

Current situation in Vale de Cambra

- > **Total area** - 148.5 Km² > **Altitude** - 200 to 1000 m
- > **Forest area** - 8763 ha (1995) > **Agricultural area** - 32.1%



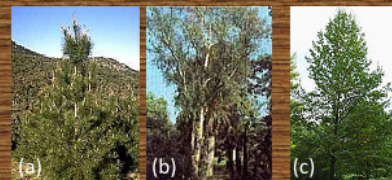
Vale de Cambra landscape and Caima river

The predominant rocks are granite and shale that allows different landscapes, carved by clima and rivers – eg: Caima, Vigues, Arões.

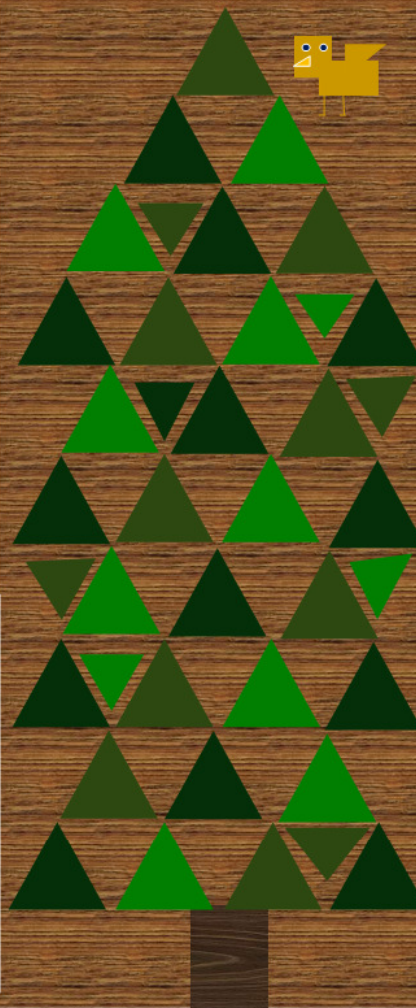
In Vale de Cambra, the main trees are Maritime pine (a) - *Pinus pinaster* - 44% , Eucalyptus (b) - *Eucaliptus globulus* - 14%, used for logging, and several species of Oaks (such as English oak (c) - *Quercus robur*. In higher granite regions, there are no trees. Other abundant flora species are heather - *Erica* - and gorce – *Ulex*. Foxes, boares, wolves, hedgehogs, lizzards and snakes are examples of wild fauna that share mountains and valleys with cattle, people and industry.

The most fertile lands are in the valley, near the water lines. The alluvial zones are surrounded by clay shale and sand.

[1]



Main trees in Vale de Cambra forests



Soil erosion impacts

- Productivity loss
- Floods
- Hidric rressources decrease and water quality reduction
- Biodiversity decrease

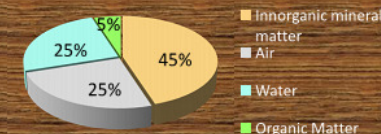


[4]

Positive effects of forests

- **Soil protection**
 - Decrease of water drops impact by treetops
 - Soil fixation by the roots
 - Increase of water infiltration and decrease of water spilling
- **Soil formation**
 - Providing organic material (húmus and organisms)
 - Characteristics improvement (structure, porosity...)

Soil Composition



The effect of roots on soil fixation [1]

Erosion Agents in Vale de Cambra



Mountain relief



2016 fires

- Topography
- Deforestation by fires and logging
- Overgrazing
- All-terrain-vehicles
- Tillage
- Lack of proper surface drainage
- Nature of the soil ; soil moisture
- Waterways
- Rainfall

[2]

Protective measures

- Forest protection
- Indigenous plantation
- Decrease of spilling
- Terraces
- Waterproofing tar
- Fertilizers and pesticides control



Indigenous plantation by associations



Terraces

[3]

Referencias

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