Cork, pine nuts and mushrooms from Alentejo multi-purpose forests

Alentejo in-depth case study - Instituto Superior de Agronomia

1. Background

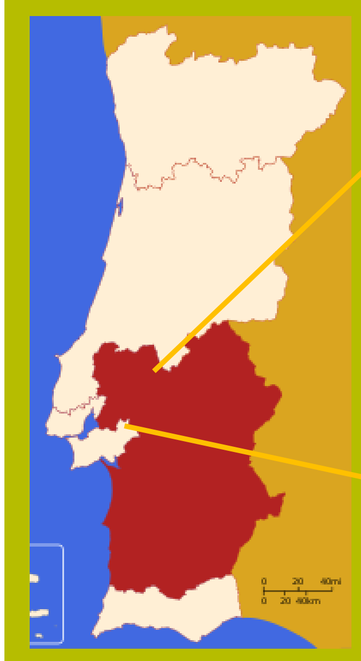
The Alentejo NUTII PT18 has 1 413 983 ha of forests corresponding to 45% of the total area. Cork oak (*Quercus suber*) holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) and umbrella pine (*Pinus pinea*) multi-purpose forests play a crucial role in the most important non-wood forest products (NWFP) in the region: cork, pine nuts and mushrooms *(Amanita caesarea, Amanita ponderosa, Boletus edulis* group*, Cantharellus cibarius and Terfezia spp.)*. Cork and pine nuts are already regarded as main objectives on the management of these forests whilst currently wild mushrooms play a secondary role. StarTree Alentejo in-depth case study will focus on producing increased knowledge to support forest management towards the production of these NWFP. Such work includes data collection, improvement and development of models, testing forest management alternatives at several scales and developing expert models.

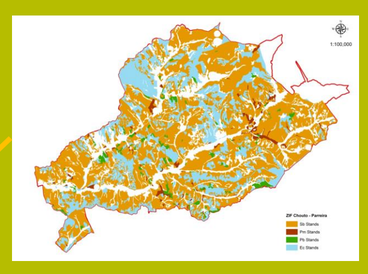
Multi-purpose forests

Non-wood forest products

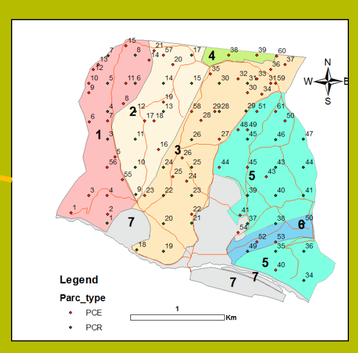
2. Study area

The study area comprises of different scales within Alentejo NUTII. The regional approach considers the National Forest Inventory (NFI) data as input. It will also include two Forest Management Units (FMU) : Abegoaria farm (AB) and ZIF Chouto e Parreira (ZIF).





ZIF



AB

3. Methods

- Model improvement/development
  - Cork oak – Calibration, hybridization and improvements of cork oak models
  - Umbrella pine - Calibration and improvements of umbrella pine models
  - Mushrooms - Development of a model based on expert knowledge and validation with available and collected data
  - Development of trade-offs analysis models
- Testing Forest Management Alternatives (FMAs)
  - at stand level using Development of trade-offs analysis models
  - at FMU level, so considering AB and ZIF
- Regional level estimations - different management alternatives will be defined for each species and assigned to each NFI plot

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