

# Coastal tourism spaces and places in Portugal

evolution and prospective

Carlos Cardoso Ferreira  
Centro de Estudos Geográficos  
Universidade de Lisboa

**Nuevas Orientaciones para los Destinos Consolidados de Sol y Playa**

L'Alfàs del Pi | July 19-23, 2010

**Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo**

# Table of contents:

- Portuguese Coast: an overview
- Tourism in Portugal: basic data
- Planning coastal tourism destinations: evolution and prospective

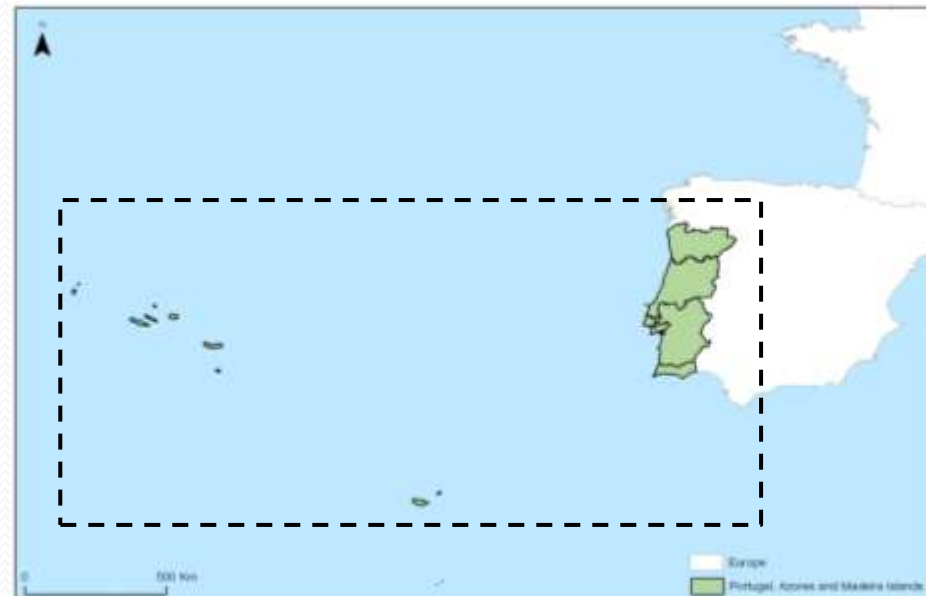
# *PORTUGUESE COAST: AN OVERVIEW*



## Facts and Figures

### Location

- Comprises of continental Portugal, Azores (9 islands) and Madeira (2 islands)
- Total: 92.000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Coastline: 1.853 km<sup>2</sup>  
(continent: 950 km<sup>2</sup>, Azores: 691 km<sup>2</sup>, Madeira: 212 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Exclusive Economic Zone: 1.700.000 km<sup>2</sup> (one of the largest in the European Union)



Very diverse coastline, comprising:

- Sandy beaches (591 km), with long extension of dunes (important for biodiversity, tourism activities and as buffer areas for flooding);
- Rock beaches: 348 km;
- Rock cliffs;
- Coastal wetlands: Douro, Mondego, Tejo, Sado, Ria de Aveiro, Ria Formosa.

Santa Cruz beach, Torres Vedras



Salgados beach, Almada  
Protected Landscape



Very rich in fauna and flora:

- Important sites (e.g. Natura 2000 Network) are mainly located on the coast.

**Caparica / Lagoa de Albufeira**  
(RT Costa Azul)



**Estuário do Tejo**  
(picasaweb.google.com)

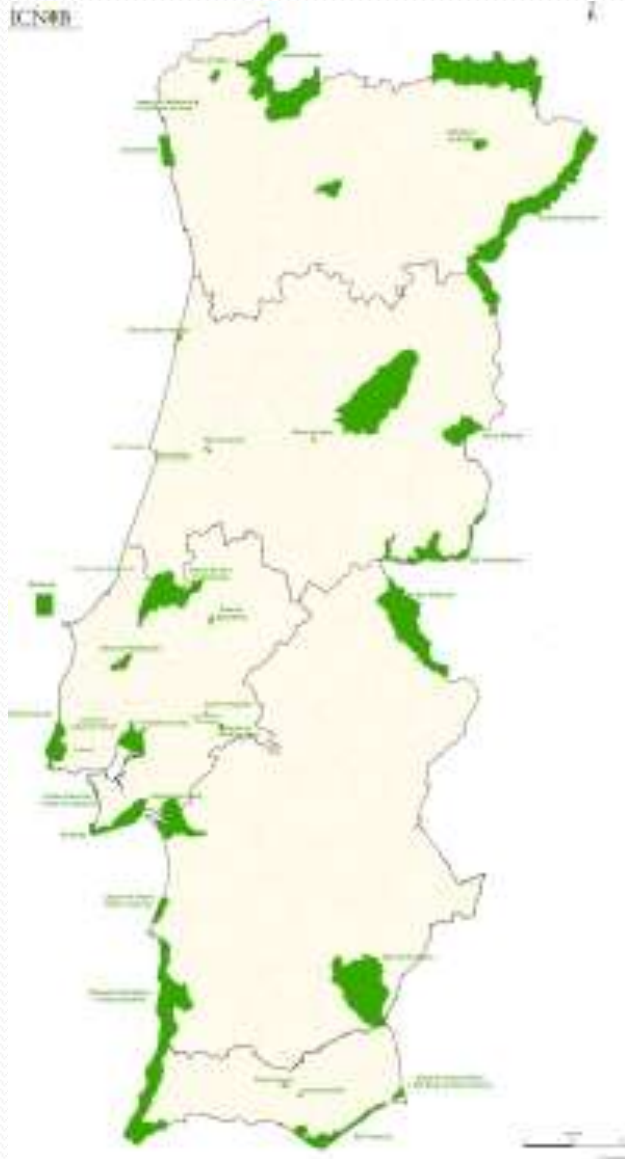


**Ria Formosa**  
(Turismo de Portugal)



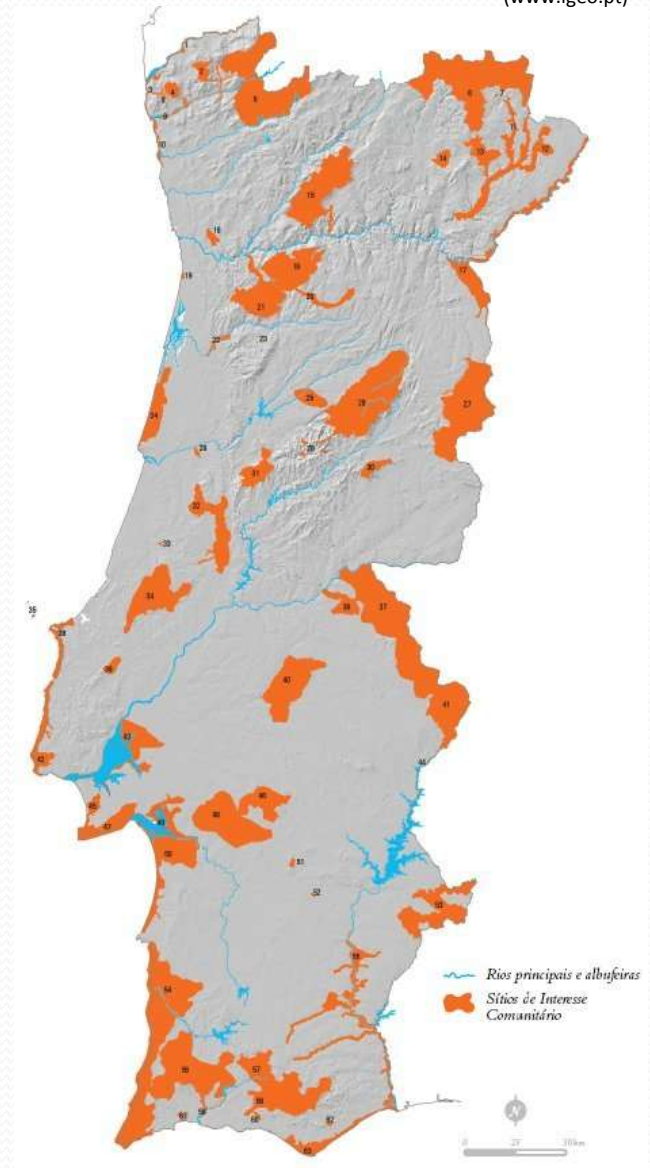
### Protected Areas

(ICNB)



