

Towards a more complete knowledge of mammal distribution in Europe: the Atlas of Portuguese Mammals

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Once upon a time... During the development of a research project on vertebrate biogeography in Western Europe, Portuguese mammals stood out for the lack of distribution data at sufficiently fine resolution. To fill this knowledge gap, we compiled and mapped all records of occurrence from publications, theses, reports, institutional databases, private collections and wildlife photographs, helped by numerous other contributors nationwide. This resulted in a detailed national distribution atlas, with a paper edition and an online version including **free PDFs, data and interactive maps** – <https://atlas-mamiferos.uevora.pt>



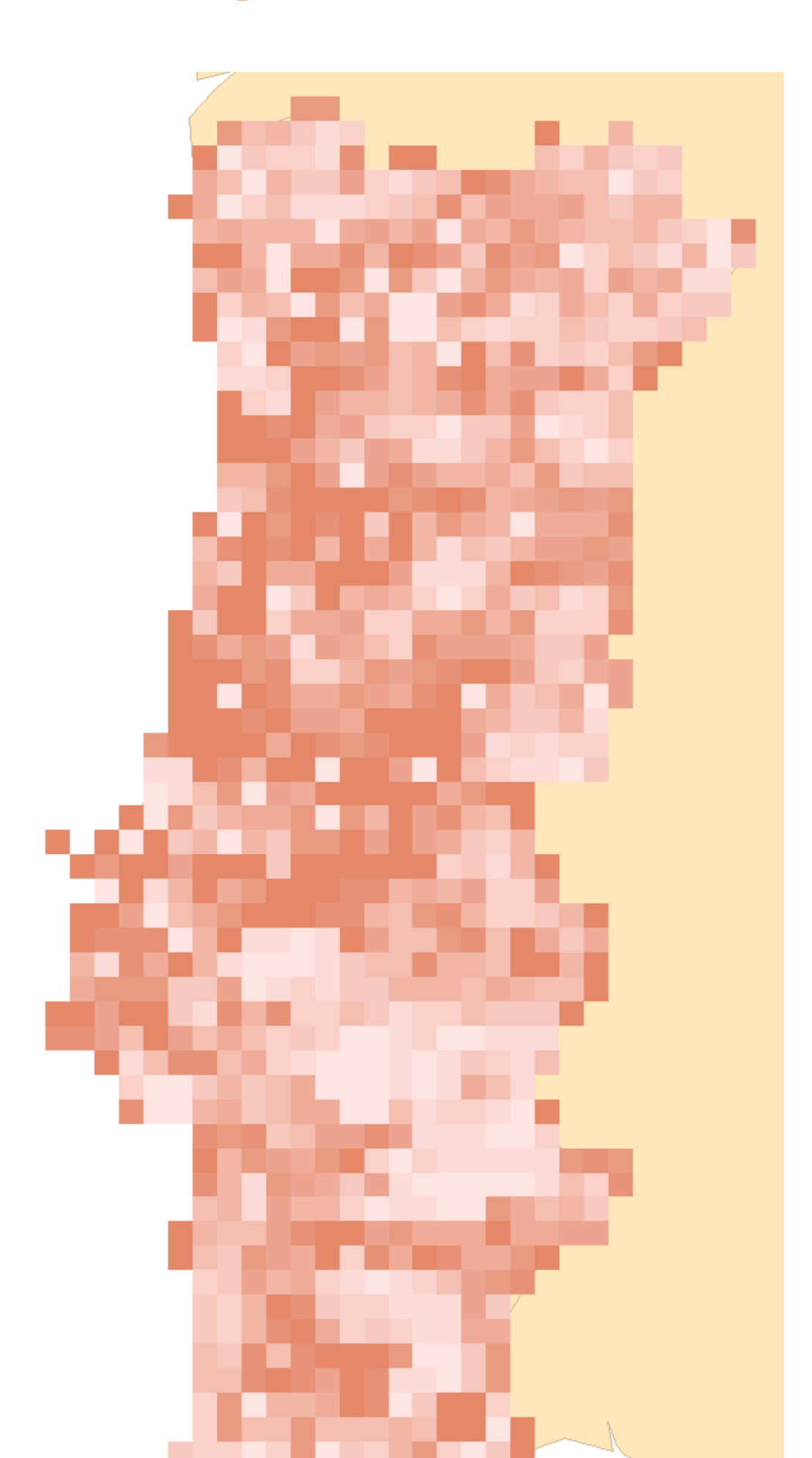
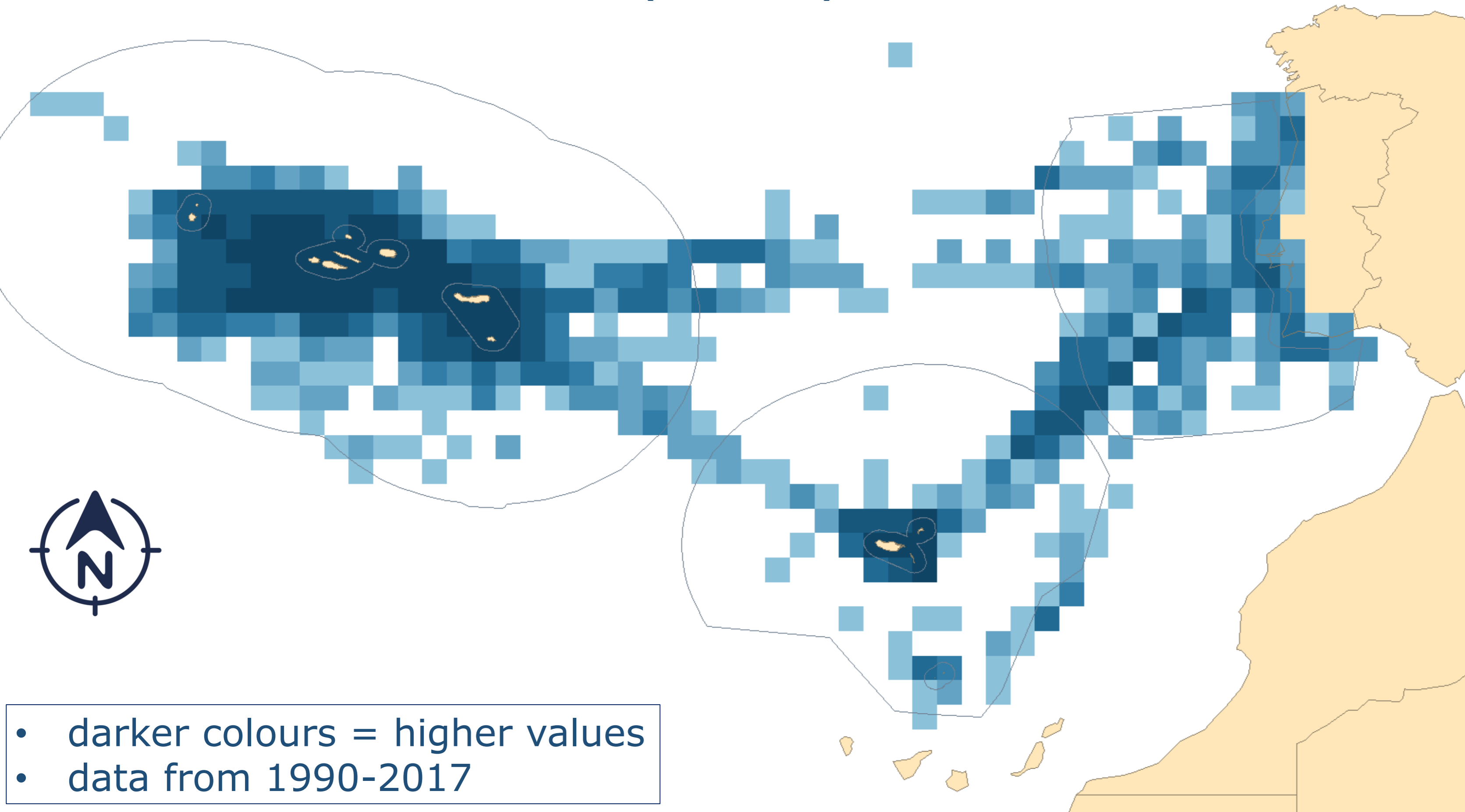
67 species (except bats)
46 terrestrial
21 marine
(a relatively high diversity for a small country like Portugal)
+ some sporadic, uncertain or extinct

This is the **most detailed atlas** of Portuguese mammal distributions to date, and among the few in Europe including marine mammals. Species are individually mapped on **10x10 km²** cells for land and coastal waters, and on **half degree** cells for oceanic waters.

Species richness (marine)

Species richness (terrestrial)

Ignorance



Preliminary analysis of **recorded species richness** reflects the **broad spatial coverage** of the atlas, with species occurrences recorded on **all terrestrial cells** and on **most marine cells** of our (very large) exclusive economic zone. Quantitatively, **survey bias** is still apparent, with higher species richness generally found in better surveyed areas.

Maps of ignorance (Ruete, 2015*) highlight the most scarcely surveyed areas, which are now **prioritized** in the collection of further occurrence records. * Biodiversity Data Journal, 3(3):e5361

We aim to include our data in the next edition of the **European mammal atlas**, and use it for **regional-global species assessments**, and for **biogeographic analyses**. Further collection of records is ongoing for the **2nd edition** – **contributions welcome!**

This work was funded by **FCT** Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia exploratory project IF/00266/2013/CP1168/CT0001. **Sincere THANKS** to everyone who contributed data or other work!

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