



WILD 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Rewilding
Portugal



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Message from the board and team leader

2020 was a year that will go down in history. An unforgettable year due to the effects of the global pandemic on social dynamics, changes in cultural habits and the impact it had on our work. Rewilding Portugal had to adapt so that we could keep the momentum we had gained in 2019, when the organization was first established.

It was immediately noticeable that the decrease in human activity on a global scale had a positive impact on ecosystem dynamics and wildlife populations. This highlighted the fact that a large part of nature conservation work is deeply social work. In our case, during 2020 it was necessary to reinforce the team, which grew both in the number of people and in the dedication of time, with the team now having nine people working full time. This has allowed the organization to carry out all the work described in this annual report.

In 2020, we started working with livestock breeders in the region to implement damage prevention measures, such as the integration of livestock guarding dogs in flocks and herds and the installation of wolf-proof fences. Livestock protection is of high importance for local communities living and working in areas where the Iberian wolf is present. This is a work of

proximity with the livestock breeders, in which solutions are found together and on a case-by-case basis, with the ultimate goal of improving coexistence with this emblematic species.

This work and many other actions that we are developing were well documented in the first documentary produced within the scope of the organization's projects, "Rewilding, a new path for nature in Portugal". This film was produced by the renowned filmmaker João Cosme and had a public premiere at the end of the year at Culturgest in Lisbon, with positive reviews.

2020 was also a year of establishing new partnerships and collaborations, with a great variety of organizations. Of note, the partnership established between Rewilding Portugal and the Symington Family Estates, the largest wine producer in the demarcated Douro region. This partnership will enable Rewilding Portugal to reinforce its work in the region, and continue to promote the concept of rewilding at a national level.

Despite all the challenges faced in 2020, this year will remain in our memory as a year of exponential development and great achievements that have benefited both people and an increasingly wild nature.



Pedro Prata
*Team Leader
of Rewilding
Portugal*



Paula Sarmento
*Chair-
woman of
the Board of
Directors of
Rewilding
Portugal*

Rewilding Portugal



Rewilding Portugal is a private non-profit organization, established in January 2019 in Guarda, whose mission is to promote nature conservation through rewilding measures in Portugal. The organization currently works in the Riba-Côa and Beira Alta areas in northern Portugal, a region where high rates of rural abandonment

have created opportunities to bring nature back and promote more sustainable local economies.

Rewilding Portugal is Rewilding Europe's strategic partner in the Greater Côa Valley rewilding area and is working in collaboration with several partners to achieve the common goal of making Portugal a wilder place.

The team



Pedro Prata
Team Leader



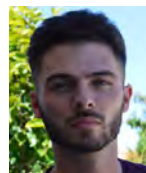
Marta Cálix
Project Manager



Sara Aliácar
Conservation Officer



Kayte Phillips
Finance Officer



Fernando Teixeira
Communication Officer



André Couto
Field Officer



Daniel Veríssimo
Enterprise Officer



Miguel Pontes
Surveillance Team



Gonçalo Matos
Surveillance Team

The board

**Paula Alexandra Faria
Fernandes Sarmento E Silva**
Chairwoman Of The Board

**Hendrick Adriaan
Van Beuninguen**
*Secretary Of The Board And
Representative Member Of
Rewilding Europe*

**Cristina Maria
Branquinho Fernandes**
Treasurer Of The Board



What is rewilding?

Rewilding is an innovative and pragmatic approach to nature conservation. It is about letting nature take care of itself, allowing natural processes to shape the land and the sea, repair damaged ecosystems and restore degraded landscapes. Thus, the natural rhythms of wildlife create wilder and more biodiverse habitats.

Wildlife is already returning in spectacular and surprising ways across Europe. In Portugal there is also the opportunity to recover landscapes and find more sustainable ways to coexist with nature. Dismissing the idea of fixed habitats, rewilding initiatives work to rebuild important ecological functions and complete food chains, and to establish greater ecological connectivity between natural areas.

In addition, the rewilding approach recognizes the need to create spaces where both nature and people can prosper and live in harmony, promoting more sustainable local economies in which the natural heritage enhances the development of rural economies.



Greater Côa Valley



Change in the name of the rewilding area: Western Iberia becomes the Greater Côa Valley

The Western Iberia rewilding area was renamed in 2020 as the "Greater Côa Valley" rewilding area. This change will strengthen the recognition of the area and reflects the evolution of rewilding efforts in the region, which have increased since the beginning of 2019. The symbol of the area, which previously represented an aurochs (wild ox), is now a wild horse.

"The name 'Greater Côa Valley' is much more connected to the Portuguese people", explains Rewilding Portugal team leader, Pedro Prata. "Overall, the move will help strengthen the area's brand from a local level to an international level."

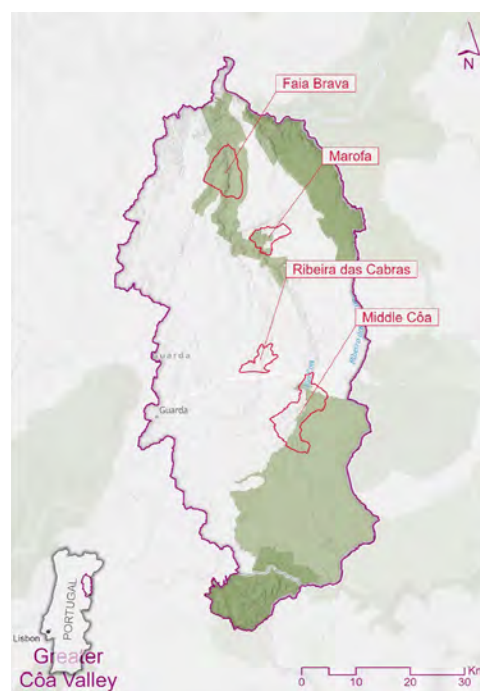
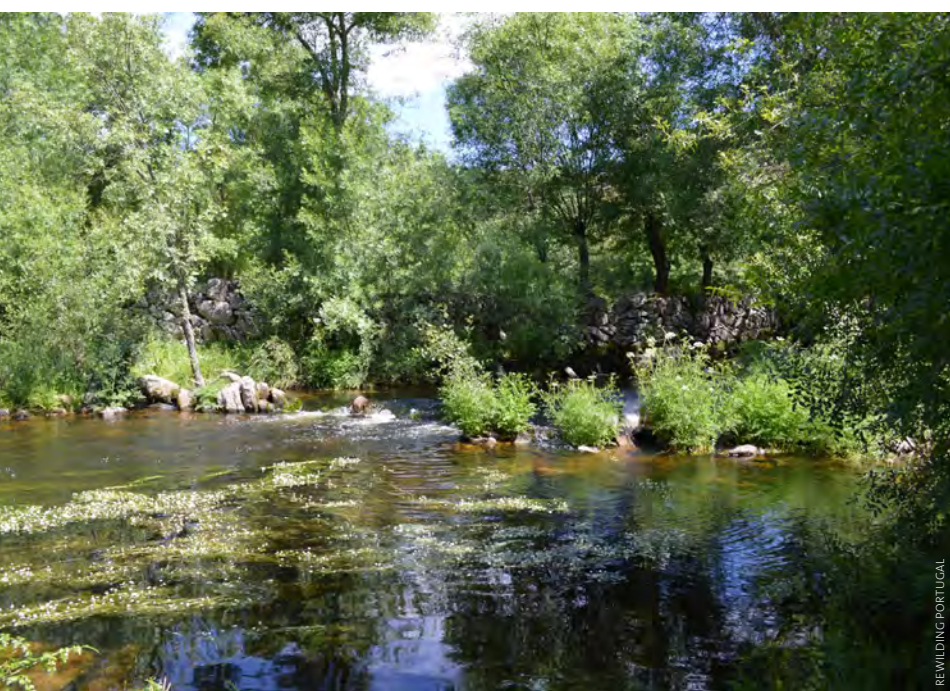
A new vision for the Greater Côa Valley

Spring in the Greater Côa Valley, year 2033. Land abandonment in the region has proved to be an opportunity to restore nature. The river that gives the valley its name flows alive and free from the Malcata to the Douro. The swampy areas have been restored thanks to the beaver, and the streams that used to dry up in the summer now run all year round. Wetlands support several amphibians: frogs, toads and newts. The clear waters and the abundance of trout created ideal conditions for river mussels. The aquatic

plant seed bank has been replaced and several decommissioned dams now allow fish to pass through; a program for the control of invasive alien species brought back bogues and common barbels, native fish species.

