

The Portuguese Forest

The age of the Portuguese Forest

We can say that the Portuguese Forest is quite recente, since in 1870, the total forest area was around 4 to 7%.

Today, this area represents 35,4% of the continental territory.



Why this growth?

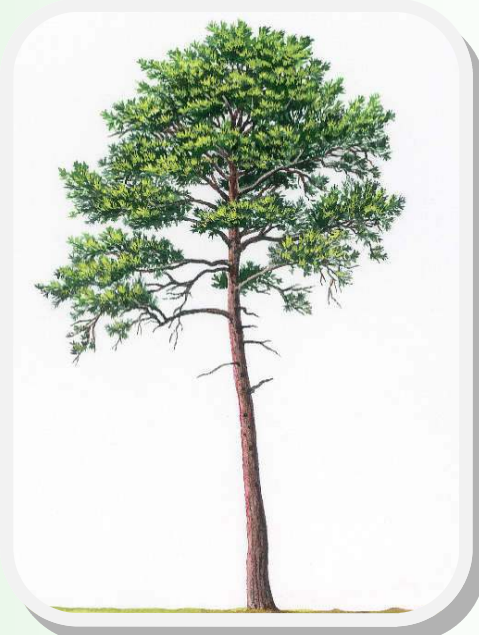
The reason for this growth on the forest area is due to the migration of the rural population to the cities. With that migration, the soils were abandoned and, slowly the forest was taking over the soils.

Some of the tree species in Portugal

Cork Oak
(*Quercus suber*)



Maritime Pine
(*Pinus pinaster*)



Sweet Chestnut
(*Castanea sativa*)



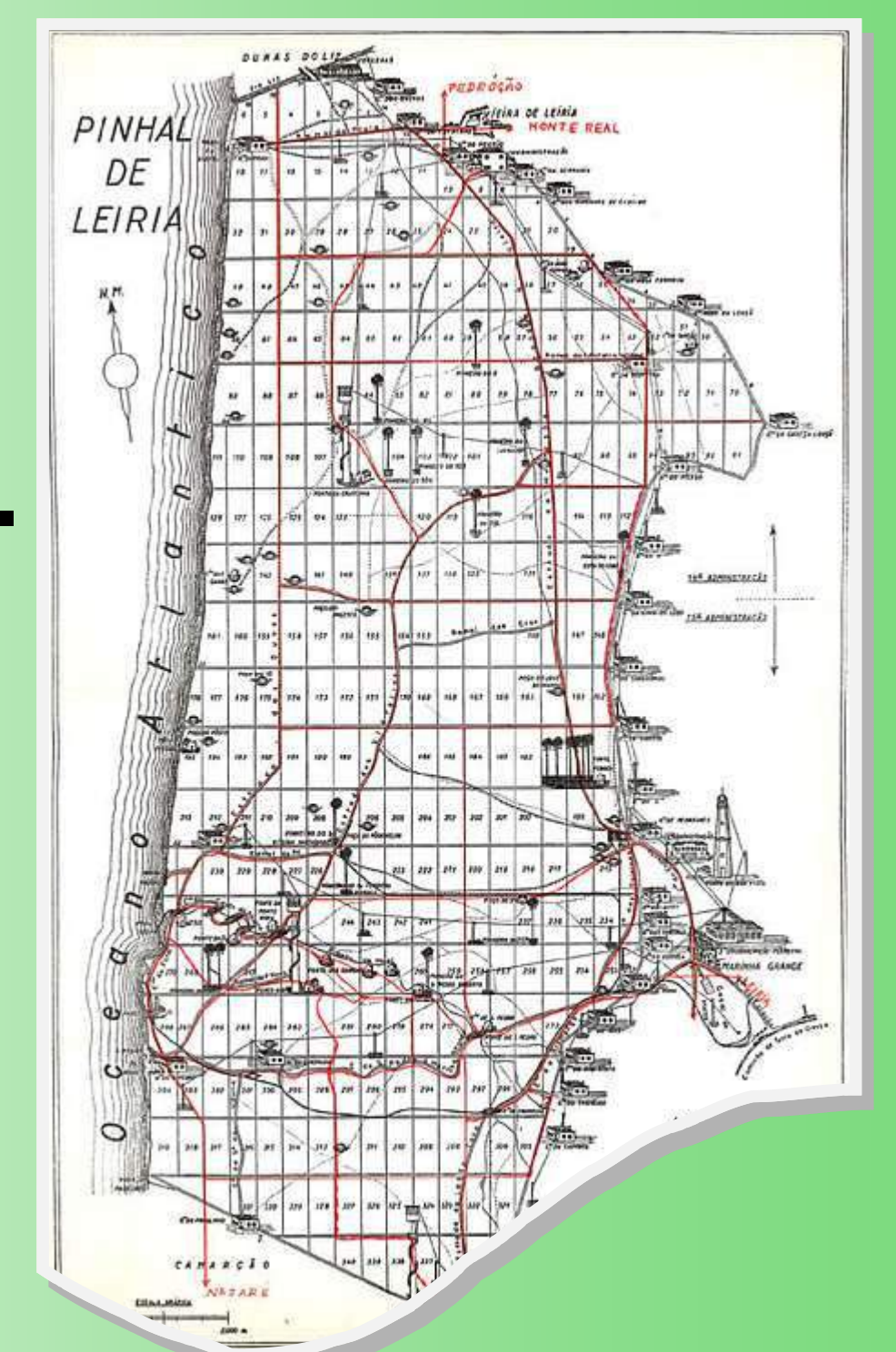
Holm Oak
(*Quercus rotundifolia*)



A little of History

By the end of the 18th century, the King D. Dinis, concerned about the erosion of the coastline, decided to make a huge and successful operation to preserve the coastline—the plantation of the well known “Pinhal de Leiria”.

Today, it makes part of the Natura 2000 network, with its characteristic maritime pines.



But the Portuguese Forest, like other forests is not only about the trees, we also have some exceptional fauna.

Migratory and freshwater fishes
(*squalius torgalensis*)



Amphibians
(*Discoglossus galganoi*)



Reptiles
(*Chalcides bedriagai*)



Birds
(*Columba trocaz*)



Mammals
(*Lynx pardinus*)

