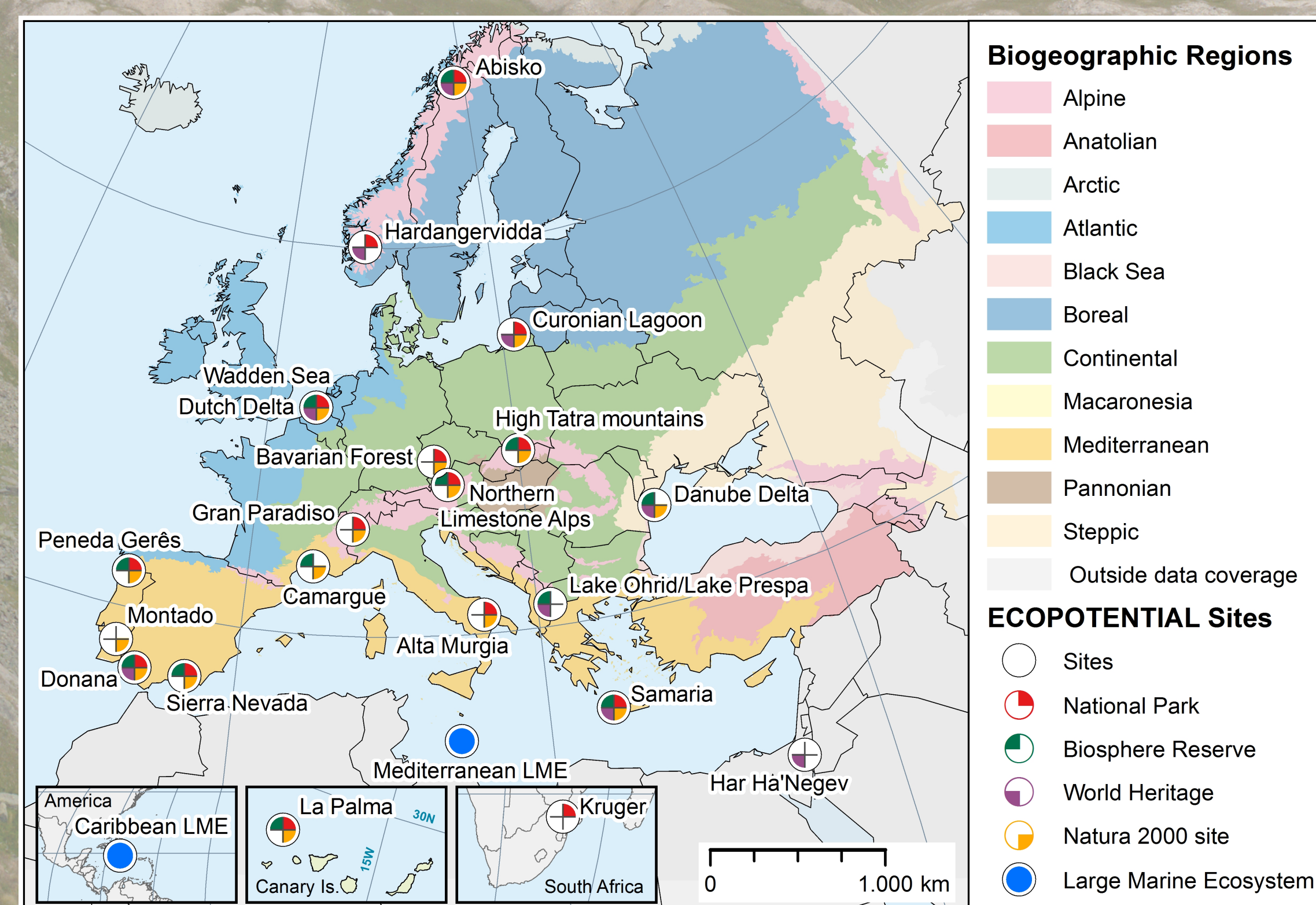


H2020 Project ECOPOTENTIAL (2015-2019): Improving future ecosystem benefits through Earth Observations

Terrestrial and marine ecosystems provide essential goods and services to human societies. In the last decades, however, anthropogenic pressure caused serious threat to ecosystem integrity, functions and processes, potentially leading the loss of crucial ecosystem services.

Knowledge-based conservation and management policies are urgently needed to improve ecosystem benefits in face of increasing anthropogenic pressures. Fundamental to all these is effective monitoring of the state and trends in ecosystem conditions and services, **fully accounting for the wide spectrum of interactions between geosphere, ecosystems and climate.** New monitoring methodologies are now available that combine approaches in geo- and bioscience, remote sensing observations, and field data. Best use should be made of existing and incoming Earth Observation (EO) and *in situ* monitoring complemented by appropriate interpretation tools and data services and ecosystem models able to incorporate these data.

The ECOPOTENTIAL project focus its activities and pilot actions on a targeted set of **internationally recognised protected areas in Europe, European Territories and beyond**, including mountain, arid and semi-arid, and coastal and marine ecosystems, blending Earth Observations from remote sensing and field measurements, data analysis and modelling.



The ECOPOTENTIAL project addresses **cross-scale geosphere-biosphere interactions** and landscape-ecosystem dynamics at regional to continental scales, using geostatistical methods and the emerging approaches in Macrosystem Ecology and Earth Critical Zone studies, addressing long-term and large-scale environmental and ecological challenges.

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