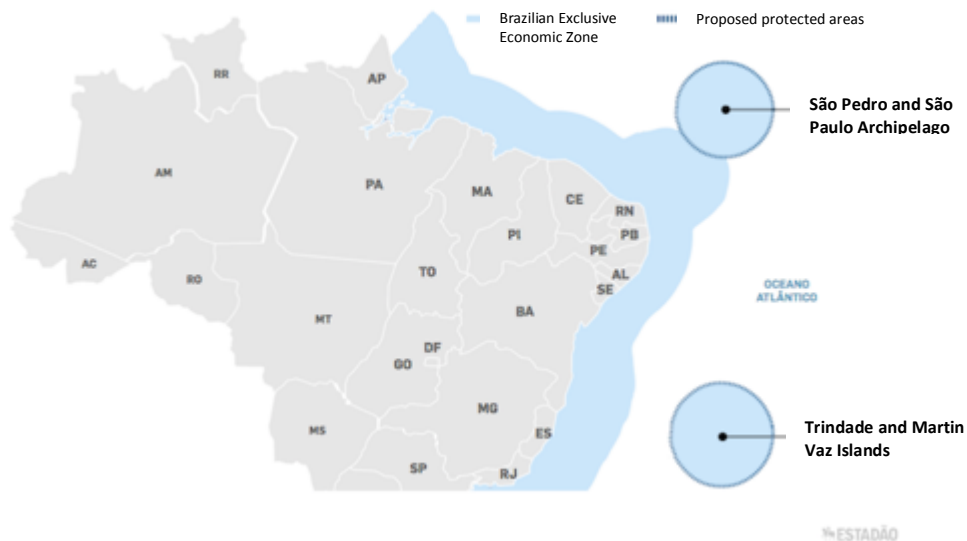


Brazil announces hearings for the creation of marine protected areas – to lead to almost 1 million square kilometres

Brazilian Federal Protected Areas Agency (ICMbio - Chico Mendes Institute) and Ministry of Environment announce public hearings for the possible creation of two very large mosaics of marine protected areas, to be managed in partnership with Brazilian Navy (Ministry of Defence), expecting to lead to a Brazilian oceans protection of almost 1 million square kilometres!¹



The announced public consultations are related to proposals of two mosaics of protected areas, one along the Vitória–Trindade sea mountains chain (focusing more around the Trindade and Martin Vaz islands), and the other around the São Pedro and São Paulo Archipelago.



Location of São Pedro and São Paulo Archipelago and Trindade and Martin Vaz Islands, with respectively related Brazilian Exclusive Economic Zone, which conservation is proposed³

The proposals, together, could lead to more around 887,000 square kilometres (around 88 million hectares –representing some 24.5% of Brazilian Exclusive

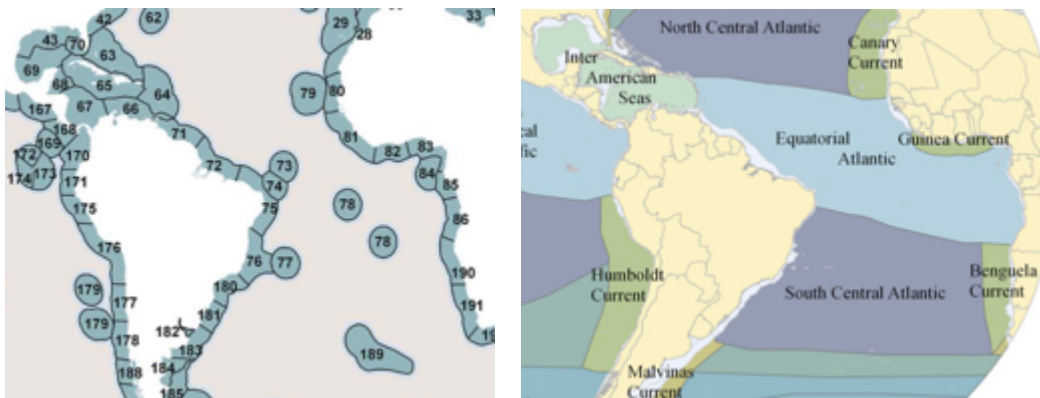
Economic Zone), bringing up the conservation of Brazilian marine jurisdictional areas to some 21%, i.e. around 940,500 square kilometres (94.1 million hectares)–, including some 119,000 square kilometres (11.9 million hectares) of more strict preservation areas.

Brazilian Navy has had important roles in those two areas, not only for securing their pristine conditions –capacity now to be enhanced with the proposed partnership with ICMBio–, but also for leading on the respective research programmes –Pro-Arquipélago and Pro-Trindade–, which results shall be important in helping guide the management of those areas, when protected.



