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## Landscape identification and Characterization The Portuguese Experience: From the national to the local level

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### The National Level



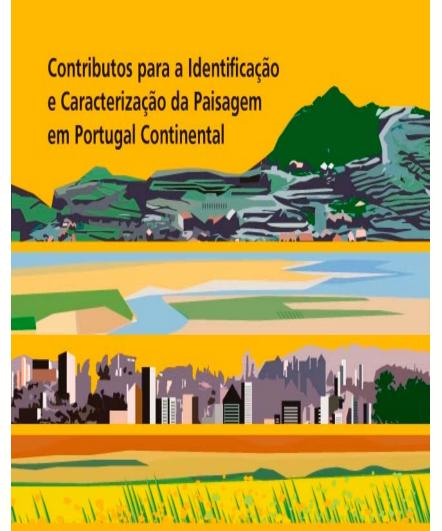




At the request of the then Directorate General for Spatial Planning and Urban Development, the University of Évora undertook, between 1999 and 2002, a study of the Portuguese landscape in order to identify landscape values and to identify and characterise the various landscape units in mainland Portugal to provide support for decision-making in spatial planning at the different levels

The study had to:

- Consider the landscape character of the different areas
- do an assessment of the problems, trends, potentialities
- consider the existing legal and planning instruments applicable to the different areas
- propose guidelines for landscape management

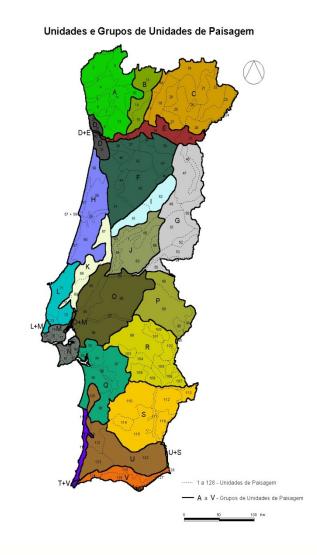




The study identified **128 units**, organized in **22 large regional groups**, according to the occurrence of similar characterisitics

The identified landscape units

- are areas with relative homogeneous characteristics, a specific pattern that may be repeated inside the area and that differentiates it from the surroundings
- Have a certain internal coherence and a specific character identified from inside and from outside (the character and the connection of landscape to the local and regional identity were primary issues in the study)





#### Main data about each unit

- Geographical location
- Urban centres
- Municipality concerned
- ➤ Total area
- Landcsape character of the area
- Specific elements such as views, singular elements, other relevant information for understanding the landscape character
- > Analisys of planning, of threats and potentialities
- Management guidelines (based on expert assessment of landscape quality: identity, coherence or sustainability of uses, biological richness, rarity, sensorial impressions)
- Specific cartography
- Photos (representative of the landscape pattern and character)





