



April 2023 – Update Report



2017 WILDFIRE

In 2017, 90% the Leiria Pine Forest was burned in a total of 9.500 hectares being destroyed. 2017 was the worst year in the history of Portugal in terms of wildfires. More than half million hectares were burned and 114 people died.

An aerial photograph of a coastal region in Portugal, showing a grid of land parcels. Several parcels are highlighted in red and green. The red parcels are located in the upper left, middle right, and lower left. The green parcels are located in the center and lower middle. The coastline is visible on the left side of the image.

PINHAL DO REI

LOCATION
LEIRIA, PORTUGAL

NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED
353 432

HECTARES RESTORED
319

PLANTED AREA

PROJECT TOTAL AREA



N/A

TREE SPECIES GROWN IN NURSERY

MARITIME PINE (PINUS PINASTER); STONE PINE (PINUS PINEA);
STRAWBERRY TREE (ARBUTUS UNEDO) AND CORK OAK (QUERCUS SUBER)

An aerial photograph showing a tractor with a long horizontal blade or implement, moving through a field of low-lying green and yellow shrubs. The tractor is positioned in the lower center of the frame, leaving a path behind it. The terrain is uneven with patches of bare soil and dense vegetation. In the background, there are rolling hills under a cloudy sky.

ACTIVITIES FOR SITE PREPARATION AND STATUS OF SITE PREPARATION

Land preparation consisted of using a tractor to create planting furrows. This methodology is used to have a minimal impact on the endemic plants (shrubs) that already exist on the project area. This year a total of 319ha of land was intervened in order to plant 353.432 trees.



PLANTING START : 25/10/2022

END DATE: 16/03/2023

THE FIELD ACTIVITIES STARTED IN 03/10/2022.

*PLANTING SEASON 2022 - 2023



Recruiting local people, and to acquire local goods and materials, impact both the social and the economic aspects of the Leiria region. This strategy not only brings benefits to the local economy but also contributes to reducing the project's ecological footprint. Volunteer planted activities were developed engaging 30 people in total to reinforce the ecological importance of this area, but also to raise awareness around the severity of impacts such as wildfires and the long-term effects a changing climate will have on this forest ecosystem.



CHALLENGES FACED IN PROJECT THUS FAR

The biggest challenge so far was climate change. Unfortunately, in 2021/2022 there is one of the biggest drought in the last 30 years in Portugal. Most of Portugal is facing severe drought. In these conditions less survival rate is expected compared to a '**normal**' year. Secondly, building up a new team and train them for the task. As expected the first year of the project is an important year to train and improve the field team skills as well to create comradeship.