
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
Landscape Award of the Council of Europe
LANDSCAPE OF THE
PICO ISLAND VINEYARD CULTURE
th session | 2018 - 2019
GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL
AZOREAN GOVERNMENT

\ DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVENTION PROJECT

1. General framework

This document provides a description of the project "Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture", within the context of the nomination for the 6th edition of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe for 2018-2019.

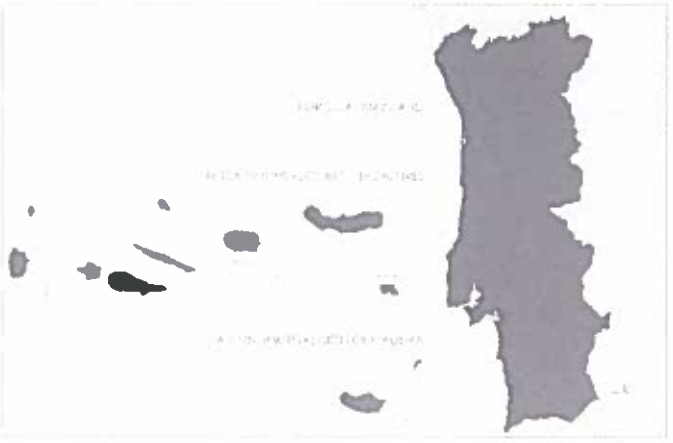
The Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is promoted under the European Landscape Convention with the aim of promoting landscape protection, management and planning and fostering closer European cooperation in this domain.

This award also aims to highlight territorial approaches that promote landscape quality and increase civic awareness of the cultural value of landscapes and the role of the various stakeholders in their transformation.

2. Profile of the territory

2.1. Geographical and administrative context

The Azores archipelago is located in the middle of the North Atlantic Ocean and is composed of 9 volcanic islands and a number of small islets which rise up from a vast, shallow submarine area – the Azores platform – and extend along a 615 km axis in a WNW-ESE direction, across the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and at a distance of 1,937 km from the European continent.



Geographical context

The islands form 3 geographic groups (western, central and eastern) with a total surface area of 2,322 km^2, representing 2.5% of Portuguese territory (92,225 km^2).

The Azores is an Autonomous Region of the Portuguese Republic, with political and administrative autonomy and its own governing bodies. The local administrative structure comprises 19 municipalities and 156 civil parishes.

Pico Island emerged from a WNW-ESE tectonic fracture known as the Faial-Pico fracture, which runs 350 km from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge to an area south of Hirondelle Basin.

Pico is the southernmost island in the central group and the second largest in the archipelago as a whole, with a surface area of 444.8 km², representing 19.1% of the regional territory. In administrative terms, Pico Island is divided into 3 municipalities and 19 civil parishes.

2.2. Biophysical factors

The Azores islands emerged from the ocean as a result of volcanic activity which began 36 million years ago in connection with the geotectonic complexity of the Azores platform. Santa Maria was the first island to emerge around 6 million years ago, and the last subaerial eruption to add land mass to the Azores was Capelinhos Volcano, on the island of

Faial, between September 1957 and October 1958.

In this volcanic and geological context, the islands display significant vertical features, with a mountainous interior, a hilly, uneven relief and few flat areas along the slopes which descend into the sea.

The meteorological conditions in the Azores archipelago are largely dictated by the geographic location of the islands in terms of global atmospheric and ocean circulation and by the influence of the body of water from which they emerge, depending on the evolution, orientation and movement of the Azores high.

In general, the Azores are characterised by a temperate maritime climate, with a narrow temperature range, high rainfall, relative humidity and persistent winds. Precipitation occurs regularly throughout the year, intensifying from E to W and increasing significantly at altitude. Average temperatures range from 13.6ºC to 22ºC.

From a biogeographic perspective, the Azores belong to the region of Macaronesia, where the climatic, geographic and geological conditions allow for a wide variety of biotopes, ecosystems and landscapes, which give rise to a large number of habitats and high biodiversity.

Fauna, predominantly arthropods, represents around 73% of the terrestrial endemic species in the Azores. There is only one endemic mammal: the Azores noctule (*Nyctalus azoreum*). In terms of flora, 73 endemic vascular plants have been recorded, with the Azorina (*Azorina vidalii*) being the only genus endemic to the Azores.

Pico Island is the youngest island in the archipelago, beginning to form around 300,000 years ago. The island features three volcanic complexes: the Topo-Lajes Volcanic Complex, the São Roque-Piedade Volcanic Complex and the Montanha Volcanic Complex. The most recent eruptions occurred in 1718 and 1720.

The Montanha Volcanic Complex is the most recent and occupies the western part of the island, dominated by a stratovolcano rising to an altitude of 2,351 m which represents the highest point in Portugal and the third largest volcano in the Atlantic Ocean, reaching a height of 3,500 m from the sea bed.

The flora and fauna of Pico includes the endemic species identified for the Azores, with the addition of a subspecies related to the sea campion (*Silene uniflora ssp cratericola*) - the "bremim da montanha"– which can only be found on Mount Pico and which only exists on the island.

2.3. Human aspects

The discovery of the Azores archipelago is attributed to Diogo Silves in 1427, and the first reconnaissance missions to the islands took place between 1431 and 1432.

The first reference to the rule of the Portuguese Crown over the Azores islands dates back to 1439, when a royal charter authorised Prince Henry the Navigator to colonise the seven islands of the archipelago (the islands in the western group had not yet been discovered at that time).

The earliest settlers made their home on the eastern islands, which were the first to be discovered.

From 1470, settlement on the islands in the eastern and central groups was consolidated.

On 31 December 2017, the population of the Azores was 244,571 inhabitants, unevenly distributed between the 9 islands and varying from 461 on Corvo to 137,828 on São Miguel. On the same date, Pico Island had 13,786 residents, with a population density of 31 people per km², far below the regional average of 105 people per km².

The colonisation of the Azores – and of Madeira – arose as an attempt to resolve the chronic cereal shortages in the kingdom, and the first agricultural experiments on the islands involved cereal production. In response to international trading channels, which influenced demand and economic cycles, and to the specific characteristics of each island, new crops were introduced such as woad, flax, orange, vines, tea, pineapple and cryptomeria.

The island's lava fields did not allow Pico to attain a relevant position in an economy dominated by cereals. Instead, the population focused on wine-growing, expanding to international markets in the 17th century. In the second

half of the 19th century, plagues of powdery mildew and phylloxera led to a decline in the island's winemaking activity.

Following World War II, livestock farming expanded rapidly across all of the islands, occupying a dominant position which continues to carry significant weight in the economy of the Azores to this day.