On the adjacent slopes and plateaus, the roe deer and the wild boar are no longer the only wild herbivores. The Ibex was reintroduced into the rocky areas, red deer returned and today herds of wild horses migrate to the rhythm of the seasons. The mosaic of habitats created by these herbivores and a sustainable management of hunting favoured the increase in the populations of rabbits and partridges. Rural fires are less frequent and severe thanks to the decrease in biomass and the increasing of wetlands. Various birds of prey fly in the Côa skies, such as Bonelli's eagle, which nests in cliffs and large trees. The golden eagle and the imperial eagle are also assiduous presence due to the abundance of prey. Nocturnal birds give sound to the dark night, from the small little owl to the majestic Eurasian eagle-owl.

The wolf has several established packs in the region, and the Iberian lynx has finally returned to Malcata. Together they play an important role, preventing overgrowth of herbivore populations (also preventing overgrazing), and controlling populations of meso-predators such as foxes Egyptian mongooses. The abundance





JUAN CARLOS MUÑOZ / REWILDING EUROPE

of dead wild prey helps to support a growing and diverse population of scavengers. Griffon vultures, Egyptian vultures, a colony of cinereous vultures and, although not yet nesting in the region, sightings of bearded vultures are more and more common. Various measures of coexistence between wildlife and man improve the relationship. Guarding dogs are used by livestock breeders to prevent attacks on domestic animals, light pollution is finally under control and there are wildlife passages along motorways and rail lines.

There is now a dynamic and diverse ecosystem. All the pieces are present and help to sustain life, from the small pollinating insects to the big horses, the gardeners of the meadows and clearings. Wolves, vultures, beavers (famous river engineers) all play their part. The Côa River, which gives name and life to this ancient corner of the Iberian Peninsula, has a new life.

The Greater Côa Valley is today a recognized tourist destination in Portugal and in the world, with a unique historical and cultural heritage and intrinsically linked to wildlife. Historic villages are now a gateway to the human world, but also to the new wild world. Bird watching, hides and safaris are some of the new activ-

ities linked to ecotourism that enhance the economic development of the region. This new nature-based economy directly benefits local communities, who value and protect this wilder and more sustainable Greater Côa Valley.



JUAN CARLOS MUÑOZ / REWILDING EUROPE



Visiting the Greater Côa Valley

LOCATED BETWEEN THE DOURO RIVER TO THE NORTH AND THE SERRA DA MALCATA IN THE SOUTH, PORTUGAL'S CÔA VALLEY IS A SPECTACULAR MIX OF RIVERINE GORGES, OAK FORESTS, ROCKY HEATHLANDS AND FORMER CROPLAND RETURNING TO NATURE. NEW SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL HERE COMBINES THE FINEST NATURAL AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES IN THE AREA, SUPPORTING LOCAL PEOPLE AND NEW INDEPENDENT NATURE RESERVES.



The Côa Valley Grand Route

The Côa Valley Grand Route is a 200 km linear trail, which crosses the Côa Valley from its river spring (at Fóios, Sabugal) to the river mouth (Vila Nova de Foz Côa) where it connects with the Douro river.

The trail is marked in both directions, so that it can be done north-south or south-north. The Grand Route can be done by walking, cycling or riding a horse and there are alternative trails that are exclusive for cyclists and horsemen. The Grand Route of the Côa Valley is managed by Territórios do Côa, an organization dedicated to promoting the natural, cultural and archaeological heritage of the Greater Côa Valley.

Côa Valley Rock Engravings

As an immense open-air gallery, the Côa Valley features more than a thousand outcrops with rock art, identified in over 80 different sites, pre-

dominantly from the Upper Paleolithic, some 25,000 years ago.

The Côa Valley Archaeological Park is located in the northernmost part of Guarda district, in the region known as Alto Douro. In 1998, in the fastest classification process ever, UNESCO included the Prehistoric Rock Art of the Côa Valley in the World Heritage List.

The Côa Parque – Foundation for the Safe-guarding and Development of the Côa Valley, also known as Côa Park Foundation, was created in 2011 to manage the Côa Valley Archaeological Park and the Côa Museum. Its goals are the protection, conservation, research and promotion of the Côa Valley Rock Art and other heritage features in the region.

The Faia Brava Reserve

The Faia Brava Reserve is the only private protected area in Portugal. It is bordered by the Côa river and is part of the Archeological Park of the Côa Valley.

The reserve is located in the municipalities of Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo and Pinhel, in the Guarda district. The reserve is home to 25 mammal species including wild horses (Gar-



rano) and cattle (Maronesa). It also hosts many birds species, including Griffon and Egyptian vultures, Golden and Bonelli's eagles, eagle owls and black storks. The Faia Brava Reserve was created in 2000 by Associação Transumância e Natureza, a nature conservation organization that manages the reserve.

OPERATORS



**EUROPEAN
SAFARI
COMPANY**

The European Safari Company offers unique adventures that support nature, wildlife and local cultures in incredible places in Europe. The company offers safaris in places where nature is returning thanks to rewilding efforts. Travelers have the opportunity to see incredible landscapes, learn about the rewilding approach and contribute directly to the region's rewilding efforts.



IMPACTTRIP

ImpactTrip is a certified B-Corp that promotes sustainable tourism in Portugal, Spain and Croatia. The company wants to change the way people travel, combining incredible experiences with the possibility of having a positive social and environmental impact. Through these trips, people have the opportunity to experience the local culture, also contributing positively to the local economy.

Touristic packages

To visit the region, there are several touristic packages that encompass much of what the region has to offer. These are some of the ones available:



Getaway to Vilar Maior

An old historic village opens the door to a wilder new world

Discover a new rewilding area (Vale Carapito) with WILDLIFE Portugal and spend the night in the historic village in Casa de Villar Mayor. There is also the opportunity to take a tour of the village with the local association Muralhas de Vilar Maior. This is a three-day experience, ideal for a weekend. The European Safari Company and ImpactTrip are the two travel agencies currently offering this experience.



4x4 adventure in the Greater Côa Valley

4x4 Safari in the Greater Côa Valley

Discover the rewilding area of the Côa through its rivers, valleys and mountains. From Malcata to the Douro, this is an opportunity to discover the wildlife of the region and the historic heritage of the valley. This is a seven-day experience which can be purchased through the European Safari Company.

