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**azores  
volcanic caves**

**cavidades vulcânicas  
dos **açores****

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## working group

Due to its geologic and biological richness and the peculiarities of the volcanic caves of this region, the Regional Government of the Azores, since 1998, has fomented the formation of a Working Group, which is in charge of studying the volcanic caves and pits of the archipelago. This Group has been developing a database and a classification system aiming the gathering of all the information available on the volcanic caves of the Azores. It also intends to promote a more efficient management of these caves, concerning its tourist and scientific potential.

The several volcanic caves, which exist in the Azores, complement each other. All together, they provide a diversified geologic, biological and aesthetic richness that may be divulged or protected according to the specificities of each place. Besides the database and the classification system, the Group's goal is to work on several proposals concerning prevention measures and specific legislation for the volcanic caves of the Azores that are in need of protection or that are subdued to higher vulnerabilities.