

BIOMONTADO – Montado ecosystem and vineyards

Carla Pinto-Cruz¹, Anabela Belo¹, Erika Almeida¹, Carla Janeiro¹, Isabel Brito, Ana Alexandre, Sérgio Prats, Oscar Pelayos, Nuno Pedroso, Rui Lourenço

¹MED - Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development & CHANGE - Global Change and Sustainability Institute, Institute for Advanced Studies and Research, Universidade de Évora, Pólo da Mitra, Ap. 94, 7006-554 Évora, Portugal

¹Botany Laboratory, APPLIED ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

Corresponding Author: ccruz@uevora.pt

The *montado* is considered a high nature value (HNV) agro-silvopastoral system that provides important ecosystem services, in addition to tradable products, namely biodiversity conservation, soil conservation, carbon sequestration, organic matter storage and water cycle regulation. In the Alentejo region, its matrix is often interrupted by patches of agricultural systems, such as vineyards. The BIOMONTADO project aims to promote the sustainability and resilience of the *Montado*-Vineyard combination as a factor of competitiveness for wine-producing companies. In this context, we are implementing pilot plots focused on conserving the structure, health and functionality of the soil (direct seeding, mulching, biochar), restoring patches of natural habitats (groves, Mediterranean shrubs, temporary ponds, rocky outcrops), enhancing biodiversity (refuge and feeding areas for fauna, promotion of pollinators and beneficial insects), and promoting habitat connectivity (ecological restoration of watercourses, multifunctional biodiversity field hedges).

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