

LIFE Maronesa

Governance, Information and Climate Action
Project - a sustainable model for extensive
livestock farming



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Geographical Area of Intervention



The geographical area of intervention of the LIFE Maronesa project covers the following municipalities:

- ✓ Vila Pouca de Aguiar;
- ✓ Ribeira de Pena;
- ✓ Mondim de Basto;
- ✓ Vila Real.

Vila Pouca de Aguiar - **demonstration area**

Areas of replication of the sustainable production model in the Baldios (community lands) and in follower producers.

Problematic and Challenges

In recent decades, the abandonment of grazing areas in the mountains, in particular the communal areas of the community lands, has resulted in an increase in the growth of scrubland and the loss of good quality perennial pastures. These factors, combined with current climatic trends, increase the risk of forest fires and reduce carbon storage in soils through the erosion effect caused by fires.



Current project ornanogram

Project Coordination Team (PCT)

Project Coordinator:

- ✓ AF - Duarte Marques

Project Manager:

- ✓ AF – Henrique Mira Godinho

Associated Beneficiary:

- ✓ ACM - Joaquim Costa
- ✓ CB - António Ferreira (Tommy)
- ✓ IPB - Carlos Aguiar

External stakeholder engaged with C1 and C2 works:

4 commonland managers:

- António Ferreira, Mário Queirós, Avelino Rego, Delfina Silva

7 Follower cattle breeders:

- Heitor Fernandes, Filipa Fernandes, Rafael Costa, Mário Queirós, Avelino Rego, Manuel Silva, Aniceto Oliveira

Project Management Team (PMT)

Project Manager:

- ✓ AF – Henrique Mira Godinho

Technical Coordinators Associated Beneficiary:

- ✓ ACM - Joaquim Costa
- ✓ CB - António Ferreira (Tommy)
- ✓ IPB - Carlos Aguiar

Project Operational Teams (POT)

Henrique Mira Godinho-AF
Rafael Costa-ACM
Avelino Rego-IPB
António Ferreira (Tommy)-CB

COORDINATION

AGUIARFLORESTA

Forestry and Environmental
Association of Vila Pouca de
Aguiar



PARTNERS



Polytechnic Institute of
Bragança (IPB)