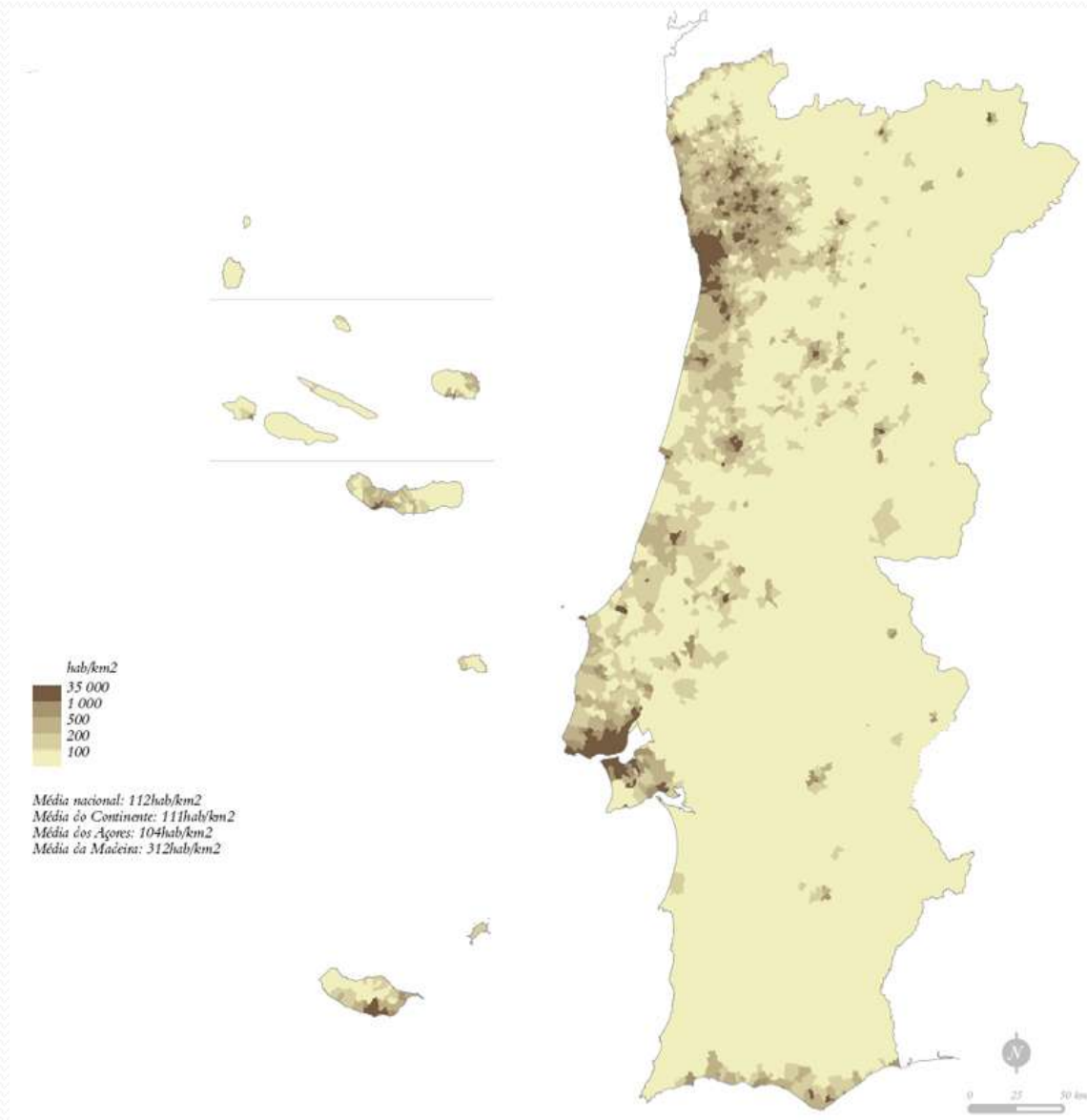
### Natura 2000 sites

(www.igeo.pt)



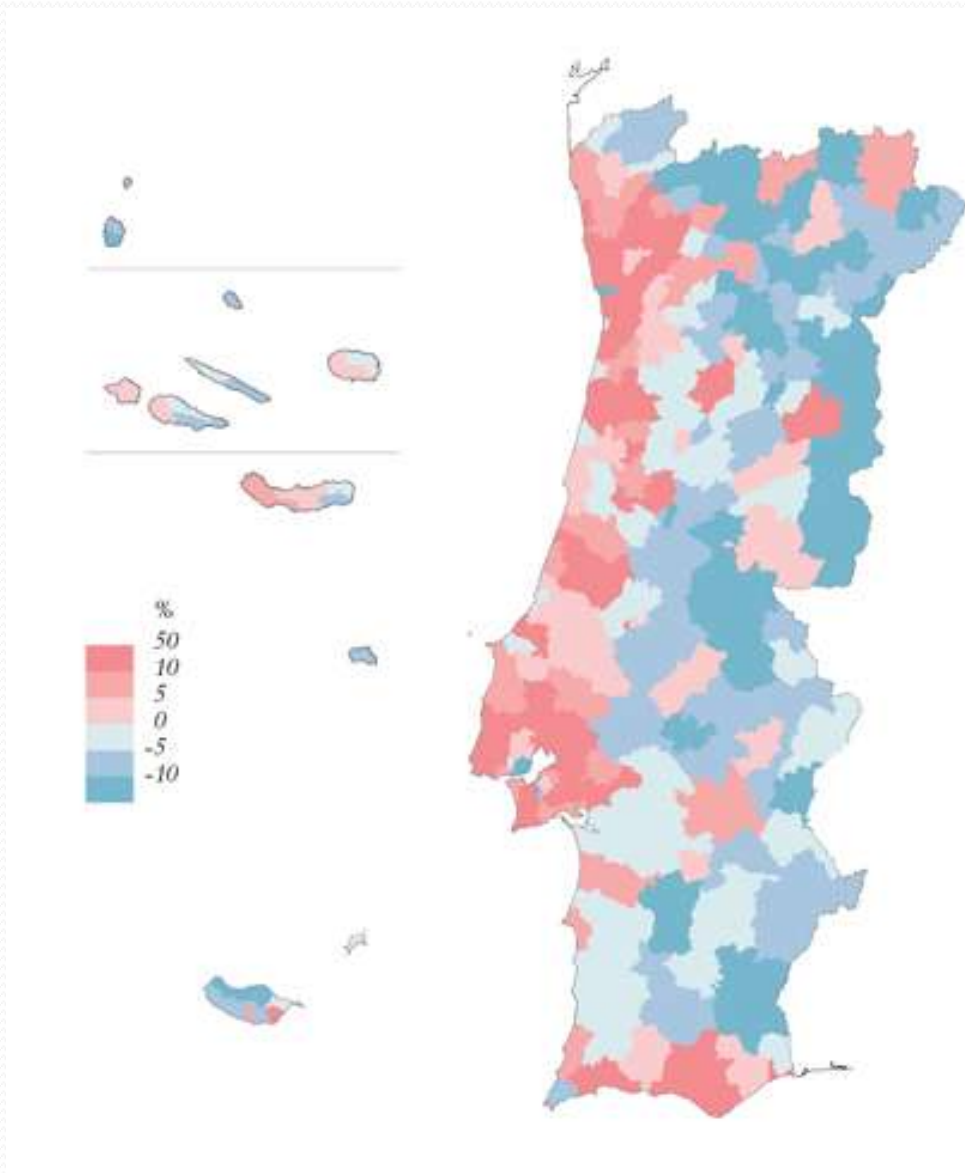
Roughly 75% population lives and works in coastal areas (job opportunities, accessibilities, temperate climate, natural resources, social and cultural assets, ...).

## Population Density (2001)



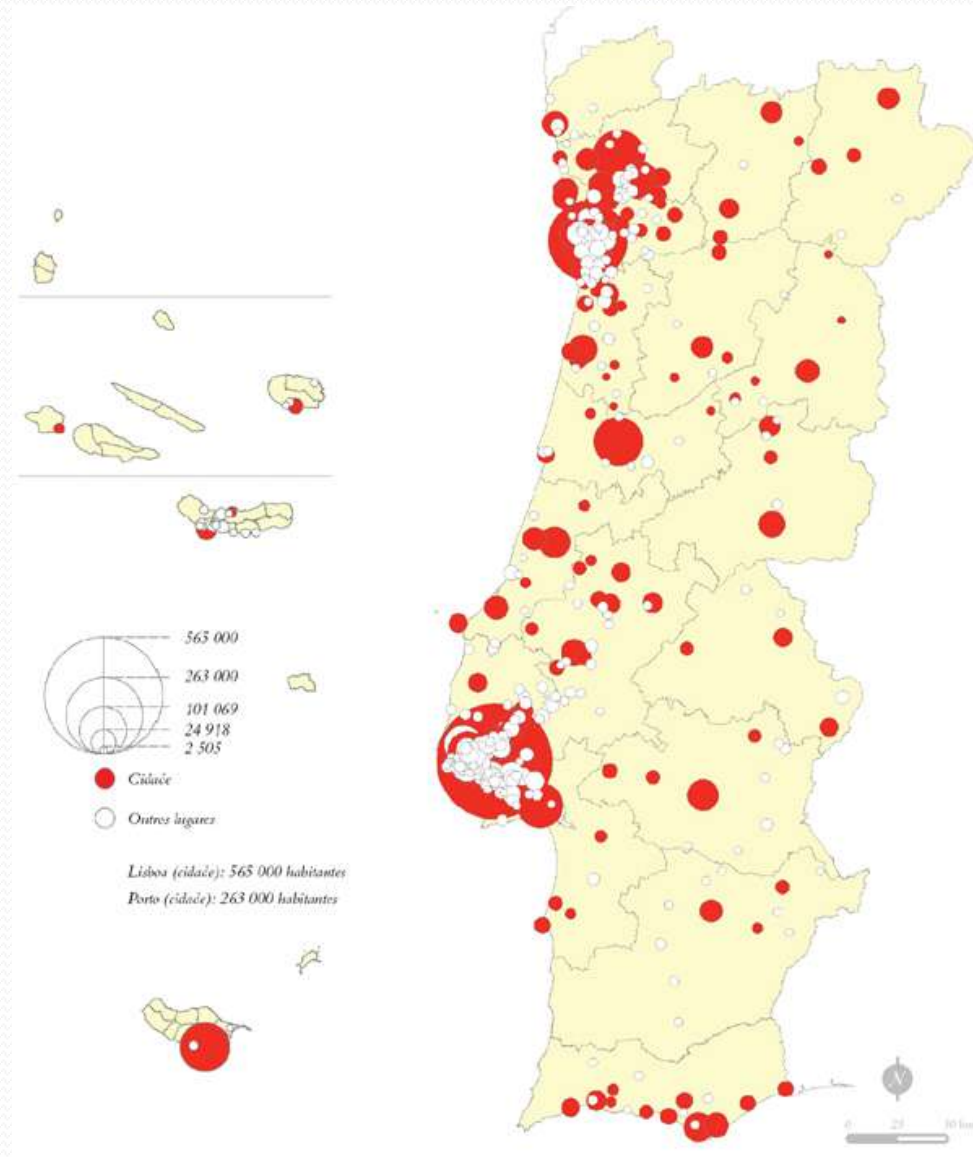
Significant population increase in most coastal municipalities

Population Growth (1991-2001)



Urban concentration along the coast and severe anthropic pressure in some areas (e.g. Lisbon)

Urban centres (>2500 inhabit.)