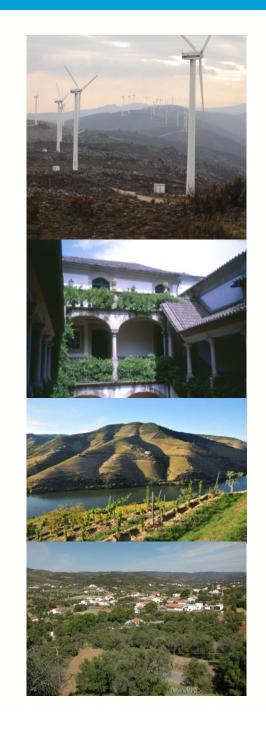








## The Regional Level

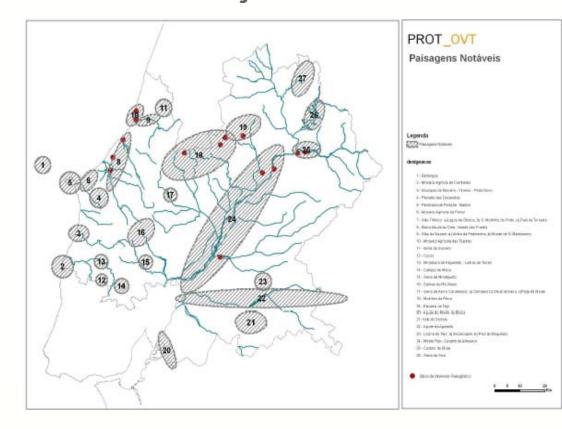


The Regional Spatial Development Plans (PROT) and Landscape

PROT	Guidelines related to landscape (main examples)
PROT NORTE	Actions to be implemented in the Douro Wineyards area and in the Coa Valley Enhancement of urban landscape – strategic guidelines
PROT CENTRO	Specific rules for the "Environmental Protection and Enhancement System" to be applied in the different landscape units; Rules for each territorial unit
PROT - OVT	Specific landscape guidelines to be implemented by the Municipal Master Plans
PROT AML	Specific guidelines for the topic "Sustainability and coherence with nature", focusing on landscape and environmental quality of living spaces
PROT ALENTEJO	Landscape is part of guidelines and implementation rules for different sectors (environmental system, turism development poles, urban system)
PROT ALGARVE	States the importance of landscape units for territorial organization and structuring; Landscape guidelines for each sector



Identification and characterization of landscapes in the Regional Spatial Development Plan (PROT) Oeste e Vale do Tejo







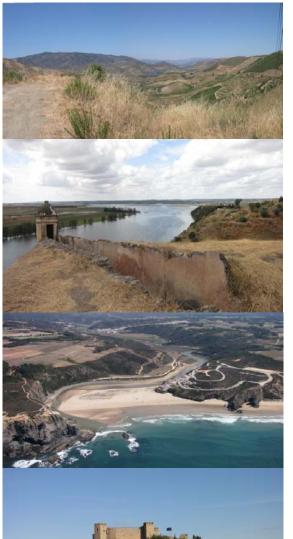








## The Local Level





# LANDSCAPE IN THE REVISON OF THE MUNICIPAL MASTER PLANS (PDM)

#### Goals

- Awareness-raising of local authorities, experts and technical staff to their role and responsibility in landscape management and planning as a tool for promoting the quality of life and the sustainable development of their territories
- Make available conceptual, methodological and technical guidelines for an integrated approach to landscape issues in relation with spatial development and planning



#### A paisagem na revisão dos PDM

Orientações para a implementação da Convenção Europeia da Paisagem no âmbito municipal

DE OTDU Direcção-Garal do Ordenamento do Território e Desenvolvimento Urbano



#### Phases in which the landscape study gives an important contribution for the revision and implementation of the PDM

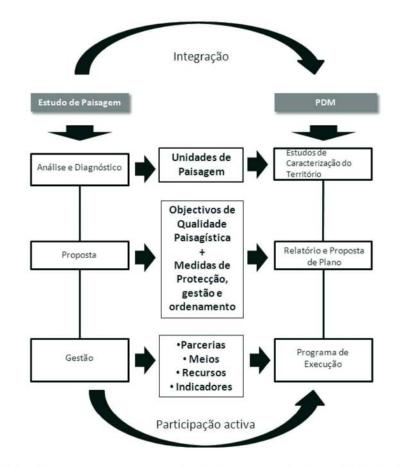


Figura 6 - Os diferentes momentos em que o Estudo de paisagem pode dar contributos significativos para a revisão e implementação do PDM.



Definition of landscape quality objectives (OQP) in the framework of the landscape study, based on a vision/ambition for the landscape, in a certain timeframework, in order to define landscape protection, management and planning to be introduced in the PDM rules

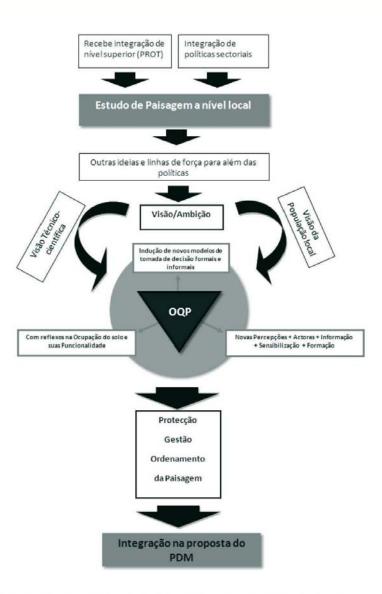




Figura 8 - Definição de Objectivos de Qualidade Paisagística no âmbito do Estudo de paisagem, partindo de uma visão/ambição para a paisagem num dado horizonte temporal, com vista à definição de acções de Protecção, Gestão e Ordenamento da paisagem, e sua integração no PDM