Wild Côa Network

A NEW NETWORK OF NATURE-BASED ENTERPRISES HAS BEEN LAUNCHED. A NEW WAY TO EXPLORE AND DISCOVER WHAT THE GREATER CÔA VALLEY HAS TO OFFER AND THAT UNITES SEVERAL BUSINESSES IN THE REGION IN A COMMON VISION OF A WILDER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

The Greater Côa Valley is an ideal area to promote more sustainable tourism, as well as the production of high-quality regional products, supporting local communities and using nature as a resource for the development of a long-term sustainable economy. To promote this type of businesses in the region, a new business network was created – the Wild Côa Network. This network aims to promote synergies between the businesses that already exist on the ground and whose common objective is to make the Greater Côa Valley a new destination of excellence for nature tourism.



DreamOverland

Dreamoverland is a tour operator that organizes 4 × 4 expeditions in the Greater Côa Valley. Through these expeditions, you can contribute to the social cohesion and economic sustainability of local communities, getting to know the local traditions, crafts, heritage and regional products. The company offers a personalized and customized service, meeting the interests of its customers.



WILDLIFE Portugal

WILDLIFE Portugal is the company created by Fernando Romão, responsible for nature tourism and wildlife photography activities in the Greater Côa Valley. This tour operator organizes specific programs for observing and interpreting nature (birdwatching, for example), hiking, photographic tours and wildlife photography – in particular through shelters (photo-hides).



WildCòa

WildCòa is a tour operator in the Greater Côa Valley, based in Pinhel. The offer includes birdwatching, safaris and expeditions to explore the region's heritage. It also organizes wildlife photography tours, including in the Faia Brava Reserve.



AMBIEDUCA

AMBIEDUCA is a company that promotes activities of environmental education and tourist animation to bring small and large adults closer to nature and encourage healthy and sustainable living practices. A percentage of the value of the programs carried out in the Faia Brava Reserve revert to nature conservation actions in the reserve.



Portugal A2Z Walking & Biking

Portugal A2Z Walking & Biking offers authentic experiences in the most exclusive places in Portugal, with experience in the most historic and wild landscapes in the country. They offer a wide variety of guided and self-guided tours – all of which are customizable according to customers' preferences.



Casa da Cisterna

Casa da Cisterna is located in Castelo Rodrigo, a Historic Village in Portugal in the Greater Côa Valley, where the walls have centuries of history and are open to anyone who wants to enter. The old Cistern, which once served as a water deposit for the village, today gives its name to the House. This is the perfect place to stay for those who want to explore the Faia Brava Reserve and the engravings of the Côa Valley Archaeological Park.



Casa Villar Mayor

Casa Villar Mayor is located in Vilar Maior, Sabugal – an area with a rich natural, cultural and historical heritage. Vilar Maior is part of the Grand Route of the Côa Valley, and its local attractions include a 13th-century castle and a Roman bridge. Casa Villar Mayor is the perfect place to relax while exploring the region, with personalized and high-quality service.



Casas de Vilar

Casas de Vilar are located in the village of Vilar de Amargo, Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo. They are charming houses ideal for enjoying unique moments in an authentic rural village of the Douro, where you can hear the silence in communion with the music of the birds and the flocks that cross the village and set the perfect tone for an unforgettable stay.



Matreira

Matreira was born from the desire to share the unique flavours of Beira Alta with the rest of the world. Here you will find varieties of ancient trees whose fruit bears a sublime flavour that has been refined over hundreds of years. Matreira products are handcrafted and come from the Greater Côa Valley. Made with almonds of indigenous varieties from the Douro region, they offer a unique flavour given the unique characteristics of this area of schist soils and peculiar microclimate.



Flor Alta

Flor Alta offers a range of handmade and natural products, as an alternative to the use of synthetic substances found in traditional industrialized beauty products. The plants used are highly prized for their medicinal properties. Within the range they offer balms, essential oils and moisturizing creams for the face and hands (among others). Recently they also included a selection of herbal infusions.



Rotas e Raízes

Rotas e Raízes promotes rural development, valuing local resources and knowledge (nature, traditional products, food, wine). Its Tourist Entertainment Services are aimed at the general public (individual and group), interested in discovering and (re) experiencing the potential of each scenario. Its support and consultancy services are aimed at young and potential entrepreneurs, farmers and the general population.

When nature is part of entrepreneurship



Fernando Romão, WILDLIFE Portugal

WILDLIFE PORTUGAL IS A PARTNER COMPANY OF REWILDING PORTUGAL AND REWILDING EUROPE, RESPONSIBLE FOR NATURE TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN PORTUGAL. FERNANDO ROMÃO IS THE FACE OF THIS ENTITY AND IS ALSO ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW WILD CÔA NETWORK.



WILDLIFE Portugal is a recent idea that emerged from the initiative of Fernando Romão, a specialist in nature tourism for over a decade and who has always worked in the sector for other entities, before venturing and creating his own company. “I realized that Rewilding Europe was supporting entrepreneurship and local agents who wanted to do nature and wildlife related activities and this idea came up to develop something personal in terms of business, but more focused on wildlife and its observation and photography”. And so, he combined the experience he already had in this sector, in bird-watching and interpretation of flora and other fauna, and decided to invest in his own business, with the long-term idea being of having a network of photographic hides, “something that does not exist at a national level in commercial terms, contrary to what already happens in Spain”, he says. The target market is mainly

international, and the bet was to provide quality solutions and offers.

Since its creation, WILDLIFE Portugal intends to promote and promote nature tourism activities, valuing the conservation of the natural heritage in Portugal. It is also worth mentioning that “a percentage of the profits from the activities we develop revert to nature conservation actions in the Faia Brava Reserve”, Fernando Romão tells us.

Fernando Romão considers himself “fully involved in the philosophy of what rewilding is” and feels that this communion of ideas and ways of looking at nature was essential for strengthening the links between WILDLIFE Portugal and the rewilding movement. “Nature and wildlife are taking their place in the Interior of Portugal with the abandonment of these territories and rewilding promotes and has developed a sustainable management of these natural areas, for example through the promotion of natural grazing with wild or semi-wild herbivores”, he explains. Regarding the partnership, he considers this fundamental to consolidate the initial work he has been carrying out and expanding on a national scale, intending to “increase the network of hides and places where this type of business can be developed, since we have a large territory for that”.

Mariana Beja, Matreira

MATREIRA IS ONE OF THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE WILD CÔA NETWORK AND A GREAT EXAMPLE OF HOW TO ENHANCE A TERRITORY AND ITS NATURAL HERITAGE TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE, HIGH QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRODUCTS.

Matreira means sharing and that is how it came about, from this immense and inevitable desire to share, by the hand of two very special people and with a huge sense of ecology and sustainability. Mariana and Hugo joined this project to share with Portugal and the world, the unique and special flavours of Beira Alta and the Greater Côa Valley, flavours that are too special to be kept a secret. The Greater Côa Valley is one of the richest natural regions in the country and that is why it has the oldest trees whose fruits have a flavour that has been refined over the years.

About the Wild Côa Network, Mariana Beja is satisfied with the bet and with her adhesion to the project. "It made perfect sense for us, at Matreira, to be part of the Wild Côa Network, finding the right partners to ensure the achievement of common goals as well as the growth of the brand" she said. For Mariana, it is a unique opportunity for the company to "grow and expand in the market" and "bring a new awareness to its consumers, aiming at the importance of nature conservation as well as the roots and traditions of this region".