## Coastal (or near coastal) infrastructural networks:

- Ports;
- Airports;
- Railways;
- Highways;
- natural gas supply;
- (...)

Major infrastructures



Some of the finest examples of historical-cultural heritage (and its specific preservation sites/areas).

Sagres Fort



Bugio / Oeiras



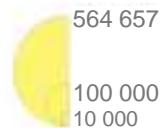
Belém / Lisboa



## Socio-economic synopsis (continent):

- 85% Gross Domestic Product;
- High concentration of industries and services (tourism included).

Nº Population in cities (2001)



Capital cities  
Metropolitan System  
Other urban systems

Potential centralities

Inland drivers

Main distribution channels

Roads

IP  
IC

High Speed Train network

1st stage

2nd stage

Ports

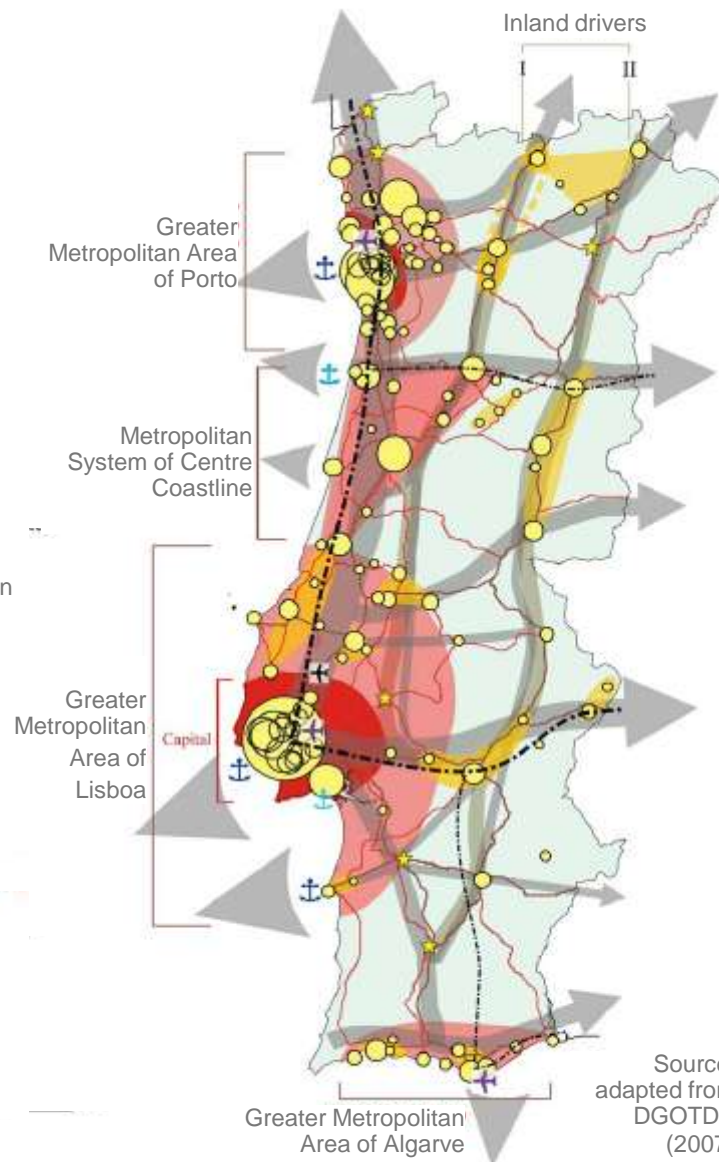
Level 1

Level 2

Airports

International

Horizon 2015

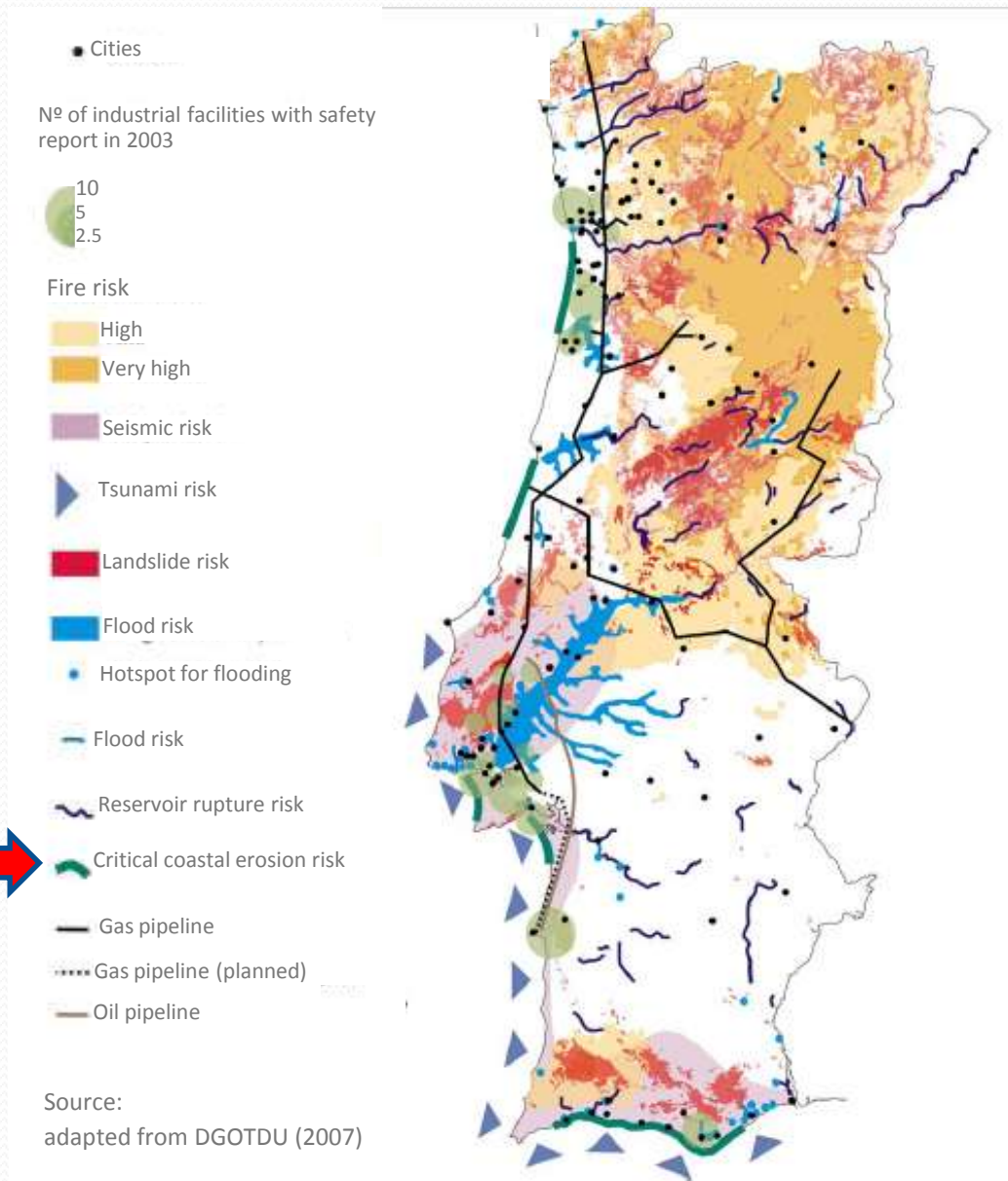


Source:  
adapted from  
DGOTDU  
(2007)

## Issues and risks

(continent)

- Coastal erosion and recession:
  - High levels of construction;
  - Pressure from tourist activities;
  - Overexploitation of materials in rivers and estuaries;
  - Dredging (harbour activities).
  
- High population density:
  - Landscape degradation;
  - Overexploitation of natural resources;
  - Environmental pollution;
  - Land-surface impermeabilisation.