In recent years, tourism has played a growing role in the islands' economic base, with a focus on diversification and harnessing the potential of a region whose main asset is its unspoilt nature.

2.4. Land-use planning

Until the end of the 20th century, land-use planning policies in the Azores were rather timid and land management tools were practically non-existent.

The development of the Regional Land Management Plan for the Azores (PROTA) in 1998 pushed issues of land planning and management to the top of the political agenda in the Azores.

Currently, the archipelago is covered by a vast set of land management tools, encompassing the entire land territory and safeguarding all resources and assets in need of protection.

All 19 municipalities in the Azores have Municipal Master Plans, which are supplemented by 9 Urbanisation Plans and 13 Detailed Plans. Sixteen Special Land Management Plans are in force, which comprise: 10 Coastal Management Plans (covering the entire coastline of all nine islands; São Miguel has two of these plans), 5 Watershed Land Management Plans (3 in São Miguel, 1 in Flores and 1 in Pico) and 1 Protected Area Management Plan (for the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture).

At the sectoral level, there are 7 plans in force (Regional Water Plan, Natura 2000 Network Sectoral Plan, Strategic Waste Prevention and Management Plan, Tourism Management Plan, Land Management Plan for Extractive Activities, Flood Risk Management Plan and Hydrographic Region Management Plan). Recently, the Azores government approved the proposal for a Regional Climate Change Programme.

Currently, several of the land management tools are undergoing revision or alteration.

2.5. General description of the landscape

The power of the geography and geology of the Azores defines the nature of the landscape on the islands. Azorean landscapes are the result of millennia of volcanic activity, shaped by nature and by five centuries of human presence.

The volcanism which created the archipelago left behind a richly diverse geological heritage, in the form of volcanoes, caves and other volcanic landscapes. Some of the craters gave rise to lakes, which are not only important reservoirs of water but also striking natural landmarks.

The humanisation of the landscape in the Azores was conditioned by insularity. This geographic determinism delayed cultural and technological evolution during some periods, although it also brought cosmopolitanism in others.

The promising fertility of the volcanic soils encouraged land reclamation, which led to radical changes to the orography and vegetation cover of the islands, intensifying land use, increasing pressures on natural resources and promoting the introduction of exotic species, some of which became invasive.

Economic crises and cycles, plagues, and, more recently, improvements to infrastructure, urban expansion of the main centres and the growing role of services in the economy of the Azores have changed social, economic and cultural dynamics, causing agricultural areas to be abandoned and some islands to experience a decrease in population, with a significant impact on the landscape.

Pico Island differs from the other islands due to its extremely stony soil, its predominantly black colour and its abundant, diverse natural vegetation. The island possesses two particularly striking landmarks: the mountain, which dominates the landscape from every vantage point, and the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture, which is a large area of vineyards forming a tight grid of dry-stone walls, supplemented by an exceptional built heritage.

Through Azores Government Council Resolution No. 135/2018, of 10 December, the European Landscape Convention was applied to the Autonomous Region of the Azores and in particular to the Pico Landscape, through the approval of the landscape quality objectives and the guidelines for its management. This legal document promoted the provision of the Information and Support System for the Landscape Management of the Azores (http://ot.azores.gov.pt/SIAGPA.aspx), as an instrument for disseminating the contents of the Azores Landscape Study and, in particular, the Landscape of Pico Island.

During the process of categorising the landscapes of the Azores, 82 landscape units were identified in the archipelago, of which 8 are located on Pico Island.

3. Contextualising the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture

3.1. Historical and cultural context

Attempts to encourage settlement on Pico Island met with various difficulties, and the first settlers only became established there towards the end of the 15th century.

On an island whose soils had been petrified by successive volcanic eruptions, the lava stone slabs on Pico did not allow early settlers to cultivate cereals and dye-yielding crops, which dominated the economy of the era and were the main crops introduced on the islands as they were colonised.

Meanwhile, the basaltic soils and climatic conditions (the climate is warmer and less humid than on the other islands) made Pico island an excellent site for wine-growing from the early days of its settlement. The cultivation of the first grafted Verdelho vines is attributed to the island's first vicar, Friar Pedro Álvares Gigante.

The grafted vines had to be planted in the cracks and holes in the lava stone slabs, with the result that Pico's success as a wine-growing location is related not only to the island's edaphoclimatic conditions but also to the use made of the large expanse of stone present in the lava fields, which was used to build dry-stone walls, forming the typical *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) and protecting the vines from the harmful effects of the gales and waves which ravaged the islands' coastlines.

In the 16th century, Gaspar Frutuoso noted the abundance and quality of the wine from Pico, writing in *Saudades da Terra* that "all over the land there are many vineyards, which provide good wine, better than on all the islands", despite the population of Pico being just 3,432 inhabitants at the end of that century.

Wine production on Pico (around 8,000 casks in 1649) greatly exceeded domestic need, prompting a move towards foreign markets around the mid-17th century. The inclusion of Horta Port on Faial as a stopover on the new commercial routes arising from the British colonisation of North America and the advance of routes to Brazil provided the perfect opportunity for Pico to sell its wine internationally. The main foreign markets were the West Indies, England, America, Brazil and Russia.

A new economic cycle began which, for two hundred years, would sustain the population of Pico Island and raise the status of the noble families and upper bourgeoisie from Faial who owned the vines.

During the first half of the 19th century, average annual wine production on Pico oscillated between 12,000 and 15,000 casks, mostly intended for export. Pico wine travelled around the world, forming part of some of the most discerning selections, including the banquets held by the Grand Master of the Order of Malta and the tables of the Russian Tsars.

This period of economic development was accompanied by exponential population growth on Pico Island, rising from 8,720 inhabitants in 1690 to 31,246 inhabitants in 1849.

During the second half of the 19th century, plagues of powdery mildew and *phylloxera* attacked the vines and caused winemaking on Pico Island to decline.

The first plague to arrive was powdery mildew in 1852, which drastically reduced production from thousands of casks to just a few hundred. In 1866, only 100 casks of Pico wine were produced.

The crisis prompted the population to abandon the vineyards and leave the island, forming the first big wave of emigration. In 1864, the population of Pico had fallen to 27,721 inhabitants.

The crisis also led to changes in the grape varieties used, with an American variety – the 'Isabela' (*Vitis labrusca*) – gaining ground around 1870. The resistance of the 'Isabela' variety to powdery mildew and its greater production capacity at lower cost led Verdelho to be replaced by 'aromatic wine'.

Just when the situation appeared to be improving with the use of the American varieties, a plague of *phylloxera* arrived in 1873.

