



Stowarzyszenie Inicjatyw Kulturalno Młodzieżowych Art

"Switch To a Bike. Protect Your Home"

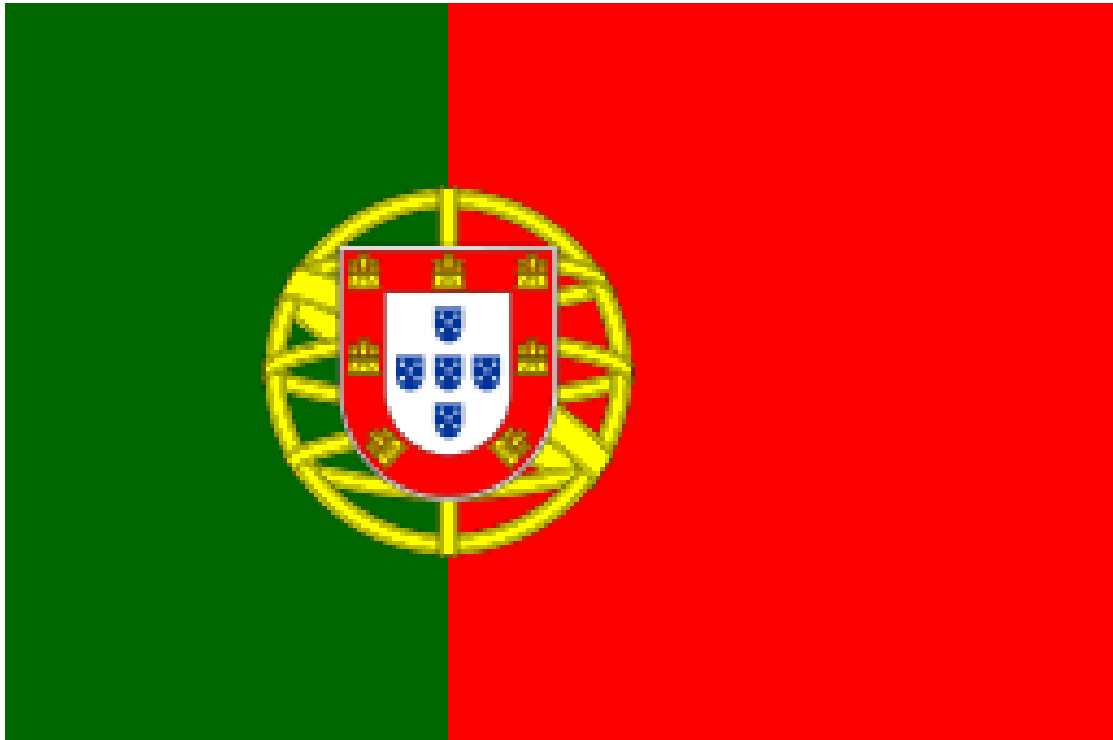


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PORTUGAL



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FOREST FIRES

Reasons:

- Climate change.
- Lack of maintenance.
- Wood business.

Measures:

1) Home:

- a) Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- b) Store firewood, fuel, and other flammable products in a safe place.

2) In wooded areas, parks, gardens, picnic areas:

- a) No bonfires.
- b) No smoking.
- c) No throwing garbage on the floor.
- d) No throwing cigarette butts on the ground.

The government has established a law that requires the population to clear their land to predict the spread in case of fire, subject to penalty upon non-compliance.



FAILED REFORESTATION



In two years, nine thousand hectares of the Mata Nacional de Leiria, devastated by the 2017 fire, should be fully reforested.

The Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests assures that the budget is sufficient, and that more money will be invested in the Pinhal than that which resulted from the sale of burned wood, 17 million euros. But these numbers raise doubts and worry local authorities.

Later that year, the 2017 October fires burned down more than fifty thousand hectares of land, more than what, in that same year, has burned in the entirety of the European Union during that entire year, deepening even further the lack of forests in Portugal.

DROUGHT SITUATION

IPMA

Almost 80% of the territory of mainland Portugal is already in a drought situation

Only 21.8% of the territory is in normal conditions, that is, without lack of water. IPMA predicts that, even if precipitation returns to normal levels, the south of the country will remain in “weak drought”.

Blue

April 21, 2023, 4:05 pm

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Maximum temperatures were almost always above the monthly average.

Rainfall below normal throughout the territory.

Significant decrease in the percentage of water in the soil.



In some regions, limits have already been established on the use of water for both agriculture and human consumption. The government admits that reducing water consumption is not enough and that if the drought worsens, restrictions can be tightened.



This figure below demonstrates a special distribution of the draw situational index.