Brown booby (*Sula leucogaster*) nesting around the scientific station at São Pedro and São Paulo Archipelago⁴

Those potential protected areas would increase significantly the level of conservation of the specific Trindade and Martin Vaz Islands (77), Sao Pedro and Sao Paulo Islands (73) and the Eastern Brazil Marine Ecoregions (76), to well above the international target of minimum 10%. The higher-level biogeographical units related to them would consequently increase their conservation coverage as well. Furthermore, the large Equatorial Atlantic and South Central Atlantic Gyre Pelagic Provinces, surrounding the ecoregions, would also increase their levels of protection.⁵



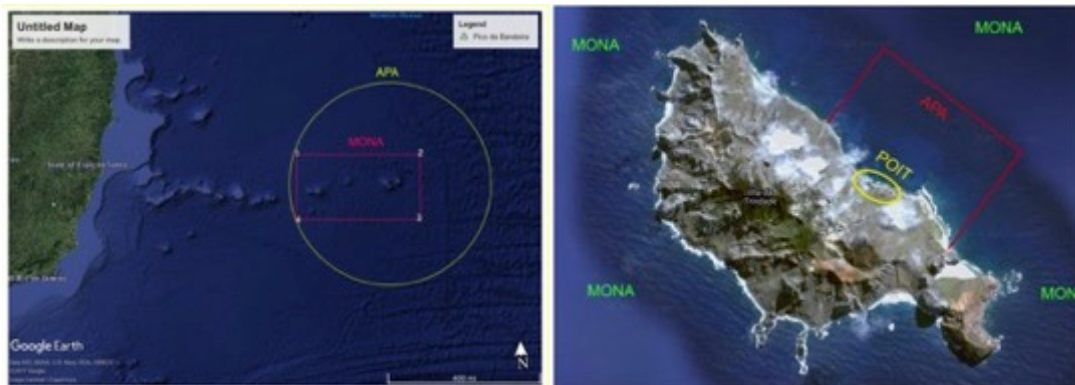
Marine Ecoregions (Spalding *et alii*, 2007) and Pelagic Provinces (Spalding *et alii*, 2012)⁶

Vitória–Trindade Sea Mountains Chain Mosaic of Protected Areas



Trindade Island⁷

The proposal of the Trindade mosaic is organised in three alternatives (or scenarios) and the intermediary (second) one includes another large sustainable use reserve (probably an environmental protection area, equivalent to the international category V) of about 317,000 square kilometres (31.7 million hectares) and an yet significant strict preservation area (probably national monument, equivalent to the international categories III) of about 119,000 square kilometres (11.9 million hectares).⁸



Proposed mosaic of protected areas – Vitória–Trindade Sea Mountains Chain (intermediary)⁹

The Vitória–Trindade Sea Mountains Chain represents the evolution of the oceanic Atlantic geological crust, with some 30 mountains with important biodiversity, and important levels of endemism, as well as associated with the highest diversity of calcareous algae on Earth, besides being very important for sharks and other fish species, and for marine turtle nesting. “The substrate of the mountains and ocean islands is composed of living reefs of coralline algae, on which is also observed the presence of different species of corals, sponges and algae. The mountains and islands have a fauna of reef fish that is still preserved, with a significant biomass and abundance of species, harbouring many sharks and spawning aggregation phenomena of important fishery resources.” This area is included in international (EBSA’s) and

national priority areas for conservation, as well as it was included in the Brazilian commitments to the UN Ocean Conference.¹⁰



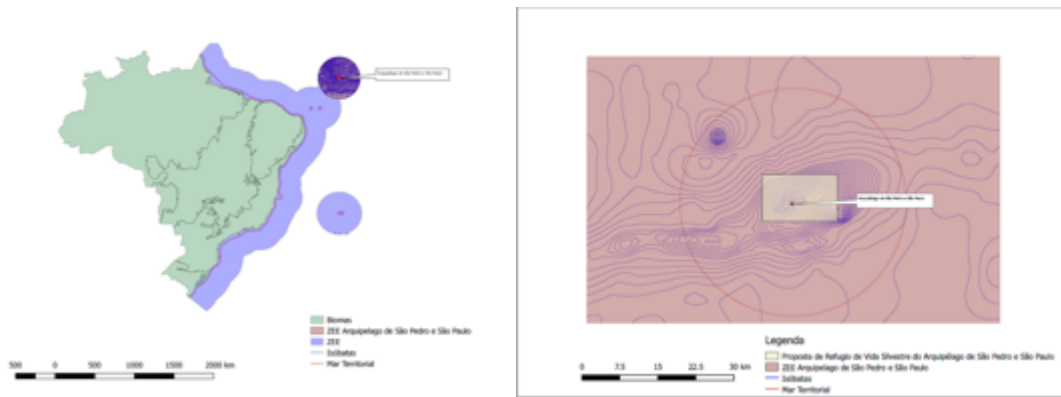
Sea mountain top coral reefs – Vitória–Trindade Sea Mountains Chain¹¹

São Pedro and São Paulo Archipelago Mosaic of Protected Areas



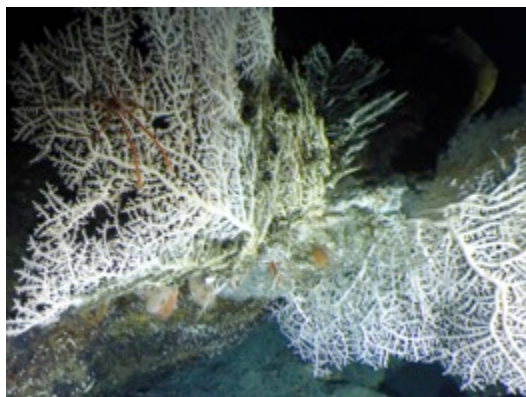
São Pedro and São Paulo Archipelago¹²

The proposal of the São Pedro and São Paulo mosaic includes a large sustainable use reserve (probably an environmental protection area, equivalent to the international category V) of about 421,000 square kilometres (42.1 million hectares) and a small strict preservation area (probably a national monument, equivalent to the international category III) of about 137 square kilometres (13.7 thousand hectares).



