



ENSURING THAT POLLUTERS PAY

Payments for ecosystem services

This factsheet presents an example of a payments for ecosystem services scheme in place in the EU. See the EU polluter pays Member State factsheets for more examples of other polluter pays instruments in each Member State.

PORTUGAL

PAYMENTS FOR **ECOSYSTEM SERVICES** IN RURAL SETTINGS



This programme consists of a remuneration model for land owners and managers to adopt measures to restore, protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services in two pilot areas - Protected Landscape of the Serra do Açor (Área de Paisagem Protegida da Serra do Açor), and Tagus International Natural Park (Parque Natural do Tejo Internacional). The remuneration model is funded by the Portuguese Government's Environmental Fund (Fundo Ambiental) and covers the following types of payments for the period 2019-2038: initial investment costs (e.g., plantations, infrastructure repair, mulching of exploration areas); maintenance costs (e.g., irrigation, manual control of shrub vegetation); opportunity costs (associated with potential revenue losses originated by a change in the occupation and land management); and payment for ecosystem services.¹ Table 1 summarises the main characteristics of this programme for the two pilot areas.

What it does

This programme relies on an investment supported by the Environmental Fund (Fundo Ambiental) of 3,737,705 Euros, which is oriented to the development of actions that will improve ecosystems and their capacity to provide services. Due to its recent implementation, it is not possible to provide information of its impact. The selection of pilot areas and the fact that it is implemented through a long period of time (20 years) are beneficial aspects for the understanding of the programme's impact and potential replicability in other areas.

How it came about and stakeholder involvement

In 2018, the Ministry for Environment and Energy Transitions requested the support of the academic

Table 1 – Main characteristics of the ecosystem services remuneration programme in the two pilot areas

	Protected landscape of the Serra de Açor	Tagus International Natural Park
Location ^a	Centre of mainland Portugal, near the Estrela Mountain	Centre of mainland Portugal, bordering the Tagus river
Area covered by the programme ^b	1,190 ha, with an obligation to present additional area of intervention of 25 to 100 ha	26,484 ha, with an obligation to present an additional area of intervention of 30 to 100 ha
Average property size ^c	Very small	Large
Cadastral/land registry ^c	No	Yes
Inclusion of public property ^c	Yes	No
Specific objectives of the programme/Beneficiaries of the programme ^d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and promotion of mixed forest stands, including oak and chestnut, as well as of different shrub species • Decrease fire susceptibility • Increase feeding capacity for domestic and wild animals • Rehabilitation of agricultural areas and rigarian systems • Etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renaturalisation of forest areas with native species (e.g. cork oak, holm oak) • Conversion of eucalyptus into scrub management area and pasture areas • Water stream management • Etc.
Beneficiaries of the programme ^d	Forest Management Entities; Forest Producers' Organisations; Wasteland management entities	Forest Management Entities; Forest Producers' Organisations; Natural or legal persons, whatever their nature, whose annual turnover does not exceed 10 million euros.

Sources: ^a Protected Landscape of the Serra do Açor (<https://natural.pt/protected-areas/paisagem-protegida-serra-acor>); Tagus International Natural Park (<https://natural.pt/protected-areas/parque-natural-tejo-internacional?locale=en>); ^b <https://www.fundoambiental.pt/aviso-2019/conservacao-da-natureza-e-biodiversidade/programa-de-remuneracao-dos-servicos-dos-ecossistemas-1-fase.aspx>; ^c Communication by Carlos Rio Carvalho (CENSE - Center for Environmental and Sustainability Research from NOVA University Lisbon) in the webinar: "Revitalização do Território: o papel da remuneração dos serviços dos ecossistemas" (Territorial Revitalisation: the role of remuneration for ecosystem services) (17/02/2020); ^d <https://www.fundoambiental.pt/ficheiros/relatorio-final-programa-de-remuneracao-dos-servicos-dos-ecossistemas-1-fase-pdf>.

sector to initiate a discussion and develop a project about the payment of ecosystem services in rural settings, particularly forest areas. This project was coordinated by CENSE (Center for Environmental and Sustainability Research) from NOVA University Lisbon (FCT NOVA), with the involvement of the School of Agriculture (ISA) and Técnico (IST) from the University of Lisbon, the Faculty of Law from University of Coimbra (FD UC) and the University of Évora (UE). This instrument was designed as a part of the solution to several socio-economic and environmental problems of the rural areas (e.g., population ageing, biodiversity loss, forest fires, low productivity and economic profitability), and to enhance the provision of ecosystem services, recognizing the current lack of incentives. The final report of the project "Economic

instruments for biodiversity conservation and payment for ecosystem services in Portugal" was released in September 2019.² In the same year, the Ministry for Environment and Energy Transitions launched an open call for applications from potential beneficiaries of the programme (e.g., forest management entities; forest producers' organizations; wasteland management entities), accepting 14 proposals.³ This instrument is aligned with the National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity for 2030 (Estratégia Nacional de Conservação da Natureza e Biodiversidade 2030 - ENCND 2030), National Programme for Territorial Planning Policy (Programa Nacional da Política de Ordenamento do Território - PNPOP), and the Pinhal Interior Revitalization Program (Programa de Revitalização do Pinhal Interior).

¹ Environmental Fund: <https://www.fundoambiental.pt/aviso-2019/conservacao-da-natureza-e-biodiversidade/programa-de-remuneracao-dos-servicos-dos-ecossistemas-1-fase.aspx>.

² Santos, R., Antunes, P., Carvalho, C. e Aragão, A., 2019. Nova Política para a Provisão e Remuneração de Serviços dos Ecossistemas em Espaços Rurais – o Problema, a Política e a Implementação. CENSE – Centro de Investigação em Ambiente e Sustentabilidade, FCT Universidade NOVA de Lisboa e Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Coimbra. Fundo Ambiental, Ministério do Ambiente e Transição Energética. Lisboa. 45 pp. ISBN 978-972-8893-81-1: <https://www.fundoambiental.pt/ficheiros/nova-politica-para-a-provisao-e-remuneracao-de-servicos-dos-ecossistemas-em-espacos-rurais-em-portugal-o-problema-a-politica-e-a-implementacao-pdf.aspx>.



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