

Portugal Forests Situation

Portugal has more than 1/3 of territory covered by forests and woods. This is one of the largest and most important natural resources in the country.

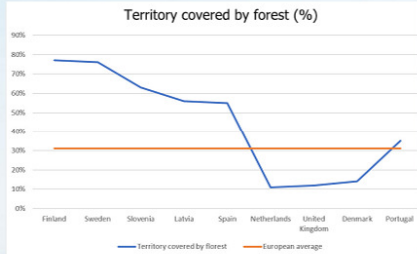


Figure 1 - Percentage of territory covered by forest

Erosion

First of all... What is erosion? Erosion is any and all wear of the soil and rocks in which there is the transport of small debris from one place to another.



Figure 3 - Erosion's example

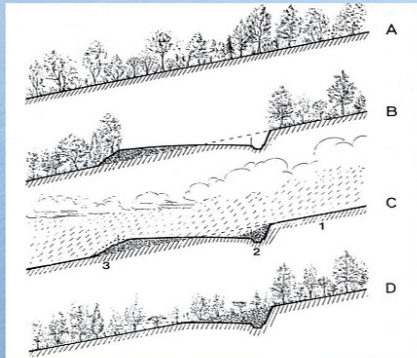


Figure 2 - Simplified representation of slope developments close to roads and forest paths

- A - Initial situation of the slope before opening the road;
- B - Shed profile after the road construction;
- C - Evolution of the profile of the slope caused by rainwater, after all vegetation had been removed.
 - 1 - Erosion and transport of material upstream of the road.
 - 2 - Deposition of this material on the road.
 - 3 - Erosion at the side of the road.
- D - Preview for which the slope would evolve if the man did not intervene.

Different types of erosion:

→ Water erosion

Water erosion is the removal of the surface soil by rainwater. This action is accelerated when the water drops hit the soil without vegetation.

→ Wind erosion

Wind erosion is related to the force that the wind exerts on particles of a specific dimension. When these are not aggregated by organic matter, roots or clay, they can be easily eroded.

The plantation of trees will prevent the accelerated erosion in the following years. The reforestation is extremely important in a lot of different ways, since the production of oxygen to the prevention of erosion.

The dislocation of school students to mountains and deforested areas where they will plant trees and see the effects of erosion in that places.

If we want to stop erosion let's teach students how to prevent it. We must show them in person how forests are important for our planet.

School represents a very important role in this action, because while students may be 20% of our population, they are 100% of our future!

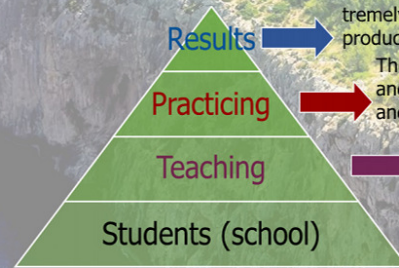


Figure 4 - Forests organizations: URZE, Baldios das Cortes do Meio and CAULE

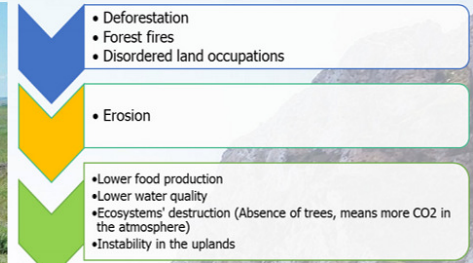


Figure 5 - Causes and results of erosion



Figure 6 - Consequences of erosion

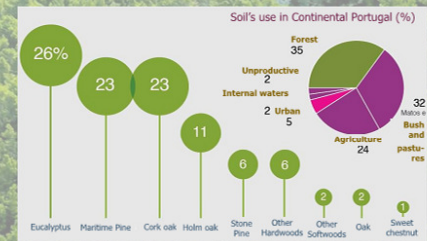


Figure 7 - Distribution of total areas by species group.



Figure 8 - Forests' benefits

References

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