Matreira's focus is on handcrafted products made from almonds and olives from native trees, offering these products a unique quality and characteristics that distinguish them from

all others. Almonds of rare varieties that grow spontaneously (Casa Nova, Marcelina etc.), flavoured olive oil obtained through sustainable methods, there are many reasons to bet on this new brand when you decide to taste the best that the Great Côa Valley has to offer.

A project born in 2019 and still being launched in the market, in Vila Nova de Foz Côa and Figueira Castelo Rodrigo, which preserves and protects traditions, local communities, flavours and the entire identity of the Greater Côa Valley. All products can be ordered directly on their website. 100% natural products, handmade, without additives, which take the best that this region has to offer, directly from production to the plate, with constant ecological and environmental concerns.





Wildlife return

CAN COEXISTENCE WITH THE IBERIAN WOLF SOUTH OF THE DOURO RIVER IMPROVE?

The Iberian wolf population in Portugal is divided in two by the Douro River. While the subpopulation north of the Douro is larger and more stable, south of the Douro there are only a few scattered packs. Previous studies have shown that, south of the Douro, the Iberian wolf is persecuted in some areas, and that its diet depends largely on domestic animals, causing damages to some livestock breeders. It is therefore important to understand the social context and how this situation affects the attitudes of local actors towards the species.

A study was carried out between August 2019 and April 2020 to describe the social attitudes of local actors in the distribution area of the Iberian wolf south of the Douro River. The goal was to better understand the main problems related to the presence of the wolf, addressing the

complexity of the relationship between people and this large carnivore. The results of 117 interviews show that almost half of the interviewees consider that it is possible for the wolf to live in the region, but only under certain conditions, for example the payment of compensation for damages caused, or the availability of habitat and food for the species.

According to Margarida Lopes Fernandes (CRIA / ICNF), who supervised the social study, “The qualitative methodology used allowed us to better understand local knowledge and practices, the ambivalence in perceptions about the species, as well as the points of conflict and their reasons. Identifying and listening to key actors, in a neutral way, is crucial for conservation projects. The Rewilding Portugal team correctly adopted the recommended multidis-



ciplinary approach, including social scientists who worked with the team”.

In addition, the majority of respondents demonstrated positive attitudes towards the use of livestock guarding dogs, as long as they are from suitable Portuguese breeds such as Serra da Estrela and Castro Laboreiro, and that these dogs have been well trained to protect livestock.

The future of the Iberian wolf in the area depends on finding beneficial solutions for both people and wildlife. The results of this study show that there are many people in local communities open to exploring solutions and maintaining coexistence with this emblematic Portuguese species. Is it then possible to improve the conditions for coexistence with the Iberian wolf in the region? Only time will tell, but we believe so.





GRZEGORZ LESNIEWSKI

Increasing roe deer numbers

AN URGENT MEASURE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE IBERIAN WOLF.

Roe deer are the smallest deer in Portugal, present mainly in the northern half of the country. Since the mid-20th Century, the species has been expanding due to natural dispersion from the northern and Spanish mountains, and to reintroduction projects. It is a species associated with forests and agricultural mosaics, being able to adapt to different types of native forests, plantations and bush areas.

Being one of the main natural prey of the Iberian wolf, a monitoring study was carried out by the University of Aveiro and Rewilding Portugal during 2019 and 2020. This study allowed the identification of key areas where the reinforcement of roe deer may be more effective to increase availability of this wild prey.

Contacts are now being established in these

areas to identify the best places for population reinforcements, which are expected to start in late 2021. Rewilding Portugal and the University of Aveiro have been working closely with the ICNF and orient their work in line with IUCN guidelines.

The increase in the abundance of wild prey for the Iberian wolf south of the Douro River is urgent to guarantee the long-term viability of this subpopulation. In the region, the Iberian wolf feeds largely on domestic animals, since many flocks and herds are not adequately protected, and that abundance of wild prey is low. The project is working with livestock farmers to ensure better protection for domestic animals, but it is also necessary to ensure that there is an alternative source of food for the species.

Reducing threats to wildlife

AT THE END OF 2020, REWILDING PORTUGAL'S SURVEILLANCE TEAM BECAME OPERATIONAL. THIS TWO-MAN TEAM MAKES LONG JOURNEYS THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION'S INTERVENTION AREA, LOOKING FOR ILLEGAL TRAPS SUCH AS SNARES, WHICH ARE OFTEN LEFT IN THE FIELD TO CATCH WILD BOARS. THESE SNARES CAN CATCH ANY ANIMAL, INCLUDING THREATENED SPECIES SUCH AS THE IBERIAN WOLF.

One day in the field with Rewilding Portugal's Surveillance Team.

7:30 am

The Surveillance Team starts for another day of patrol, this time in the northwest side of our area of operation. Three hours travel between national and municipal roads, winding roads, and dirt paths.

At 10:30 am, it is time to leave the car behind, and to identify and travel through the most recent animal trails.

1:00 pm

The Surveillance Team pauses for lunch, sitting in a high place and taking the opportunity to assess the land below and the forest spots which may be most conducive to illegal practices. Half an hour later the Surveillance Team is back at work.

2:30 pm

The team's effort is rewarded. Having found illegal snares placed in the field to catch wild animals, the Surveillance Team records the evidence, takes the GPS coordinates, and contacts the competent authorities to come and remove the snares.

The Surveillance Team waits on the spot for the authorities to arrive, which happens at four in the afternoon. When the GNR arrives at the site, it registers the illegal snares, counts them, and removes them. From here, it is the responsibility of the GNR to initiate the legal process.

5:30 pm

The Surveillance Team is back on the vehicle, this time on the main road to spare their already tired legs. At six o'clock they are back at the organization's headquarters – tomorrow will be a new day.



Surveillance Team.



Illegal trap for wildlife.

Coexistence corridors for the Iberian wolf

*TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING
THE USE OF LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOGS TRAINED BY GRUPO LOBO.*

Between August and October 2020, a training was given by Grupo Lobo to train the Rewilding Portugal team and its veterinarians in the selection and integration of livestock guarding dogs in flocks and herds, and in the evaluation of these dogs' performance.

As one of the oldest traditions of mankind, livestock guarding dogs have always protected domestic animals (sheep, cows and goats) from attacks by wolves and other predators. In Portugal, these dogs are an essential tool to promote

better coexistence between local communities and wild fauna, especially with the Iberian wolf.

According to Silvia Ribeiro, the trainer from Grupo Lobo in charge of the "Cão de Gado" Program: "The use of quality, properly bred livestock guarding dogs can be very useful to achieve coexistence with the wolf, as it allows for a reduction of the wolf's impact on cattle and at the same time it contributes to recovering national canine breeds, some of which are also at risk, valuing pastoralism and maintaining the landscape."

This work has contributed to the recovery of strains of good working dogs, dogs that, as some livestock breeders say, "are like the old ones, they never leave the livestock", recovering a traditional knowledge that has been lost from some areas.

Puppies are selected considering their quality (and their parents' quality), the characteristics of the farms that they will integrate, and the management carried out on those farms. The dogs are integrated by the team of veterinarians and Rewilding Portugal when the puppies are around two months old, after weaning and the first prophylactic actions. It is at this stage of their development, during the period of socialization, that dogs most easily form affective bonds with the animals they will protect for the rest of their lives, learning to consider these animals as their family – whether they are cows, sheep, goats, pigs, horses or donkeys.

