

50th anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

# The eradication of the introduced species on Selvagens Islands



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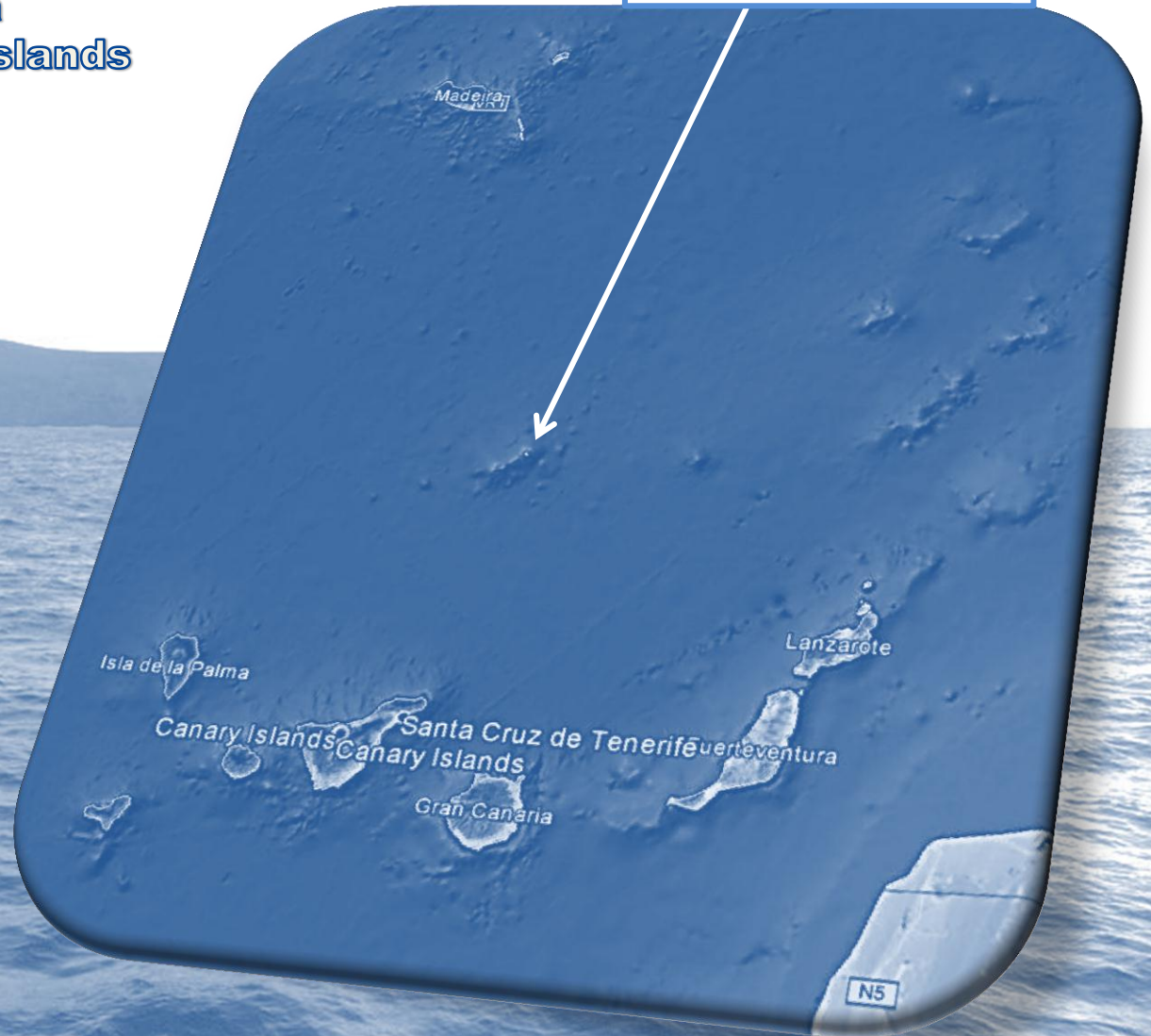
# Selvagens Islands

in the sub-tropical zone of  
the NE Atlantic

160 miles S. of Madeira

80 miles N. of Canary Islands

3 main islands  
Selvagem Grande  
Selvagem Pequena  
Ilhéu de Fora





*Selvagem Grande* : (245 ha.)

surrounded by cliffs

rises up to a plateau

average altitude of about 100m.





**Selvagem Pequena (20 ha.) :**  
**low and flat - irregular shape almost totally covered with calcerous sand**  
**and a huge rock outcrop with a 45m high pinnacle - rocky shore**



**Ilhéu de Fora (8.1 ha.)**  
**highest altitude 18m - almost totally covered with calcerous sand**



Islands of considerable botanical interest -  
original flora, including several endemic species.



# The Selvagens host important sea bird colonies

Latest estimates of breeding pairs of shearwaters and petrels

Species	Breeding Pairs
 <i>Calonectris borealis</i>	ca. 30,000
 <i>Pelagodroma marina hypoleuca</i>	98,000 - 121000
 <i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>	ca. 4000
 <i>Oceanodroma castro</i>	ca. 1500
 <i>Puffinus assimilis baroli</i>	2050-4900



Three alien species on Selvagem Grande  
*Nicotiana glauca* - *Oryctolagus cuniculus* - *Mus musculus*





Various research programmes on the Selvagens  
were carried out after the Diploma's 1997 renewal

A quantitative evaluation of rabbit  
impact on the natural flora of  
*Selvagem Grande*



An investigation of the control  
of the invasive Tobacco plant  
*Nicotiana glauca*





By June 2001 the eradication of the *Nicotiana glauca* by mechanical means on Selvagem Grande had been nearly accomplished

In some areas, apart from choking the indigenous plants, it was blocking the entrance of nesting holes of Cory's Shearwaters.





**During the eradication project**



**After the eradication project the vegetation conservation status greatly improved**





Cory's Shearwaters' fledging increased significantly





During the second on-the-spot appraisal the Lizard *Teira dugesii selvagensis* and Berthelot's Pipit were more in evidence on Selvagem Grande





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

**The eradication of alien species on Selvagem Grande was a success story**

**The recommendations in my last report included all precautions should continue to be taken to ensure that no species of plants and animals are introduced**

**studies to survey the effect of the eradication of the alien species on the flora and fauna should be continued for the next few years.**