



Quinta do Pisão

NATURE PARK

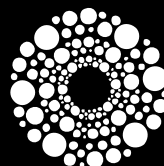
A landscape-scale conservation project
that links wildlife and people



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**European Week
Brussels 9-12 October 2017**

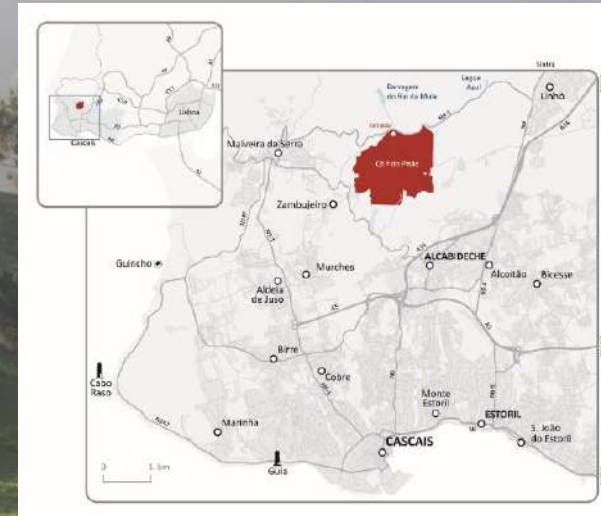
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Where and Why

- Cascais is a coastal town in Portugal, **30 kilometers west of Lisbon**, **one third of the surface** is covered by the **National Park of Sintra-Cascais**, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Landscape.
- **Quinta do Pisão** is part of the Natural Park, which belongs to the **Natura 2000 network**.
- The project aims are to **redevelopment an abandoned agricultural and forest land** into a **large nature park** offering walking and cycling paths, as well as a range of events based on sustainable tourism.



Campaniças breed sheep's promoting domestic biodiversity

What and When

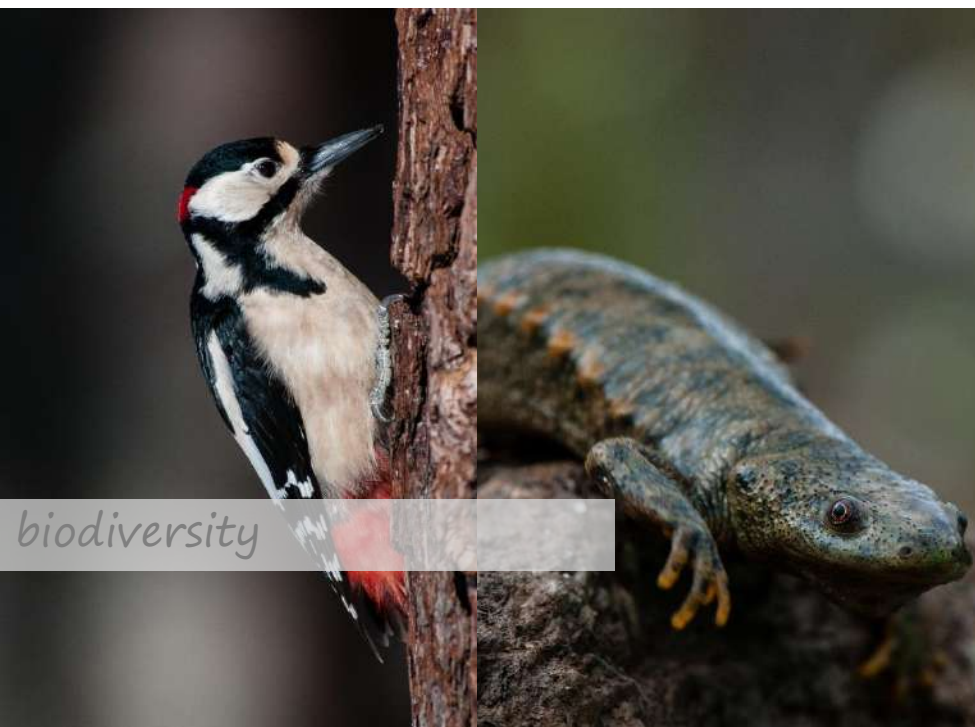
- A **landscape scale conservation project** started in 2008 , with a **380 ha** intervention area.
- Main **objective** is to preserve the **Natura 2000 habitat's**, the **landscape mosaic** and the cultural and historical **heritage**.
- Also to **revert the abandon process**, reactivate the farm as a “**living landscape**” and to promote the **transition from urban to natural areas**.
- The park has been **opened to public since 2011**, allowing visitors to walk, cycle, horse riding, to participate in nature workshops and educational programs.



working in the fields (50's)

Biodiversity

- Following the intervention, 124 species by 11 orders have been identified, including **three threatened butterflies** (*Nymphalis polychloros*, *Polyommatus bellargus* and *Zerynthia rumina*) and **one in danger of extinction** (*Tomares ballus*), suggesting an **increase in biodiversity and improvement in managing the site**.
- The **main conservation actions** include: controlling invasive species, conversion of forest patches, requalification of riparian galleries and conservation actions for target species.
- Since 2008 the park has been **supported by over 1,750 volunteers** - who have aided with vigilance against forest fires, control of invasive plants, seed collection and maintenance of walking routes.



The Farm

- The farm has a lavender field with 1 ha for oil production, produces and sells organic vegetables (1,5 ha), visitors are invited to “pick their own crop”. Sheep’s and donkeys, all autochthone species, were introduced to manage the 55 ha of pastures, maintained the landscape mosaic and preserve domestic biodiversity.
- Partnerships were made with local beekeepers to produce honey, and with a social partner to produce jams from the vegetable garden production. All goods are sold in the farm shop promoting the sustainable development, local and seasonal food.



Landscape mosaic

Health and Social Benefits

- Of the more than 30 000 people who visited the park in 2016, it is expected that many **local people benefited** in terms of **more opportunities for physical recreation and organized activities**.
- **Social benefits** of the improved park are an **increase awareness, interaction and contact with nature** and an increase subjective safety when people are in the park.
- Visitors can pick and purchase home grown seasonal organic produce in the park's farm, with the aim to **encourage people to eat more healthily** and to **raise their awareness on the value of local and seasonal food**.



engaging the community

Social and Educational Opportunities'

- The park **promotes green jobs** for unemployed local people, 55 workers were involved and organized into forest and farming brigades, who support the park management.
- **Educational programs** organized in the park promote **social inclusion** as they are **available to everyone** (and often offered for free). A **nature workshop program** promotes activities like bird watching, mushroom and wild plant identification, donkey trails and many other activities, involving more than **1 600 participants** in 2016.



Historical and Cultural Heritage

- **Heritage sites were restored** such as the Porto Covo chapel (16th century), as well as some stables, wells and watermills and water canals.
- A warehouse was recovered and converted in the **Visitor Interpretation Center**.
- **Interpretation sings** in the park, provide visitors with **information on the existing natural and cultural heritage**, guided tours are also available.



Visitor's experience

- Currently the park receives **5 000 visitors per month**.
- A survey was made with 273 inquiries, were 20,5% of the visitors **comes to the park two times a week** and 14% on daily bases.
- The main purpose of the visitors is, the **contact with nature** (76,9%), to **enjoy the landscape** (86.4%) and to **relax in their free times** (71,1%) .
- This landscape reactivation allows **local communities to gain access to the countryside** and to be **linked with nature**.
- Due to the creation of the interpretation center, walking and cycle paths, the **park provides visitors with a new resource for recreation, education and a heightened well-being**.





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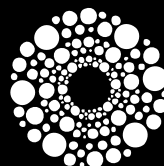


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