

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS:

PROPOSAL OF A NATIONAL MARINE PARK IN THE ISLAND OF EL HIERRO (SPAIN)

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ABSTRACT

A detail analysis of the Spanish National Parks Network shows some deficiencies in the representativeness of Spanish natural systems, specially on marine environment, according to Law 30/2014 on National Parks. The National Parks Autonomous Agency (OAPN-MAPAMA) addressed the immediate need to identify and develop a prospective study in order to obtain possible scenarios to create a Marine National Park. The Island of El Hierro, located in the extreme southwest of the Canary Archipelago, was the most suitable candidate to become the first Marine National Park in Spain. Therefore, this initiative was implemented in collaboration with Tragsa Group in 2013 -2014. A technical proposal was developed involving a public consultation for stakeholders, scientific sector and non-governmental organizations. Moreover, a public survey was conducted in order to estimate the degree of acceptance by the population. The waters around the island of El Hierro are unique in terms of their oceanographic characteristics and biodiversity.

INTRODUCTION

Documents & References

- Report on the Identification of areas compatible with the figure of National Park in Spain 2006
- Proposals made by different National and International Scientific Organisms
- 1st Report on the Situation of National Parks Network (2008): Lack of representativeness of some marine systems
- Preselection of candidate areas to be declared as Marine National Park carried out throughout 2013
- Previous proposal at "South-waters of El Hierro" - Working Group coordinated by OAPN-MAPAMA