Proposed mosaic of protected areas – São Pedro and São Paulo Archipelago¹³

Due to the important isolation, São Pedro and São Paulo Archipelago Mosaic of Protected Areas would include important numbers of endemic and threatened species. It is an important area for migratory species, such as Mobula rays. The specific Sao Pedro and Sao Paulo Islands Marine Ecoregion is surrounded by the large Equatorial Atlantic Pelagic Province, which “is unique in the Atlantic Ocean, as also supported by both empirically shown and modeled patterns of biodiversity. [...] The Equatorial Atlantic combines a wide spectra of historical, geological, oceanographic and biodiversity features, both in the pelagic and benthic domains, that that lead to this area being described as an EBSA in the Atlantic Ocean.” This area is included in international priority areas for conservation.¹⁴

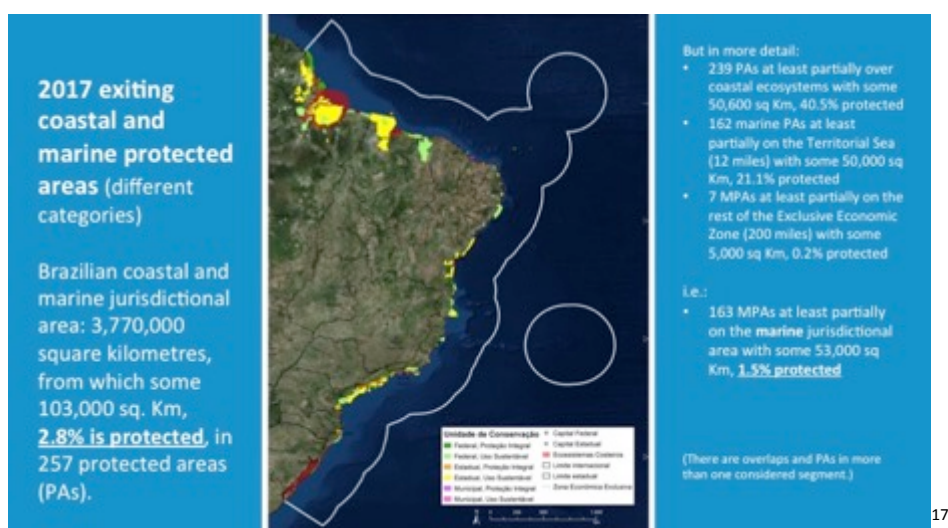


Deep coral reefs – São Pedro and São Paulo Archipelago¹⁵

Brazilian Blue Initiative – towards beyond 10% effective conservation

To create the conditions to achieve a minimum of 10% conservation in Brazilian marine jurisdictional areas, since early 2017 Brazilian Ministry of Environment (MMA) and Federal Protected Areas Agency (ICMBio – Chico Mendes Institute) are dialoguing with Brazilian society and national and international partners in order to build an umbrella strategy –the Brazilian Blue Initiative– and promote specific and concrete projects and actions to bring in partners execution capacity and fundraise additional US\$ 140 million, for its first phase.¹⁶

Brazil has already good conservation levels in the coastal ecosystems (40+%), particularly mangroves (85+%). Even the Brazilian Territorial Sea has a relatively good protection coverage (20+%). But the protection is progressive lower as the area is further distant to the coast, with only 1.5% protection.



Initiatives, such as the current proposals for new large mosaics of protected areas, in the oceanic areas, are in the good direction of achieving a minimum of 10% protection and hopefully go beyond. For ecological representation, as well as for adaptation and mitigation to climate change and sustainable development purposes, other areas also shall be under attention. And the protected areas and other area-based effective conservation mechanisms shall be implemented and consolidated into good management. The Brazilian Blue Initiative is searching conditions for that.

Science has been progressively demonstrating that marine protected areas do work, for biodiversity conservation, for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, to contribute in the protection of indigenous and non-indigenous traditional communities and to support economic activities, such as fisheries and others. But they do need conditions for its good implementation and consolidation into a good management, particularly marine protected areas, including good integration into de landscape and with local societies.

Media coverage (so far)

Chico Mendes Institute (ICMBio – the Brazilian Federal Protected Areas Agency) and the Brazilian Ministry of Environment have published their official news.¹⁸ Media news are also interested in the proposals, despite the early stages of the public consultation.¹⁹

Technical supporting information and sources:

¹ Information based on official sources, mostly from technical and official documents and official news. Pictures or photos were mostly captured technical reports and from internet, and are not authorized for reproduction with commercial interests.

ICMBio and Brazilian Government information, all in Portuguese, is available: the ICMBio's public note is in <http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/ultimas-noticias/20-geral/9425-icmbio-promove-consultas-publicas> and the related synthesis of the studies on and proposals about the Vitória–Trindade Sea Mountains Chain Mosaic of Protected Areas are in http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/estudos_criacao_ilha_trindade.pdf (and the related announcement to the hearings in <http://pesquisa.in.gov.br/imprensa/jsp/visualiza/index.jsp?data=24/01/2018&jornal=530&pagina=95&totalArquivos=192>) and the synthesis of the studies and proposals about the São Pedro and São Paulo Archipelago Mosaic of Protected Areas are in http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/Estudos_Cria%C3%A7%C3%A3o_SaoPedro_SaoPaulo.pdf (and the related announcement to the hearings in <http://pesquisa.in.gov.br/imprensa/jsp/visualiza/index.jsp?data=23/01/2018&jornal=530&pagina=109&totalArquivos=220>).