This was a case of what could be referred to as 'dying from the cure'. Abandonment of the vines accelerated and many residents of the island emigrated. At the beginning of the 20th century, the population of Pico was just 24,184.

As a result of the economic and social crisis which occurred during that period, many owners from Faial sold off the lands, manor houses, wineries and warehouses which they held on Pico. The buyers were local people, including foremen (caretakers) and some of the wealthier workers, which led to the fragmentation of the properties.

Verdelho vines practically disappeared, and Pico wine came to be known as 'aromatic wine' in the 20th century.

Despite this, Pico's potential as a wine-growing location prompted the National Wine Board to build a winery in the village of Madalena, with the aim of salvaging production of the traditional white liqueur wine. The Pico Island Wine Cooperative began to operate in 1961, comprising 51 members and processing 36 tons of grapes from traditional varieties, including Verdelho, Arinto and Terrantez. In response to the inevitable failure of this endeavour, the cooperative expanded its activity to include American grape varieties, producing 'aromatic wine' alongside its other products. Nonetheless, the Wine Cooperative played a vital role in preserving the production of traditional grape varieties on Pico Island.

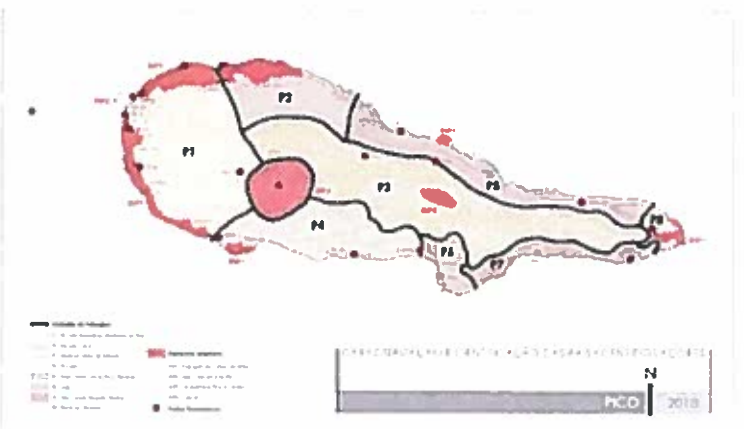
In 1994, the Pico Demarcated Region was created, but traditional land-use systems continued to disappear, posing a threat to the identity of a unique but increasingly damaged landscape.

The classification of the area as Protected Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture in 1996 highlighted the concern of the Azores government with safeguarding the islands' natural, cultural and landscape assets, and marked the beginning of a process which – especially since 2004, with the creation of incentive systems and the 'World Heritage Site' designation awarded by UNESCO – has reversed the abandonment of the vineyards and the degradation of the landscape, and encouraged considerable recovery, to the extent that it is now a thriving wine-growing landscape with unique characteristics and growing economic and social relevance.

3.2. Landscape units

In the context of the classification of the landscapes of the Azores, 8 landscape units were identified on Pico Island, 5 of which cover areas incorporated into the Landscape of the Vineyard Culture. These are: Encosta da Madalena/ Montanha do Pico (P1), Encosta Norte (P2), Encosta Sul (P4), Faixa Litoral Cais do Pico/ Piedade (P5) and Ponta da Piedade (P8).

The Landscape of the Vineyard Culture (ESP1) represents one of the 4 unique landscape features identified on Pico Island, as the complex formed by the aforementioned landscape units stands out for its diversity, intrinsic quality and sensory, cultural and ecological impact.



Landscapes on Pico Island

3.3. Most significant landscape features

The landscape of Pico Island expresses the volcanic nature of the island and the historical and cultural evolution of five centuries of human occupation of an isolated land brimming with physical and natural obstacles.

The island's population gradually adapted to the environment, by zoning land use in line with the properties of the landscape.

The typical pattern of occupation on Pico Island consists of Mediterranean crops such as vines and figs in the areas closest to the coast, which are adjacent to wineries, isolated or clustered in small groups. As the altitude increases, larger settlements appear, parallel to the coastline and spread across the whole island. Around these main towns is a mosaic of agriculture, including corn, potato and vegetable crops, as well as orchards. Uphill of the settlements are areas of permanent pasture and productive forest land, while the highest, innermost parts of the island are home to natural scrubland and forest, some of which forms part of protected areas.

The occupation of large areas for agriculture and livestock farming gave rise to careful compromise between capitalising on the resources available and improving the conditions for the activity proposed – for example, the building of walls and *currais* did not involve extra effort in moving stones across long distances, since stones found locally were used to protect the crops from winds and salt water at the same time.

This process is particularly evident in the vineyard areas along the entire coastline of Pico, which form part of the Protected Landscape of the Vineyard Culture, occupying five areas in different parts of the island.

A number of typical features related to wine-growing bear witness to the historical and cultural occupation of the landscape.

The presence of black dry-stone *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) is a unifying characteristic present throughout the landscape. The ability to adapt to the relief of the island can be seen in the orientation of the vineyards, which are generally perpendicular to the coastline, while the distribution of built clusters along the coastal strip is common to the vineyard landscape as a whole. On the north coast, the clusters comprise a number of buildings with a strong urban structure, whereas in the western area they appear instead as scattered groups of wineries due to the steeper slopes and poorer access to the sea.

The unity and coherence of the network of *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) along the length of the coast is enriched by a wide variety of land uses as we move inland. The result of attempts to harness the potential of each site, this diversity manifests itself in a mosaic of vegetable crops in areas with better soils, divided by living hedges and other features which testify to the cultural nature of the landscape, such as the *maroiços* (pyramidal rock structures).

The backdrop of Mount Pico, which is visible from all over the island, provides a different perspective which helps to identify the nature of the landscape along its entire length and breadth. The visual relationship with the closest islands also varies, and it may be possible to see both Faial and São Jorge, one of them, or neither of them.

The island is marked by a variety of sociocultural manifestations linked to the landscape, and above all to wine-growing and the grape harvest, which are reflected in the gastronomy, costumes, music and popular dances.

The most significant natural and cultural features contributing to the unique, distinctive nature of the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture are listed below:

i) Geodiversity

Forming part of the Mount Pico volcanic complex are various well-preserved lava fields resulting from non-explosive basaltic eruptions which gave rise to various kinds of pyroclastic material, as well as aa lava flows, known locally as *biscoitos*, which have a sharp, rough surface, and pahoehoe lava flows, commonly known as *lajidos* (lava stone slabs), which are characterised by their smooth surface and vast set of extraordinarily beautiful microreliefs and structures, such as pahoehoes, pahoehoe toes, *tumuli*, crests and lava tubes, among others.

