

PORTUGAL

An EU Member State's view on the European Forest Policy Processes

Graça Rato



Seminar "The Forest Policy Process in Europe"
KSLA – Stockholm, SWEDEN – 30th March 2012



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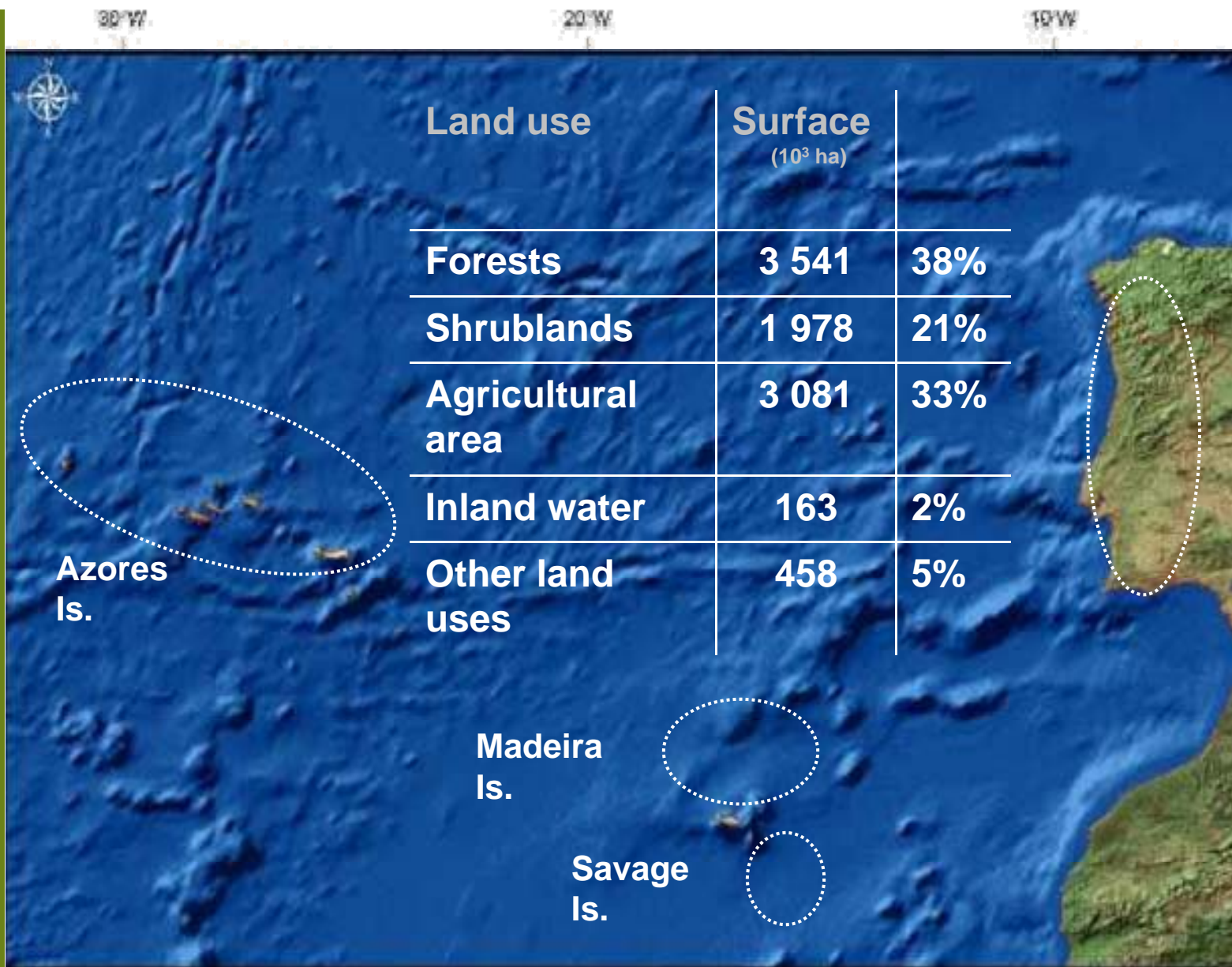


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Portugal International debate