Photo by João Luiz Gasparini (in BBC <http://www.bbc.com/portuguese/geral-42831105>)

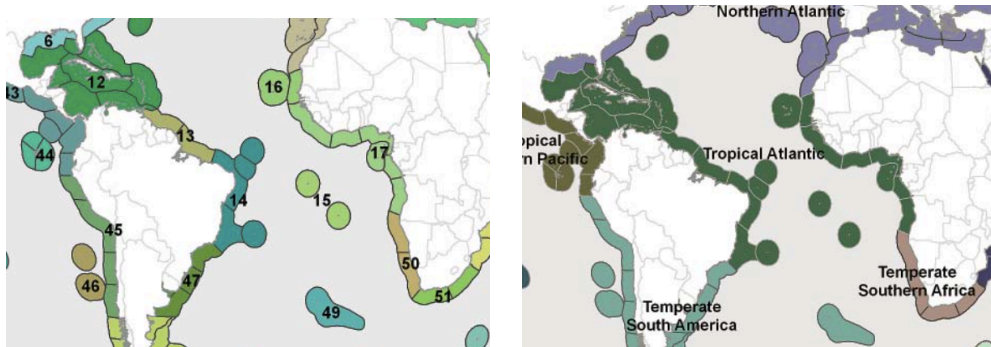
² “A biodiversidade das águas brasileiras precisam de proteção. Foto: Edson Alcioli/ICMBio” (the Brazilian Aquatic Biodiversity needs protection, by Edson Alcioli, ICMBio). From the WikiParques’ news: “Brasil abre caminho para criar grandes mosaicos de áreas protegidas marinhas” (“Brazil opens the way to create large protected areas mosaics” – in free translation, Jan. 24, 2018, 19:39, by Duda Menegassi) (<http://www.wikiparques.org/brasil-abre-caminho-para-criar-grandes-mosaicos-de-areas-protegidas-marinhas/>)

³ Translated from Estado de São Paulo news “Localização; Arquipélagos são os mais distantes do território brasileiro”. (“Brasil quer proteger 900 mil quilômetros quadrados de oceano; Novas unidades de conservação ao redor de arquipélagos elevarão cobertura de áreas protegidas no mar brasileiro de 1,5% para 25%” – “Brazil wants to protect 900 thousand square kilometres of ocean; New protected areas around archipelagos will increase its coverage in Brazilian sea from 1.5% to 25%” – in free translation, Jan. 26, 2018, 03h00, by Herton Escobar, in <http://sustentabilidade.estadao.com.br/noticias/geral,brasil-quer-protoger-900-mil-quilometros-quadrados-de-oceano,70002165972>).

⁴ “Figura 4. Ninhos de atobá-marrom *Sula leucogaster* no entorno da nova estação científica no Arquipélago de São Pedro e São Paulo (2011). Foto: R.B. Francini-Filho.”, from Francini-F. *et alii*, 2018

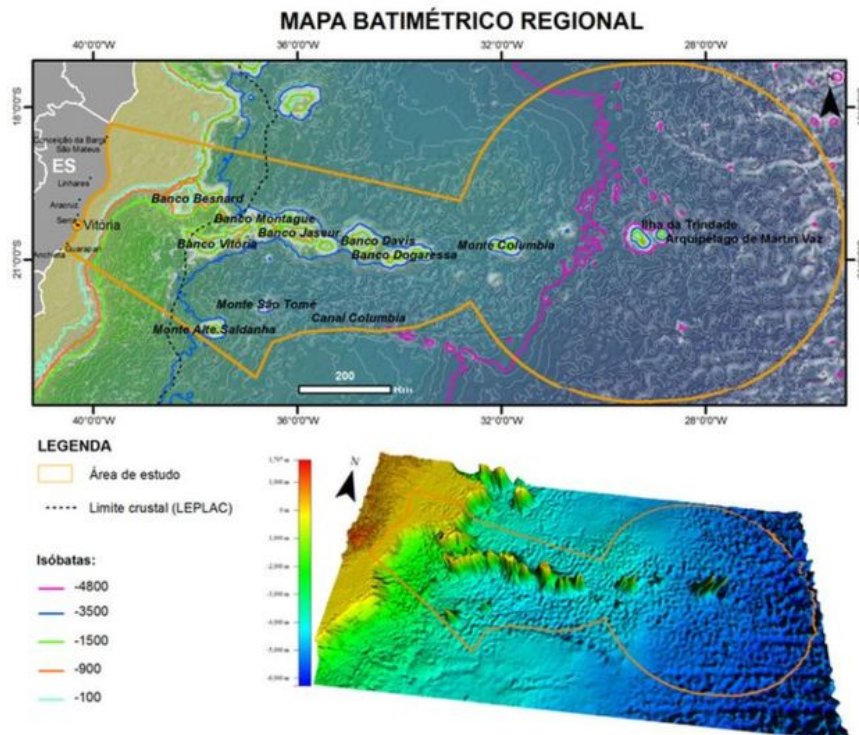
(http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/Estudos_Cria%C3%A7%C3%A3o_SaoPedro_SaoPaulo.pdf).

⁵⁵⁵ The first mosaic represents oceanic habitats in the Sao Pedro and Sao Paulo Islands Marine Ecoregion (73), within Tropical Southwestern Atlantic Marine Province (14), within Tropical Atlantic Marine Realm (limits by Spalding *et alii*, 2007), but goes beyond them, into the Equatorial Atlantic Pelagic Province (limits by Spalding *et alii*, 2012).



