MONTADO AGROFORESTRY
A MULTIFUNCTIONAL SYSTEM

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UNAC is a private NGO representing the interests of the forest owners in the Portuguese Mediterranean area, near to National and European institutions.

UNAC has currently 6 member organizations, an intervention area of 2 million ha, representing an agro-forestry area of 700,000 ha.

**UNAC activities and expertise:**
- lobby;
- technical assistance to member organizations;
- coordination and development of projects;
- research, innovation and knowledge transfer;
- communication & public intervention.

**Non wood forest systems** (cork oak + holm oak + umbrella pine) as the main intervention areas, but including eucalyptus and maritime pine plantations within the scope.
Man Shaped Forest of Cork Oak or Holm Oak (evergreen oaks)

Represents 31% of the Portuguese forest

Mainly located in the south (farm size > 50 ha)

Stabilized area since 2005

Pastures are the main undercanopy use

Biggest carbon sink in the Portuguese forest (26%)

Protected by law since the 12th century
Very fragmented landownership (400,000 to 500,000 landowners)
Dualistic ownerships structure:
85% forest holdings have less than 5ha;
55% of the Portuguese forest is located in holdings with more than 100 ha
Cork production/ harvesting for wine bottle stoppers

Natural grazing with extensive livestock farming

A key role in ecological processes, such as water retention, soil conservation or carbon storage

One of the highest levels of biodiversity among forest habitat (> 135 sp/ m²)

Provision of rural populations with work

Very long term investment return | non profitable
MONTADO AGRO FORESTRY | MULTIFUNCIONALITY

Honey
Aromatic plants
Mushrooms

Under canopy crops

Cereals
Shrubs

Agricultural System

Meat

Surrounding Oak Trees
Pastures
Pasture System

Cork
Firewood
Charcoal

Cork Oak Trees
Forest System

Ecological System
(soil protection, biodiversity, carbon sink)
MONTADO AGRO FORESTRY | PRACTICES

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO ADDRESS MULTIFUNCTIONALITY

- Cork harvesting | 9 to 9 years
- Extensive livestock management | Forest regeneration
- Minimum soil intervention | Soil & Roots conservation
- Shrub control by cattle | Fire defence
- Conservation areas establishment | Biodiversity promotion
- Forest certification | Good practices implementation
• Being B1 and B2 the Montado systems (without and with livestock, respectively)

• The green crosses represent the ES provision

• The ES provision generally diminishes in the scenario of abandonment (A)

• The ES provision generally diminishes in the scenario of intensification (C)
1. Forest & Agriculture detachment

2. Climate adaptation & mitigation*

3. Economic sustainability

* source: Sánchez-Benitéz et al, 2018
1. The survival of the agroforestry systems requires “Forest and Agriculture” not “Forest or Agriculture”

2. Recognition of the European importance of the cork sector
   - the majority of the cork forest area is in the EU
   - the EU is, through cork, the world leader in the wine stoppers sector

3. These are systems of very low intensity, not economically viable, that need the right financial support to avoid abandonment or over exploitation

4. Economic rewarding of the externalities

5. Assure financial support to the afforestation of agricultural lands (15-20 years) accounted within LULUCF

**European recognition of the:**
- Forest singularity (long term economic activity)
- Forest increasing requirements by the society
- Forest public goods (carbon, water, soil, biodiversity, climate)

**Rural Development Program (2021-2027)**
with:
- specific measures adapted to forest needs and expectations
- appropriate budget to the EU forest targets
- appropriate support rates

**Forest insurance policy**
- an economic activity & professional management must have access to an affordable insurance system.
Thank You!