The dogs will also be monitored during the first two years of life, providing the necessary support to ensure their correct development and well-being, so that they become effective guardians. Livestock guarding dogs take between 18 and 24 months to become adults and to be prepared to effectively protect livestock. After that time, a final evaluation of their effectiveness is carried out, and an assessment is made of the satisfaction of the livestock breeders with the dogs.

This work will continue over the next few years and now, thanks to the training given by Grupo Lobo, the team has new skills and expanded knowledge.

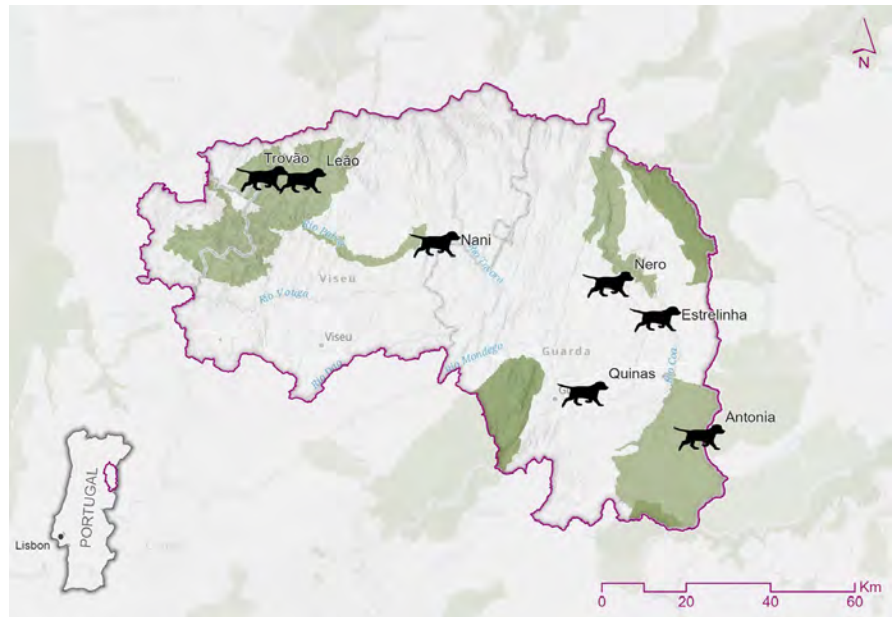


Livestock guarding dogs



TROVÃO

With a name that commands respect, Trovão is a male Serra da Estrela who was born in April 2020. Nowadays he protects a herd of Arouquesa cows in Serra de Montemuro, along with two other dogs. Trovão (thunder in English) was recently caught in an illegal wild boar snare, but he was lucky and managed to break free, returning to his herd without serious injuries.



NANI

Nani was a male Serra da Estrela born in June 2020 and was the brother of Quinas and Antónia. Quinas was guarding a flock of sheep, but unfortunately was poisoned in late December. The situation was reported to the national authorities, but the case was closed due to the lack of suspects. The field patrol of Rewilding Portugal is trying to get more information about what happened to prevent it from happening again.



LEÃO

Leão (lion in English) was the first guarding dog given by Rewilding Portugal and is a male Serra da Estrela born in December 2019. Nowadays he is already a big dog and has even had a first litter with his companion, Ribeira, in January 2021. Leão also appears in the documentary “Rewilding, a new path for nature in Portugal”, where you can see him guarding a sheep flock in Serra de Montemuro.



QUINAS

Quinas is a male Serra da Estrela who was born in June 2020. He is the brother of Antónia and Nani (see below) and guards Lusitano mares in Guarda. They rotate between pastures and Quinas always accompanies them. This is a very special case, as there are not many livestock guarding dogs protecting horses. The owner of Quinas was concerned about them as his farm is in an area of potential recolonization for the Iberian wolf.



ANTÓNIA

Antónia is a female Serra da Estrela born in June 2020. She is the sister of Quinas and Nani, and she watches over a herd of cows that are roaming near the border with Spain, in Sabugal.



NERO

With the name of an ancient Roman emperor and with black fur, this male Serra da Estrela was born in April 2020. Nowadays he keeps a flock of sheep safe in Pinhel. It is also the puppy that can be seen being delivered in the same documentary in which Leão appears.



ESTRELINHA

Estrelinha is a female from Serra da Estrela who was born in October 2020. She is still learning to protect a flock of sheep in Almeida, in a region that was attacked twice by wolves in 2020.

Griffon vultures marked with GPS transmitters in the Côa Valley to study feeding habits

Between 2019 and 2020, Rewilding Portugal and ATNatureza marked several griffon vultures with GPS transmitters in the Greater Côa Valley. The transmitters that the birds have been equipped with – birds that are mainly breeding adults – also contain an accelerometer, which indicates when the birds are resting, flying, or feeding. The data provided by the devices will provide important information on where they are feeding and on what type of carcasses.

Monitoring of this species in the Greater Côa Valley and surroundings shows that since the 1990s, griffon vultures have made a dramatic return to the area. It is estimated that there are about 200 breeding pairs in the region, including the Côa Valley Special Protection Area, the Malcata Natural Reserve and the Douro International Natural Park. This return could be further supported if specially authorized Portuguese farmers chose to leave the carcasses of their domestic herbivores in the field.





Recent changes in Portuguese regulations mean that pig, sheep and goat carcasses can be left out of artificial feeding stations again, in areas that the ICNF considers important for the conservation of scavenger bird species.

"The Rewilding Portugal team and its partners are working with national authorities to develop an extensive network of farmers in the Côa Valley and in the Douro International Natural Park, who are allowed to leave carcasses in the field", explains Sara Aliácar, Conservation Officer of Rewilding Portugal.





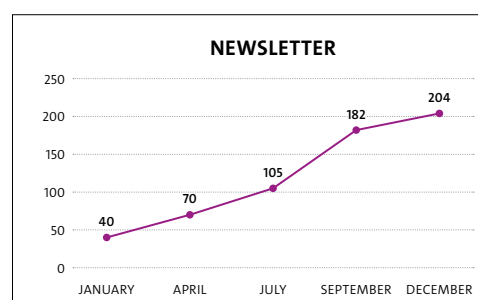
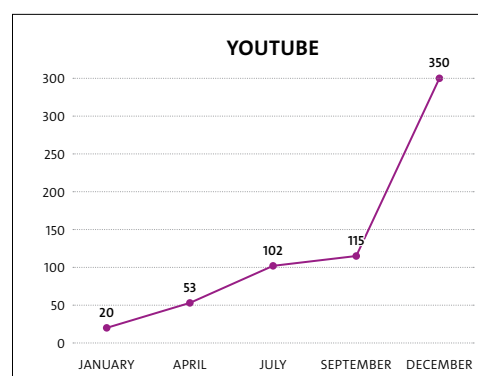
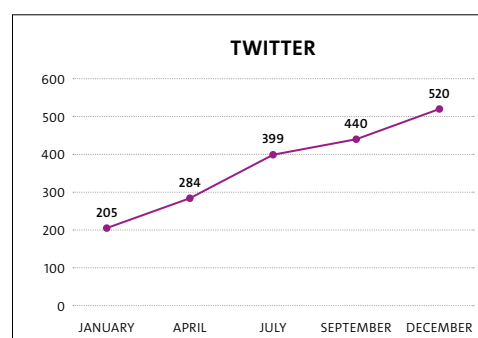
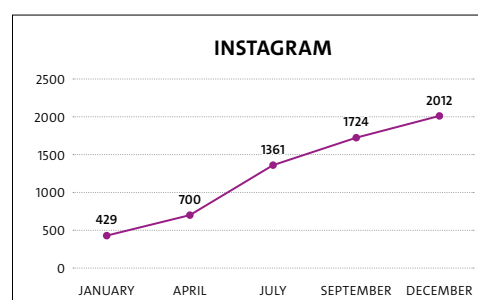
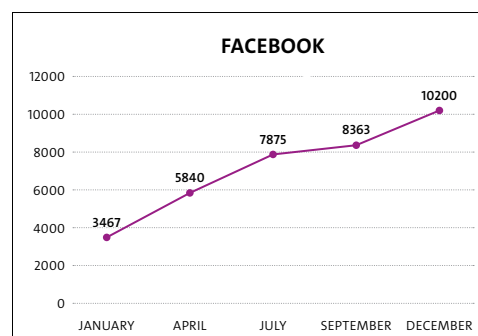
Communication