Marine Provinces and Marine Realms (adapted from Spalding *et alii*, 2007 – see below)

The second mosaic represents also oceanic habitats, now in the Trindade and Martin Vaz Islands Marine Ecoregion (77) and Eastern Brazil Marine Ecoregion (76), also within Tropical Southwestern Atlantic Marine Province (14), within Tropical Atlantic Marine Realm (limits by Spalding *et alii*, 2007), and, again, goes beyond them, here in the South Central Atlantic Pelagic Province (with limits by Spalding *et alii*, 2012).



Sea mountain chain between Vitória and the Trindade Island holds a “deep sea tropical forest”, by (Brazilian) National Museum (Museu Nacional, UFRJ) (in BBC <http://www.bbc.com/portuguese/geral-42831105>)

International commitments (in the CBD Aichi Targets and UN Sustainable Development Goals) set 10% of effective and equitable system of protected areas and other space based effective conservation means as the minimum marine conservation level, considering the ecological diversity.

Based on WPDA or Protected Planet data (WCMC UNEP, in partnership with IUCN and its WCPA), in September 2017 (in https://www.protectedplanet.net/IMPAC4_Ecoregions_Analysis_Summary-2.xlsx):

- The Trindade and Martin Vaz Islands Marine Ecoregion have zero (0.00%) protection coverage;
- The Sao Pedro and Sao Paulo Islands Marine Ecoregion only 1.70%;
- The Eastern Brazil Marine Ecoregion have 7.87%;
- The Tropical Southwestern Atlantic Marine Province have 8.98%;
- The Tropical Atlantic Marine Realm have 10.53% protection;
- The South Central Atlantic Gyre Pelagic Province have 2.32% protection; and
- The Equatorial Atlantic Pelagic Province only 1.52% protection.

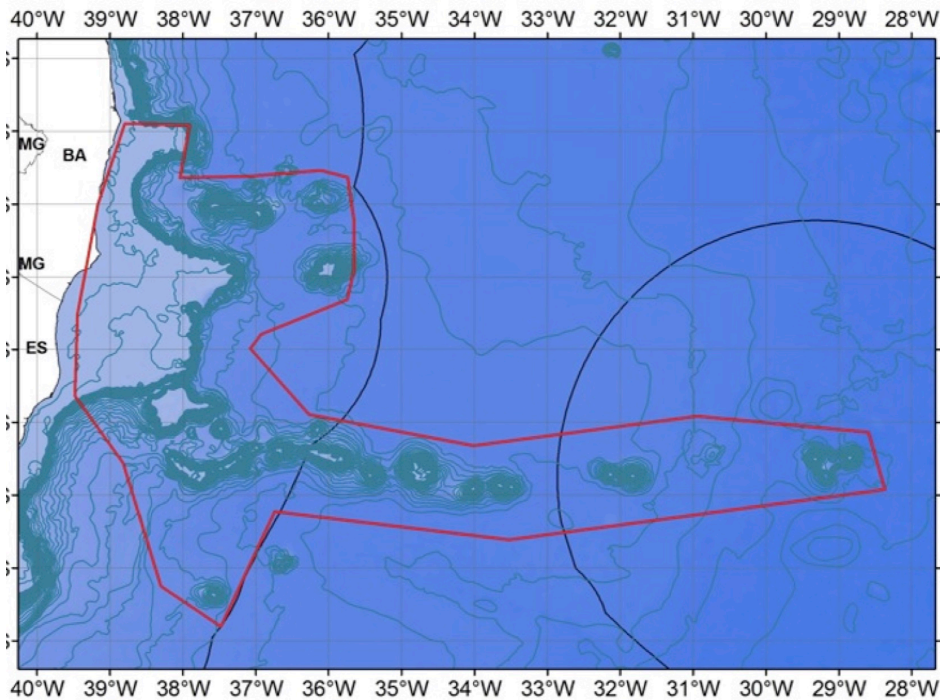
If the currently proposed protection goes through to the final protected areas creation, even if not exactly as now proposed, the level of conservation shall increase, as follows (to be confirmed in more precise calculation after the formal declaration of those marine protected areas):

- The very specific Martin Vaz Islands Marine Ecoregion would probably achieve some 21% of protection only considering the category III protected area (in the intermediary or second alternative or scenario) or very high levels of protection (possibly around 100%) considering the category V protected area (depending on the ecoregion and protected area limits checking);
- The also very specific Sao Pedro and Sao Paulo Islands Marine Ecoregion would probably achieve very high levels of protection (possibly around 100%) considering the category V protected area or even only the smaller category III protected area (depending on the ecoregion and protected area limits checking);
- The Eastern Brazil Marine Ecoregion would possibly go beyond 50% protection (considering the first alternative (or scenario) with the category V protected area (depending on the ecoregion and protected area limits checking);
- The Tropical Southwestern Atlantic Marine Province would possibly achieve high levels of protection, considering the category V protected areas (in the intermediary alternative of the southern mosaic – depending on the ecoregion and protected area limits checking);
- The Tropical Atlantic Marine Realm would possible also achieve important levels of protection, considering the category V protected areas (in the intermediary alternative of the southern mosaic – depending on the ecoregion and protected area limits checking);
- The large South Central Atlantic Gyre Pelagic Province would possibly go to some 5% protection (considering the intermediary alternative), with the category V protected area (depending on the ecoregion and protected area limits checking); and
- The also large Equatorial Atlantic Pelagic Province would go to some 4% protection, considering the category V protected area (depending on the ecoregion and protected area limits checking).

