



Dryland Champions 2015 Portugal



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The Drylands Champion Programm is designed to enable participating countries to recognize national activities that make a practical contribution to sustainable land management (SLM) practices.

The Dryland Champions programme

I am part of the solution

Be part of the solution become a Dryland Champion !

Rio +20 recognized the need for action to reverse land degradation and called to strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world. Combating land degradation is a challenging task but also an exciting endeavor. Why exciting? Because implementing the UNCCD and achieving a land-degradation neutral world start literally on one's own doorstep. Everybody can contribute; take action and being part of a growing Dryland Champions community that safeguard land and soil for greater local

Who are Dryland Champions?

Dryland Champions is a new programme designed to honor activities by individuals and/or organizations and business respectively that make a practical contribution to sustainable land management (SLM) practices. Under the Dryland Champions motto "I am part of the solution," the initiative focuses first and foremost on people, their commitment and endeavors for improving the livelihoods of populations and the conditions of ecosystems affected by desertification and drought.


What will be recognized?

Dryland Champions programme recognizes a wide spectrum of SLM activities. All actions, activities, initiatives and projects (on-site and/or off-site) that introduce, facilitate, promote and/or implement SLM practices/policies at local/national levels.

Who can be recognized?

The Dryland Champions programme is open to everyone including:

- Youth Groups and Schools
- An individual adult, youth or child
- Business
- Industry
- NGOs/CSOs
- Community group, municipality, or First Nation/ethnic group

An aerial photograph of a dry, hilly landscape in Portugal. The terrain is rugged and brown, with sparse green vegetation. In the center-left, there are several rows of terraced fields, likely for agriculture. To the right, a tall, dark, vertical rock formation stands out. At the bottom center, a small, white, rectangular building is visible. The overall scene depicts a dryland environment with human intervention for land management.

The Drylands Champions 2015 Portugal: 4 fantastic and incredible projects actions and initiatives were selected by Portugal this year as Dryland Champions. They are *part of the solutuion* to keep the world's land fertile and healty. Congratualtions.



ADPM – ASSOCIAÇÃO DE DEFESA DO PATRIMÓNIO DE MÉRTOLA / A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR CHÃ DO NORTE (CAPE VERDE)

Cape Verde - Santo Antão, Comunidade de Chã do Norte

Project summary

A cooperation project based on resilience to climate change and the creation of sustainable mechanisms of self-employment in the community of Chã de Norte. Chã de Norte is one of the greatest areas of poverty in the island of Santo Antão and a community where it persists, even today, a dependence system on the use of land and water, which this project intends to change.

Through the distribution of farm plots among the families of the community and by making water available for low-cost irrigation through the use of renewable energies, it is expected that this project will change the plans of this community, enabling a decrease in poverty and improvement of their life conditions.

This project is an initiative by ADPM, co-financed by Portuguese Cooperation and the Reinforcement Programme of Adaptation and Resilience Capabilities to Climate Change in the Water Sector in Cape Verde.

The adaptation of ADPM experience to different projects on the rural area of

Santo Antão's island and today's results are quite interesting and recognized by producers and consumers as well as national authorities. This is another relevant example that makes the difference at local level in Cabo Verde and involves the Portuguese Cooperation for Development. This initiative deserves a public recognition in Portugal and at the UNCCD level.

More information/ Web page

<http://adpm.pt/o-que-fazemos/projetos/projeto-um-desenvolvimento-sustentavel-para-cha-de-norte/>

<http://adpm.pt/o-que-fazemos/atividades/projeto-um-desenvolvimento-sustentavel-para-cha-de-norte-con/>

<http://adpm.pt/o-que-fazemos/atividades/casa-do-meio-um-exemplo-de-como-a-agricultura-pode-contribui/>

<http://adpm.pt/o-que-fazemos/atividades/projeto-futuro-vontade-de-varias-entidades-locais-e-interna/>





ASSOCIAÇÃO ALDEIA – ACÇÃO, LIBERDADE, DESENVOLVIMENTO, EDUCAÇÃO, INVESTIGAÇÃO, AMBIENTE

Northeast of Portugal, with the main activities focused on the Municipalities of Vimioso, Miranda do Douro, Mogadouro, Bragança and Vinhais

Project summary

A cooperation project based on resilience to climate change and the creation ALDEIA is Non-Governmental Organization created in 2003 in the Northeast of Portugal whose objective is to contribute to a sustainable development, based on nature conservation and the preservation of culture and traditions that persist in rural areas, as a symbol of balanced relationship of man with nature and to create new lines of action for a constant revitalization of rural areas.