2020 WAS A YEAR OF GREAT GROWTH IN TERMS OF COMMUNICATION FOR REWILDING PORTUGAL.

As a young nature conservation organization, Rewilding Portugal dedicated its efforts to disseminating the vision of rewilding with the Portuguese and international public, as well as increasing and improving its content and its way of communicating, mainly at a digital level. Rewilding Portugal's presence on social networks has increased considerably, with a community of more than 15,000 people on various social networks.

The LIFE WolFlux project won the "EU in my region" contest from the European Commission's LIFE Programme with a photo of Sara Aliácar (Rewilding Portugal Conservation Officer) interviewing a livestock producer as part of the project's social attitudes study. The postcards received are being used as dissemination material.

Several articles about Rewilding Portugal were also published in national and international media, counting more than sixty publications, as well as articles in scientific journals, namely in the Carnivore Damage Prevention News and in the Lucanus Magazine, creating new knowledge and disseminating results with the surrounding / local communities, as well as with the scientific community that accompanies the projects.



New documentary

*THE DOCUMENTARY “REWILDING, A NEW PATH FOR NATURE IN PORTUGAL”
PREMIERED AT THE END OF NOVEMBER 2020.*

Directed by João Cosme and with the narration of Célia Gil, this documentary shows the work that is being carried out on the ground by Rewilding Portugal and its partners, what the next steps and actions are, and it explains to the general public what the role of rewilding in the landscape and in nature is.

The event took place at Culturgest, in Lisbon, with a sold-out room and the presence of several important stakeholders in the national panorama of nature conservation, culture and national politics. After the screening there was a round table about policies for the promotion of biodiversity and rewilding as agents for the development of the country and the interior. The premiere was broadcasted simultaneously online.

The adventure of making this documentary began between the end of February and the beginning of March 2020, when the format of the documentary was decided. Despite all the restrictions that were put in place at the end of March due to Covid-19, the work in the field continued. After all, there is no better way to be confined than to be isolated in constant contact with nature. And this is what João Cosme did in the months that followed, as well as the Rewilding Portugal team that accompanied him several times to the field, in the interviews with the various partners and to the different project actions taking place.

Through different seasons, the documentary covered a large area, from Aveiro to Malcata, through the Douro river and reaching the Greater Côa Valley. The Iberian wolf, difficult to register and to obtain close images of, was the main actor of the message of hope and perseverance it embodies, in the way this species adapts to new realities and how it deals with new and constant threats without disappearing. “The most complicated thing was the work done with the Iberian wolf, one of the most difficult animals to observe in Portugal. Consecutive days without seeing him ... but I had the opportunity to be less than ten meters away from two of them, which is undoubtedly something indescribable”. This is how João Cosme describes this arduous task. But there is an incredible set of species that were forever recorded in the lens of João Cosme in this film.



Rewilding Portugal's team and board after the event in Lisbon.



João Cosme filming Duarte Cadete from Zoo Logical.

A moment with the Zoo Logical canine detection team will always remain in our memory. Alice, responsible for identifying scats that help the monitoring of the Iberian wolf, had to show her abilities for the camera, and for that reason the team hid a scat in a strategic place so that she could search for it. However, the scat was so well hidden that even those who hid it could not find it again. However, and to everyone's surprise, Alice found a different scat, which was perfectly captured by the camera, showing the work that is being carried out in the field.

Partnership with Guarda 2027 – European Capital of Culture



Another major milestone achieved in 2020 was the beginning of a partnership with Guarda 2027, the candidacy of Guarda in collaboration with 16 other municipalities to be the European Capital of Culture in 2027. Taking into account the cultural aspect of Rewilding Portugal's nature conservation work, mainly through nature documentaries in the seventh art and even festivals that value the natural and historical heritage of the region, this partnership allows the organization to boost rewilding initiatives in the Greater Côa Valley, increase the dimension of its target audience, and to add a new dimension to the link that is being established with local communities and key actors in the region.

Pedro Gadanho, director of the Guarda 2027 candidacy, is also satisfied with this partnership. "When Guarda 2027 decided to include in its central themes the cross between the current ecological emergency and the transformation of our daily cultural practices, it was particularly gratifying to discover that Rewilding Portugal was developing its mission in the region", he says, adding that he considers fundamental "the work developed by Rewilding Portugal in the context of the conservation and restoration of sustainable biodiversity and the health of the ecosystem, protecting wildlife, namely in the Greater Côa Valley".

The partnership has already had practical results, with the screening of the episode "The Missing Lynx", of the series "Europe's New Wild", in January 2021. This episode explains the emergence of rewilding efforts in Portugal and in the region, and how they are part of a wider European concept. It was broadcasted in a private event at the Municipal Theater of Guarda (TMG) and was included in the Cultural Agenda of the Guarda 2027 candidacy. There are more events on the way, namely the tour through the Guarda district of the documentary "Rewilding, a new path for nature in Portugal", which aims to raise awareness about the work of Rewilding Portugal and its partners. This partnership will also extend to other planned cultural projects of greater scope, which aim to promote the region while also preserving its identity.

Pedro Gadanho, explains that this "willingness to include contemporary artistic practices in the landscapes that are being restored and in the ecosystems that are being re-established", was the main reason for inviting Rewilding Portugal to become one of the cultural partners of the candidacy. For Pedro Gadanho, this is "an excellent opportunity to exchange cultural, artistic and scientific knowledge, with the development of shared values that aim not only at ecological balance in spaces returned to nature, but, ultimately, throughout the region in which these are found".



Pedro Gadanho



Media partnerships

2020 WAS A YEAR OF ABUNDANT INTERACTION WITH REGIONAL AND NATIONAL MEDIA, AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF OUR WORK TO KEEP LOCAL COMMUNITIES INFORMED AND DISSEMINATE THE WORK OF REWILDING PORTUGAL. SO FAR, FIVE OFFICIAL PARTNERSHIPS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, COVERING REWILDING PORTUGAL'S AREA OF WORK AND FOUR DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY.



COMUNIDADE CULTURA E ARTE

Comunidade Cultura e Arte is a national online communication project, with more than half a million followers, whose main mission is to popularize and honour Culture and Art in all its aspects and encourage, in the community, social and cultural debate. It stands out for its rigor, exemption, independence from political or private powers, and a creative orientation for its readers.

"The environment is a cornerstone both in the debate and in the awareness we want to give to our readers / followers. The future of our planet, and our mission as a cultural platform, involves transmitting concepts and ideas to raise awareness about these themes" – Rui André Soares, Director.