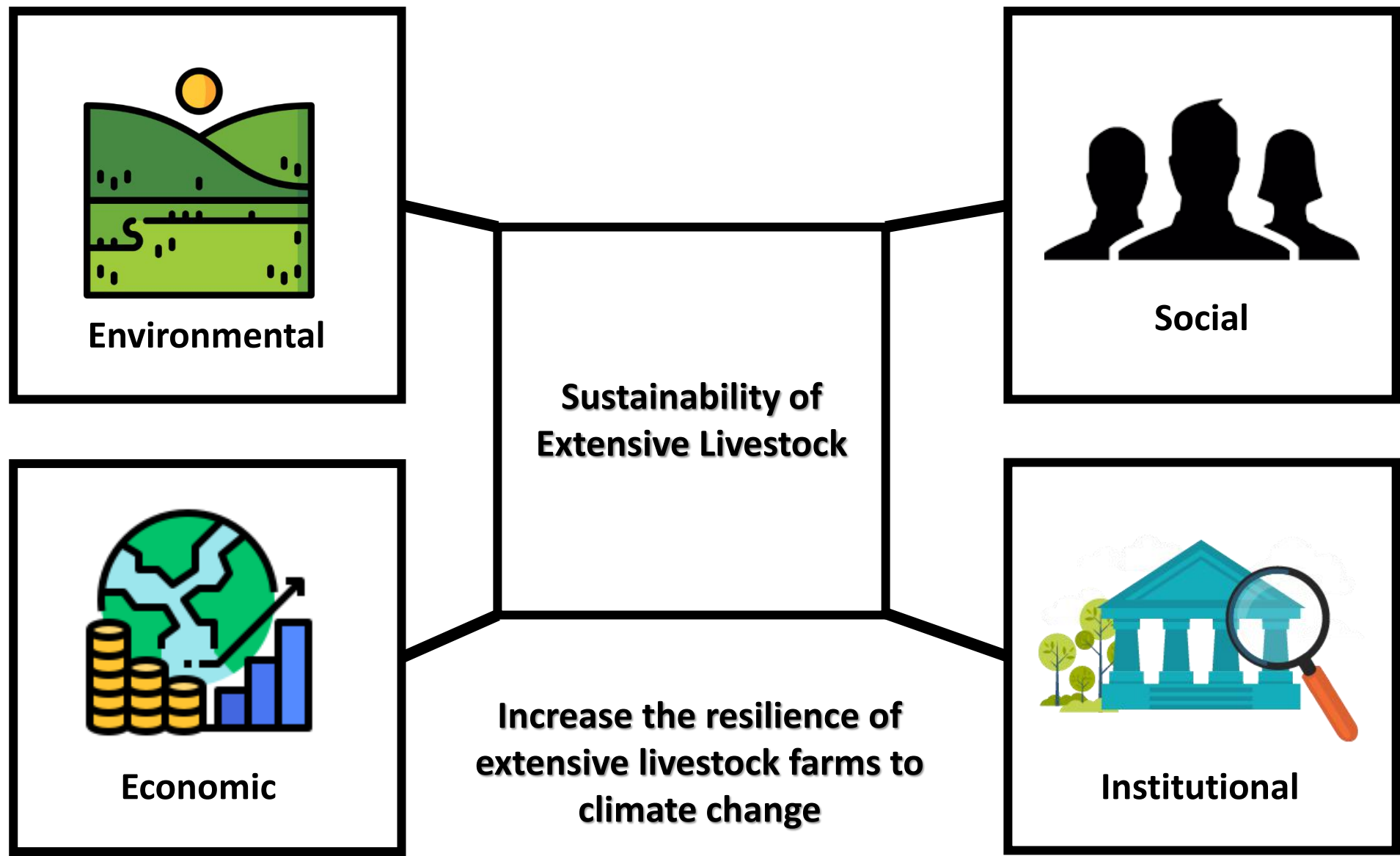
Maronês Breeders
Association

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Sociedade Agropecuária,
Lda. - Agricultural
Company, Lda.



AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT





Actions already implemented and still ongoing:

- C1- Management of common land through infrastructure, prescribed burning and mechanical shredding
- C2- Management of hay meadows and farmers' cattle
- D1- Climate monitoring of exclusion plots
- E1- Public awareness and communication activities
- E2- Technical dissemination and networking

New actions under development :

- C3- Commercialisation strategy
- C4- Economic and social valorisation of the extensive model
- C5- Transferability and replication
- D1- Economic monitoring, behavioural change and project impact



Implementation/demonstration actions for producers (C2) and community lands (C1)

MOUNTAIN LAND MANAGEMENT AND FARM PRODUCTIVITY

- ✓ Actions to improve the hay meadows (application of lime and phosphorus)– C2
- ✓ Actions to convert areas of scrubland (prescribed burning and mechanical shredding)– C1

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND HANDLING

- ✓ Anti-stress management “cattle sleeves”– C1
- ✓ Herd management with GPS collars– C2
- ✓ Animal management (electric and permanent fencing)– C2
- ✓ “Canadianas” passages – C1

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- ✓ Water retention (improvement/creation of natural ponds)– C1
- ✓ Mobile water dispensers– C2
- ✓ Mobile cattle feeders for mountain dispersion– C2



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LAND MANAGEMENT AND MOUNTAIN PRODUCTIVITY

Mountain/baldios Actions and objectives



Actions to convert areas of scrubland with prescribed fire and mechanical shredding





FARM PRODUCTIVITY MANAGEMENT

Lameiros

Actions and objectives



Before



After



Programming the distribution of magnesian lime and phosphorus

Restoration of meadows with mechanical shredding followed by distribution of hay for on-site consumption and stabilisation of the vegetation cover with grazing