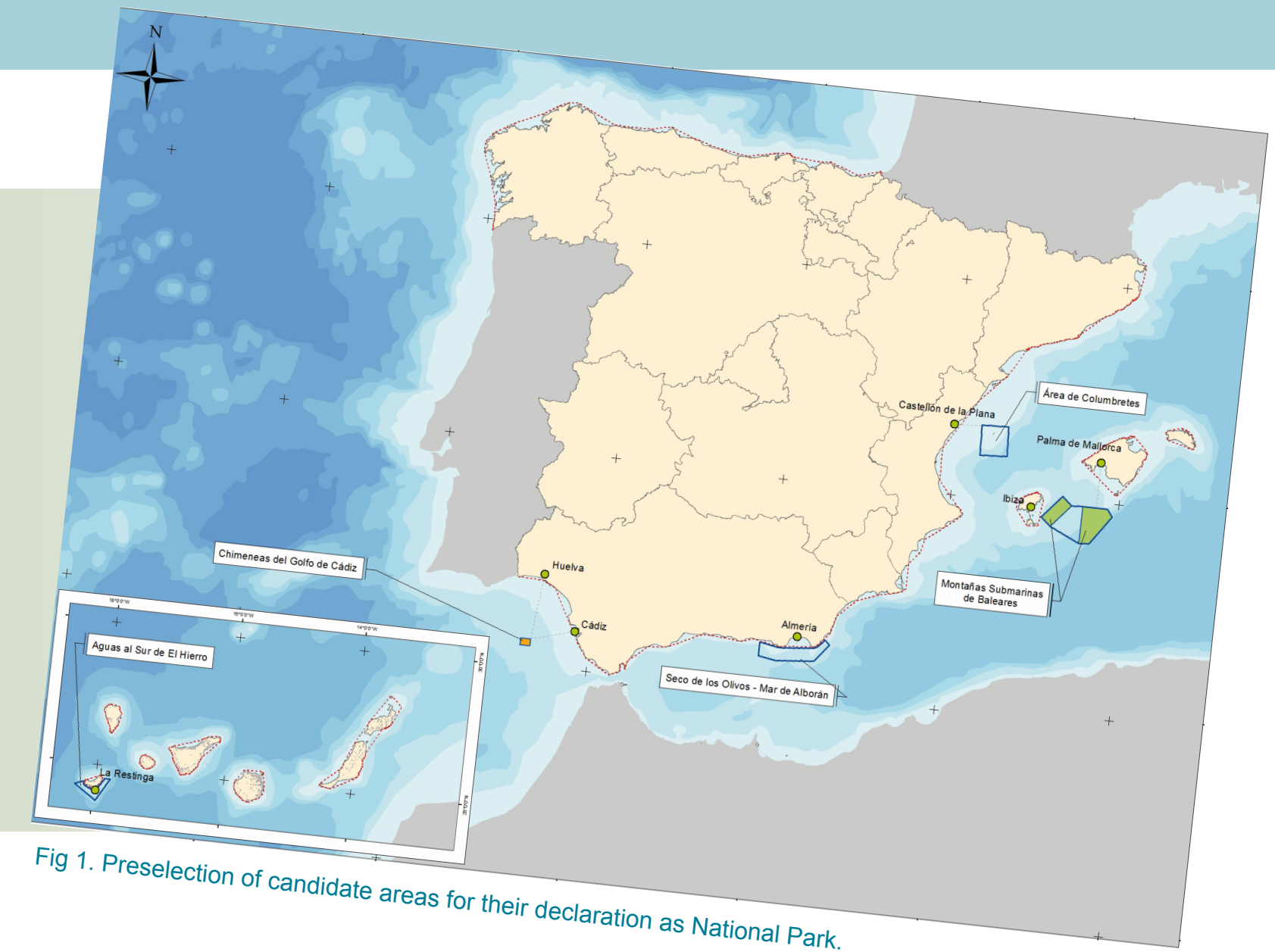


Fig 1. Preselection of candidate areas for their declaration as National Park.

MATERIAL & METHODS

DIRECTOR PLAN AND LAW 30/2014 ON NATIONAL PARKS

Spanish Government's Initiative

Initial adoption of a proposal for the declaration by the Council of Ministers

Public Information Process (3 months)

Compilation of relevant reports from the Ministerial departments

Proposal for final declaration from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment

Approval of the proposal by the Council of Ministers

Report of the Council of the National Parks Network

Elaboration, approval and referral to the Cortes, of the corresponding draft Law, by the Spanish Government

Declaration of the inclusion of the National Park within the Network

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

- Scientific and technical analysis. Ecological diagnosis of the conservation status of natural marine systems
 - Representativeness and Relevance of natural systems
 - Other natural values
 - Extension $\geq 20,000$ ha
 - Naturality: best preserved marine ecosystem in the Canarian archipelago

Socio-economic analysis

Cultural heritage "PUYÓN" AND "PETO" FISHING MÉTIERS

Evaluation of the effects of the declaration on existing uses and their compatibility with the figure of National Park

Degree of acceptance of the proposal: Workshops and Surveys

Preliminary proposal concerning the geographical delimitation of the National Park, Peripheral Protection Zone and the socio-economic influence area

