We want more native wrests!

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In Portugal more than a million acres of forest is made up of forests consisting of trees of native species typical of Mediterranean areas. The native forests play an important environmental and ecological function, in the conservation of water, soil and biodiversity. It produces a good kind of organic matter and provides a good evolution of the soil and water conservation as important in Mediterranean environments as in much of our territory.

Fig.15 Map corresponding diversity to 1139

species of plants, vertebrates and invertebrates

n continental Portugal (left). Diversity patterns

between species not represented in protected

areas system (right). The colors reflect diversity gradients.

Portuguese forest composition

Portuguese forests are very diverse. The composition and their geographical distribution are determined by the gradient of water abundance/drought. As one goes from the more rainy North, to the drier south, or from coastline to inland, trees are more resistant to drought successively.

The main species are: Eucalyptus (an invasive specie), Maritime pine, Cork oak, Holm oak, Stone pine, Oak and Sweet chestnut.

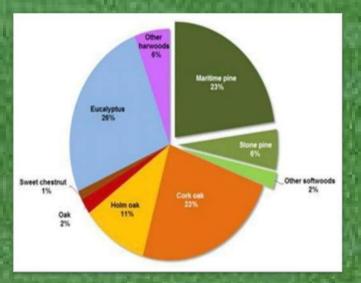


Fig.1 Distribution of total areas by species/species group Source: YPEF Portugal

For what does the native Portuguese forest serves for?

Economic activities:

√The economic value of Portuguese forests is big, counting with the production of wood, cork, fruits and seeds, resin, honey, mushrooms, herbs and allows pastures, river fishing, hunting, coastline, water protection regime, biodiversity, carbon storage and biomass for energy;

✓ An estimation pointed to the value of 1.3 billion euros as the actual overall economic output of forest on the continent;

✓ All this economic activities only occur when there is a biodiversity balance of native species due to its conservation role of maintaining the fertility of the countryside, the biological balance of the landscape and diversity of genetic resources.

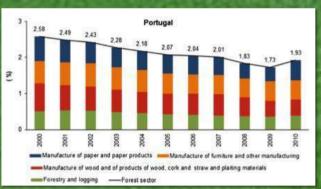


Fig.7 The Portuguese Forest Based Chains: Sector Analyses

<u>Wood</u> - Most of the wood is taken from plantations , and a significant portion of this wood is exported. In plantations for timber production, the Maritime Pine (*Pinus pinaster*) is the most used specie.

<u>Cork</u> - Is the bark of the cork oak. Result in raw materials for insulation, flooring and products for areas as diverse as construction, fashion, design, health, energy production or the aerospace industry.

<u>Pastures</u> - In the animal production systems the main objective is the provision of food and other products.

River fishing - A wide variety of fish can be found in the rivers and lakes. Some of the species of fish in catchment areas are trout, carp, barbel, tench, and bream.

<u>Hunt</u> – The hunting zones account for about half of the surface of our forest territory (4,246,111 acres), this area which is subject to hunting land and the rational management of resources.

<u>Resin</u> - In Portugal , the resin is extracted mainly from pine. Being a native species of pine in Portugal, estimating that the pine forest area that can be resinous is about 90,000 acres , and being the resin price 1 €/kg , we can conclude that the native forests of pine are important to the economic value , yielding an estimated 6.2 million euros a year .



Fig.14 Source: INE Statistical Yearbook of Portugal - 2011 | INE - Agricultural Statistics



Fig.13 Resin





Fig.3 Maritime pines







Fig.6 Acorns, products of oaks







Fig. 10 Sheep pasture





Fig.12 Hunt

Biodiversity of Portuguese native forest

Biodiversity can be translated by the different species of living beings that exist in various habitats. Thus, the greater the number of species in a particular location higher the

The native forest has its own importance immediately regardless of utility that may have for the man. It is important from an environmental point of view and biodiversity

The native forest has, in summary form, the following functions and features:

- climate mitigation;
- atmospheric carbon storage;
- conservation of water and soil; biodiversity conservation;
- preservation and improvement of the landscape;
- prevention of forest fires;
- preservation of historical and cultural values;
- promotion of recreational and tourism activities; production of non-wood goods (berries, medicinal and aromatic plants, mushrooms,
- honey, grazing, hunting);
- production of wood goods (wood, cork).





- Introduction of exotic species and diseases;
- Overexploitation of species of plants and animals;

The main processes responsible for biodiversity loss are:

- Use of hybrid and monocultures in agribusiness and reforestation programs; Contamination of soil, water and atmosphere by pollutants;
- Climate Changes.

Economic, social and environmental benefits of increased native forest

The native forest provides various woody and non-woody products and services that contribute directly to the economy of rural areas and the country. There are several products derived from forest exploitation. It is also important in promoting tourism and recreational and leisure activities linked with nature (ecotourism). Many areas of our territory are included in protected areas that have a major role in the conservation and promotion of indigenous forest where nature tourism has a strategic role for the economic and social development of the population residing in it.



Fig.18 Forests and other formations in Portugal



Sources