



Iceland
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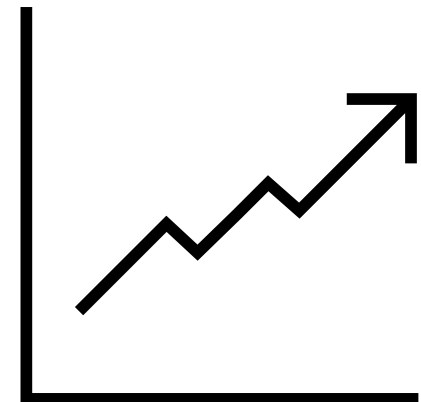
Program “+ SOIL + LIFE”

**Adaptation and mitigation of climate change
and fight against desertification in the
Guadiana Valley Natural Park (PNVG)**



Programme Goals

- ▶ Increasing resilience and responsiveness to climate change in specific areas
- ▶ Strengthening local climate change adaptation

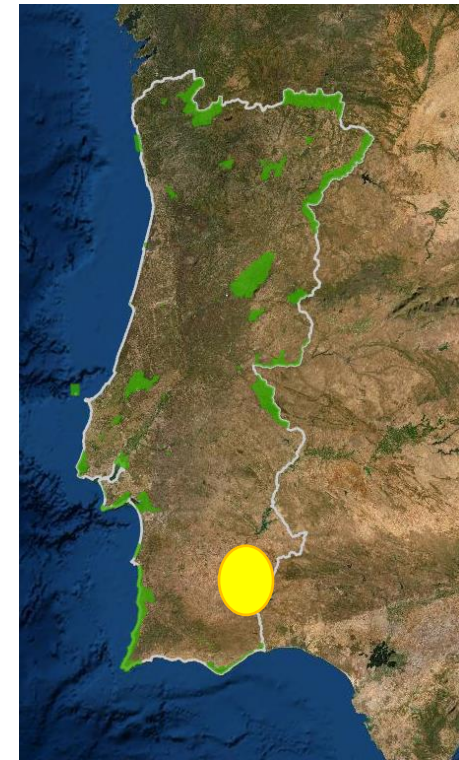




Background



Guadiana Valley Natural Park

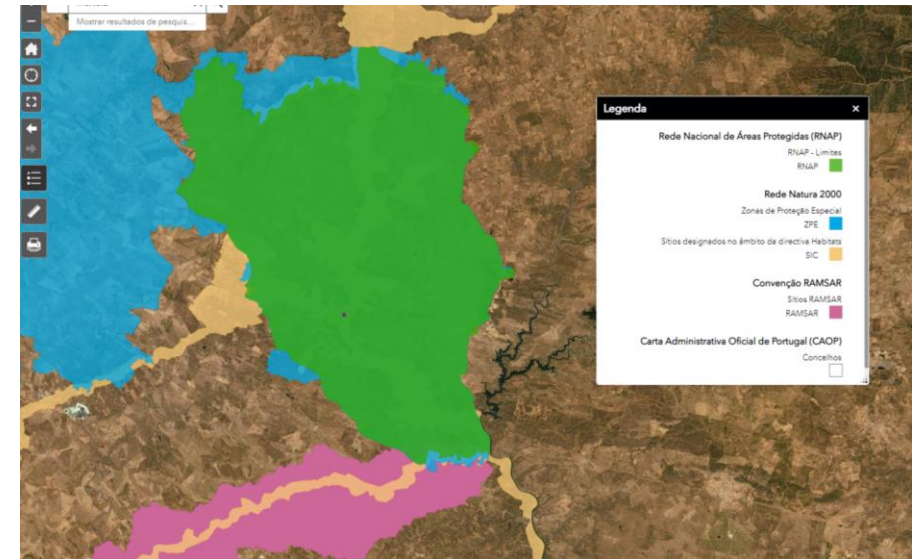


[georUBUS \(icnf.pt\)](http://georUBUS.icnf.pt)

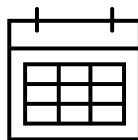


Background

- The PNVG is a natural classified area (PTZPE0047, PTCO0036 and RAMSAR site Ribeira do Vascão) currently affected by desertification, regarding which urgent action is needed to establish sustainable mechanisms for the effective control of land degradation.
- This requires an effective transformation of soil management practices, mainly on the part of livestock farmers managing agroforestry systems and extensive pastures in the PNVG.
- Thus, there is the need to develop and implement local mechanisms to combat desertification at the level of agricultural explorations and increase resilience to climate change, through articulation with stakeholders, scientific knowledge application and consideration of the territory's particular reality.



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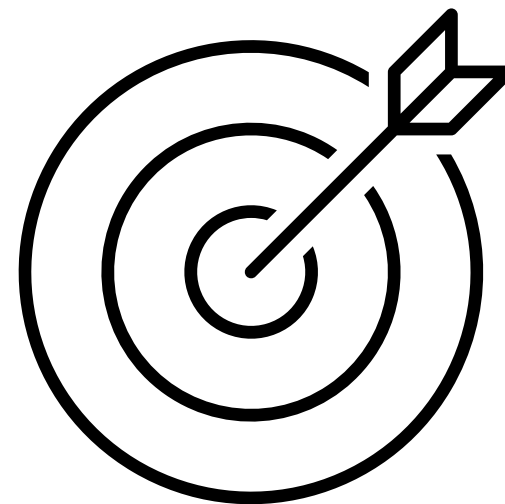
July 2022



December 2023




General Objective

To strengthen the resilience of Montados to climate change through the design, implementation and evaluation of a territorial program, based on cooperation and sharing mechanisms, for combating desertification at farm level.