JORNAL FÓRUM COVILHÃ

Jornal Forum Covilhã is a young and modern regional newspaper, with ten years of existence, with great incidence in the municipalities of Covilhã, Fundão, Belmonte, Manteigas and Penamacor, also covering the remaining municipalities of the district of Castelo Branco. It has become a reference of regional journalism in Beira Interior and is the leading publication in Covilhã.

"Part of our mission is to be an active part of projects that want to boost our communities, as is the case here" – Vítor Aleixo, Director.



RÁDIO COVA DA BEIRA

Rádio Cova da Beira is a radio station with 34 years of existence, based in Fundão, characterized by its excellence and scope, but with a main focus in the municipalities of Fundão, Covilhã, Penamacor, Belmonte and Castelo Branco. A strong and historic radio throughout Beira Interior.

"We have to be at the side of projects that value our territory and our natural and historical heritage, such as the work developed by Rewilding Portugal" – Miguel Nascimento, Director.



CENTRO NOTÍCIAS

With 15 years of existence, Centro Notícias, located in Nelas, used to be a paper publication, and has now become an online publication which can be accessed at www.centronoticias.pt. It was the first regional media partnership established in the Viseu district.

"A very interesting conservation project. We obviously had to be at the side of work like this, empower them and give them a voice" – José Silva, Director.



JORNAL A VERDADE

Jornal A Verdade is a regional newspaper of reference in Portugal and, therefore, with wide national repercussion, covering the entire region of Tâmega and Sousa, including several municipalities in the districts of Viseu and Aveiro.

"It is in our interest to bring specialized information to the people of our region, ensuring that it is reliable and that it is presented in the correct way, something that this partnership brings at an environmental level" – Vítor Almeida, Director.



Signing media partnership with Radio Cova da Beira.



Working closely with local communities

In nature conservation working closely with local communities is essential. It is not possible to work in a lasting and sustainable way on the ground if there is no contact with those who live and work in the region, since these communities give life to the land and play a key role in local dynamics, with direct influence on the surrounding environment and nature.

To ensure that local communities are aware of the work Rewilding Portugal and its partners are carrying out in the region, informative sessions have been held with some locations. One of these sessions took place in the summer, in the village of Vilar Maior, in the municipality of Sabugal. This region is one of the key areas to promote rewilding in the region, and it was important to establish greater contact with local communities, explaining in greater depth the work that is taking place. The event took place with the support of the parish of

Aldeia da Ribeira, Vilar Maior and Badamalos, and took place in the parish hall. The event was well attended by people from Vilar Maior and neighbouring villages, who came to attend the session and ask questions about the organization's work.

Another important informative session during 2020 took place in Covas do Monte, in the municipality of São Pedro do Sul, and which was organized in partnership with the municipality. This session was mainly focused on the coexistence with the Iberian wolf, since in that region livestock breeders have recurrent problems with this large carnivore. Rewilding Portugal presented the damage prevention measures that can be used and adapted to each case, from livestock guarding dogs to wolf-proof fences that can effectively protect domestic animals.



Fernando Teixeira from Rewilding Portugal.



Marco Ferraz from ATNatureza.

New environmental education program – Lupi EcoClubs

A new environmental education program started in 2020, aiming to bring the youngest closer to nature. The Lupi EcoClubs focus on teaching about biodiversity and promoting curiosity and pride in Portugal's natural values. This environmental education program had to reinvent itself in order to reach young people in the region during the global pandemic. These EcoClubs have been developed in a mixed regime, which allows the students to access the content and associated challenges, participating in school or from home.

This environmental education programme is being carried out by ATNatureza, with support from Rewilding Portugal. The Lupi EcoClubs are taking place in several schools in the district of Guarda in this first year. "Having pleasurable experiences in the exploration of nature is the most effective way to learn about it and establish an affective connection that is lasting and that promotes understanding, respect and celebration of nature throughout their lives", says Marco Ferraz, the environmental educator from ATNatureza.

The digital platform Instagram was used to develop a functional and challenging concept for young people. All participants have access to a common account which they are able to access whenever they want to participate in the

proposed challenges, from placing photos and videos of nature and some specific species of fauna and flora, to quizzes and anything that encourages going out into nature, explore, observe and create. The classes are also recorded on video so that knowledge can be transmitted to students who cannot be present.



“Altano Rewilding” wine

A NEW DOURO WINE, LAUNCHED UNDER THE ALTANO BRAND BY SYMINGTON FAMILY ESTATES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH REWILDING PORTUGAL, WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE IN PORTUGAL.

In 2020, Rewilding Portugal entered into a partnership with Symington Family Estates, with the goal of joining forces for nature conservation in Portugal. Their concern with environmental sustainability, as well as the sustainability of the company itself, led Symington Family Estates to create an Impact Fund that aims to support relevant social and environmental projects, thus assuming its social responsibility as a company operating in the national market.

As part of this partnership, “Altano Rewilding” was launched in early 2021, a special edition of Altano wine that aims to help conservation in Portugal, and more specifically the work of Rewilding Portugal.

This wine is a classic blend from the Douro, originating from higher-level vineyards in order to create a fresh, elegant and fruity profile obtained from the Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz and Tinta Barroca varieties, and is available in bottle format (75cl) and in bag-in-tube (2.25l), which contains the equivalent of three bottles and is easily recyclable, in addition to having a much lower carbon footprint than the equivalent volume in glass and allowing good conservation of the content – after opening – for a period of four to six weeks.



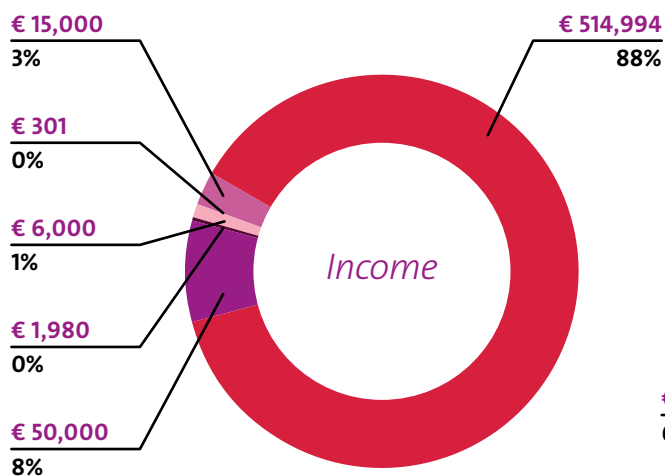
We are very excited about this wine, a fantastic example of a Douro red that combines an innovative format with an interesting history, in addition to providing an opportunity for people to contribute to a positive cause. We are pleased to increase the visibility of Rewilding Portugal's important conservation work in the Greater Côa Valley – close to our vineyards in the Douro. As the environmental and climate crises accelerate, we need to see solutions implemented at scale. Rewilding emerges as a multifaceted solution to many of the environmental problems we face in the 21st century.

