

# the portuguese forest

a floresta portuguesa

## WHAT IS A FOREST?

### Forest Cover:

- 35% of the territory;
- In the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the area of forest was between 4 to 7%.

### Diversity of the Portuguese Forests:

- In the North we have a temperate climate and mountain area;
- In the south we have plains and a Mediterranean climate with lack of water.

### Riparian forests

#### Laurissilva forests

#### Fauna:

- Iberian lynx;
- Cabrera's vole;
- Goldcrest Trocaz Pigeon;
- Iberian painted frog;
- Portuguesa pardelha.

### Nature Protection: 22% of the continental territory is under protection:

- Natura 2000 network;
- National Network of Protected Areas.

### Forest Organization - Ownership:

- 84% - Private;
- 2% - State;
- 14% - Community.

## FOREST FUNCTIONS

### Economic function:

- 113 thousand direct jobs which represent 3% of the active population;
- 2.5% of the GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT;
- 10% of exportations;
- The economic value of Portuguese forests: 994 million euros.

### Main products:

- **WOOD** is used for carpentry, furniture, decoration, joinery and firewood. Maritime pine, oak and chestnut.
- **PAPER PULP** from eucalyptus. Other uses for **eucalyptus**:

. Civil construction and furniture;

. Treatment of colds and bronchitis.

### - CORK BARK has multiple purposes:

. Corks, construction sector, and car or shoe industry, space industry.

### - BIOMASS - ENERGY;

### - FRUITS AND SEEDS: pinions, sweet chestnut, acorn;

### - OTHER PRODUCTS: resin extraction, mushrooms, aromatic plants and honey production.

### Ecological function - Forests play an important role in:

- Soil protection;
- Control of water quality;
- Climate regulation;
- Reduction of the greenhouse effect Forest;
- Habitat of endangered species;
- The maintenance of biodiversity.

### Social function - Escape from the agitation of urban life:

- Sports;
- Tourism;
- Picnics;
- Life outdoors;
- Contact with nature;
- Beautiful landscapes.

## DANGERS

### Pests and diseases

### Forest Fires:

- Increase of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere;
- Destruction many plants;
- Destruction of the habitat of many animals, birds and insect species;
- Degradation of the soil and consequent desertification.

### Over-exploitation of forest resources is the result of the absence of a sustainable forest management.

### Agriculture and pasture - the clearing of land for agriculture and the need for pastures is still responsible for the destruction of forests every day.

### Pollution

### Forestry Organization - makes it difficult to adopt Sustainable Management Policies.

## SOLUTIONS

### Forms of Nature Protection: about 22% of the national territory is covered:

- Natura Network 2000 – with about 15% of the territory
- National Network of Protected Areas – with 7,8% of the territory

### Forest Conservation

- Maintaining a clean forest

### Private owners' associations

- Small areas are difficult to manage.
- Some of the services provided by these associations are:
- Advising and technical support
- Implementation of public programs
- Educational programs, such as Young People in European Forests

### References:

[http://www.ypef.eu/ypef\\_eu/files/YPEF\\_Educational\\_material\\_2015.pdf](http://www.ypef.eu/ypef_eu/files/YPEF_Educational_material_2015.pdf)

<http://www.aspea.org/FlorestaAutoctone2011.pdf>

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Young People in  
European Forests



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