⁶ Adapted from:

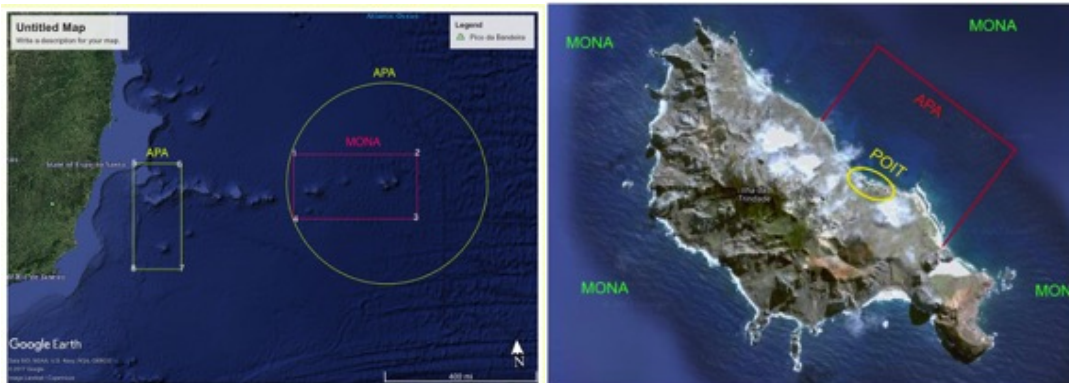
- Spalding, M. D. *et alii*. 2007. Marine Ecoregions of the World: A Bioregionalization of Coastal and Shelf Areas. *BioScience*, vol. 57, No. 7, pp 573-583. (<https://doi.org/10.1641/B570707>)
- Spalding, M. D. *et alii*. 2012. Pelagic provinces of the world: a biogeographic classification of the world's surface pelagic waters. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, vol. 60, pp 19-30. (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2011.12.016>)

⁷ From the MMA's public note: <http://www.mma.gov.br/index.php/comunicacao/agencia-informma?view=blog&id=2810>.



Abrolhos Bank and Vitória-Trindade Chain Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area (EBSA)
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/rwebsa-wcar-01/other/rwebsa-wcar-01-brazil-15-en.pdf>

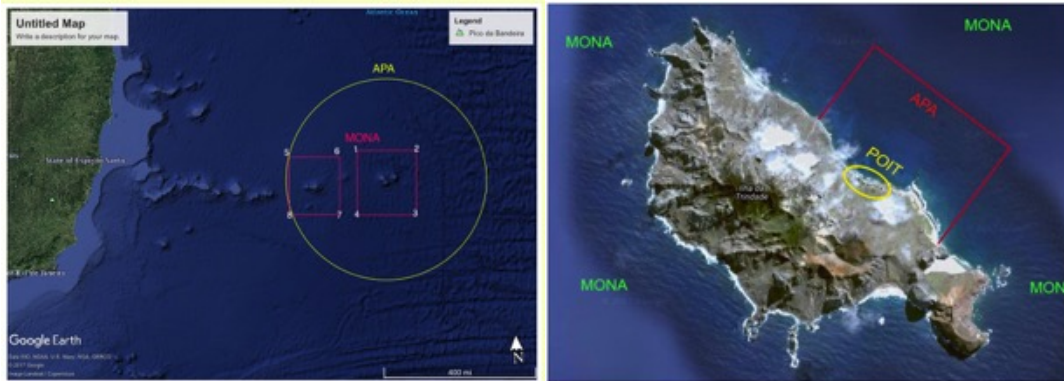
The first alternative for the Vitória–Trindade Sea Mountains Chain Mosaic of Protected Areas could have two large sustainable use reserves (probably environmental protection areas, equivalents to the international category V) of about 317,000 + some 50,000 square kilometres (31.7 + 5 million hectares) and a yet significant strict preservation area (probably national monument, equivalent to the international categories III) of about 119,000 square kilometres (11.9 million hectares).



Proposed mosaic of protected areas – Vitória–Trindade Sea Mountains Chain - first alternative

“Figura 22 – Cenário principal de mosaico de áreas protegidas ao longo da Cadeia Vitória-Trindade, incluindo todos os montes e ilhas contidos na ZEE brasileira.”, from Francini-F. *et alii*, 2018
http://www.icmbio.gov.br/porta/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/Estudos_Cria%C3%A7%C3%A3o_SaoPedro_SaoPaulo.pdf.

The third alternative includes a large sustainable use reserve (probably environmental protection area, equivalent to the international category V) of about 334,000 square kilometres (33.4 million hectares) and two yet relatively large strict preservation areas (probably national monuments, equivalents to the international categories III) of about 56,000 + 47,000 square kilometres (5.6 + 4.7 million hectares).



Proposed mosaic of protected areas – Vitória–Trindade Sea Mountains Chain - third alternative

“CENÁRIO 3 – Figura 24 – Cenário alternativo de mosaico de áreas protegidas ao longo da Cadeia Vitória-Trindade, incluindo todos os montes e ilhas contidos na ZEE brasileira.”, from Francini-F. *et alii*, 2018 (http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/Estudos_Cria%C3%A7%C3%A3o_SaoPedro_SaoPaulo.pdf).