Pahoehoe

On the lava stone slabs, the lava flows produce large, thin blankets full of crevices, through which the roots of the vines descend to the soil in search of nutrients.

The volcanic nature of the island and the presence of basaltic lava flows give rise to a diverse speleological heritage in the form of volcanic cavities (lava caves and pits).

ii) Biodiversity

The geophysical and climatic characteristics of the vineyard landscape facilitate a large number of habitats, which are home to a diverse range of species, most of which are endemic and of high natural value.

Azorina vidalii

In the fissures on the coastal lava fields, several species of endemic vascular flora flourish, such as *Spergularia azorica*, *Festuca petraea*, *Euphorbia azorica* and the only endemic genus – the Azorina (*Azorina vidalii*). Among the island's forest formations are coastal scrublands of heather (*Erica azorica*), cedar (*Juniperus brevifolia*) and pau-branco (*Picconia azorica*).

The diverse plant communities on the island encourage the presence of terrestrial avifauna such as the wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus azoricus*), blackbird (*Turdus merula azorensis*), chaffinch (*Fringila coelebs moreletti*) and kite (*Buteo buteo rothschildi*). In terms of the sea bird population, the Barolo shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis baroli*) has been seen on the island, which is also an excellent nesting spot for the Cory's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea borealis*).

The island's mammals include colonies of Azores noctules (*Nyctalus azoreum*), the only endemic mammal in the Azores and the only endemic bat in Portugal, which lives in walls and in cracks in the rocks.

Inside the volcanic cavities, various species of cave-dwelling fauna can be found, including *Rugathodes pico*, *Trechus picoensis*, *Trechus montanheirorum* and *Cixius azopicavus*, which are endemic to Pico.

iii) Black walls

The entire vineyard landscape is characterised by grids of black walls, built using dry-stone techniques.

The grid of black stone walls

Due to the land's unsuitability for cereal cultivation, settlers on Pico arranged stones to form *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) in order to protect the vines from wind and sea water.

The grid of stone walls is organised in a very particular way. The properties are separated by high double walls, and the vineyard inside these walls is divided into *jeirões*, separated by double walls from the paths, where the *canadas* come to an end. The *canadas* are used to structure the vineyard and are made up of single walls which are intersected perpendicularly by the *traveses*, which may be single or double walls depending on the amount of stone available in the area, to form the characteristic *currais* (fences of basalt-walled). Access from one *curral* (fence of basalt-walled) to another is provided by *bocainas*, which are narrow, generally discontinuous paths to avoid channelling the wind.

According to Tomaz Duarte Jr., in the book "*O Vinho do Pico*", if the original stone walls were placed in a line, they would stretch around the entire perimeter of the Earth twice.

iv) Shelters, *maroiços* and *descansadouros*

In the large vineyard areas, loose stone was used to construct shelters as well as walls. Where larger quantities of stone were present, it was tidied into *maroiços*.

Shelter

The shelters were intended to provide cover for the winegrower and his working tools, and were built from dry stone with a slanting roof, attached to a small cistern to make use of the rainwater running off the roof.

The *maroiços* are piles of dry stone, built to tidy up excess stone from the vineyard and located in areas of poorer soil in such a way as to avoid overshadowing the vines.

Descansadouro

Maroiço

The size of the vineyard and the scarcity of transport methods and routes forced workers to walk for long distances carrying baskets filled with grapes on their heads. To allow the porters to rest and to load and unload the baskets without assistance, *descansadouros* (capstones made from flat slabs placed on the tops of the walls next to the paths) were spaced out along the paths.

v) Built areas

Santa Luzia lava field

In the coastal areas, small clusters of buildings emerged as winegrowing activity increased. These were relatively distant and independent from the main urban settlements, which were located further away from the coast.

These rural settlements were generally positioned along coastal paths and are dominated by stone buildings which rise up amid the lava stone slabs and vineyards. The buildings are wineries, warehouses and sometimes houses which were used as seasonal accommodation during the grape harvest. They were built using dry-stone masonry, with some coated with mud and lime mortar, and the wooden roofs were covered with terracotta barrel tiles.

Some of these coastal settlements were home to manor houses and chapels, as well as tidal wells.

vi) Wineries, distilleries and warehouses

The wineries were used for both wine pressing and storage, but could also serve as seasonal accommodation during the grape harvest. When used as accommodation, the buildings had two floors, with the wine press and storage area located on the ground floor.

The distilleries were used to make brandy, and were generally equipped with a tidal well or cistern to supply water. The warehouses, meanwhile, housed the barrels and vats used to store fermenting pomace and figs which were later distilled.

Wineries

Distilleries

Warehouses

vii) Manor houses

Salemas manor house

Manor houses stand out from the rest of the landscape due to their size and position, and are usually linked to large vineyards. As a rule, other buildings related to winemaking tend to be located near the manor houses, including wine presses, distilleries and warehouses, served by tidal wells or cisterns.

The building of the manor houses coincided with the golden age of winemaking on Pico Island from the mid-17th century to the mid-19th century. These houses belonged to large vineyard owners, who took advantage of the summer holiday period to visit their properties from their homes on Faial.

viii) Religious heritage

S. Mateus Chapel

Religious faith plays a central role in the lives of the Pico islanders, and this is evident from the religious monuments which can be seen dotted around the landscape.

The chapels stand out from the coastal settlements due to their number and the masonry work carved into the black stone of the basalt slabs.

A number of convents dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries can also be found scattered across the landscape, adjoining the vineyards and agricultural land belonging to the Carmelite and Jesuit religious orders which settled in the city of Horta on Faial Island.

ix) Tidal wells

Tidal well

There are numerous tidal wells in the Landscape of Vineyard Culture, which were used to supply water for domestic use and for the distilleries. In an area without streams in which water was scarce, it was necessary to dig down into the rock in search of groundwater. Due to the proximity of the sea, the freshwater wells are contaminated by the tides and the water can be rather salty, giving rise to the name 'tidal well'.

x) Ports, rilheiras and rola-pipas

It was the sea which allowed Pico wine to travel around the world. A significant feature on the landscape of some coastal settlements are small ports and anchorages, where wine was loaded onto small open boats, powered by either sails or oars, and transported to Faial, where it was exported from Horta Port.

To facilitate the transport of wine barrels from the path to some of these small ports and anchorages, it was necessary to carve ramps into the rocky platform – these were known as *rola-pipas.*

Pocinho Port (19th century)

Rola-pipas

Rilheira

The wine barrels were transported to the *rola-pipas* and to the ports and anchorages along paths over the lava stone slabs using ox carts. The continuous passage of the cart wheels over the slabs left ruts in the lava, which are referred to as *rilheiras*.