Specific Objectives

-  To build the capacity of local actors, and in particular farmers, to adopt good silvicultural and agricultural practices.
-  To diagnose the main barriers to the adoption of good practices and develop a replicable governance model, based on participation and cooperation mechanisms, for boosting resilience and adaptation to desertification and climate change in the territory.
-  To strengthen the resilience and responsiveness to climate change of Guadiana Valley Natural Park's actors through the implementation of 10 good silvicultural and agricultural practices, with high replication potential, in 94 ha within the Park.

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▶ **Project
Promotor**



▶ **Donor Country
Partner**



▶ **Partners
in Portugal**





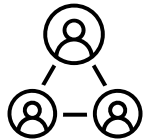
Partners

- **ADPM**, one of the entities that participated in the foundation of PNVG and that has solid experience in local promotion of climate change adaptation, will be responsible for managing the participative development of the governance model and for the application of the selected good practices in Monte do Vento's demonstrative farm.
- **Cooperativa Agrícola do Guadiana**, the local entity responsible for supporting farmers in PNVG, will contribute for the project's technical dimension and will act as interlocutor and representative of the local agricultural sector throughout the governance model's development process.
- **NBI**, a consulting firm specialized in developing alternatives for a Natural-Based Economy, will be responsible for Ecosystem Services' assessment and valuation in the project's implementation areas, also participating in monitoring the on the ground application of the selected good agricultural practices.

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- **University of Algarve**, academia representative and recognized reference entity in the subject of desertification, will be involved in assessing the costs and benefits of the application of good agricultural practices and in the different stages of the governance model's development.
- **IDN**, an entity with extensive experience in facilitating knowledge exchange, will contribute towards the development of the governance model through the study of climate change adaptation solutions for the agricultural sector adopted in other geographies, besides participating in the discussion of public policy recommendations based on the project results.



GOVERNANCE

Activities

- Diagnosis of the local agricultural sector to identify obstacles and opportunities for the adoption of good agricultural practices
- Study of agricultural governance models/solutions adopted in other geographies to promote the adoption of agricultural practices supporting climate change adaptation at farm level
- Participatory definition of a local governance model to promote and support the application of agricultural practices for soil degradation control and soil restoration
- Initial testing, consensus-building and dissemination of the model through dissemination and debate initiatives and the production of information materials



KNOWLEDGE

Activities

- Capitalization, systematization and dissemination of information on agricultural practices for climate change adaptation to support their application by farmers
- Capacity building and demonstration of good practices with practical demonstration in the field



RESTORATION

- Application of 10 measures/good agricultural practices, on 94 ha, contributing towards the reduction of erosion, of loss of soil's organic carbon and biodiversity degradation, and towards the increase in vegetation cover, agricultural productivity and the abundance of key species.

The good practices to be implemented will focus on the following habitats: 92D0 - Southern riparian galleries and thickets, 4030 - European dry heaths and 6220* - Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals (Thero-Brachypodietea).



Measure 1
Improving the Mediterranean Mosaic
Selective logging and
Stripe clearance



Measure 6
**Retention and conservation of water in
the landscape**
Improvement of water quality in storage
systems, Improvement of riparian habitats



Measure 2
Promotion of natural regeneration
Protecting regeneration from herbivory,
through the installation of protectors



**Measure 7 - Control erosion and
increase infiltration**
Implementation of green structures, Planting on
contour lines, Planting tree and shrub vegetation,
Planting annual crops without soil tillage



Measure 3
Functional biodiversity
Installation of hedges and plant structures to
increase auxiliary species and pollinators



Measure 8
Restoration of water lines
Conservation and restoration of riparian
galleries (habitat 92d0)



Measure 4
Permanent pasture
Conservation, installation (direct seeding) and
improvement (soil corrections) of pastures



Measure 9
Soil improvement
Installation of cover crops or soil
improvement crops



Measure 5
Adaptive grazing management
Implementation of grazing plans



Measure 10
Circular economy and carbon farming
Production of compost from forest and
agricultural waste materials



EVALUATION

Activities

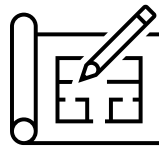
- Assessment and calculation of the costs and benefits of the application of the selected good agricultural practices
- Ecosystem Services' evaluation and valuation in the project's intervention areas for assessing the ecological and economic impact associated with the application of good agricultural practices
- Evaluation and discussion of public policies through the organization of workshop to discuss the project's results and producing public policy recommendations



Main Results

1 diagnosis of the local agricultural sector, with identification of barriers/opportunities for the adoption of good agricultural practices

1 governance model, defined in a participatory process, to boost efforts to halt desertification and promote adaptation to climate change at farm level



Implementation of 10 agricultural practices/measures of great relevance for combating erosion and increasing biodiversity

n° of hectares intervened: 94



Farmers with greater capacity to adopt good silvopastoral practices and easier access to technical information adapted to the reality of their territory

n° of information materials produced: 10

n° of training actions organized: 5



Collection of economic and environmental data to assess the impact and feasibility of implementing good practices and producing recommendations to support their adoption

n° crop accounts carried out: 10

n° protocols and matrices for Ecosystem Services' valuation developed: 1 + 1

n° of workshops on public policy recommendations: 1



Contacts:
ambiente@adpm.pt

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Iceland 
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

Program Operator:



Promotor:



Partners:

