Recovery of Madeira's priority habitats and species (LIFE98 NAT/P/005236)

Recuperação de espécies e habitats prioritáriosda Madeira

Beneficiary : Parque Natural da Madeira
Quinta do Bom Sucesso - Caminho do Meio
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Duration : 01-OCT-1999 -> 01-OCT-2001

Total Budget in € : 936.531,7

LIFE Contribution in € : 515.092,43 (55,00 %)

Description :

The principal objectives of this project are to carry out tangible on-site actions for the conservation of the priority habitat (laurel forest) and the three priority species monk seal Monachus monachus, long-toed pigeon Columba trocaz and gon-gon Pterodroma feae. As far as the laurel forest is concerned, the project intends to buy parts of the forest, regulate stockraising and tourism and set up a wardening system. Work to monitor and prevent damages to crops from the long-toed pigeon will be continued. The on-going monitoring of monk seal colonies will be beefed up, using new equipment.

These measures will be supplemented by an information campaign aimed at the island's inhabitants, to make them aware of the importance of conserving the region's natural heritage.

The Madeira archipelago is ecologically important on account of the quality and size of its laurel forests, a priority habitat under Directive 92/43/EEC, and the species, some of them endemics, associated with its marine and terrestrial habitats. Deforestation for building and farming, exploitation of timber and stockraising has steadily reduced the area covered in laurel forest. Today animal husbandry, which is completely unregulated here, is the most serious threat to the integrity of this habitat.

The laurel forest is currently restricted to Madeira's northern coast, to areas which are very steep and difficult to reach. This project follows on from another LIFE project, which recently came to an end, and it intends to continue and improve the measures launched by its predecessor.

Benefiting Regions for Project:

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- Madeira

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