3.4. The abandonment of the vines and degradation of the landscape

As noted in previous sections, from the second half of the 19th century, plagues led to a decline in winemaking activity on Pico Island, prompting abandonment of the vineyards and significant emigration.

The economic and social crisis prompted landowners, who were until then mostly residents of Faial Island, to sell off or divide their large properties, and led to the degradation of a significant part of the built heritage due either to abandonment or to the fact that the new local owners did not have the necessary financial means to maintain their properties.

At the end of the 20th century, the vineyard areas had been reduced to around 120 ha and thickets of heather, beech and incense began to dominate the landscape, replacing the vines and hiding the black stone walls which remained intact. In turn, many of the buildings in the coastal settlements fell into ruin.

Throughout the landscape, urban constructions began to emerge which were dissonant in terms of the architecture and materials used, and overhead power and telecommunication lines proliferated indiscriminately.

The preamble to Regional Regulatory Decree No. 29/88/A, of 12 July, states that "the rural landscape has in recent times undergone harmful changes to the vineyard landscape, which has been taken over by scrubland, due to the appropriation of wineries near the coast for holiday homes and the construction of new houses with dissonant architectural typologies, leading in most cases to rupture with the pre-existing environment".

In this context, the decree imposed limits on changing the rural landscape and approved preventative measures which would be valid for a 2-year period, with a view to drawing up a "scoping study of the designated area" and a "corresponding management plan", which never materialised.

Abandoned vines

Ruined winery

Dissonances

Overhead lines

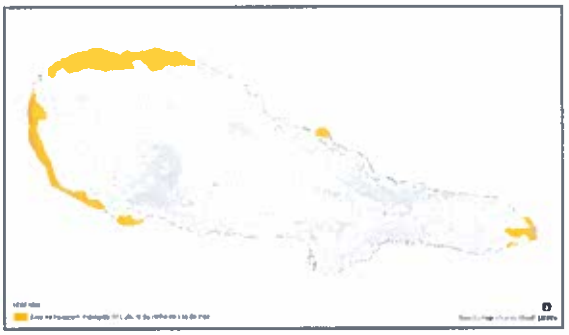
4. Policies and Measures Developed in the Area of the Vineyard Cultural Landscape of Pico Island

The protection of the natural, landscape and cultural valuesin the areas of vineyard culture on Pico island, as well as the promotion of sustainable development and the quality of life of the populations, motivated the adoption of public policies and the implementation of various measures in those areas, especially over the last two decades.

4.1. Classification as a Protected Area

The Protected Landscape of Regional Interest of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture was created by Regional Legislative Decree No. 12/96/A, of 27 June.

The boundaries of the protected area were extended in 2004 (Regional Legislative Decree No. 1/2004/A, of 21 January), based on the recommendations of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and within the context of the application submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.



Current demarcation of the protected area

In 2008, the Protected Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture was reclassified, covering five distinct areas in the coastal zone of the island, and integrated into the Pico Island Natural Park, created by Regional Legislative Decree No. 20/2008/A, of 9 July, currently occupying a total area of 3,291.7 ha.

4.2. Designation as a World Heritage Site

The process that led to the designation by UNESCO of the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture as a World Heritage Site was initiated by the Government of the Azores in the closing years of the twentieth century.

In 2001, an initial application was submitted to the World Heritage Committee, in the category of mixed heritage (natural and cultural), and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) recommended it refile the application solely in the category of cultural heritage and the increase in the proposed classification areas.

Demarcation of the World Heritage Site

A new application was submitted in 2003 and, on 2 July 2004, UNESCO approved the inscription of the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture from the World Heritage shortlist, within the cultural landscape category, with a core area of 987 ha and its respective buffer zone of 1,924 ha.

4.3. Territorial Management Tools

The regulation of land use and transformation of the Protected Landscape of Regional Interest of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture, approved by Regional Regulatory Decree No. 10/2002/A, of 2 April, was the first management instrument for that protected area.

Four years later, the Management Plan for the Protected Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture (MPPLPIVC), approved by Regional Regulatory Decree No. 24/2006/A, of 13 July, came into force.

The MPPLPIVC, however, amended by Regional Regulatory Decree No. 7/2014/A, of 6 May, was the first and, to date, the only special management plan for a protected area approved in the Azores, arising as a fundamental instrument in the preservation and restoration of the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture, from the outset establishing a strict zoning of the entire area of intervention, corresponding to the various levels of protection.

4.4. The Technical Office of the Protected Landscape

The Technical Office of the Protected Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture was created in 2004 (Regional Legislative Decree No. 1/2004/A, of 21 January), with the objective of supporting the management of the protected area.

Currently, the Technical Office is a service of the Pico Island Natural Park, specific to the areas integrated within the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture, in particular to provide technical assistance to the director of the Natural Park, to support the implementation of the management plan for the protected area, to prepare technical studies within the context of the reconstruction or restoration of public properties, to issue technical opinions regarding projects or activities to be developed within the protected landscape area and to monitor and supervise the implementation thereof.

4.5. Support for the Rehabilitation of Traditional Vineyard Culture in *Currais* (fences of basalt-walled)

In 2004, a specific system was created by means of Regional Regulatory Decree No. 12/2004/A, of 24 April, to support the rehabilitation of traditional vineyard culture in *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) on Pico island, initially covering only the core areas nominated for World Heritage inscription and extended in 2008 (through Regional Regulatory Decree No. 5/2008/A, of 27 March) to include the respective buffer zones. The support consisted of the non-refundable financing of expenses incurred in rehabilitation projects of vineyards in *currais* (fences of basalt-walled), up to a maximum of €20,000 per ha.

This support scheme for vineyard rehabilitation projects is financed exclusively by funds from the Azores Budget, with the submission of applications thereto having been suspended for the duration of the support scheme for the restructuring and conversion of vineyards (VITIS) for the 2014 to 2018 period.

Since 2015, the vineyard rehabilitation projects have been funded under VITIS.

4.6. Support for the Maintenance of the Traditional Landscape of Vineyard Culture in *Currais* (fences of basalt-walled)

Also in 2004, through Regional Regulatory Decree No. 23/2004/A, of 1 July, a system was created to support the maintenance of the traditional landscape of vineyards in *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) on Pico island, initially covering only the core areas nominated for World Heritage status and extended in 2008 (through Regional Regulatory Decree No. 6/2008/A, of 28 March), to include the respective buffer zones.