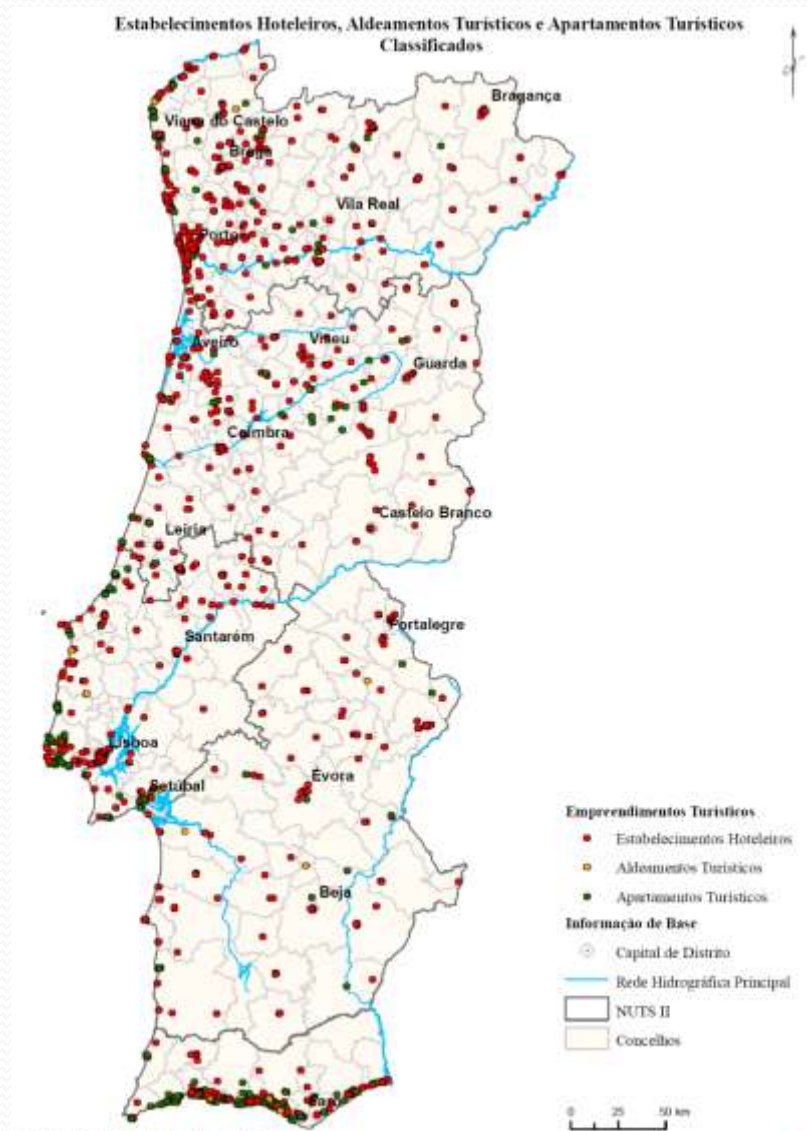
# *TOURISM IN PORTUGAL: BASIC DATA*



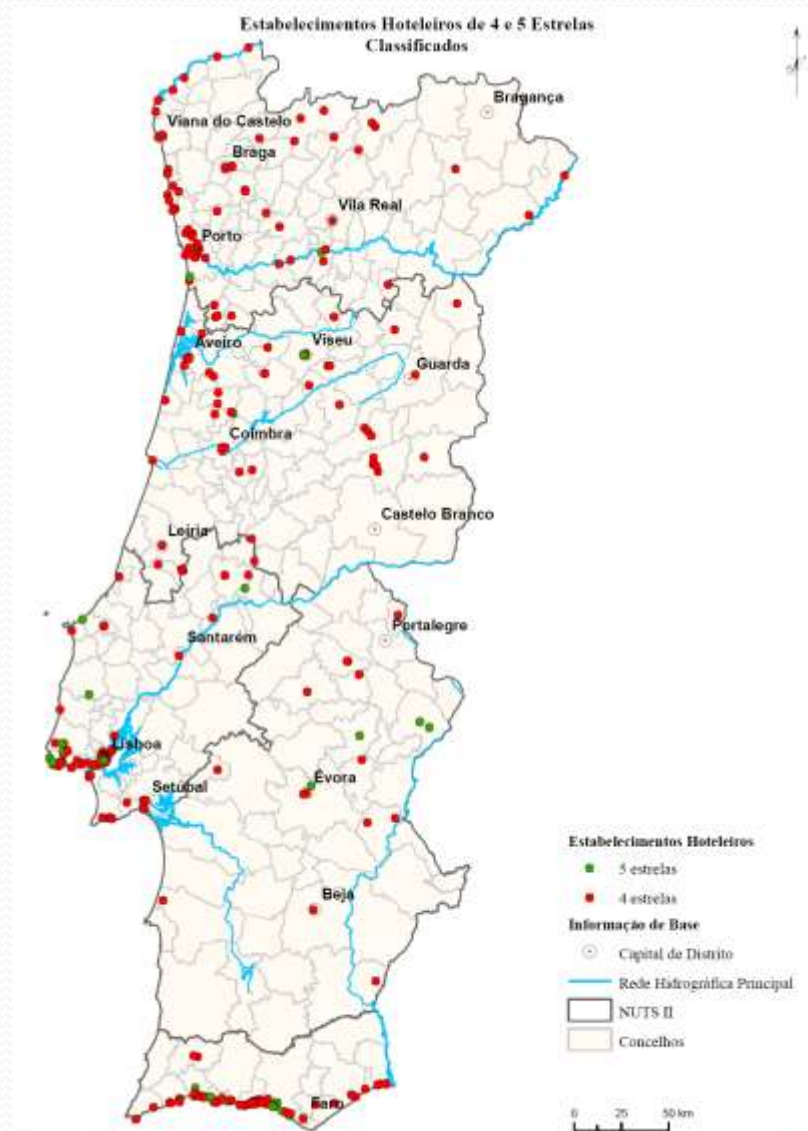


## Conventional supply

## 4 and 5 Stars Hotels



A informação contida neste mapa é meramente indicativa.  
 Origem da Rede Hidrográfica: "Atlas do Ambiente Digital - Instituto do Ambiente"  
 Origem da CAOP: IGP  
 Atualização: 29 de Junho de 2010



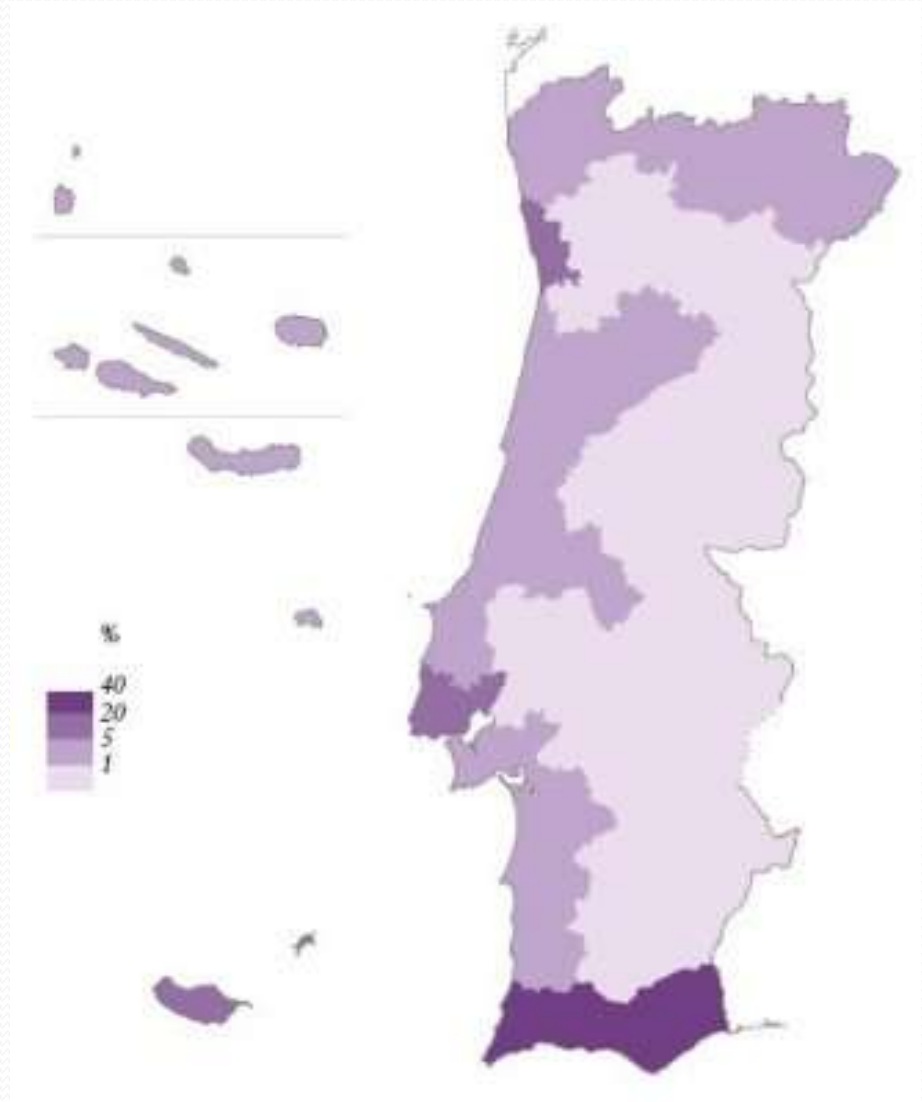
A informação contida neste mapa é meramente indicativa.  
 Origem da Rede Hidrográfica: "Atlas do Ambiente Digital - Instituto do Ambiente"  
 Origem da CAOP: IGP  
 Atualização: 29 de Junho de 2010

90% of foreign tourists stay in coastal destinations:

- most significant share of hotel capacity in the Algarve, Lisbon, Oporto and Madeira.

### Hotel capacity

(Atlas de Portugal)



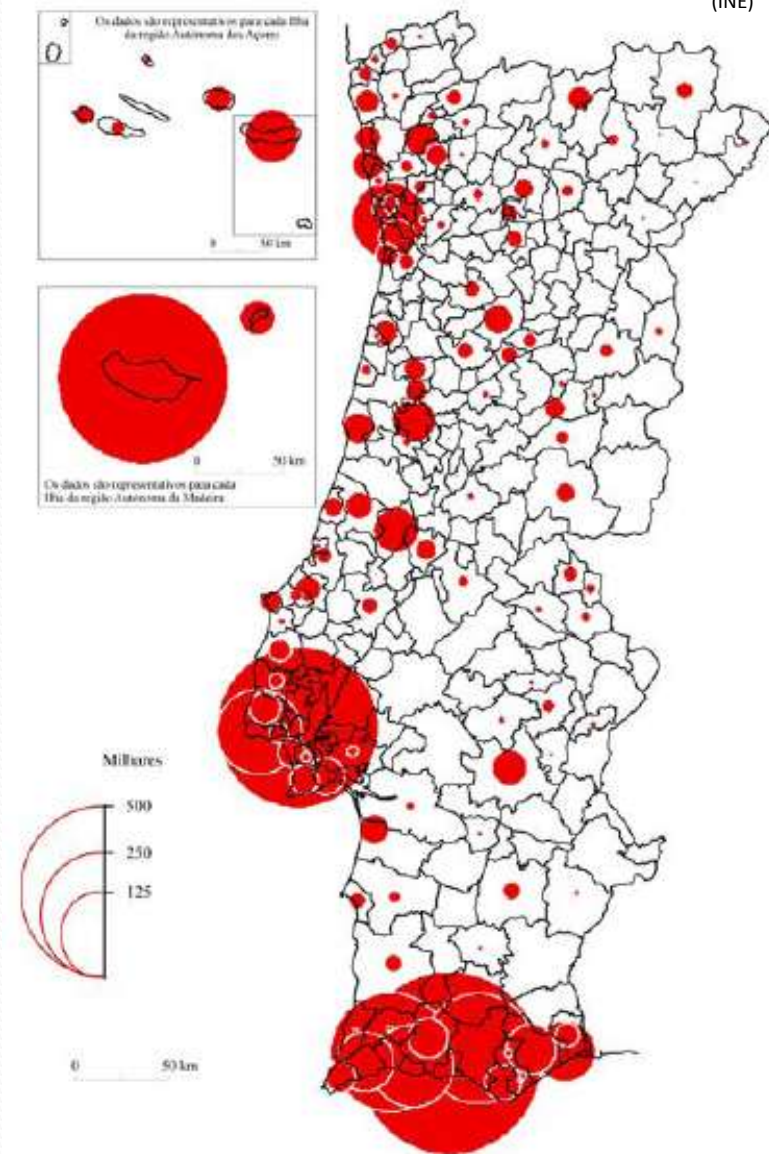
90% of foreign tourists stay in coastal destinations:

Most significant share of hotel capacity in the Algarve, Lisbon, Oporto and Madeira.