- EU
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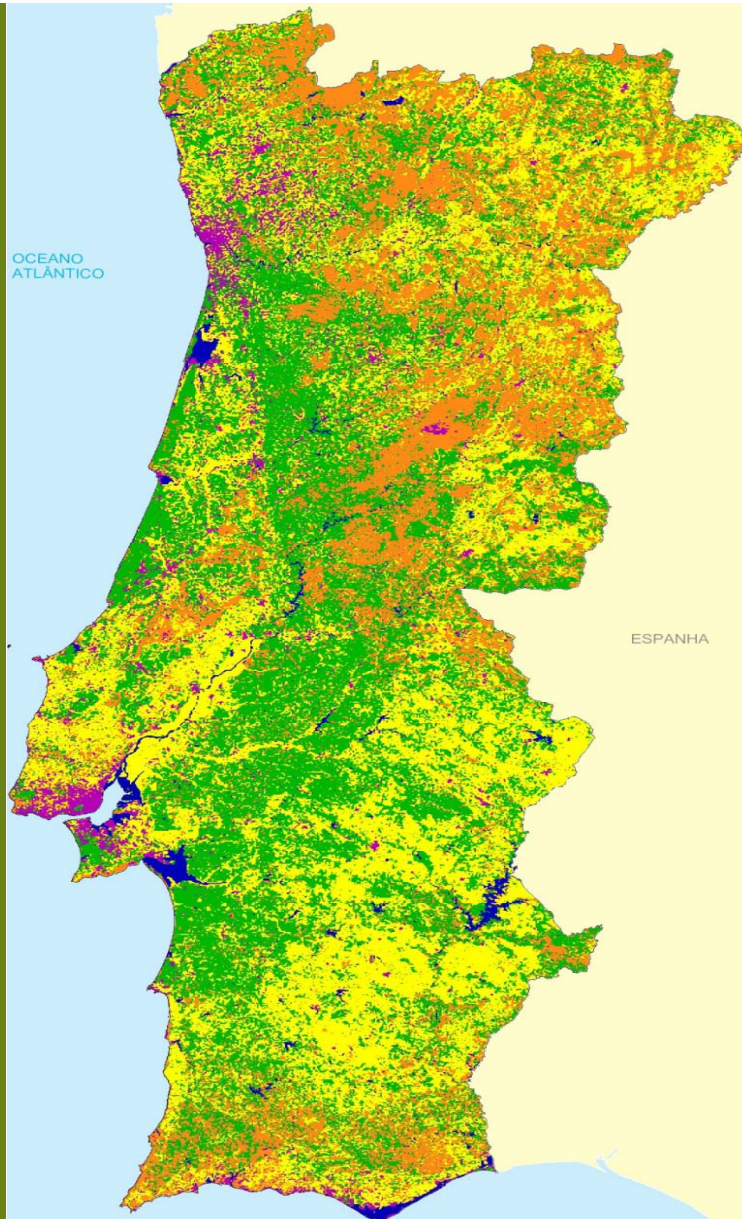


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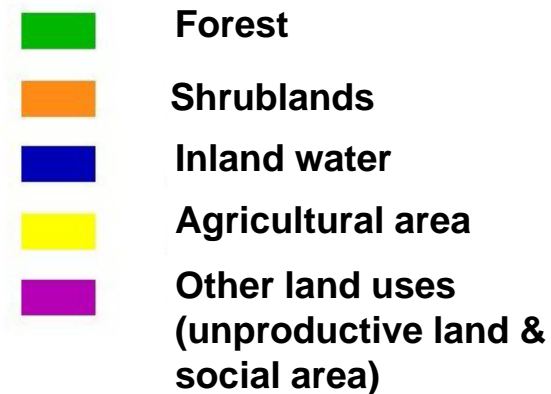
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Portuguese Mainland land use (2005)