From 2015 onwards, the aforementioned support scheme was integrated into the system of incentives for the maintenance of the traditional landscapes of both vineyard culture, in *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) and on terraces, and of orchards with traditional species, located in protected landscape areas and integrated coastal *fajãs* in the natural parks of the island and in biosphere reserves, approved by Regional Regulatory Decree No. 24/2014/A, of 15 December.

The incentive to maintain the landscape consists of the allocation of annual financial support, up to a maximum of €2,350 per ha, against the commitment of the beneficiary to keep the plot which is subject to support in good cultural condition and operating normally, considering as such the plants being properly handled and in production, on land that is free of weeds and with the plants pruned and the walls of the *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) in good condition.

4.7. Support for Reconstructing Dilapidated Buildings and for Correcting Architectural Dissonances

The existence of several dilapidated buildings and architectural dissonances that disturb the identity of the coastal settlements and contribute to the degradation of landscape quality led to the creation, through Regional Regulatory Decree No. 11/2004/A, of 24 April, of a set of incentives for owners of legal buildings in these settlements, with a view to rebuilding dilapidated properties and correcting architectural dissonances and anomalies found there.

The incentive scheme consists of the allocation of a non-refundable financial contribution to cover up to 50% of the cost of intervention on exterior walls, roofs and gaps in the reconstruction of dilapidated buildings and 50% of the total cost of intervention in buildings with architectural dissonances, as well as for technical support in the development of the project. In the correction of dissonances in real estate considered of exceptional interest, either due to its location or its architectural the value, the contribution may reach 75%.

4.8. Wine Museum

The Wine Museum, an extension of the Pico Museum, was established within the Convento do Carmo in Madalena, a convent house of the Carmelites dating back to the 17th-18th century, which was completely rebuilt, as well as the respective agricultural complex of wine presses, a storehouse and a still.

The Wine Museum complex also includes an extensive operational vineyard and the largest concentration of dragon trees (*Dracaena draco*) in the Azores, some of which are centuries old.

4.9. Interpretation Centre for the Landscape of the Pico Vineyard Culture

The Interpretation Centre for the Landscape of the Pico Vineyard Culture was founded in 2010 in Lajido de Santa Luzia, in the heart of the protected area, occupying the ground floor of an 18th century manor house that has been fully rebuilt. The headquarters of the Pico Island Natural Park was established on the first floor of the building.

In 2016, the Interpretation Centre for the Landscape of the Pico Vineyard Culture was re-established in a storehouse within the same complex in Lajido de Santa Luzia and the respective contents and conditions of visitation were improved. Since then, the services of the Pico Island Natural Park have occupied the entire 2 floors of the old manor.

On the other side of the road is the still, which is fully operational and open for use by the population.

4.10. House of Volcanoes

At the moment, work is under way on the reconstruction of a complex of storehouses, also in Lajido de Santa Luzia, where the House of Volcanoes will be established. It is a centre for science and environmental interpretation, with the aim of showcasing the geological heritage of the Azores and all of its geodiversity.

4.11. Network of Walking Trails

Within the area of the Landscape of the Pico Vineyard Culture, 6 approved walking routes were created, providing walkers with trails along ancient paths, exploring the unique and characteristic elements of the landscape. These trails are: Paths of Santa Luzia (PR1PIC), Porto de Calhau - Manhenha (PR3PIC), Vinhas da Criação Velha (PR5PIC), Santana - Lajido (PR10PIC), Porto do Calhau - 'Canada' plots of the Wineries and from the Vineyards to the Mountain.

4.12. Training of Natural Park Guides

Ordinance No. 80/2017, of 27 October, regulates the courses taught to Natural Park Guides in the Azores. This training, which lasts 117 hours, aims to qualify the human resources of the environmental and active tourism companies that operate within the Natural Parks and, in this way, aims to promote sustainable tourism and to enhance the services provided in the handling of groups of visitors within protected areas.

4.13. Certification and Quality Control of Wine Production

The Regional Wine Commission of the Azores (CVRAçores) and the Regional Oenology Laboratory are based on Pico island. These are renowned institutions in the Azores within the wine sector, regarding the Denomination of Origin (DO) and Geographic Indication (GI) certification of wines, as well as technical support in the areas of winemaking and oenology.

Both institutions are accredited by the Portuguese Accreditation Institute (IPAC).

4.14. Promotion of Citizenship and Education for Sustainability

The Government of the Azores, through the Pico Island Natural Park, conducts regular work in the promotion of environmentally sustainable conduct within the Protected Landscape of the Vineyard Culture.

The Parque Escola (Park School) programme, aimed at school children, includes a broad range of activities for schools, organised into two projects: "The Park goes to School" (actions developed in schools) and "The School goes to the Park" (actions that take place in protected areas and at environmental centres).

Parque Aberto (Open Park) is a programme that brings together the activities aimed at the general population, promoted by the Natural Park and its partners, in protected areas and at environmental centres, in order to promote and disseminate knowledge regarding natural heritage among the general population.

On the other hand, the Partner Programme for Sustainable Development aims to involve companies and other entities in the activities of Natural Parks, as well as the promotion of natural heritage and of good environmental practices.

The agendas of the Parque Escola and Parque Aberto programmes, as well as other relevant information and content are available on the Educar portal for Environment and Sustainability: http://educarparaoambiente.azores.gov.pt/.