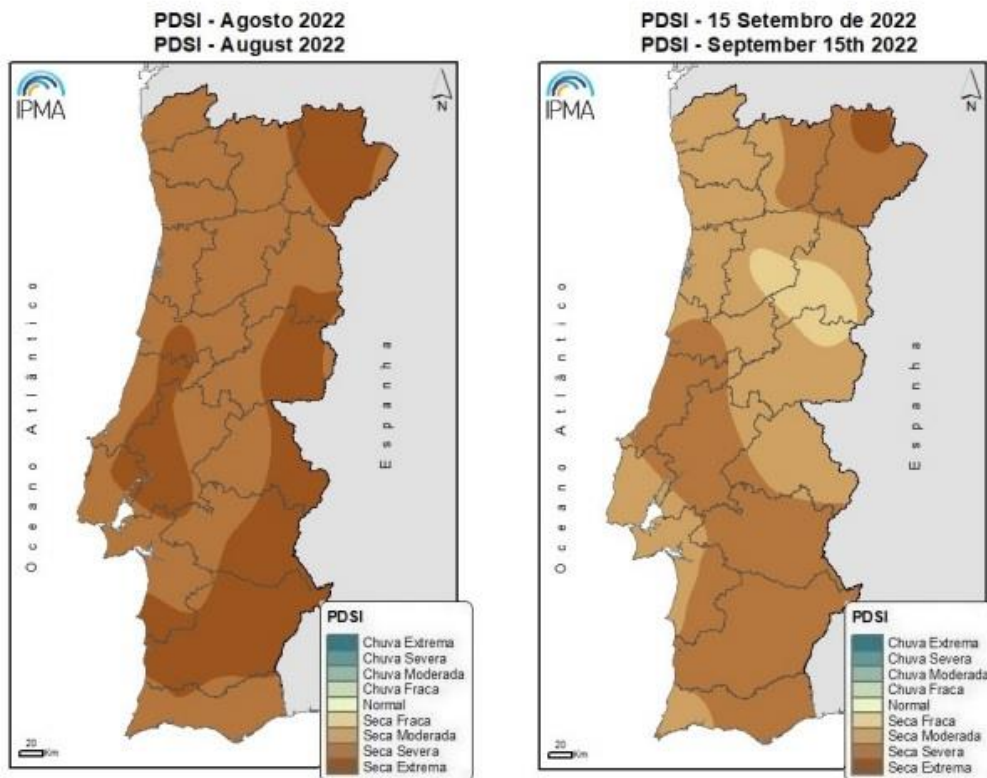


Figura 5. Distribuição espacial do índice de seca meteorológica a 31 agosto e a 15 setembro

On the left, we can see a Portuguese map relative to August 31st, 2022.

On the right, the map shows this situational index for September 15th, 2022.

OPEN-AIR DUMPS

- One other problem regarding environmental issues in Portugal concerns the existence of open-air dumpsters.
- Even though the existence of those were deemed illegal back in 2002, a waste collection and disposal methodology replaced by landfilling, due to a reduced level of water channels' pollution and an overall improvement of sanitary and health levels of the general population, smaller, poorly internally regulated industries and non-educated population still occasionally disposes their waste this way.
- Due to a lack of efficiency to enforce measures by both the municipal and local constabulary authorities, who are aware of this situation exposed below for 4 months now, they have been unable to implement measures to stop these residual exposures in the first place, and the subsequent and appropriated disposal of this waste in an adequate manner.



COASTAL EROSION

Portugal has one of the most "energetic" coastlines in the world and in Ovar, one of the municipalities in the country with the highest risk of coastal erosion, the action of the sea "sculpting" the coastline is particularly visible.

"It has come to be one of the most problematic in Europe, with almost ten metres of coastline retreat per year".



Measures:

- ✓ Limit the extraction of sand from rivers for construction.



- ✓ Coastal engineering works are carried out to contain.

- ✓ Coastal erosion, through seawalls, the replenishment of beaches, vegetation, and dunes.



DAMS



- Dams change ecosystems.
- Dams reduce biodiversity and cause extinction.
- Dams contribute to climate change (and are affected by it).
- Dams harm water quality.



Stowarzyszenie Inicjatyw Kulturalno Młodzieżowych Art

Project: "Switch To a Bike. Protect Your Home"
Program: Erasmus+

Host organization:

Stowarzyszenie Inicjatyw Kulturalno - Młodzieżowych Art
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Partner organisations:

Enterprising Partners (Lithuania)
FNEE - Federação Nacional dos Estudos Europeus (Portugal)
Youth for Experience - Slovakia (YES) (Slovakia)
Silesian Society for Solidarity z.s. (Czech Republic)
Ötszázalék Egyesület (Hungary)
REGIONALAS ATTISTIBAS UN SOCIALO INICIATIVU ORGANIZACIJA PERSPEKTIVA (Latvia)

Place: Poręba Wierzchosławice, Poland

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