oliveira, Director, Selvagens Islands Marine Protected Area and Madeira Natural Park Services, personal communication, 16 May 2018.

- encompasses all the terrestrial area of the islands (Selvagem Grande, Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Flora) and adjacent islets, and all the adjacent marine area;
2. European Commission legislation, being included within the Natura 2000 Network as a:
 - (a) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (94.71 km²), its area coincides with the Nature Reserve area; and
 - (b) Special Protection Area (SPA) (1245.3 km²), which is delimited by the following geographic coordinates: 30°15'35.478''N 16°05'54.32''W; 30°15'46.874''N 15°40'14.53''W; 29°59'22.994''N 15°40'07.40''W; 29°59'13.008''N 16°05'42.40''W.⁵⁶

The intervention area of the Selvagens Islands 2017 Management Plan includes all the areas that were previously mentioned in points 1. and 2. and it takes into consideration two areas subject to zoning:

- **Total Protection Area:** which comprises all the terrestrial area of the islands (Selvagem Grande, Selvagem Pequena and Ilhéu de Flora) and adjacent islets – except for the cove area inhabited by shearwaters and the trails defined by the managers – and all the adjacent marine area up to the 200 m bathymetric. Anthropogenic presence in this area is only permitted under the following situations:
 - a) Scientific research;
 - b) Environmental monitoring;
 - c) Nature and bio(geo)diversity conservation actions;
 - d) Actions that add value to the natural resources, landscapes, etc.;
 - e) Environmental awareness and other low impact activities;
 - f) Surveillance and monitoring;
 - g) Commercial fishing using hook and line for tuna and pelagic purse seines for tuna bait;
 - h) Catastrophes.

The situations referred in the *a), b), c), d), e),* and *f)* lines require a permit from the managers of the conservation site.⁵⁷ Anchoring is allowed at specific locations for up to 48 hours.⁵⁸

- **Partial Protection Area:** which comprises the terrestrial cove area inhabited by shearwaters and the trails defined by the managers, and all the marine area of the SPA delimited by the following geographic coordinates: 30°15'35.478''N 16°05'54.32''W; 30°15'46.874''N 15°40'14.53''W; 29°59'22.994''N 15°40'07.40''W; 29°59'13.008''N 16°05'42.40''W, with exception of the adjacent marine area up to the 200 m bathymetric. The activities permitted in this area are:
 - a) Scientific research;
 - b) Nature and scientific tourism;
 - c) Environmental awareness activities;

⁵⁶ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 7, English translation: p. 7.

⁵⁷ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 13, English translation: p. 13.

⁵⁸ Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (2011) *Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve (Portugal)*, p. 2.

- d) Other activities that do not harm local values and ecosystem balance and that have been properly authorized by management entities;⁵⁹
- e) Artisanal and commercial fishing using pelagic longline to capture black scabbardfish (*Aphanopus carbo*), hook and line to catch tuna and pelagic purse seines to catch tuna bait.⁶⁰

Note: due to ciguatera intoxications, all fishing activity in the Total Protection Area has been suspended indefinitely.⁶¹ Because this suspension is not a permanent regulation, however, we have scored the Total Protection Area including the types of fishing that are allowed outside of the current suspension.

Total Protection Area (marine only): 91.9 km²⁶²

Zone Score: 4

Number of fishing gear types allowed: 2

Fishing gear impact score: 5

Bottom exploitation & aquaculture index: 0

Anchoring & boating index: -

Partial Protection Area (marine only): 1150.59 km²

Zone Score: 4

Number of fishing gear types allowed: 3

Fishing gear impact score: 5

Bottom exploitation & aquaculture index: 0

Anchoring & boating index: -

2.2 GLORES Award Status Criteria: Site Design and Management

3 Attributes = Platinum, 2 Attributes = Gold, 1 Attribute = Silver

- a. *Size: MPA \geq 100 km² or explicitly designed as part of a network of MPAs to support population connectivity*

The total marine portion of the Selvagens Islands protected area is 1245.3 km².

- b. *Isolation: Ecological or other protected area buffers surround protected ecosystem(s)*

The SACs surrounding Selvagem Grande and Selvagem Pequena are fully buffered by deep water in the SPA.

⁵⁹ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 14, English translation: p. 14.

⁶⁰ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: pp. 39-40, English translation: pp. 39-40.

⁶¹ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 40, English translation: p. 40.

⁶² Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas (2016) RN2000 na Região Autónoma da Madeira. *Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas*. Retrieved July 2018 from <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/pn/biodiversidade/rn2000/rn-pt/RN-Madeira>.

c. Age: Protections in the site, comparable to the current protections, are ≥ 10 years old

While officially gazetted in 1971, permanent surveillance of the Selvagens Islands began in 1976 and in 1978 this protected area was elevated to the status of Nature Reserve.⁶³

d. Community engagement: There is a formal process to engage the local community in the implementation or ongoing management of the MPA.

There is no formal plan to involve the local community in the implementation or ongoing management of the MPA since there is no local community living on the islands except for the protected area rangers, National Maritime Authority representatives and scientists. However, human activities such as nature and scientific tourism are promoted so people from the Madeira archipelago and abroad are allowed to visit the MPA.⁶⁴ Strategic and operational goals and actions have been elaborated in order to improve the information available to the public and provide courses to the MPA staff to better inform visitors about the conservation site.⁶⁵

3.1 GLORES Network Priorities: Ecosystem Representation

The Selvagens Islands MPA protects sandbanks permanently covered by shallow sea, mudflats and open sand at low tide, coves and shallow bays, and deep-sea habitats.^{66, 67} Because the Global Ocean Refuge System is only in its second year, the ecosystems protected by the Selvagens Islands MPA will be the first of these ecosystems within the region to be represented in a Global Ocean Refuge.

3.2 GLORES Network Priorities: Ecological Spatial Connectivity

Because the Global Ocean Refuge System is only in its second year, there are no other Global Ocean Refuges in the region with which to consider the ecological spatial connectivity contribution of the Selvagens Islands MPA.

In future GLORES award cycles, we will describe the location of the MPA within the context of the existing GLORES network, considering connectivity.

⁶³ Meeuwi, J.J., et al. (2015) *Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health of Ilhas Selvagens, Portugal*. National Geographic Pristine Seas, p. 8.

⁶⁴ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 39, English translation: p. 39.

⁶⁵ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: pp. 45, 51, English translation: pp. 45, 51.

⁶⁶ Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza IP-RAM (2017) *Revisão do Plano de Ordenamento e Gestão das Ilhas Selvagens*, Portuguese: p. 9, English translation: p. 9.

⁶⁷ Meeuwi, J.J., et al. (2015) *Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health of Ilhas Selvagens, Portugal*. National Geographic Pristine Seas, p. 33.