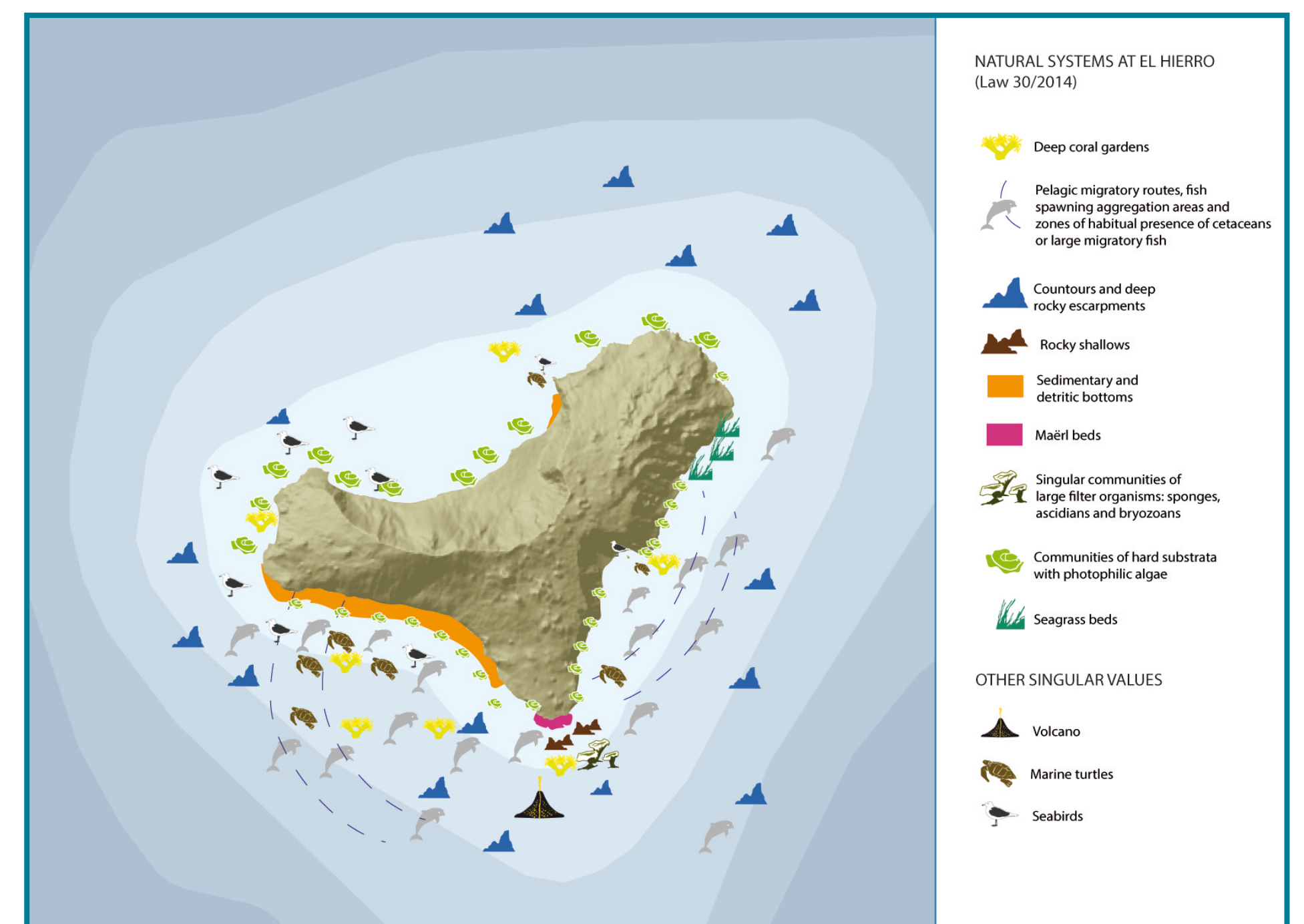


Fig 2. Marine natural systems identified at El Hierro. (Tragsatec, 2014)

PROCEDURE FOR THE DECLARATION OF THE MARINE NATIONAL PARK (Art. 8. Law 30/2014)

	Santa Cruz de Tenerife	El Hierro
Date	October 2014	October 2014
Universe	Population from Santa Cruz de Tenerife	Population from El Hierro
Informant unit	Residents of Santa Cruz de Tenerife older than 16 years	Residents of El Hierro older than 16 years
Technical research	Telephonic survey	Face-to-face survey (352 interviews) and telephonic surveys (151 interviews)
Sample design	Quotas by gender and age	Quotas by gender and age
Sample size	1.103 surveys	503 surveys
Statistical error	+/- 2,95% (p=q=0,5 and level of confidence: 95%)	+/- 4,25% (p=q=0,5 and level of confidence: 95%)

Table 1. Technical data of surveys carried out. (Tragsatec, 2014)

RESULTS

PROPOSAL AS THE FIRST MARINE NATIONAL PARK IN SPAIN

21.408,53 Ha. of National Park Area and 129.563,20 Ha. of peripheral protection zone

INCORPORATION INTO THE SPANISH NETWORK OF NATURAL SYSTEMS "NOT REPRESENTED"

- Pelagic migratory routes, fish spawning aggregation areas and zones of habitual presence of cetaceans or large migratory fish
- Deep coral gardens

BETTER REPRESENTATION OF TWO MARINE NATURAL SYSTEMS "INSUFFICIENTLY REPRESENTED"

- Contours and deep rocky escarpments
- Rocky shallows

RELEVANCE PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EXPERTS, STAKEHOLDERS AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

CONSERVATION OF RESIDENT POPULATIONS OF CETACEANS *Ziphius cavirostris* and *Mesoplodon densirostris*

PROTECTION OF A UNIQUE AND REPRESENTATIVE MARINE AREA: 350 taxons of fauna: invertebrates and tunicates (151), fish (136), marine mammals (30), birds (28) and turtles (5); and 41 taxons of flora: algae (39) and phanerogams (2)