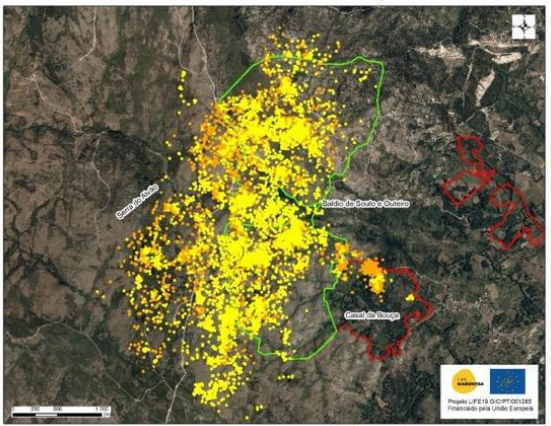




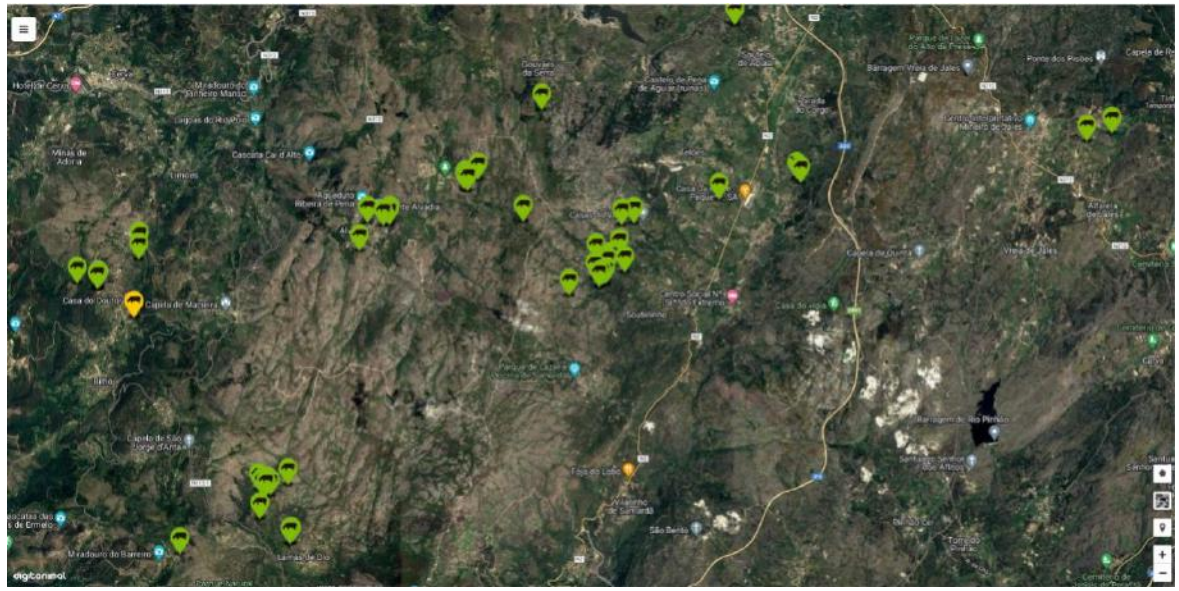
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ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND HUSBANDRY



Animal Monitoring System with GPS



Electric and permanent fencing



“Canadianas” passages



Anti-stress management “cattle sleeves”





IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE

Mobile water dispensers



Natural based ponds



Mobile feeders for supplementary feeding during mountain grazing



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STRATEGY FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALORISATION CREATION OF 'CLIMA MAIS POSITIVO' ECO-LABEL

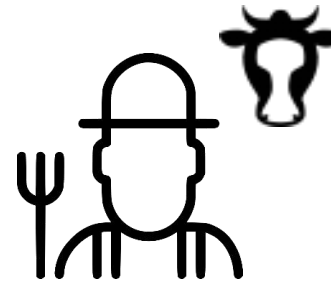
Who can join?

Producers who fulfil the obligations defined in the specifications for each label.

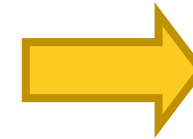


Checking the criteria on farms

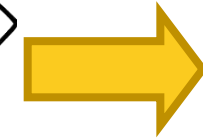
What is the circuit?



Identification of the farmer wishing to join



Criteria check



Product tracking and labelling

Who will check that the criteria are met?

Entity responsible for each region



What's the added value?