⁹ Intermediary (second) alternative (scenario).

“CENÁRIO 2 - Figura 23 – Cenário alternativo de mosaico de áreas protegidas ao longo da Cadeia Vitória-Trindade, incluindo todos os montes e ilhas contidos na ZEE brasileira.”, from Francini-F. *et alii*, 2018 (http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/Estudos_Cria%C3%A7%C3%A3o_SaoPedro_SaoPaulo.pdf).

¹⁰ According to CBD information: “The Vitória Trindade Chain, located on the central coast of Brazil, is composed of seven seamounts and an island complex (Archipelago of Trinidad and Martin Vaz). The substrate of the mountains and ocean islands is composed of living reefs of coralline algae, on which is also observed the presence of different species of corals, sponges and algae. The mountains and islands have a fauna of reef fish that is still preserved, with a significant biomass and abundance of species, harbouring many sharks and spawning aggregation phenomena of important fishery resources. Moreover, the fish fauna of the Vitória e Trindade Chain has at least 11 endemic species on their reefs. Also, this area is the only breeding site for three endemic populations of seabirds, the Trindade Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*), the Atlantic Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata minor nicolli*), and the Atlantic Greater Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel trinitatis*). In the meantime, this environment can be considered high in uniqueness, importance for the life cycle of many species, important for endangered species, highly sensitive, high in biological productivity, and relatively well kept. Despite all this wealth and uniqueness, the increase in fishing effort, which has already caused extinctions of species in several other Brazilian islands and now focuses on this area, threatens sharks and other large carnivores. The threat scenario raises the need for protection of the natural environment and is recognized by the Brazilian government as an extremely important priority area for biodiversity conservation.” (Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs): Abrolhos Bank and Vitória-Trindade Chain; <https://chm.cbd.int/database/record?documentID=200106>.)

In the Brazilian commitment: “The Vitória-Trindade Chain of Seamounts is one of the major green turtle breeding grounds in the Atlantic and contains at least 11 endemic fish species, 02 endemic species of calcareous algae, and likely the worlds sole breeding site for the Trindade petrel. This area includes the largest breeding grounds of humpback whales in the South Atlantic, 04 endemic coral species, 13 endemic marine fish species and important breeding colonies for dozens of seabirds, including 123 threatened species.” (UN Ocean Conference: Development of effective area-based conservation measures in marine areas, by Brazilian Government (Government), in <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19649>, associated with Development and implementation of the Brazilian Blue Fund by Brazilian Government (Government) (In <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19669>.)

Other sources:

- Pinheiro, H. T. 2018. Diagnóstico Biológico e Sócio-Econômico para a proposta de criação de uma Área de Proteção Ambiental (APA) e um Refúgio de Vida Silvestre (REVIS) na Cadeia Vitória-Trindade.

49 p. (In http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/estudos_criacao_ilha_trindade.pdf.)

- Brasil. 2007. Áreas Prioritárias para a Conservação e Uso Sustentável e Repartição dos Benefícios da Biodiversidade Brasileira. (Portaria MMA no. 09 de 2007.)



Trindade and Martin Vaz islands

Cover, from Francini-F. *et alii*, 2018 (http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/Estudos_Cria%C3%A7%C3%A3o_SaoPedro_SaoPaulo.pdf).

¹¹ “Figura 4 – Ambientes recifais do topo do Monte Submarino Vitória, situado a oeste da Cadeia Vitória-Trindade.”, from Francini-F. *et alii*, 2018 (http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/Estudos_Cria%C3%A7%C3%A3o_SaoPedro_SaoPaulo.pdf).

¹² From the ICMBio’s public note in <http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/ultimas-noticias/20-geral/9425-icmbio-promove-consultas-publicas>.

¹³ “Figura 15. Mapa da costa brasileira mostrando a área da Zona Econômica Exclusiva (ZEE) no entorno do ASPSP proposta para criação da APA. Mapa: Verônica Novaes Silva.” and “Figura 17. Mapa mostrando a área proposta para o MONA de São Pedro e São Paulo (retângulo) com respectivo limite do mar territorial (12 milhas) do Arquipélago SPSP. Mapa: Verônica Novaes Silva.”, from Francini-F. *et alii*, 2018 (http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/Estudos_Cria%C3%A7%C3%A3o_SaoPedro_SaoPaulo.pdf).

¹⁴ According to CBD information: “[...] the Equatorial Atlantic is unique in the Atlantic Ocean, as also supported by both empirically shown and modeled patterns of biodiversity. It is worth noting that the area also includes a Mid-Atlantic ridge-associated group of islets, the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Archipelago, whose coastal fauna and flora has been connected with oceanic dispersal processes among the Atlantic’s continental margins and oceanic islands (see reviews in Vianna *et al.*, 2009 and Vaske Jr. 2010) and a recently mapped hydrothermal vent field (Devey *et al.*, 2005). [...] Particular data sets also derive from a long-standing research programme on the coastal areas and pelagic system in the vicinity of the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Archipelago (ProArquipélago - Vianna *et al.*, 2009 and Vaske Jr. 2010) and from pelagic fishing for large predators (tunas, billfishes, sharks)

concentrated at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT, www.iccat.org). Other data sets on seabird and sea turtle distribution and migrations complement our understanding of the biological relevance of the Equatorial Atlantic for nekton communities (e.g. Witt et al., 2011). [...] The Equatorial Atlantic combines a wide spectra of historical, geological, oceanographic and biodiversity features, both in the pelagic and benthic domains, that that lead to this area being described as an EBSA in the Atlantic Ocean. This area extends mostly beyond the jurisdiction of Atlantic coastal countries, and the recognition of its importance seems crucial for eventual conservation initiatives in the high seas.” (Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs): Atlantic Equatorial Fracture Zone and high productivity system; in <https://chm.cbd.int/database/record?documentID=200105>)