# The Local Level 2 examples



#### ÓBIDOS

Scale of work: 1/25 000

11 landscape units whose character was defined based on:

- > Natural components :
  - Geology
  - Relief
  - Water network
  - Soil
  - Biodiversity
- > Cultural components :
  - Historic framwework
  - Human settlements
  - Rural cadastre
  - Land use



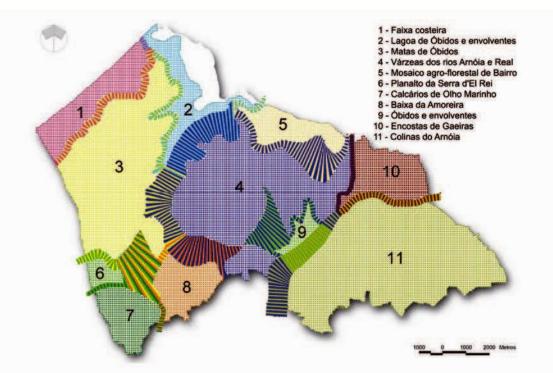


Figura 10 - Unidades de Paisagem e respectivas áreas de transição (a tracejado) do concelho de Óbidos

#### ÓBIDOS (cont.)

- Landscape identity elements
- Multifunctionality of the landscape (present and potential)
- Interviews
- Field work
- Existing plans

Result:

Definition of trends and guidelines for the management and planning of the municipality's landscape



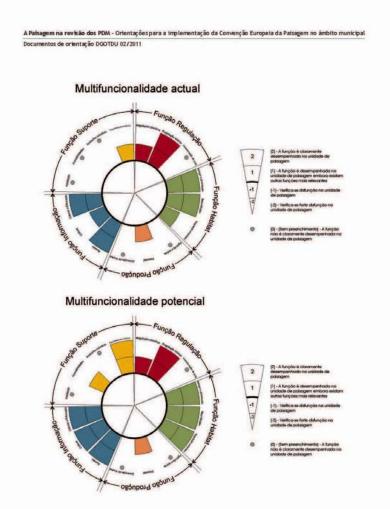


Figura 11 - Representação esquemática da multifuncionalidade actual e potencial da paisagem (UP2 - Lagoa de Óbidos)

#### LOURES

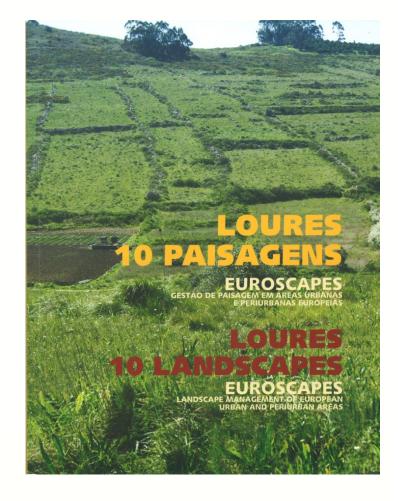
Study done in the framework of the INTERREG Project EUROSCAPES

Area of study: the rural part of the municipality

10 landscape areas defined

5 phases:

- 1. Diagnosis and identification of priority landscape
- 2. Characterization of the landscape of each area
- Meetings with local people in 6 parishes (430 persons)
- 4. Strategic document definition of actions and operational structures





#### LOURES (cont.)

#### Considered:

- main landscape typology
- waterways and encased valleys
- geomorphological values
- ➢ agricultural areas
- wineyards and pastures
- > areas of agricultural abandonment
- ➢ forests
- areas with high biodiversity
- rural settlements
- cultural and archeological heritage







**Questionnaires** were given to the population to check sociological aspects (sociodemographic characterization; social roles in rural life; practices and roles in agricultural activity; identity and local way of life)

A Landscape Management Strategy was produced that will be part of the PDM rules