OBJECTIVES

- To increase the representativeness of the Spanish National Parks Network
- To protect the habitats, biodiversity and ecological processes of El Hierro marine waters
- To consolidate, regulate and eventually strengthen economic activities compatible with the figure of protection
- To promote educational activities for the dissemination of natural values
- To support scientific research
- To contribute to the socio-economic progress of the island of El Hierro
- To significantly increase the percentage of territorial waters protected

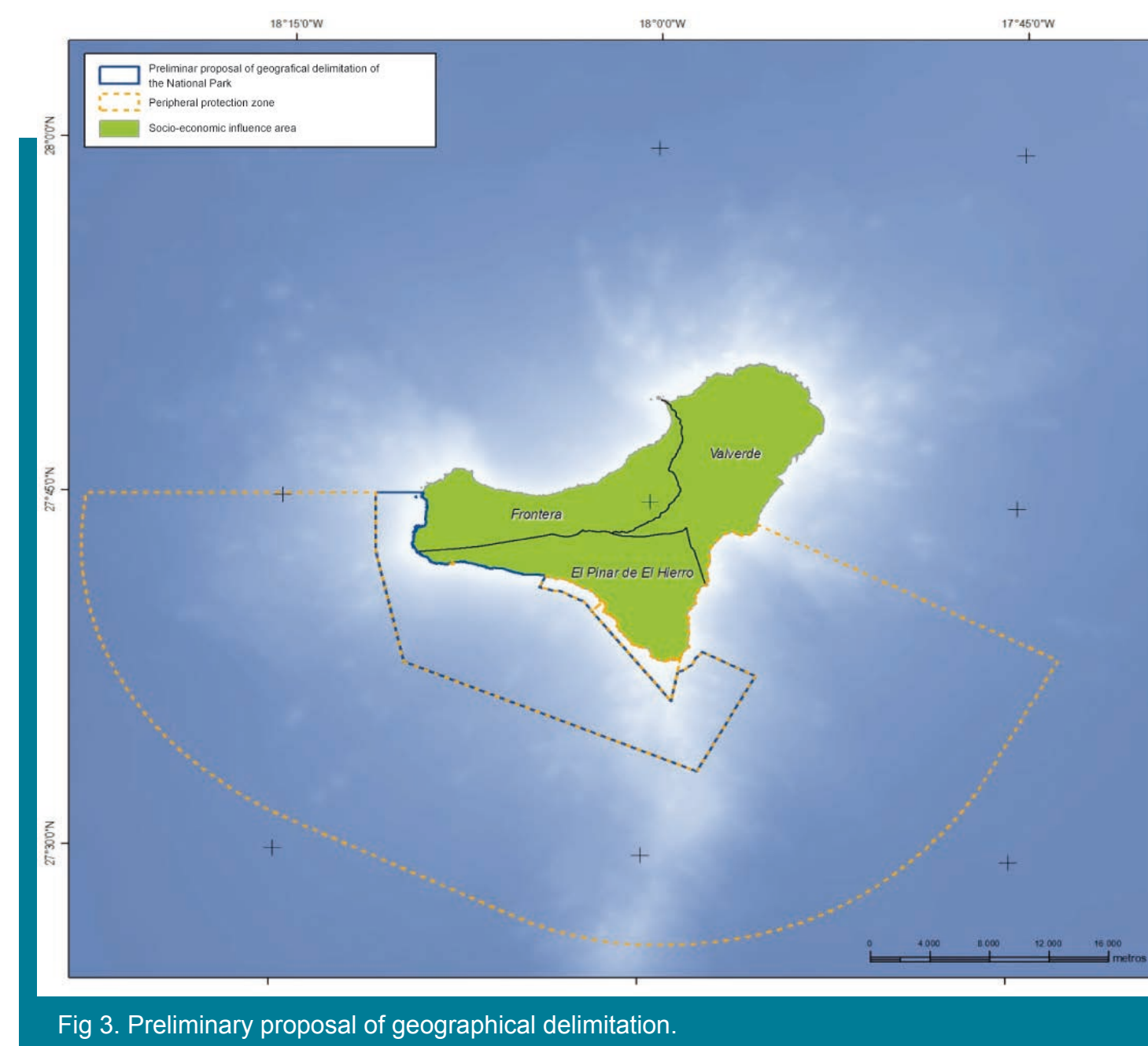


Fig 3. Preliminary proposal of geographical delimitation.

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