

The Forest Perimeter of Ovar Dunes

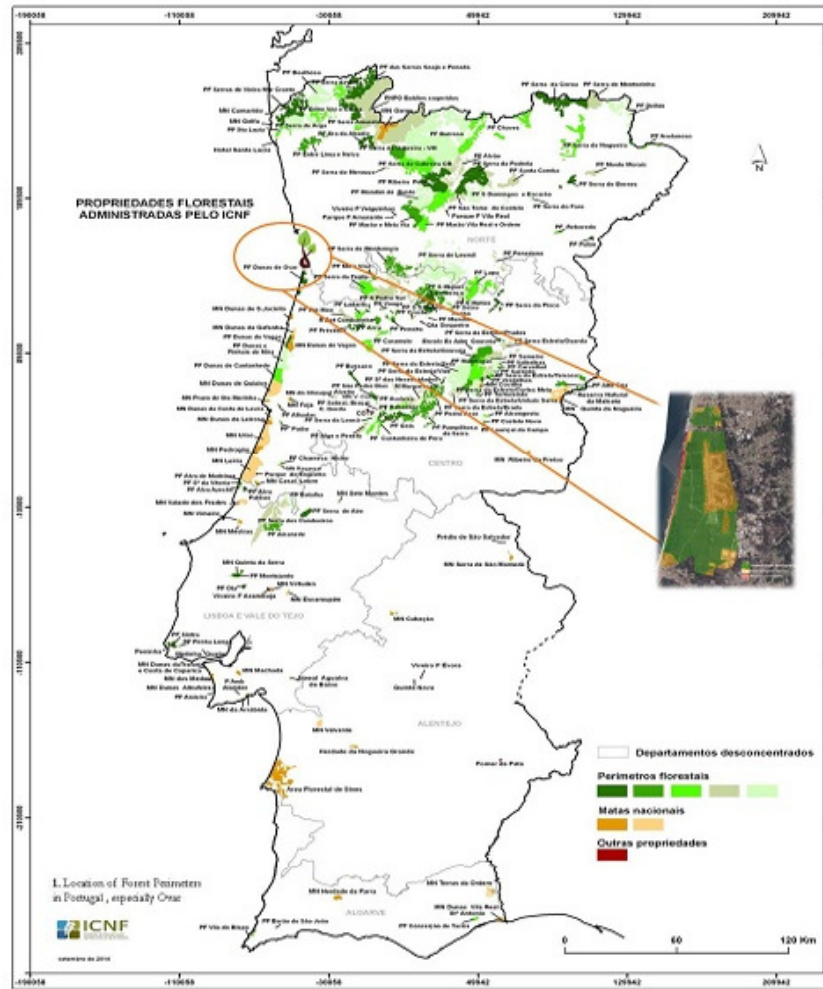
An example in Portugal

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Environmental services



- The current Forest Perimeter of Ovar Dunes is a massive pine tree forest, interrupted only by firebreaks, pathways that allow the fight against forest fires.
- This forest area was created with the main purpose of settling the sand dunes preventing their migration into the inland of territory and salinization of land soils and aquifers.
- The dunes are the only natural barrier against the advance of the sea, this section of the Portuguese coast has been felt in a great way.
- Nowadays it is an area with high risk of coastal erosion.
- This forest area functions also as an authentic lung for the municipality of Ovar which provides O₂ and captures CO₂, thus contributing for the reduction of the carbon footprint and consequently reducing the greenhouse effect.



- The sowing the Forest Perimeter of Ovar Dunes was made in 1933.
- The main objective of this was to settle the sand and prevent its advance into the inland of Ovar, with the consequent destruction of agricultural fields close to the coast.
- It consists largely of *Pinus pinaster*, but we also find the presence of some invasive species such as acacias and mimosa.
- During the spring and the summer the yellow colours of gorse and mimosa and the pink and purple of the heath stand out.
- During the rest of the year, the shrub species dominate rosemary, crowberry among others.
- The fauna consists of the squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*), fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), badger (*Meles meles*), genet (*Genetta genetta*), various species of birds as *Bubo bubo*, amphibians as *Pleurodeles perreti* and reptiles as *Malpison monepisciolanus*.

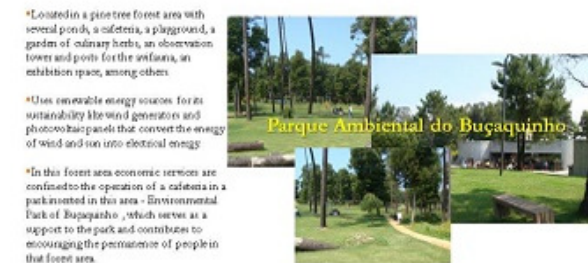
Social services



- A footpath of small distance that has its start near the house of the Forest Guard and which leads into the Forest Perimeter of the Ovar dunes.
- This route lets you enjoy a typical landscape of an Atlantic forest, filled with green carpets of mosses and lichens clustered on the ground and rough tree trunks.
- On carrying on with the route, multiple species of mushrooms are noticeable, whose picking is part of the social and cultural traditions of Ovar.



- Part of the network for sustainable mobility of the municipality of Ovar.
- Is intended for pedestrians and bicycles, connecting the Esmoniz and Puraadouro beaches along a beautiful forest area.



- Located in a pine tree forest area with several ponds, a cafeteria, a playground, a garden of culinary herbs, an observation tower and pots for the visitors, an exhibition space, among others.
- Uses renewable energy sources for its sustainability like wind generators and photovoltaic panels that convert the energy of wind and sun into electrical energy.
- In this forest area economic services are confined to the operation of a cafeteria in a parkmented in this area - Environmental Park of Buçaquinho, which serves as a support to the park and contributes to encourage the permanence of people in that forest area.

References:

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