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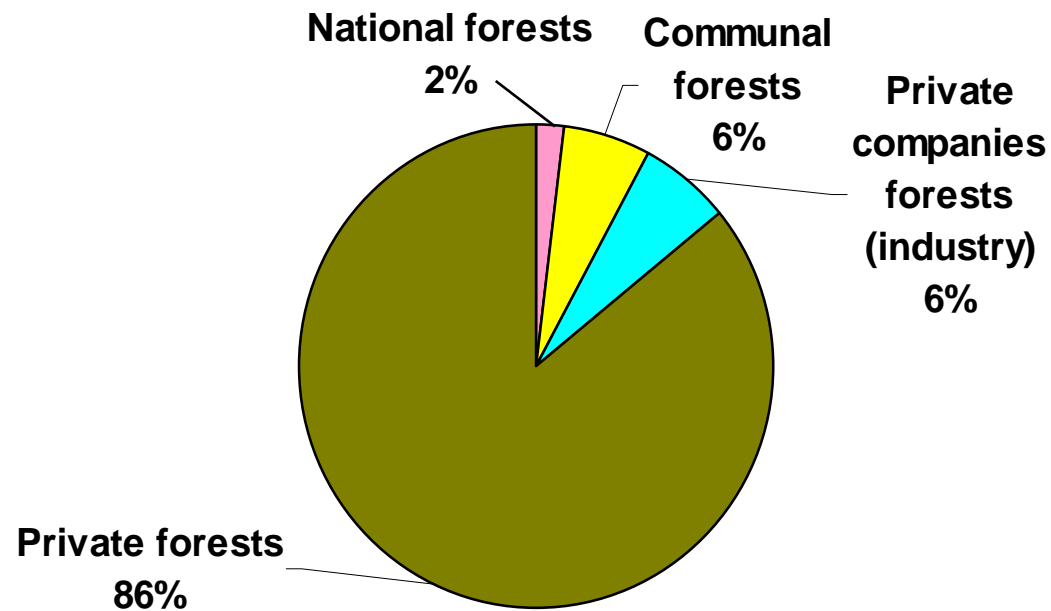
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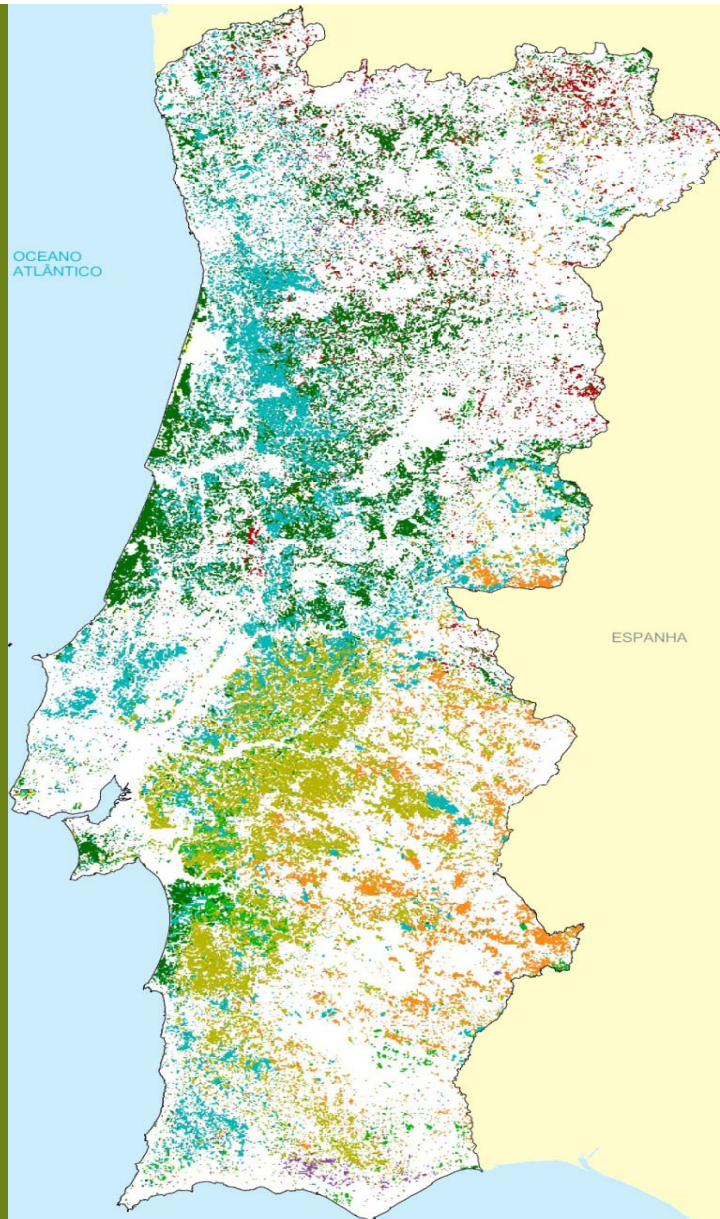
- **3,2 %** of GDP
- **12%** of industrial GDP
- **11%** of exports
- **260.000** people employed in forest sector



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Forest stands (2005)

- Wattles (*Acacia ap.*)
- Cork oak (*Quercus suber*)
- Other coniferous species
- Stone pine (*Pinus pinea*)
- Maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*)
- Other hardwoods
- Eucalyptus (mainly *E. globulus*)
- Other oaks (*Quercus sp.*)
- Sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)
- Holm oak (*Quercus rotundifolia*)

