

the portuguese forest

a floresta portuguesa

WHAT IS A FOREST?

Forest Cover:

- 35% of the territory;
- In the end of the 19th 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 7,6% 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/ypet_eu/files/YPEF_Educational_material_2015.pdf
- <http://www.aspea.org/FlorestaAutoctone2011.pdf>
- <http://www.florestacomum.org/floresta-autoctone/historia-da-floresta-portuguesa/>



Young People in
European Forests



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