- most significant share of hotel overnights in consolidated tourism destinations (Algarve, Lisbon and Madeira)

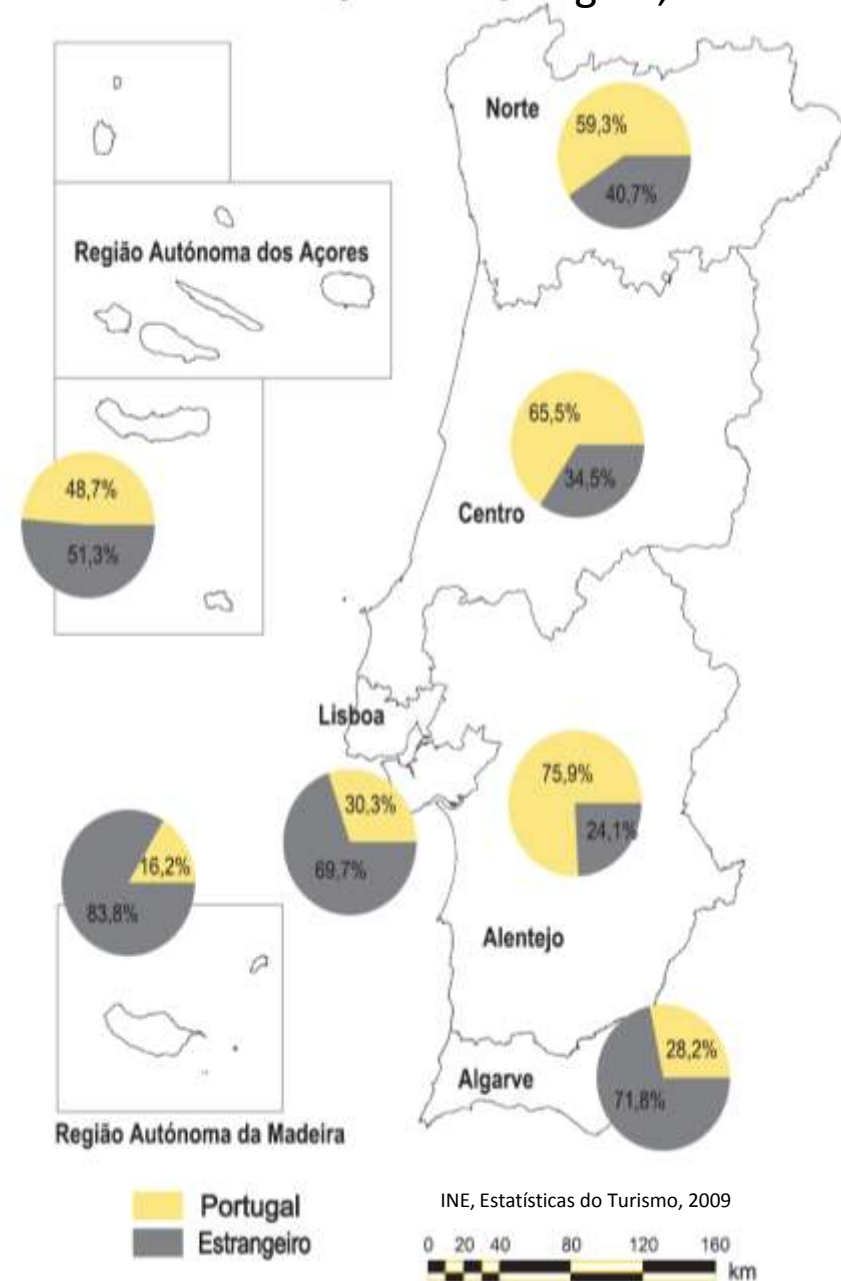
Hotel overnights, 2001

(INE)



90% of foreign tourists stay in coastal destinations:

- Madeira, Algarve and Lisboa hotel overnights are overwhelmingly based on international demand.

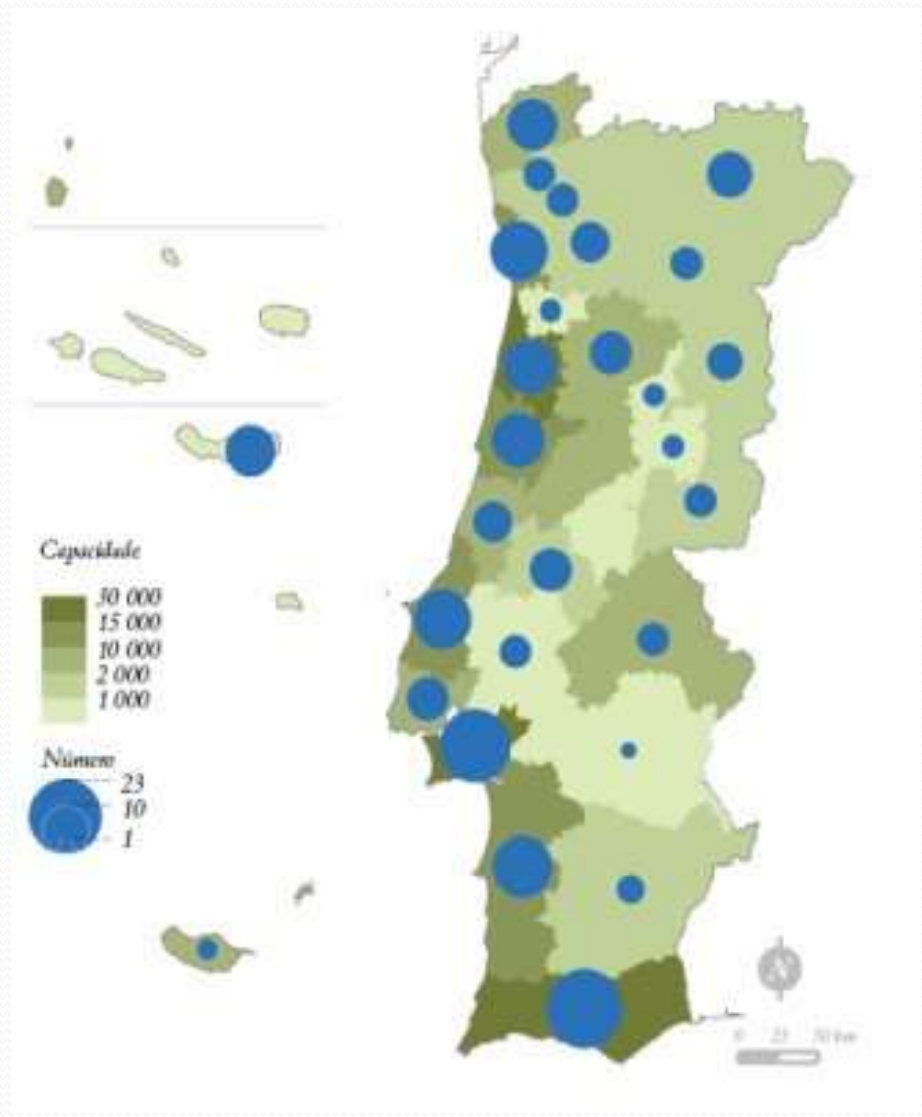


# Camping Parks

(Atlas de Portugal)

The majority and the largest camping parks are located on (or near) the coast

Costa de Caparica  
(Google)

