



GOVERNO
DOS AÇORES



UNIÃO EUROPEIA
Fundo Europeu de
Desenvolvimento Regional

DESIGNAÇÃO DO PROJETO: Mapping deep-sea biodiversity and “Good Environmental Status” in the Azores: assisting with the implementation of EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MapGES)

CÓDIGO DO PROJETO: AÇORES-01-0145-FEDER-000056

OBJETIVO PRINCIPAL: In MapGES we envisioned to bring together existing and new biodiversity data and results from recent analysis of the dynamics of the North Atlantic to deepen the understanding of the biodiversity and biogeographic patterns of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) indicator taxa and key deep-sea fish species in the Azores, and forecast changes under future scenarios of water mass structure and ocean currents. With MapGES, we envisioned this new understanding will improve the application of indicators of Good Environmental Status (GES) relevant to the Azores ecosystems for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and its constituent descriptors.

ENTIDADE BENEFICIÁRIA: IMAR (Instituto do mar)

CUSTO TOTAL ELEGÍVEL: 148.200,00€

APOIO FINANCEIRO DA UNIÃO EUROPEIA: 125.970,00€

DESCRIÇÃO: MapGES employed a multitude of methodologies ranging from 1) desktop studies to build upon past scientific results, 2) new imagery data collection using the new low-cost drift camera system and state-of-the-art research cruises technologies, 3) new methodologies to measure baseline values of GES, 4) state-of-the-art species distribution models coupled with detailed analysis of North Atlantic circulation to predict changes in biodiversity and species biogeography, and 5) new methods to identify priority areas for management and conservation in the Azores.

RESULTADOS: MapGES contributed with baseline data, new analyses and information to the priority thematic area Fisheries and Oceans, mostly to positioning the Azores in the centre of the deep-sea marine research, knowledge transfer, resources management and governance. MapGES contributed to more than ten areas of action within the RIS3 Azores framework and contributed with new data to inform the implementation of several political agendas. For example, MapGES contributed with data-driven spatial systematic conservation planning scenarios to inform marine spatial planning processes in the Azores, and therefore contributing to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. MapGES also contributed with a significant amount of scientific knowledge on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in support to the implementation of protection measures that will have an important impact in terms of fisheries regulations and sustainable exploitation of the Azores fishing grounds. The MapGES project produced five scientific publications but many more will be submitted during 2020.