The work promoted by ALDEIA contributed decisively to counter the erroneous image of a rural world devoid of interest, throughout the development of projects and several other activities based on the promotion of ethnographic and rural heritage of Trás-os-Montes region.

The ultimate goal of this NGO is to promote a dynamic process, based on a continuous and consistent growing, empowering disadvantaged areas such as the ones in the Northeast of Portugal.

The very positive results achieved with these interventions of ALDEIA for the regional ecosystem services need to be disseminated and similar management practices should be promoted in equivalent conditions. This is why the ALDEIA interventions deserve more enlarged public recognition in Portugal and also at UNCCD level.

More information/ Web page

www.aldeia.org

<http://www.youblisher.com/p/1121650-Portfolio-Associacao-ALDEIA/>





to contribute in an effective way for an improvement of job perspectives, providing tools such as training and technique assistance to the population. The study of mushrooms was the main vector identified, in the Portuguese side, to reach the goals that the project intended to achieve through cooperation to create the tools necessary for the development of productive activities and services, that can improve job perspectives and stop rural exodus and, at the same time, to promote the criteria of sustainability (environmental, social and economic) in the companies located in the protected natural areas.

On-line with the strategy of the GAL (local action groups) of valorization of the endogenous resources of its territory of intervention, enclosed for vast area of NATURA Network and two natural parks (Montesinho and Douro International Natural Parks) all of high natural and scenery value, the project allowed to develop a set of qualification actions (training, production workshops, seminars and field trips) and production of information (field guides), sensitizing the populations for the relevance of the mushroom gathering

CORANE – ASSOCIAÇÃO DE DESENVOLVIMENTO DOS CONCELHOS DA RAIA NORDESTINA / AMBI-EMPLEATE PROJECT

Terra Fria (Nordeste de Portugal – Trás-os-Montes) in the Portuguese side of the trans boundary project with Spain

Project summary

The main goal of the AMBI-EMPLEate, a trans boundary project, is the promotion of social and economic development of the population within the natural spaces of high environmental value that are in NATURA Network 2000. To obtain an improvement of job perspectives, with the creation of opportunities related with the environment that can contribute to stop rural exodus.

At the same time, it is intended to introduce the principle of sustainability in SMES located in the territory, understood in its wider meaning: environment, social and economic sustainability. With this project CORANE focused on the subjects of mushrooms and aromatic and medicinal plants.

CORANE provides training and accompaniment, in the scale of this project and these thematic to 200 persons. This Project was important for the creation of effective labor chances. An excellent model that we intend to apply to other thematic. We are to give continuity, in the scope of other projects,

activity. Inclusively, from the project have resulted a Mycological Association (XIXORRA) which, in partnership with CORANE, continues to sensitize and inform the population for the importance of these natural resources long after the project was finished.

The very positive results achieved in this initiatives need to be disseminated and similar management practices should be promoted in equivalent conditions. This is why CORANE interventions deserve more enlarged public recognition in Portugal and also at UNCCD level.

More information/ Web page

<http://www.corane.pt/ambi-empleate/>

<http://www.minhaterra.pt/wst/files/I11765-COOP-G3-WEB.PDF> (page 76)





ASSOCIAÇÃO IN LOCO / COLLECTION AND RESEARCH ON TRADITIONAL VARIETIES OF SEEDS

South Portugal – Central Algarve (Municipalities: Albufeira, Tavira, São Brás de Alportel and Silves)

Project summary

Since 2011 In Loco in partnership with Colher para Semear (Association) made a research and collection work in the centre of Algarve about the traditional varieties of seeds. This work was made directly with family farmers and it allowed bettering knowing the local biodiversity.

After the big fire in São Brás de Alportel, during 2012, many of the traditional seeds were at risk of extinction.

On this context, in partnership with CLDS LARA, In Loco started a work of collection of all varieties of seeds on the country side that allowed making inhabitants aware of the importance of its preservation and to the maintenance of the Mediterranean diet.

The result was edited in a book with information about technical and cultural information about the local traditional seeds.

The actions of In Loco to DLDD interventions are recognized as meritorious in the Algarve region and in Portugal, and deserve public recognition at UNCCD level.

More information/ Web page

http://www.in-loco.pt/upload_folder/files/publicacao_sementes.pdf

http://www.in-loco.pt/upload_folder/files/levantamento%20de%20variedades%20locais.pdf

