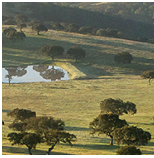




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Herdade da Contenda, a tale of resilience for nature, Municipality of Moura, Alentejo



The project implemented a landscape policy in an area called Herdade da Contenda (Contenda Estate, 5,270 hectares) belonging to the local authority of Moura, which borders Spain. The importance of this cross-border landscape dates back to the Middle Ages, when it was managed as a community. It was the subject of disputes between Portugal and Spain, and the vast property was divided between the two countries at the end of the 19th century.

Managed by the municipality, the Portuguese part was later leased for agriculture. Its overexploitation led to its decline, loss of biodiversity, abandonment and the degradation of the landscape. The local authority, in collaboration with the forestry services and the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests, has implemented policies for the regeneration and enhancement of the landscape, transforming it into an attractive area and rich from an ecological point of view.

The adopted management practices have made it possible to enhance the landscape for the benefit of all. For example, it has been a concern to promote the use of machinery and adequate equipment in forest interventions; plantations on contour lines; the development of a regular census of hunting and protected species; respect for nesting periods; and the protection of natural regeneration.

The landscape policy implemented in the Contenda Estate has reversed the trend that was leading to its decline. The conservation status of this *montado* landscape has been improved through appropriate management and planning, with a remarkable participatory approach. The dissemination of scientific knowledge on its intrinsic values has enabled local actors to become its best protectors. By restoring degraded landscapes, the project ensures sustainable use of the forests, contributing to climate change reduction, and preserves endemic species. It also promotes educational and pedagogical practices in the field of ecology. Its economic dimension in terms of sustainable agriculture, animal breeding, beekeeping and hunting is certain. The domain of Contenda is also particularly popular for relaxation and recreation.

Recognised for its great value, the Project is part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.