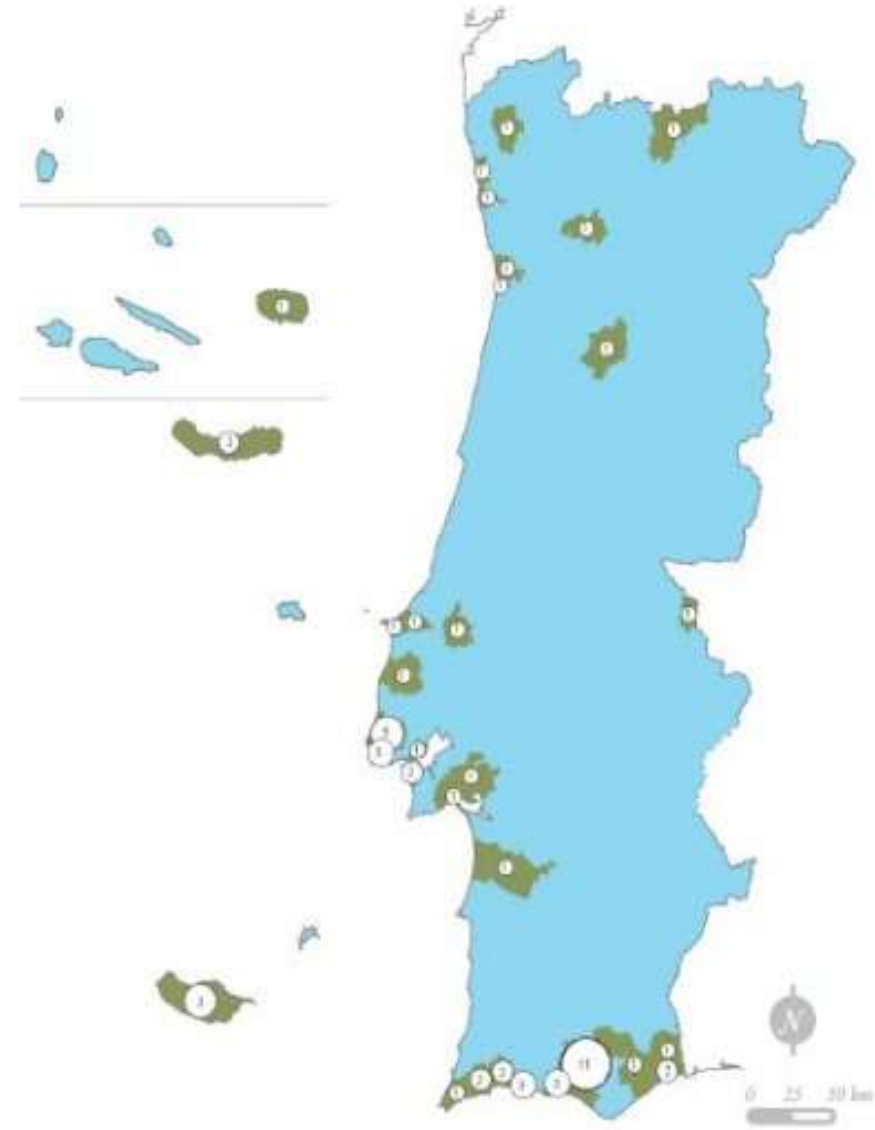


Concentration of golf courses in coastal tourism developed areas



## Golf courses

(Atlas de Portugal)





# Then... and now

Images on tourism development along the Portuguese coast

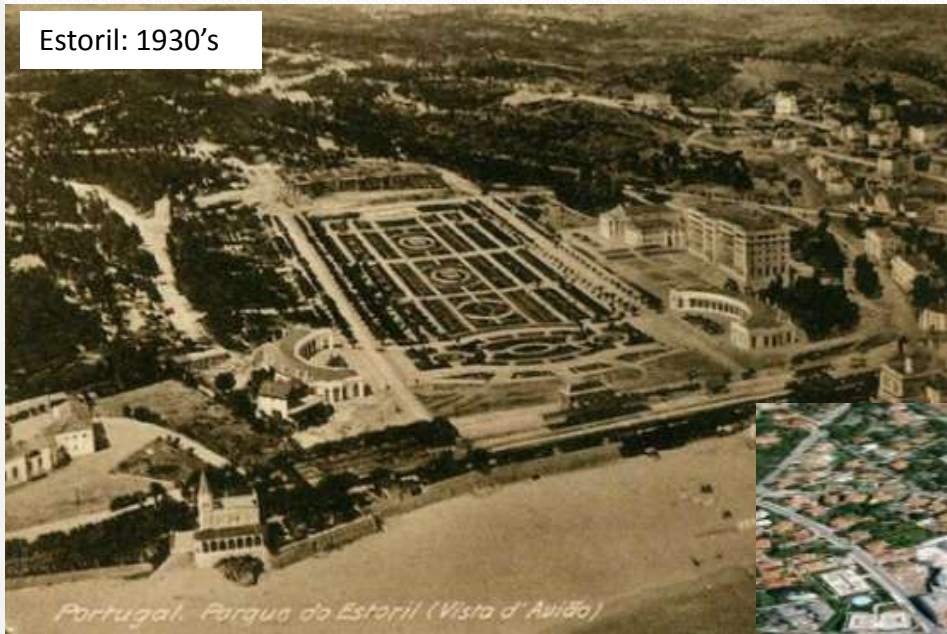


Praia da Granja  
Late XIXth century



Praia da Granja  
nowadays

Estoril: 1930's



Estoril: nowadays



Praia da Rocha / Algarve  
Early XXth century

Praia da Rocha.