Promoting the environmental and social value of products among consumers



↑ Consumption



↑ Sales



C3. Ecological brand development and commercial innovation

- ✓ Participation in agricultural and gastronomic markets and fairs
- ✓ Implementation of a new ordering/sales system, stock management and website
- ✓ Implementation of a new logistics and distribution system
- ✓ Promoting direct contact between consumers and producers

C4. Economic and social valorisation of agriculture integrated with tourism

- ✓ Design interpretation/observation tourism programmes for each community
- ✓ Training of local restaurants with workshops and gastronomic events
- ✓ Annual public sessions with local residents to raise community awareness
- ✓ Preparation of a recipe book and production and broadcast of tv show/documentary



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Participation in agricultural and gastronomic markets



Annual public sessions



New logistics and distribution system



Gastronomy events



Labelling distribution



Promoting direct contact between consumers and producers





C5. Transferability and replication

- ✓ Peer-to-peer replication workshops for local and regional livestock farmers and other livestock associations





Climate Monitoring

- ✓ Measuring the increase in grass cover



- ✓ Quantify the growth and accumulation of biomass and floristic diversity

- ✓ Evaluate soil organic matter and quantify the carbon accumulated in the soil organic layer



- ✓ Sampling in the 12 exclusion plots in the mountains





Climate Monitoring



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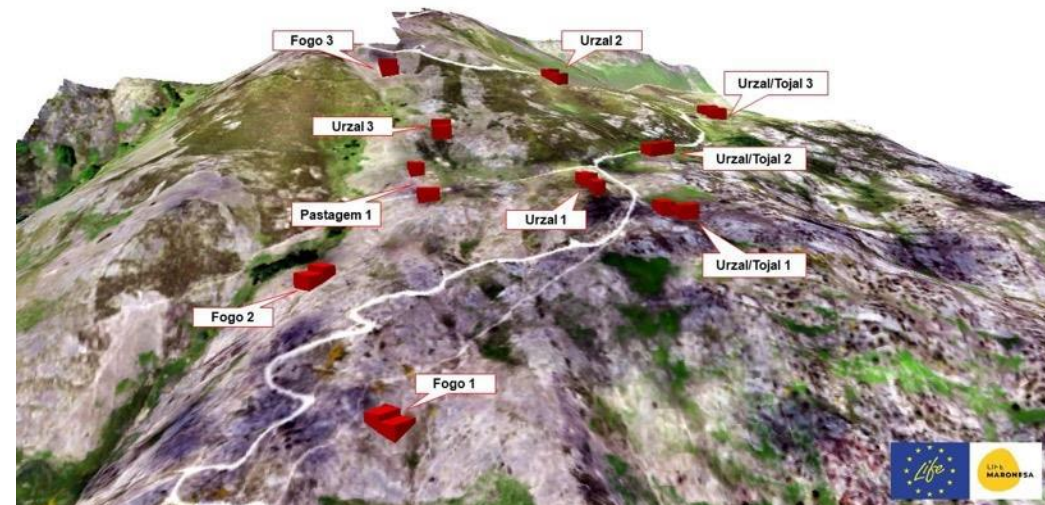
Urzal 3	2021	2023	2021-2023	2021-2023
Shrubs vol. (m3/ha)	Shrubs vol. (m3/ha)	Δ Shrubs vol. (m3/ha)	Δ Cover	
Chamaespartium tridentatum	935,3	952,5	17,2	-7,9%
Grazing exclusion	372,9	475,2	102,3	-13,8%
Free grazing	562,4	477,3	-85,1	-2,8%
Erica australis	3245,5	6407,3	3161,8	0,3%
Grazing exclusion	2434,3	5023,8	2589,5	7,5%
Free grazing	811,2	1383,5	572,3	-10,0%
Grasses	0	0	0	1,4%
Grazing exclusion	0	0	0	-23,6%
Free grazing	0	0	0	11,4%
Halimium alyssoides	645,2	597,7	-47,5	-23,8%
Grazing exclusion	526,0	537,9	11,9	-9,2%
Free grazing	119,2	59,8	-59,3	-57,8%
Soil and annuals	0	0	0	29,1%
Grazing exclusion	0	0	0	29,6%
Free grazing	0	0	0	28,8%
	2021	2023	2021-2023	2021-2023
	Shrubs vol. (m3/ha)	Shrubs vol. (m3/ha)	Δ Shrubs vol. (m3/ha)	Δ Shrubs vol. (%)
Grazing exclusion	3333,2	6036,9	2703,7	81,1%
Free grazing	1492,8	1920,6	427,9	28,7%