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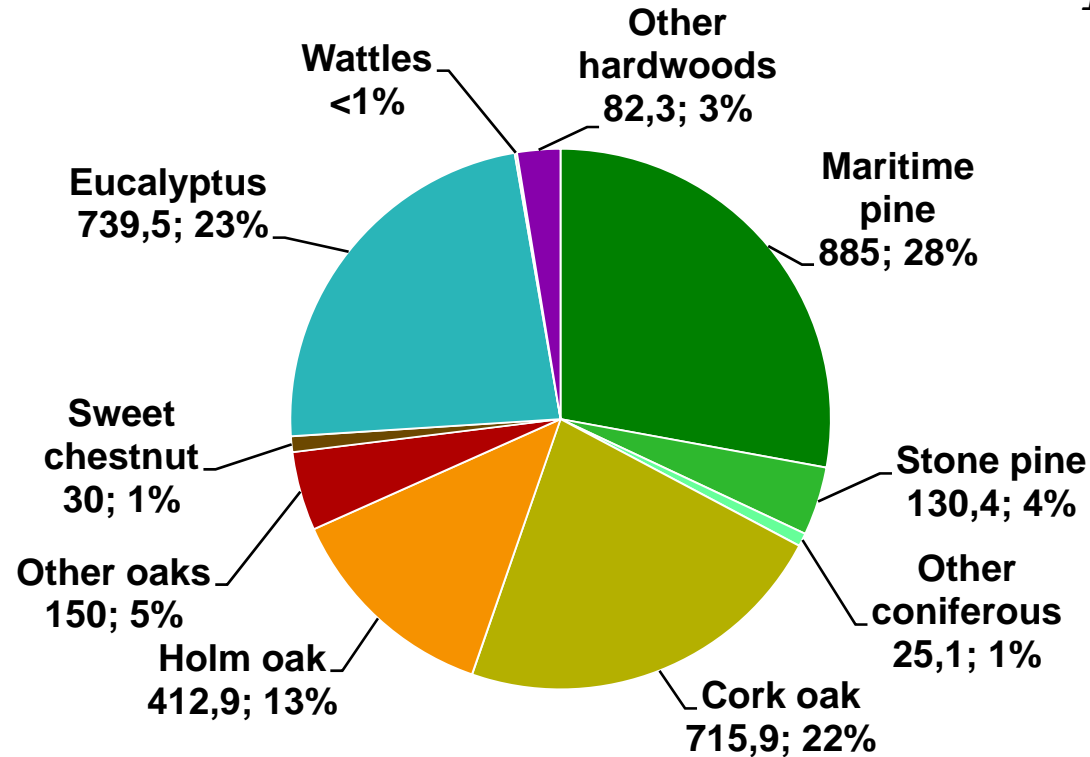
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Portuguese Mainland forest stands (2005)

10³ hectares



Madeira: *laurissilva* forest 15 868 ha (49%); eucalyptus 6 222 ha (19%); maritime pine 6 178 ha (19%)

Azores: sweet pittosporum 23 888 ha (49%); japanese cedar 12 395 ha (26%); blackwood 4 322 ha (9%)

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azorean juniper – *Juniperus brevifolia*

Pico Island - Az



lily-of-the valley tree – *Clethra arborea*

Madeira Island



Picconia azorica

Faial Island - Az

**Forest types
(potential natural vegetation)**

Azores and Madeira

← **Juniper, yew and tree heath
high altitude forest**

← **Lauraceae - dominated
forest –“laurissilva”**

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| canary laurel | canary holly |
| fetid laurel | madeira holly |
| madeira mahogany | wax myrtle |
| lily-of-the valley tree | azorean bilberry |
| madeira cheesewood | (...) |

← **Lowland sclerophyl forests**

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| dragon tree | picconia |
| madeira olive tree | (...) |

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FOREST FIRES

2003

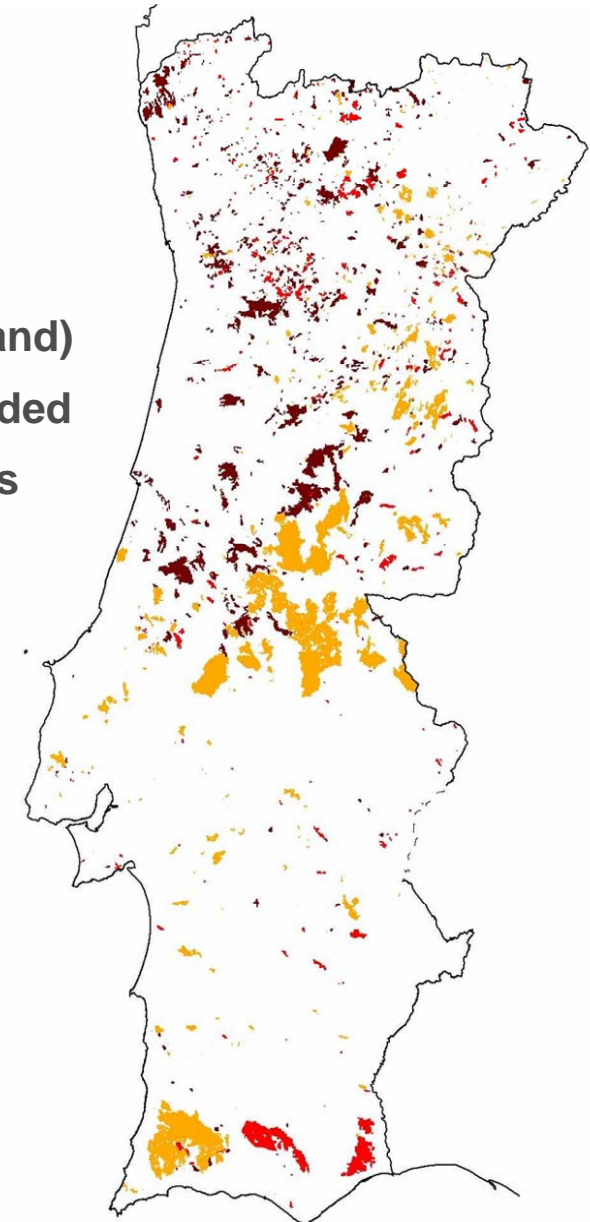
- * 20 people lost their lives
- * 420 000 ha burnt (8% of the forest land)
- * 12 of the 20 biggest fires ever recorded
- * mostly in central & southern regions

