

## Paiva Walkways: Biodiversity and recreation in the Magic Mountains of Portugal

The forests of the project are located along the Paiva River, in Arouca municipality, and belong to the Paiva Walkways area. The forests are included in a Natura 2000 site belonging also to Arouca Geopark.

Natural habitats present in the project area display a remarkable level of interest for several species of flora and fauna, with some of them classified as priority species, that require a certain degree of protection.

Paiva river Site represents an area of interest in terms of biodiversity conservation given that the river crosses different types of habitats and presents a well-preserved riparian vegetation.

### Verified Ecosystem Services



- Restoration of natural forest cover
- Maintenance of an ecologically sufficient conservation area network



Restoration of forest carbon stocks



Maintenance/conservation of areas of importance for recreation and/or tourism

### Highlights of this project

1. 109 hectares of restored forest
2. 2.8 per cent increase in carbon storage every year
3. 23 hectares protected for passive recreation activities

## Project details

### Biodiversity conservation

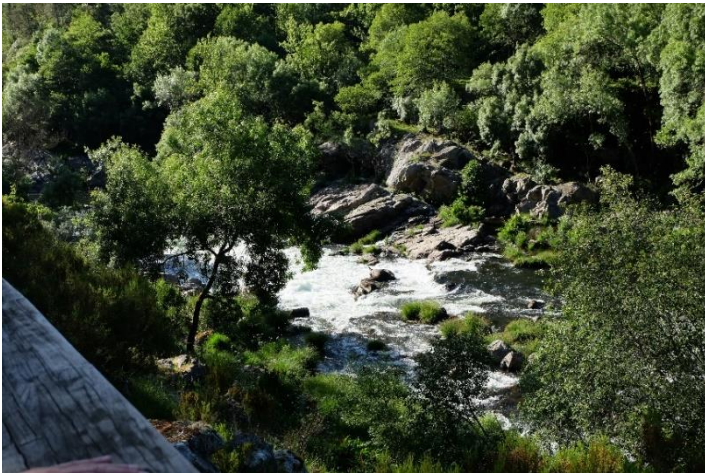
The importance of this biodiversity in the local communities and forest owners led to the development of 113 ha dedicated to biodiversity conservation and restoration, with special attention to riparian areas.

The promotion of natural regeneration of native species is a key focus in the management of these areas to ensure biodiversity levels and supporting a native forest attractive for tourism.



### Restoration of Carbon Stocks

By reducing fire risk and maintaining forest cover, loss of large amounts of carbon to the atmosphere is avoided, contributing to the conservation of carbon stocks in the ecosystem. This conservation of carbon stocks can be optimized through the promotion of natural regeneration and, this way, increasing the growth of long rotation native tree species.



**Would you like to integrate this project into your climate strategy?**

**Contact us at [valueforest@fsc.org](mailto:valueforest@fsc.org) to learn more.**

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