Rob Symington

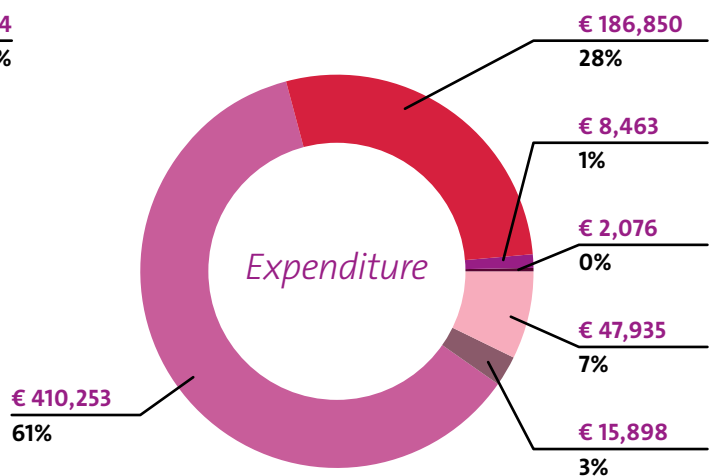
5th generation director at Symington Family Estates



Financials 2020



- Endangered Landscapes Program
- AVS
- Mossy Earth
- Barcelona Zoo
- Other income
- Symington Family Estates



- Staff costs
- Travel & transportation
- Equipment & Infrastructure
- Other conservation activities
- Consumables & overheads
- Land purchase

Who supports us

Strategic partner



REWILDING EUROPE

Rewilding Europe was created in 2011 as an independent foundation in the Netherlands. It has established itself as a pan-European initiative that operates at the forefront of the European-wide rewilding movement and aims to make Europe a wilder place, with much more space for wildlife and natural processes. Rewilding Europe's goal is for wild nature to be recognized as an indispensable part of Europe's natural and cultural heritage and an essential element for a modern, prosperous, and healthy society.



ZOO LOGICAL

Zoo Logical is a Portuguese non-governmental organization, founded in 2011 by nine biologists with different areas of expertise. In 2011, Zoo Logical implemented a wolf monitoring project located in a region that forms part of the Greater Côa Valley. During this project, Zoo Logical made strategic partnerships with local stakeholders, such as rural development organizations. Zoo Logical also developed projects related to environmental education and raising awareness of the importance of wildlife, in which they also established international networks with European NGOs.

Project partners



UNIVERSITY OF AVEIRO

The University of Aveiro is one of the most dynamic and innovative universities in the country. The Wildlife Unit of the Biology Department focuses on the fields of animal ecology and monitoring of natural areas, among others. The various projects in which the Unit's members participate are being implemented in Portugal and internationally. This unit has specialized knowledge in the conservation and management of wild ungulates and has been responsible for reintroduction programs, population studies and the elaboration of monitoring plans.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION – LIFE PROGRAM

The LIFE WolFlux project received funding from the European Union's LIFE Program. The LIFE program is the European Union's financing instrument for the environment and climate action, created in 1992. Every year, the European Commission, which manages the LIFE program, launches a call for proposals and, based on criteria which take into account the multi-annual strategic program and national priorities, determine which of the proposed projects may benefit from financial support from the LIFE program and regularly publish a list of these projects.



ATNATUREZA



The Associação Transumância e Natureza is a non-profit environmental organization, created in Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo in 2000 with the goal of actively contributing to the conservation of nature in the region of Riba-Côa, creating "more space for nature". ATNatureza acquired several properties in the Special Protection Areas of the Côa Valley and Douro International and Águeda Valley. Since its creation, ATNatureza has followed the evolution of the populations of the most threatened bird species, contributing to its study and knowledge in the intervention area.



ENDANGERED LANDSCAPES PROGRAMME

Rewilding Europe is the coordinator of two projects financed by the Endangered Landscapes Programme (ELP) in the Greater Côa Valley and the Danube Delta and works together with Rewilding Portugal and Rewilding Ukraine in their execution. The Endangered Landscapes Programme is managed by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and funded by Arcadia, a charity fund by Peter Baldwin and Lisbet Rausing. The ELP is a progressive initiative that envisions a future where Europe's landscapes are rich in biodiversity, establishing resilient ecosystems, more sustainable ecosystems, that benefit nature and people.



SYMINGTON FAMILY ESTATES

Symington Family Estates is one of the world's largest producers of premium Port wine, the main owner of vineyards in the Alto Douro region and one of the main wine producers in Portugal. Symington Family Estates is currently supporting Rewilding Portugal through its Impact Fund, which aims to support causes and organizations in the long term in the Douro, Porto and Alto Alentejo regions, with positive solutions for social and environmental issues.



MOSSY EARTH

Mossy Earth is a company whose main objective is – by restoring ecosystems – to promote real environmental changes, and making a positive impact on the planet. Their passion for nature led them to build a platform where people can interact with conservation in a whole new way. Mossy Earth is currently supporting the work of Rewilding Portugal.



BARCELONA ZOO FOUNDATION

The Barcelona Zoo is a public agency of the Municipality of Barcelona and its mission is to contribute to the conservation of wildlife and biodiversity on this planet, working in cooperation with other zoos, administrations, organizations, universities and scientific centres. The Barcelona Zoo Foundation is currently supporting the LIFE WolFlux project.

Other collaborators



ICNF

The Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests is a public institute integrated in the indirect administration of the State, endowed with administrative, financial autonomy and its own assets. As a national authority for biodiversity conservation, the ICNF plays a critical role at the national level. ICNF has been monitoring the progress of Rewilding Portugal's work.



GRUPO LOBO

Grupo Lobo is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental environmental association (ONGA) whose mission is to work in favour of the conservation of the Iberian wolf and its ecosystem in Portugal and promote interest for the species and associated areas of scientific study by informing public opinion. Grupo Lobo has been collaborating with Rewilding Portugal on actions related to the implementation of damage preventive measures in farm holdings such as the integration of livestock guarding dogs.



ACHLI

The Iberian Wolf Habitat Conservation Association is a non-profit association created by a group of companies related to the implementation of wind projects in the Freita, Arada and Montemuro mountains. Its mission is to contribute to the preservation of the natural and cultural landscape of sensitive areas in the national territory, particularly in areas where the presence of the Iberian wolf is detected. ACHLI and Rewilding Portugal collaborate through the sharing of monitoring data from the Iberian wolf.



CIBIO

The Biodiversity and Genetic Resources Research Center is internationally recognized for its basic and applied research work on the three main components of biodiversity: genes, species and ecosystems. CIBIO has collaborated with Rewilding Portugal through the technical-scientific monitoring of the actions of marking griffon vultures and monitoring their use of the landscape.



CRIA

The Centre for Research Network in Anthropology is an interuniversity unit that exists as a research and development unit of the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT). The Environmental Challenges, Sustainability and Ethnography group focuses its research on environmental issues through an open approach that reintegrates nature and society as indivisible ontological elements. CRIA has collaborated with Rewilding Portugal through the scientific supervision of social auscultation actions, which integrate an anthropological approach in its methodology.



Supporting Rewilding Portugal's work

There are several ways to support the work of Rewilding Portugal. Visiting the Greater Côa Valley through safaris or other tour packages from the European Safari Company and ImpactTrip is a way to directly contribute to the region's conservation efforts, as a small percentage of the cost of these offers reverts to the organization.

Alternatively, for companies interested in developing models of Corporate Social Responsibility, there are several options, such as:

- Financing the acquisition of land dedicated to nature conservation;
- Acquiring carbon credits and / or rewilding credits (still in development);
- Supporting the strategic expansion of rewilding in Portugal.

Finally, Rewilding Portugal is on Patreon, and it is possible to support the organization with a small monthly contribution, gaining access to exclusive content about the organization's work. The subscription can be cancelled at any time. To subscribe our Patreon access this link: www.patreon.com/rewildingportugal





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