2004

- * large fires in southern region
- * 3 fires larger than 5 000 ha

2005

- * 14 people lost their lives
- * 300 000 ha burnt
- * large fires in northern region
- * 8 fires larger than 5 000 ha



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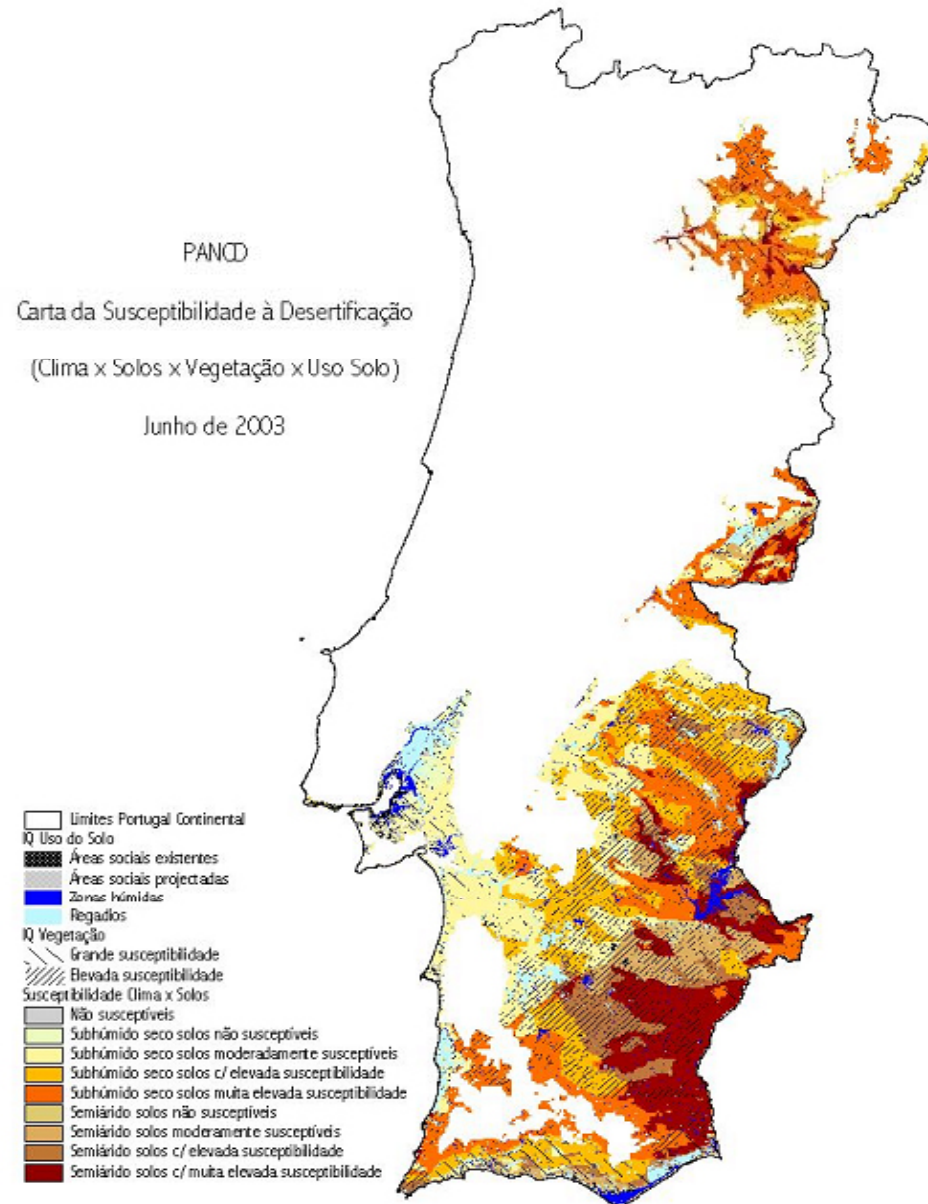


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Desertification Susceptibility Index

Based on:

Clima
Vegetation
Soil information

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Portugal International Debate