Praia da Rocha/Algarve: nowadays



Armação de Pêra / Algarve  
1960's



Armação de Pêra / Algarve:  
nowadays



Albufeira: early XXth century



Albufeira: nowadays





Quarteira: early XXth century

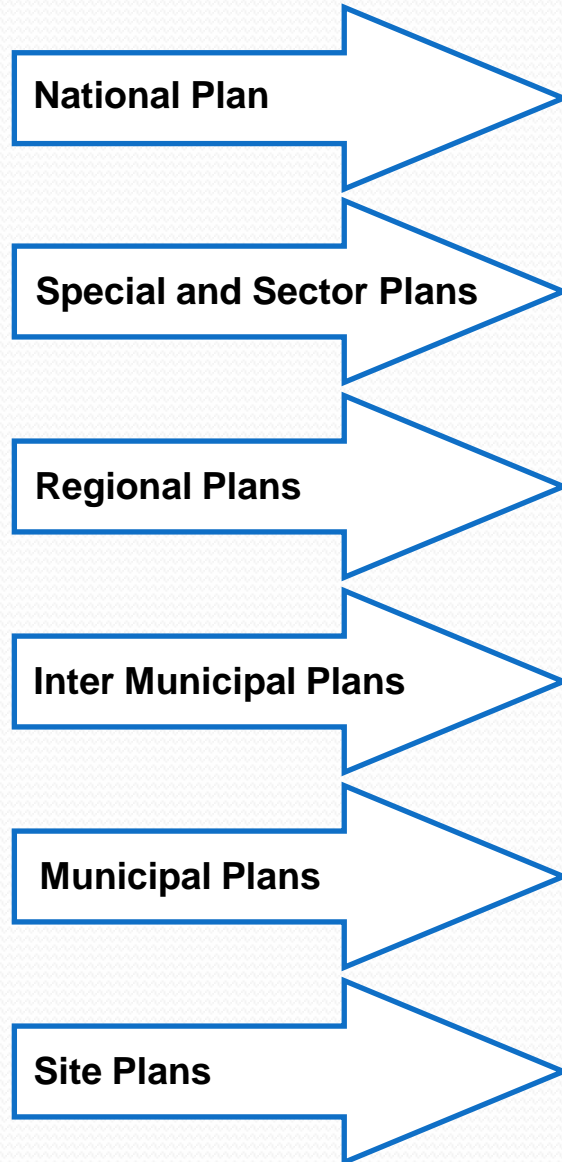


Quarteira: nowadays

# *PLANNING COASTAL TOURISM DESTINATIONS*



## Planning tools

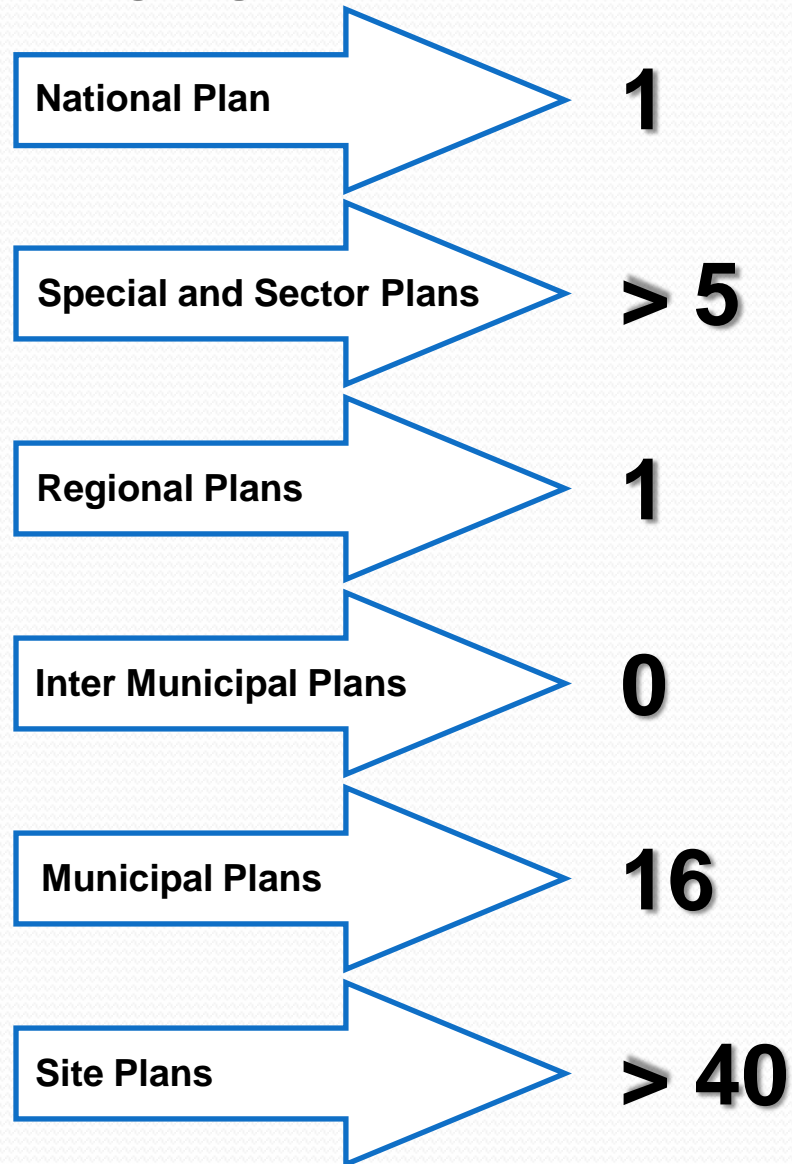


Macro / Strategic



Micro / Operational

## Planning tools – (e.g. Algarve)



# Planning tools

1864 Maritime Public Domain

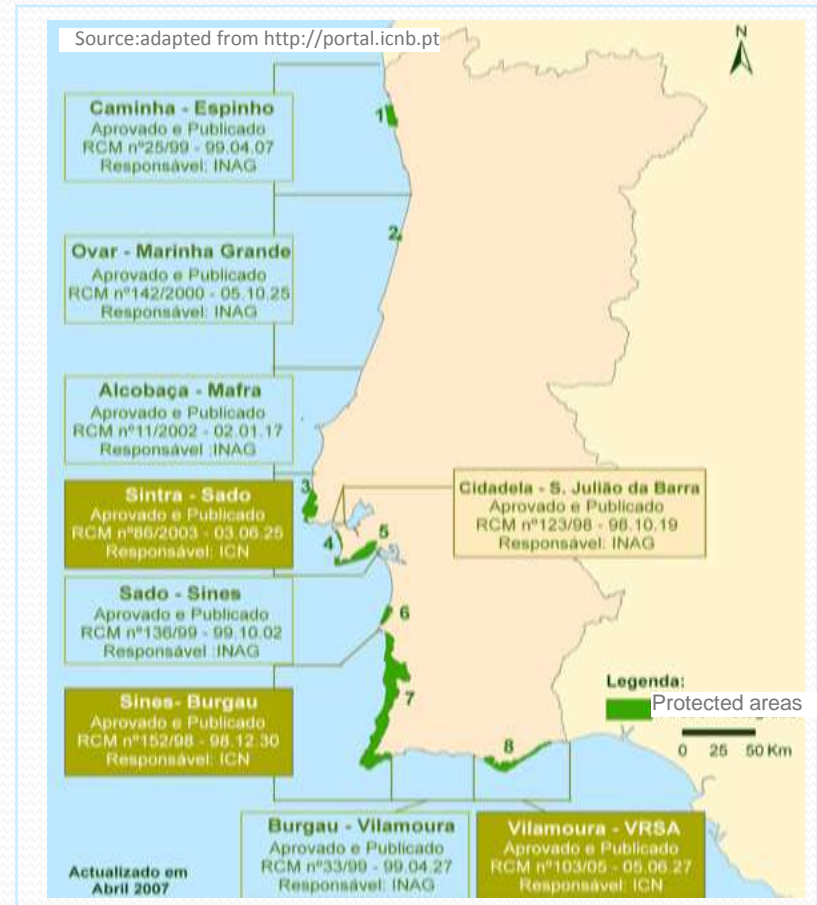
1990 Coastline Urban Management Plan

1993 Coastline Plans (POOC)

50m (wide) coastal front

Establishes guidelines for coastline land use (2km)

- 8 Plans;
- Focused on protecting, managing and improving natural resources and landscapes (500m);
- Aimed at establishing different uses and activities, classifying beaches and regulating their use for bathing, as well as assuring nature protection.



# Planning tools

1998

Coastline Strategy

Establishes guidelines and priority domains for interventions in coastal areas.

2003

FINISTERRA Programme

Aim: To improve the Portuguese coastline through structural measures, allowing implementing the actions stated in the Coastline Plans.

2009

**Integrated Management Strategy for the Portuguese Coastal Zones Response to 2002/413/CE**

Aim: to provide a policy framework to assure sustainable development in coastal zones.

Key principles (some examples):

- Intergenerational sustainability and solidarity;
- Social cohesion;
- Prevention and precautionary principle;
- Holistic and multidisciplinary approach;
- Shared responsibility.

## Programmes targeting coastal areas

1987

Blue Flag Programme

NGO: Associação Bandeira Azul da Europa

Aim: To raise awareness of the need to protect marine and coastal areas. Beaches and marinas that meet environmental, health and safety and environmental education criteria are awarded the blue flag. Municipalities have to apply for this award.

2003

Coastwatch campaign

NGO: GEOTA

Aim: To learn about the Portuguese coast through information gathering and monitoring; to raise awareness of human impacts.

# Lack of planning?

Construction on barrier islands, Faro/Algarve



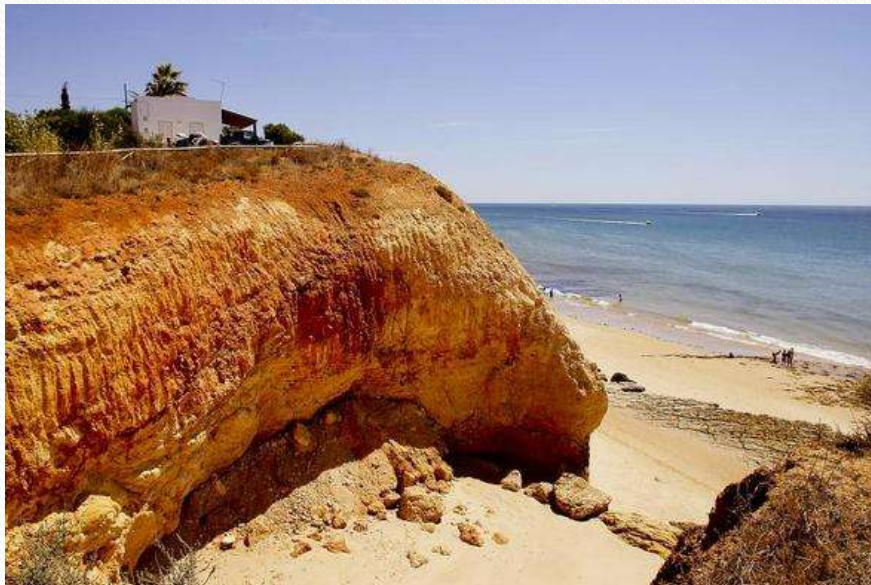
Portuguese coast: an overview

## Lack of planning?

Urban beach, Almada/Lisbon



Building at the cliff, Vau/Algarve



# Beyond “same as usual” planning

*POLIS, POLIS LITORAL* and other Programmes

## PIN Projects (tourism)

### Scope:

Follow up and procedure development mechanism for investment project (tourism and other economic sectors). It foster the accomplishment of the investment by assuring a close follow up : promote the most effective procedure steps; overcome administrative bottlenecks ; compliance with the legal applicable rules.

### Elegibility:

- Overall investment of a minimum 25 million euros;
- Positive impact in some social, economic and environmental issues;
- Further requirements for touristic projects : 5 star hotels (for tourism resorts, at least one 5 star hotel and 4 stars for the remaining hotel supply).

## PIN Projects (tourism)

May/ 2010

### Ongoing PIN projects:

13 projects

2.390 M€

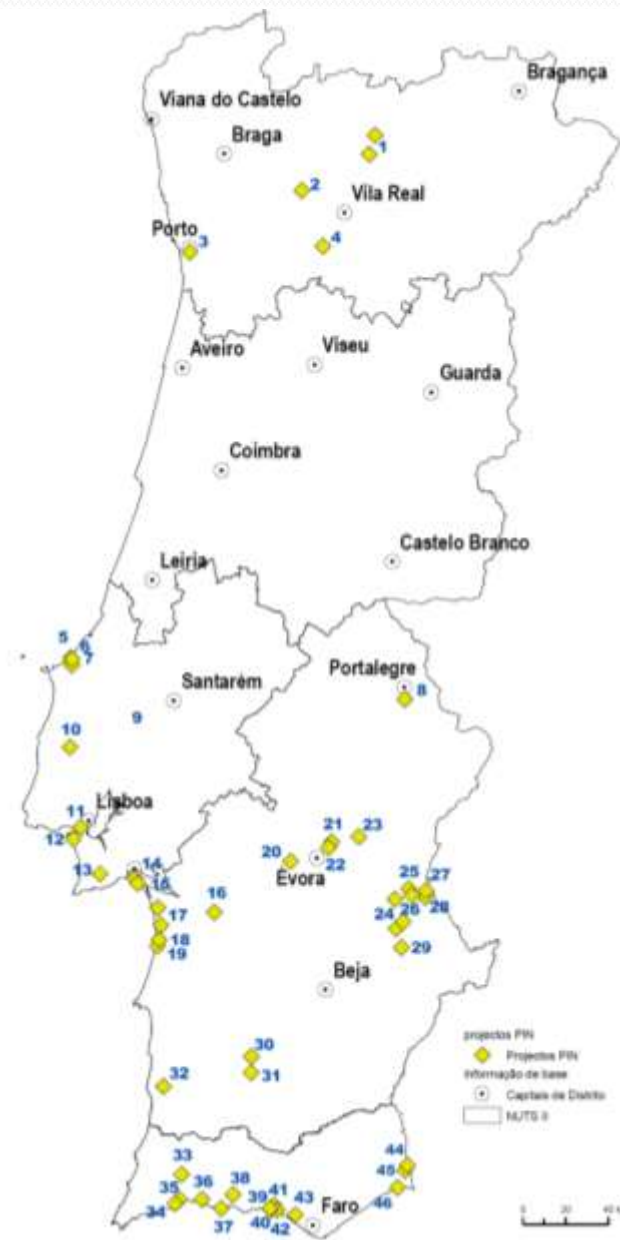
### PIN projects under evaluation:

34 projects

9.666 M€



± 12.000 Million Euros



## PIN Projects (tourism)



## PIN Projects (tourism)



# PIN Projects (tourism)



## POLIS Program

### Scope:

- 40 cities;
- 28 major projects;
- 12 other smaller projects;
- Several waterfront projects.

