

PORTUGAL

Biodiversity's restoration, & preservation & enhancement

Location

Laurissilva

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P4 – Ecosystems
management

Measure

M08 - Investments in forest
areas

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 1 318 882.91
EAFRD 1 121 050.47
National/Reg. 197 832.44

Project duration

2017 – 2021

Project promoter

Secretaria Regional de
Ambiente, Recursos Naturais
e Alterações Climáticas -
Instituto das Florestas e
Conservação da Natureza IP-
RAM

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Rural Development Programme support was used to improve the accessibility and educational function of a UNESCO-listed Natural Park in Madeira, Portugal.

Summary

The 'Laurissilva Forest' is classified as an UNESCO World Natural Heritage site. It also holds the distinction of Community Importance Site - Natura 2000 European Network (Madeira's Laurissilva and Mountain Massif sites) and is part of the Madeira Natural Park area.



Support from the Madeira Rural Development Programme (RDP) was used to achieve the sustainable restoration of visitor access walkways and to establish an education and interpretation programme and leisure areas.

Results

A network of pathways with touristic interest was created of about 39 km long that includes the existing walking trails.

The Rabaçal shelter house was transformed into a centre for environmental information, education and interpretation.

Context

The 'Laurissilva Forest' is classified as an UNESCO World Natural Heritage site and also holds the distinction of Community Importance Site - Natura 2000 European Network (Madeira Laurissilva site and Mountain Massif site) and is part of the Madeira Natural Park area.

The forest is a very popular destination among visitors looking for nature tourism experiences. However, the walking trails on the site were badly damaged and had become dangerous. At the same time, there was no environmental interpretation centre, this was a significant gap in the touristic and educational function of the park.

Objectives

The overall objective of this project was to improve access to the natural park and the many benefits offered by its unique environment.

The specific objectives of this project were to:

- restore the walking trails;
- create a Centre for Environmental Information and Interpretation; and
- create leisure areas for the local population and other visitors.

Activities

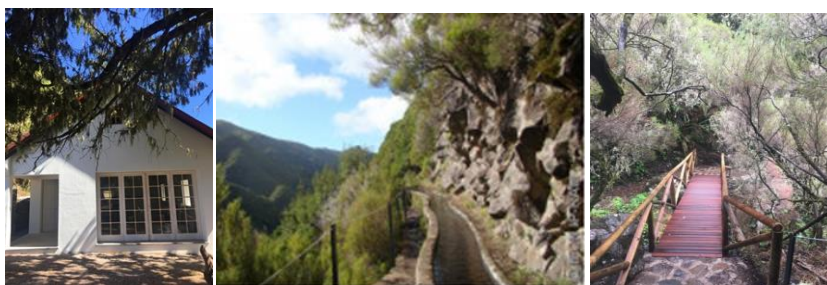
For the restoration of the paths, the RDP support financed the deforestation, cleaning and removal of vegetation. It also supported the cleaning and removal of stones, earth and trees along the pathways that were at risk of collapse. Works were carried out to repair and stabilise the footpaths. Steps made of basalt stone or treated wood were constructed and/or restored. Safety guards were restored, and water drainage systems were put in place. The supporting walls alongside the paths and slopes were reinforced.

An information and environmental interpretation centre was set up at the Rabaçal shelter house. The necessary equipment was purchased and installed along with furniture, audio-visual and computer equipment. Other activities included installing infrastructure and support equipment for recreation and leisure and putting up signs and symbols.

Main results

A network of pathways was created with an approximate length of 39 km that includes the existing walking trails.

The Rabaçal shelter house was transformed into a centre for environmental information, education and interpretation.



Additional sources of information

<https://ifcn.madeira.gov.pt/fundos/proderam/beneficiacao-e-recuperacao-da-rede-de-percursos-pedestres-no-rabacal.html>