- EU
 - Green Paper on Forest Protection and Information in the EU
 - Due Diligence Regulation
 - EU Forest Strategy
- Pan-Europe
 - MCPFE/Forest Europe
- FAO
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Green Paper on Forest Protection and Information in the EU

- **Main Objective - debate possible approaches to prepare forests for climate change: which are the challenges ahead, how can the EU contribute to water down its consequences and what additional info is needed**
- **Forest Protection Legal basis - within the Environmental Policy**

BUT

- **Forest Protection is an integrant component of SFM**
- **Holistic approach to forests and its multiple functions is of utmost importance - avoid further fragmentation of forest related issues**
- **No EU Forest Policy**

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Green Paper on Forest Protection and Information in the EU

- **Subsidiarity principle – Forests are MS competence – any EU activities should support and have added value *vis a vis* MS initiatives and should be dealt with in the context of the EU Forestry Strategy and its Plan of Action**
- **Advocated that the subject should remain within the scope of the Council of Agriculture (and WPF)**
- **EU Forest related support instruments (fires) have been discontinued and never replaced**
- **No need for specific indicators – already in place indicators for SFM that reflect the dimension of CC impact (indicators – reliability, cost-effectiveness, political relevance, stability – NFI/consistent time series related to existing indicators**

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Due Diligence Regulation

- **EU concerns related to illegal logging (supplier countries)**
- **EU FLEGT Action Plan in 2003**
Main objective - SFM
Actions to prevent the import of illegal wood into the EU:
 - Improve the supply of legal timber
 - Increase demand for wood coming from sustainably managed forests
- **COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 2173/2005 - 20 Dec 2005 on the establishment of a FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber into the European Community**
 - Establishment of the legal frame for wood import to EU
 - VPA - FLEGT license/legality guarantee of products



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Due Diligence Regulation

- **REGULATION (EU) No 995/2010 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL - 20 Oct 2010**
laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market
 - Did the previous one “failed” to prevent the entry of products from illegal logging?
 - Due diligence to minimize the risks of the entry of products from illegal logging
 - General application of this Reg - to EU and non-EU operators
 - March 2013 – entry into force
 - on-going work related to regulating specific aspects

Will it “fail”????

EU Operators – additional burden????

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EU Forest Strategy

- **Review FS**

On-going work

- **Principles still valid** (1998-2012)

- Subsidiarity
- SFM
- Multifunctionality

- **Main Weakness of 1998 FS**

its capacity/ability to transform principles and values into action and successful achievements

SO

Improve and Strengthen implementation – follow-up of the current EU Forest Action Plan

- **FS as an “umbrella” for forest-related issues – halt fragmentation and allow a holistic approach**



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EU Forest Strategy

- **Coordination and communication**
 - Still room for improvement - “Empowerment” of WPF and SFC to ensure coherence amongst all forest-related measures, instruments and actions
 - “Performance indicators” based on the implementation of the EUFAP for Communication purposes
- **Balanced Strategy – none of the SFM pillars should be over-emphasized**
- **Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork and cooperation with stakeholders**
- **Reliable and consistent data**
- **Rural Development Regulation – forest measures should be improved and strengthen** (if dedicated instrument not possible)
- **FS potential contribution to Green Economy**



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MCPFE/Forest Europe

Ministerial Conference on the Protection on Forests in Europe (MCPFE)

1990 – Strasbourg (launching of the Process)

1993 – Helsinki

1998 – Lisbon, PORTUGAL (GCC: 1990-2003)

2003 – Vienna

2007 – Warsaw

2011 – Oslo

**Resolutions, Decisions,
Ministerial Declarations**

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MCPFE/Forest Europe

- **Strong engagement of Portugal**
 - High level political initiative
 - More than 40 Pan-European countries
 - High diversity
 - Voluntary and not institutionalised
 - Participation
 - Common threats and opportunities
 - Flexible
 - Dialogue and consensus building
 - Commitments at the highest political level
 - Commitments translated into actions - WP

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MCPFE/Forest Europe

2011 - Oslo Ministerial Conference

- **Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020**
Vision, Objectives, 2020 Targets, Mission
Work Program – adopted in Madrid, February 2012
VOLUNTARY
- **Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe**
INC 1 – Vienna, February-March 2012

TWO TRACK APPROACH – Why?

