

## Cork oaks in the Montado: Carbon and Biodiversity hotspot of Portugal

The forests in this project are mainly composed by cork oak, that in Portugal are called Montados. These agroforestry systems are multifunctional areas, where you can harvest several non-timber forest products, being the main one the cork. The cork is explored without cutting the tree making this forest a truly sustainable system, where we can harvest products while maintaining the tree cover.

They are low intensity managed forests and are recognized as being one of the richest biodiversity ecosystems in the world: a Biodiversity Hotspot. In fact, all the areas have High Conservation Values identified, which demonstrates the relevance of the Montado ecosystem for biodiversity conservation.

### Verified Ecosystem Services

CO<sub>2</sub>

Conservation of forest  
carbon stocks

### Highlights of this project

1. 144 tons of carbon dioxide stored per hectare
2. 3 per cent increase in carbon storage every year
3. 448 hectares with restoration activities

## Project details

### Carbon Sequestration and Storage

This group of smallholders are conserving 47 566,44 tons of carbon today, by implementing management activities that have as main goal the maintenance of the forest area in good health and vitality conditions, prevent forest fires and promotion of the cork oak natural regeneration.



### Protecting Montado Systems

Climate change represents the most pressing concern that these valuable agroforestry systems, especially given the increased risk of forest fires.

The management practices implemented aim to a more resilient forest and therefore protect and maintain the natural forest cover.

**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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