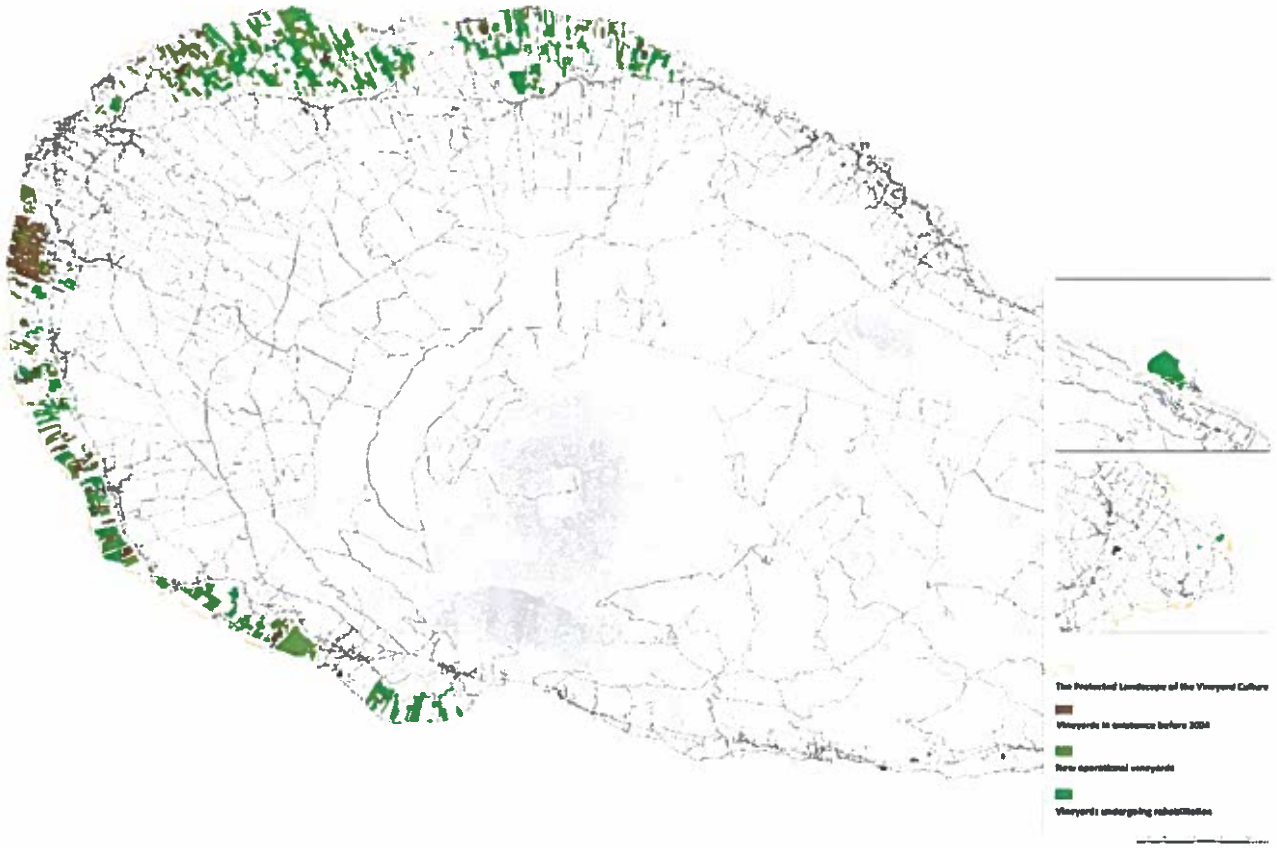
5. Presentation of the Main Results

The policies and measures implemented in recent years in the area of the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture have stalled the abandonment of the vineyards and the degradation of the landscape, contributing decisively to the recovery and consolidation of a living wine landscape with unique characteristics and growing economic and social relevance, within the framework of the European Landscape Convention, as evidenced by the following indicators:

5.1. Area of Operational Vineyards

In November 2017, the area of operational vineyards in *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) within the Landscape of the Pico Vineyard with maintenance contracts in force, amounted to 412 ha, which represents a very significant increase compared to the 120 ha in 2004.

On the other hand, the rehabilitation projects now under way cover a further 399 ha of vineyards within the protected area, and the total production area is expected to reach 811 ha by 2020 (almost 7 times the operational area in the year 2004).



Operational vineyards and those undergoing rehabilitation

5.2. Number of Winegrowing Enterprises

In November 2017, there were 279 operational winegrowing enterprises in the Landscape of the Pico Vineyard Culture, which represents an important increase compared to approximately 170 vineyards in 2004.

Thus, between 2004 and 2017, the average area per vineyard more than doubled, from 0.7 ha to 1.47 ha.

5.3. Support for the Maintenance of Traditional Vineyard Culture in *Currais* (fences of basalt-walled)

Between 2004 and 2017, the number of beneficiaries of support for the maintenance of traditional vineyard culture in *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) has increased from 72 to 279, while the annual amount of financial support increased more than 9-fold, from €93,654 to €875,381. For the entire 14 years, the financial support amounted to €4.61 million.

5.4. Reconstruction of Dilapidated Buildings and Correction of Architectural Dissonances

Between 2004 and 2012, 23 reconstruction projects for dilapidated buildings and the correction of architectural dissonances were supported, corresponding to a total amount of €288,687 of non-refundable financial compensation.

Also worthy of note is the investment by the Government of the Azores in the underground electrification of Lajido de Santa Luzia, with the relocation underground of all overhead infrastructure and cables.

Reconstruction of dilapidated building (still)

Correction of architectural dissonances (housing)

5.5. Recovery of Public Heritage Assets

Since 1996, the Government of the Azores has been promoting the recovery and re-use of a variety of public heritage assets located within the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture, highlighting:

i) Reconstruction of the Convento do Carmo, a 16th century building | Wine Museum;

ii) Reconstruction of the Moinho do Frade windmill, in Lajido da Criação Velha | Landscape Viewpoint;

iii) Reconstruction of an 18th century manor in Lajido de Santa Luzia | Headquarters of the Pico Island Natural Park;

iv) Rehabilitation of storehouses in Lajido de Santa Luzia | Interpretation Centre for the Landscape of the Pico Vineyards;

v) Reconstruction of a storehouse complex in Lajido de Santa Luzia | House of Volcanoes.

Wine Museum | *Windmill / Viewpoint* | *Natural Park Headquarters* | *Interpretation Centre* | *House of Volcanoes*

5.6. Interventions of Relevant Public Interest

The MPPLPIVC Regulation establishes the potential to authorise actions of relevant public interest that are compatible with the objectives of the Plan. To date, 2 projects have been recognised:

i) A small boutique hotel by Charming Green, promoting the reconstruction of the Convento dos Jesuítas;

ii) A wine cellar belonging to the Azores Wine Company, a wine tourism project associated with the rehabilitation of 110 ha of vineyards.

Charming Green | Boutique hotel

Azores Wine Company | Wine cellar and wine tourism

5.7. Activity of the Landscape Technical Office

The Technical Office has played a key role in the implementation of the various incentive systems and of the Protected Landscape Management Plan, promoting the protection and revitalisation of the landscape.

Since 2006, the Technical Office of the MPPLPIVC has issued opinions on 405 urban intervention processes, of which 222 are related to existing buildings (reconstructions, extensions and remodelling) and 183 to new buildings. The highest number of opinions issued in a single year was 50 (in 2015) and the lowest was 2 (in 2006).

5.8. Production and Prestige of Pico Wine

Wine production on Pico island has been increasing steadily, as has the number of producers and brands, and it is estimated that by 2020 the quantity of certified wine (DO and GI) will exceed 1 million litres.