- Since the Rio 1992 - international forest context gradually more fragmented and weakened
- MCPFE model - seemed somehow “exhausted”
- Gathering efforts within a legally binding framework - new and challenging opportunities as well as stronger positions might be possible



Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions

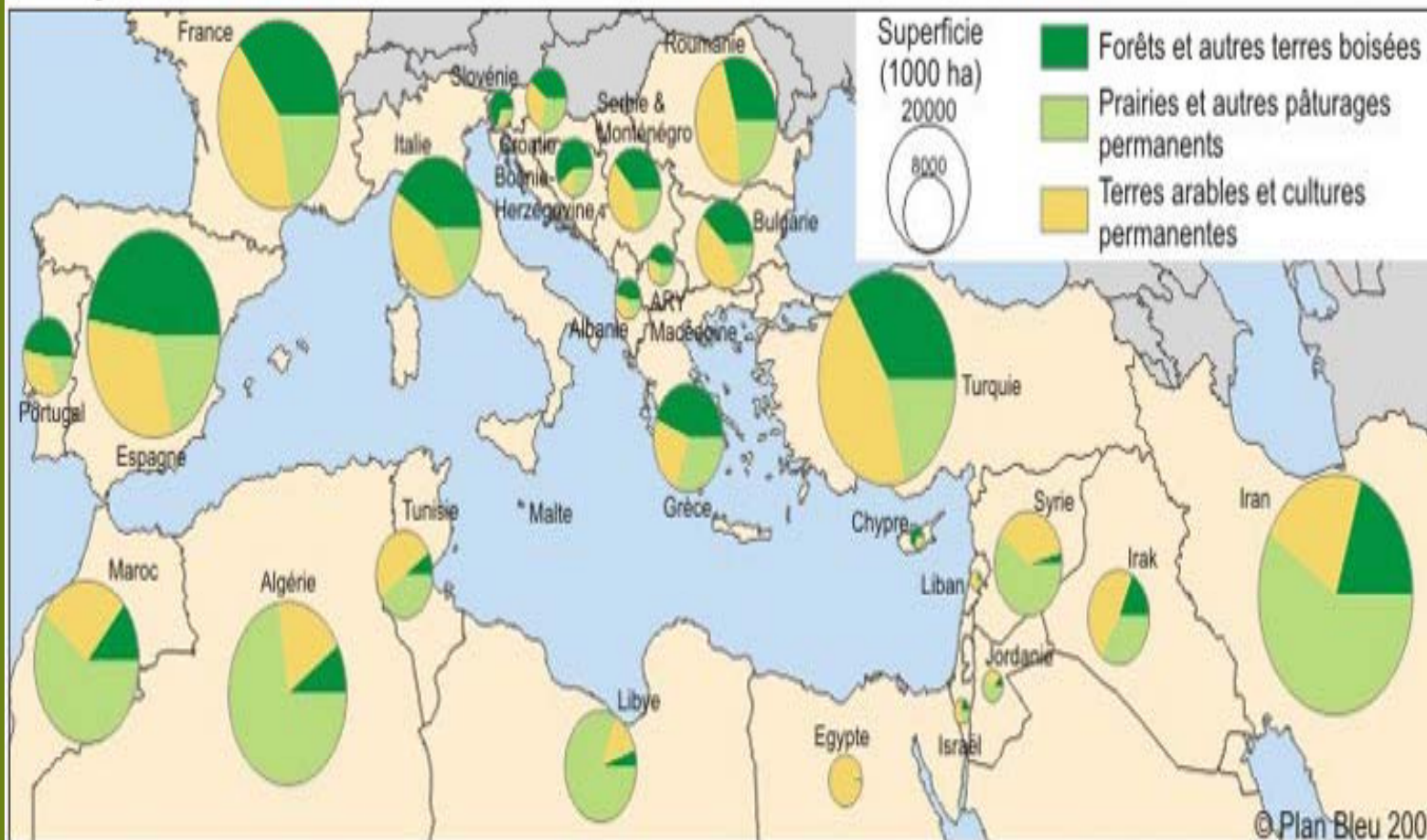
Silva Mediterranea

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Occupation du sol



Source : FAOSTAT database

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Albania
Algeria
Bulgaria
Cyprus
Egypt
France
Greece
Iran
Iraq
Israel
Italy
Jordan
Lebanon
Libya
Malta
Morocco

Portugal
Romania
Saudi Arabia
Serbia
Slovenia
Spain
Sudan
Syria
Tunisia
Turkey
Yemen

Member organization
European Community

27MC+MO

Pressure in some MC

Forest Ecosystems vs Tourism
Land uses compatibility

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Silva Mediterranea

PORTUGAL

importance in the context of international
dialogue and co-operation on forests

WHY?