Other source:

- Francini-F., R.B. *et alii*. 2018. Diagnóstico Biológico e Sócio-Econômico para a proposta de criação de uma Área de Proteção Ambiental (APA) e um Monumento Natural Marinho (MONA) no Arquipélago São Pedro e São Paulo. (In http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/Estudos_Cria%C3%A7%C3%A3o_SaoPedro_SaoPaulo.pdf.)



Mobula tarapacana rays – São Pedro and São Paulo Archipelago

“Figura 5. Cardume de raias *Mobula tarapacana* no ASPSP. Foto: R.B. Francini-Filho.”, from Francini-F. *et alii*, 2018 (http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/Estudos_Cria%C3%A7%C3%A3o_SaoPedro_SaoPaulo.pdf).

¹⁵ “Figura 6. Corais profundos no ASPSP: *Madrepora oculata* (esquerda) e *Lophelia pertusa* (direita). Fotos: Abílio Soares”, from Francini-F. *et alii*, 2018 (http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/images/stories/o-que-fazemos/consultas_publicas/Estudos_Cria%C3%A7%C3%A3o_SaoPedro_SaoPaulo.pdf).



Brazilian Blue Initiative announced in the 4th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC4) (https://www.dropbox.com/s/w8g6jg82jcyxd3/Brazil-Blue-Init_announc_build-prop_%28MMA-ICMBio_2017set07-2-2_red2%29.pdf?dl=0)



Ant its ideas presented in several other gathering, after and before, nationally and internationally, for building the partnerships, the umbrella concept strategy and projects development

¹⁷ Brazil has good protection of coastal ecosystems (such as mangroves), and progressively less so into the open ocean: some 239 coastal protected areas, covering 40.5% of coastal marine ecosystems; 162 marine protected areas, covering 21.1% of the Brazilian Territorial Sea; but only 7 marine protected areas, covering 0.2 of the Brazilian Exclusive Economic Zone. (Brazilian Blue Initiative announcement, in the 4th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC4) (https://www.dropbox.com/s/w8g6jg82jcyxd3/Brazil-Blue-Init_announc_build-prop_%28MMA-ICMBio_2017set07-2-2_red2%29.pdf?dl=0)

¹⁸ Chico Mendes Institute (ICMBio – the Brazilian Federal Protected Areas Agency) – enlarged and revised version:

“Governo criará unidades de conservação marinhas (Publicado: Quarta, 24 de Janeiro de 2018, 17h20); Consultas para implantação de unidades nos arquipélagos São Pedro e São Paulo (PE) e Trindade e Martim Vaz (ES) serão realizadas em fevereiro.” Government will create marine protected areas (published in Jan.24, 2018); Consultation for the implementation of protected areas in the São Paulo and São Pedro and Trindade and Martin Vaz Archipelagos will happen in February (free translation).

(<http://www.icmbio.gov.br/portal/ultimas-noticias/20-geral/9425-icmbio-promove-consultas-publicas>)

The Brazilian Ministry of Environment (“MMA”) is similar to the ICMBio’s one, and both were finished in mutual cooperation. (<http://www.mma.gov.br/index.php/comunicacao/agencia-informma?view=blog&id=2810>)

¹⁹ Some examples (titles in free translation):

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- Jan. 26, 2018 (03h00) – “O Estado de São Paulo” (among the top three Brazilian regular newspapers): “Brazil wants to protect 900 thousand square kilometres of ocean; New protected areas around archipelagos will increase its coverage in Brazilian sea from 1.5% to 25%” (“Brasil quer proteger 900 mil quilômetros quadrados de oceano; Novas unidades de conservação ao redor de arquipélagos elevarão cobertura de áreas protegidas no mar brasileiro de 1,5% para 25%”), by Herton Escobar (<http://sustentabilidade.estadao.com.br/noticias/geral,brasil-quer-proteger-900-mil-quilometros-quadrados-de-oceano,70002165972>).
 - Jan. 26, 2018 – BBC in Brasília: “Unknown mountain chain of Brazilian coast may become the largest marine reserve in the Atlantic” (“A desconhecida cordilheira no litoral brasileiro que pode virar a maior reserva marinha do Atlântico”), by João Fellet (<http://www.bbc.com/portuguese/geral-42831105>) - reproduced by others, such as “O Globo” (among the top three Brazilian regular newspapers) (<https://g1.globo.com/natureza/noticia/a-desconhecida-cordilheira-no-litoral-brasileiro-que-pode- virar-a-maior-reserva-marinha-do-atlantico.ghtml>), among others.
 - Jan. 24, 2018 (19:39) –WikiParques’ news (related to “O Eco”, internet news site, strong in the conservation community): “Brazil opens the way to create large protected áreas mosaics” (“Brasil abre caminho para criar grandes mosaicos de áreas protegidas marinhas”), by Duda Menegassi (<http://www.wikiparques.org/brasil-abre-caminho-para-criar-grandes-mosaicos-de-areas-protegidas-marinhas/>)



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