A century and a half after the decline in winemaking, Pico's wine has re-entered foreign markets and has become internationally recognised. By way of example, it should be noted that in recent years and on a regular basis, the prestigious American magazine, The Robert Parker Wine Advocate, put the wines of the Azores Wine Company, particularly the white wines of António Maçanita, among the best of the world, some of them rated with excellence.

5.9. Recreation and Interpretation of the Landscape

Between January 2012 and the present date, the Interpretation Centre for the Landscape of the Vineyard Culture has received 38,194 visitors, of which 6,618 were in 2017.

Since January 2010 until today, the Wine Museum has received 71,370 visitors, of which 13,888 were in 2017.

To date, 197 Azores Natural Parks Guides have been trained, of which 39 are stationed on Pico island, with more and more environmental and tourism companies developing activities within the Protected Landscape of the Vineyard Culture, using duly accredited guides.

5.10. Civic Engagement and Education for Sustainability

Since 2011, the Parque Escola programme has promoted 122 activities, covering 3,550 participants. The Parque Aberto programme promoted 171 activities over the same period, involving 5,477 participants.

The Pico Natural Park has 189 entities participating in the Partner Programme for Sustainable Development, and its Advisory Board meets twice a year with municipalities, NGOs and corporate entities.

The processes of preparation and modification of the MPPLPIVC Management Plan were accompanied by a broad participation of the citizens, including several public sessions, held in the three municipalities of the island.

5.11. Special Awards and Distinctions

In 2010, the volcanic landscape of Pico was considered one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Portugal.

The process of rehabilitating vineyard culture in *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) in the Landscape of the Pico Vineyard Culture was awarded an honourable mention in the 2016 edition of the Green Project Awards, in the "Sea, Agriculture and Tourism" category.

Madalena was designated by the Association of Portuguese Wine Municipalities as the Wine City of 2017.

5.12. Replicability of the Policies and Measures Implemented

Based on the experience of Pico Island, the Government of the Azores has created a system of incentives for the maintenance of traditional landscapes of vineyard culture, in *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) and on terraces, and of orchards of traditional species, located in areas of protected landscape and on the *fajãs* integrated into the natural parks of the island and in biosphere reserves, which covers all of the islands of the archipelago (Regional Regulatory Decree No. 24/2014/A, of 15 December).

The supplementary rules for the implementation of the scheme supporting the restructuring and conversion of vineyards (VITIS) for the period 2014-2018 (Order No. 53/2014, of 4 August) were drawn up on the basis of experience gained with the support scheme for the rehabilitation of traditional vineyard culture in *currais* (fences of basalt-walled) within the Landscape of the Pico Vineyard Culture.

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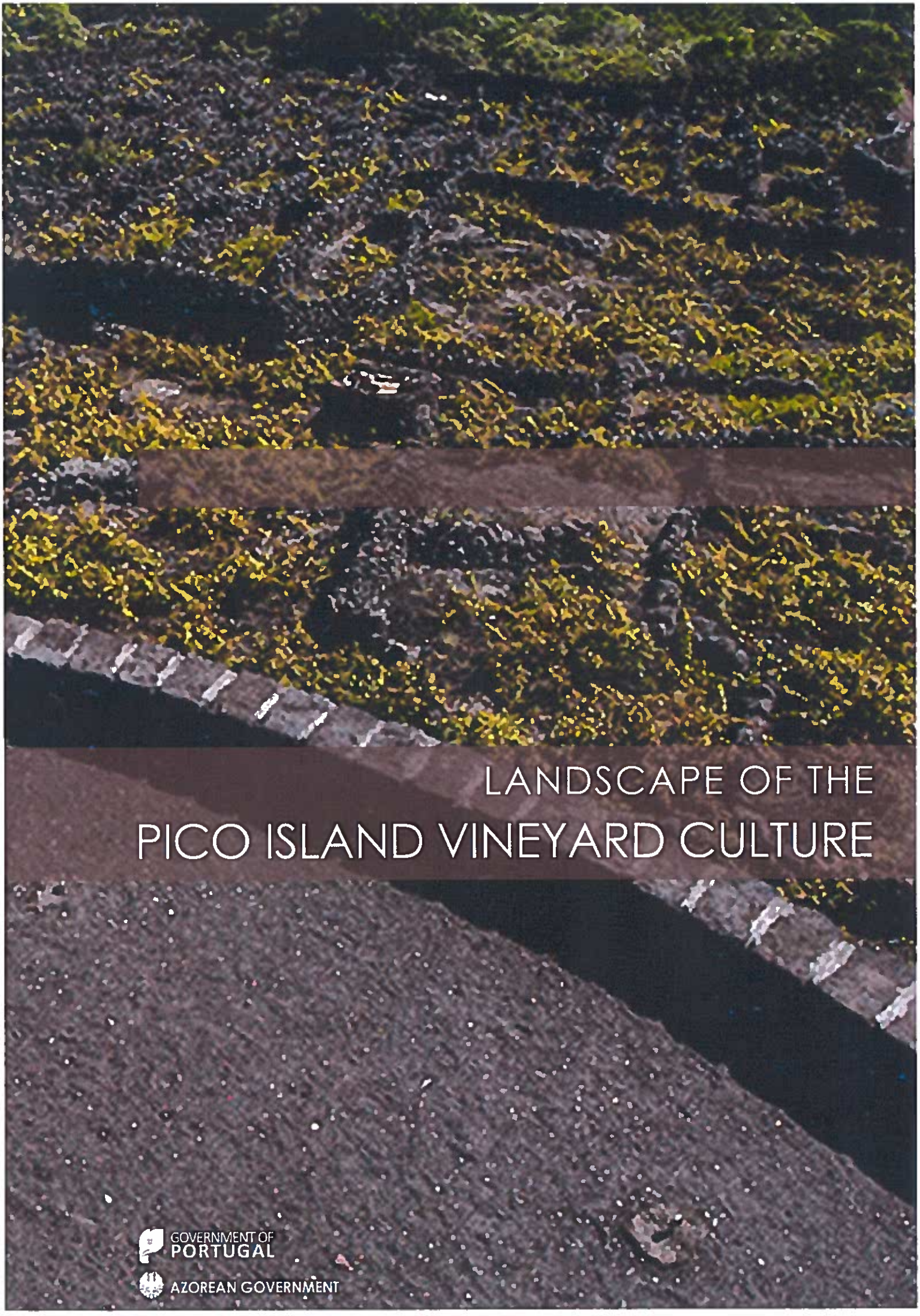
7. Additional Material

Application for World Heritage Status for the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture



LANDSCAPE OF THE PICO ISLAND VINEYARD CULTURE

GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL

AZOREAN GOVERNMENT