- **Regional specificity** of Mediterranean countries - dedicated *forum* to Mediterranean concerns
- **Regional unity** - together Mediterranean countries solve common problems
- **Convention to Combat Desertification** – together Mediterranean countries find solutions to matters of common concern
- **Cork oak** - Portugal has huge responsibilities and interest on this species due to its national importance – most important cork producer in the world – and to its already recognised ecological and economical value
- **Mediterranean ecosystems** - an integrated and holistic approach is of great value in terms of biological diversity, contribution to combat desertification and variety of goods and services they provided

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United Nations Forum on Forests

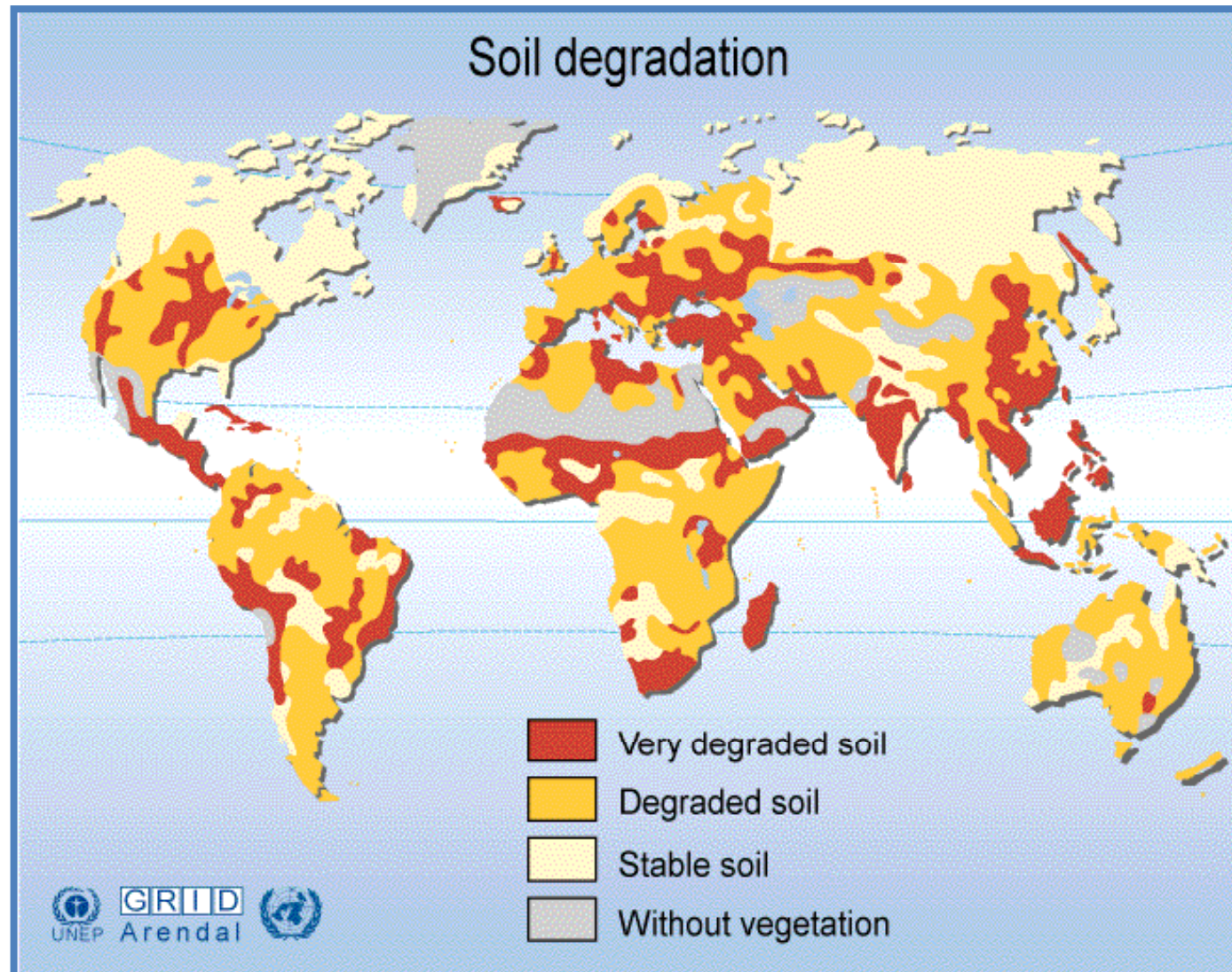
- **IPF (1995-97) IFF (1997-2000) UNFF (2001-2015)**
- **4 Global Objectives on Forests (2006)**
- **Non-Legally Binding Agreement on Forests (2007)**
- **Global Forest Fund**
 - On-going financing related debate **BUT willingness??**
- **Does the initial enthusiasm persist/subsist?**
 - Is the holistic approach to forests and SFM still possible?**
 - Gradually, over the years, relevant forest related subjects have been “grabbed” by other instruments
- **2015 – LBI – Global Convention on Forests ????**



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UNCCD

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

1992 – Rio Conference

1994 – Establishment of UNCCD – 194 parties

A legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management

ANNEX IV - REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX FOR THE NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN

- **Portugal**, Greece, Italy, Spain and Turkey - Original Annex IV
- Between 1999 and 2002 other northern Mediterranean affected countries - Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia - became parties to the UNCCD - enlargement of the Annex IV





Thank you for your attention!

Tack för din uppmärksamhet!



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