Visitors in a natural space: Yes, but not that much!
Arouca, September 7th, 2017

Parque Florestal de Monsanto
Lisboa - Portugal
Nature Tourism in Germany
• 81% of Germans have an emotional connection with nature and their region
• 76% try to spend as much time in nature as possible
Source: Naturbewusstsein 2013
• 72% are interested to spend their holidays in spectacular landscapes and 71% want to spend their holidays in nature
Source: Destination Brand 2013
• For 54% of German tourists and 38% of international guests is the landscape and nature the most important decision criterion for spending the holiday in Germany
Source: DZT 2012

Oh Oh How I wish you were here!
When you deal with the management of a protected area, the main problem is not to manage the forest itself but to deal with its common users.
... if we had these cultural context in our users things would be VERY different...
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Around
70 direct workers
100 indirect workers for the Park
250 other indirect workers

100 users / day of the events
organized by the PFM
300 users / day of other events
Special events:
More than 15.000 users / day
More and more visitants

More visitants = more people voting

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More visitants = Bigger and bigger number! Even the non-user votants are persuaded to vote because of the “good” policies implemented.
So we MUST attract more and more visitants...
We need to compete with other attractions...

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Let us be wise...

To whom is the Park for?
Who are the real users of the park?

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Ecological role
Ecological role

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Indirectly: all the inhabitants, the visitors from the city and not. It has a evident impact on the quality of life and of the environment that benefits everybody.
And the visitors...
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The risk of Fire:
The “rules” oblige to keep the forest clean of bushes...
Studies to be made:

- Lasting of the ecological desequilibria generated by very impacting events...
- Establishment of the carrying capacity numbers, maximum intensity (noise and light) of impact on ecosystems and time of recoverance... (homeostasis)
- Impacts Hyerarchy:
  - Big musical events (concerts)
  - Big sportive events
  - Constant Events (sportive events, learning events (visits), etc...)
- Maintenance and Cleaning Actions
- Planning of the detail: .... rewilding
Relation between the density of Ornythofauna and the exhisting undercover (Margarida Franco):
We can conclude by this study, that the selection of the habitat of the invernant species in Monsanto, is more connected with the structural variables of the forest cover than to its floral composition

(Margarida Franco)
So:
• We must implement management policies which can be certified (FSC)

• To promote visits with QUALITY, lowering the figures and especially lowering their impact on the territory and improving the efficiency of the Environmental Education Process...

• Not allow the visits which are very impactant both by the type of users, by the kind of use / support infra-structure, both by intensity and duration of the impact

• To promote the correct public information about the positive impact on direct users, and how it is important not to allow the incorrect uses.
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Oh Oh How I wish you were here!
Thank you!

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