12 paired plots

4 types of vegetation x 3 repetitions, with and without grazing

Types of mountain vegetation

- Perennial grass
- Grass damaged by fire
- Mesophytic heather
- Heather-Gorse





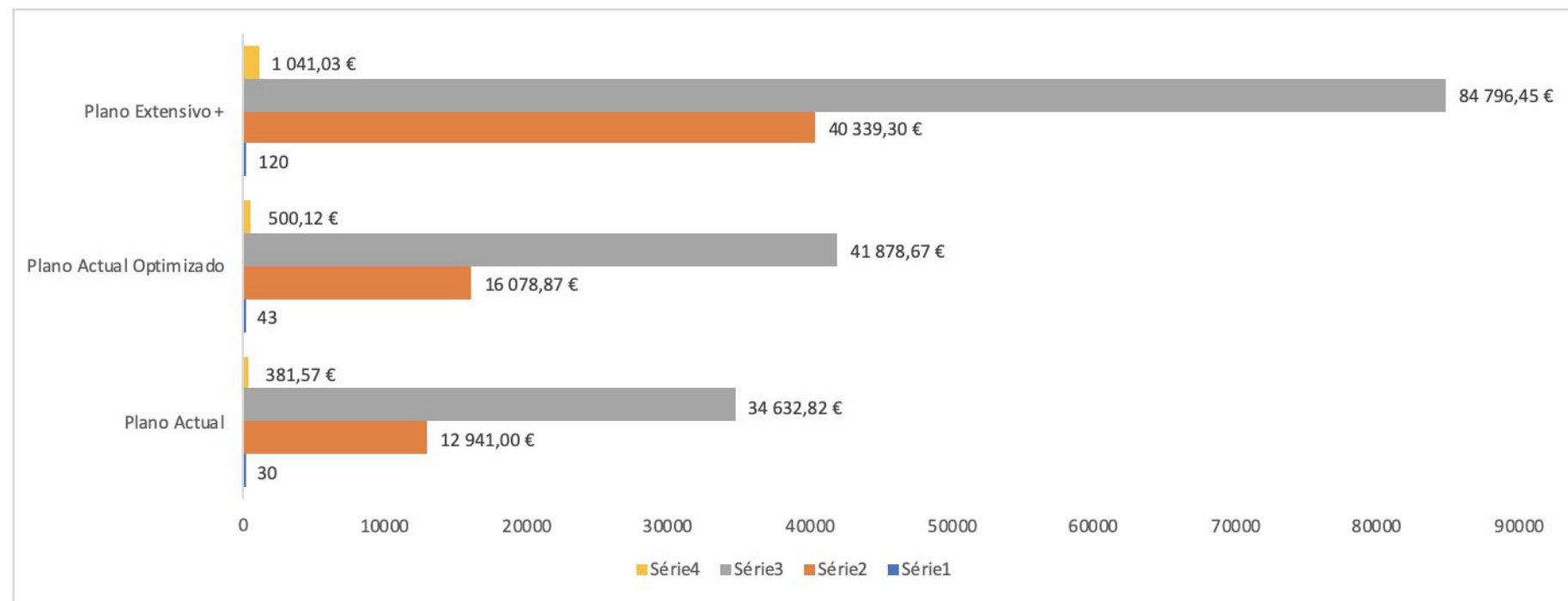
Economic monitoring and profitability of the extensive model

Conversion of livestock farm to an extensive system:

- More or less 8/9 months of mountain grazing
- 29% increase in hay meadow productivity
- Ca. 55% of EU aid

Evolução Exploração

Modelo	Efectivo Animal	Despesas	Receitas	Rendimento mensal pago ao Agricultor
Plano Actual	30	12 941,00 €	34 632,82 €	381,57 €
Plano Actual Optimizado	43	16 078,87 €	41 878,67 €	500,12 €
Plano Extensivo +	120	40 339,30 €	84 796,45 €	1 041,03 €



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Behavioural change monitoring and focus group evaluation

- ✓ Promote surveys and collect baseline data to compare how the opinions of the main target audiences and their behaviour evolve over the course of the project.
- ✓ Meetings with a sample of the stakeholders the project aims to impact: academics, elected officials, technicians from public administration or environmental and breeders' associations, chefs, product distributors, restaurant and tourism agents, product processors, breeders and people from the communities.





Thank you!

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Coordinator :



Partners :



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