### Aims:

- Promote urban renewal interventions (with a focus on environmental enhancing);
- Promote actions to qualify urban areas and its multifunctional profile;
- Support other actions that improve the quality of the urban environment, especially river and coastal fronts.
- Increase the number of green areas, promote walking zones and avoid traffic in urban centres



# Programmes targeting coastal areas

2008

## Polis Litoral

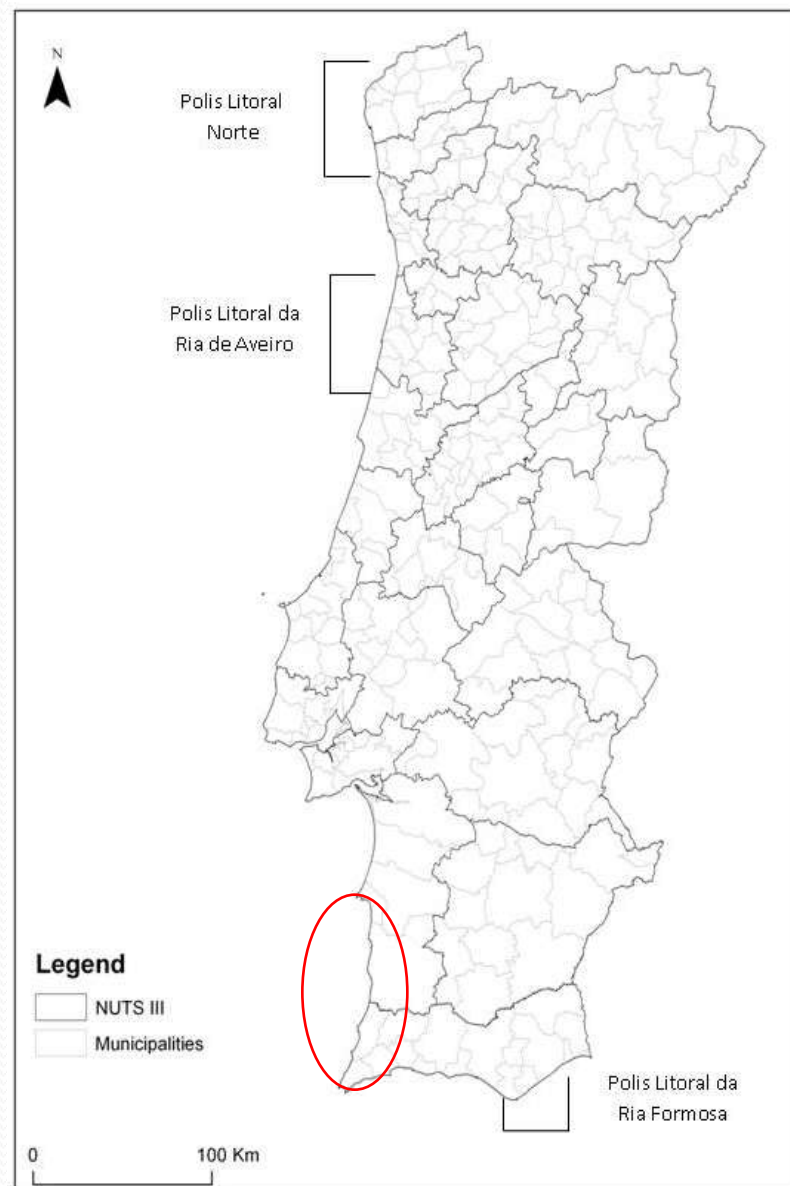
Partnerships between the State and municipalities

**Aim:** To recover coastal areas and enhance their environmental and ecological value.

**1st phase:** Ria Formosa, Litoral Norte, Ria de Aveiro (4<sup>th</sup> area added later: **Sudoeste**).

### Key features:

- 275,5 million euros;
- 373 km coastal front;
- 24 municipalities.



## Polis Litoral Programme

### Intervention domain:

- Defence and natural risk protection
- Recovery of ecologic and landscape values
- Create centralities to people and enterprises
- Compatibilisation of uses.

River Minho estuary



Aveiro's coastal front



Ria Formosa



## Polis Litoral Programme

Polis Litoral Ria Formosa



### Global strategy:

1. Valuing landscape and natural heritage
  - projects for the protection of the dune and cliff system;
  - projects for the recovery of the natural conditions.
  
2. Supporting traditional economic activities
  - qualification a valorisation of fishery units, small-sized coastal urban centres and bathing areas.
  
3. Diversify territorial liveability by enhancing its endogenous resources
  - actions for sustainable mobility promotion;
  - development of facilities that encourage the contact with natural environment;
  - disclosure of natural values and cultural characteristics on specific areas trough implementation of new facilities.

## Polis Litoral Norte

<http://polislitoralnorte.pt>

Protection of coastal urban settlements



Protection of the natural and cultural heritage



Protection of the coast and risk prevention



### Intervention area:

- 3 municipalities (Caminha, Viana do Castelo and Esposende);
- 50 km coastal front;
- Area: 5 000 ha;
- Estuaries of the rivers Minho, Coura, Âncora, Lima, Neiva e Cávado;
- Litoral Norte Natural Park.

### Amorosa Project



## Polis Litoral Ria de Aveiro

<http://www.polisriadeaveiro.pt>

Resource use to enhance economic activities



Protection of the natural heritage and landscape



Protection of the coast and risk prevention



### Intervention area:

- 12 municipalities (Águeda, Albergaria-a-Velha, Aveiro, Estarreja, Espinho, Ílhavo, Mira, Murto, Oliveira do Bairro, Ovar, Sever do Vouga and Vagos);
- 60 km coastal front;
- 128 km lagoon front;
- 24 km river front;
- Area: 37 000 ha;
- 3 Natura 2000 Network Sites.

Enhancing Ria de Aveiro liveability



## Polis Litoral Ria Formosa

<http://www.polisriadeaveiro.pt>

To reduce erosion retreat



Protection of the natural heritage and landscape



To recover critical areas of the lagoon



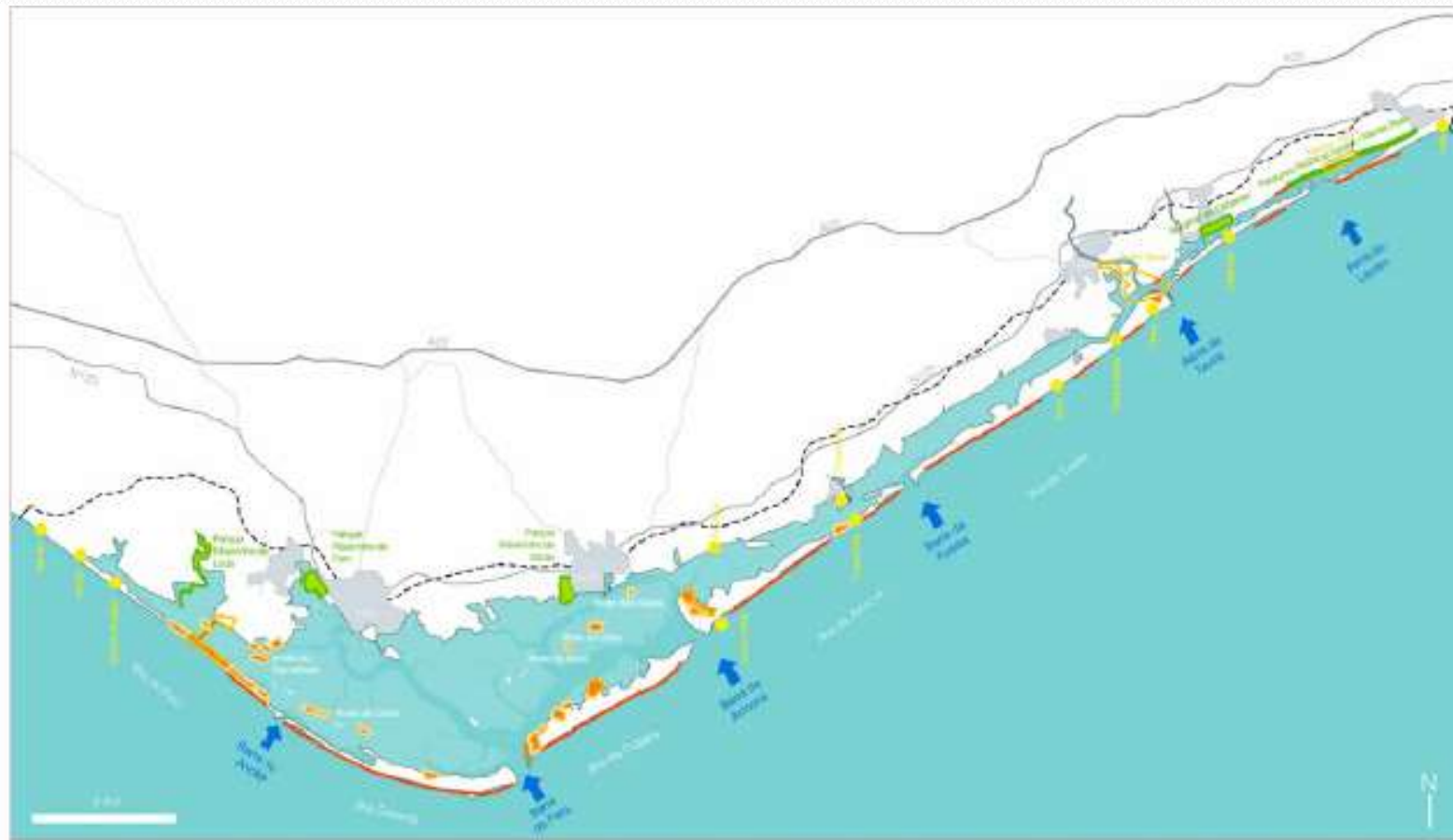
### Intervention area:




- 6 municipalities (Loulé, Faro, Olhão, Tavira e Vila Real de Santo António)
- 45 km coastal front;
- 57 km lagoon front;
- Area: 19.245 ha;
- Ria Formosa Natural Park.






Source: adapted from [www.apdr.pt/congresso/2009/pdf/Sessão%202/291A.pdf](http://www.apdr.pt/congresso/2009/pdf/Sessão%202/291A.pdf)

## Polis Litoral Ria Formosa - Projects



Intervention area   
Dune nourishment   
Inlets 

**Interventions/projects**  
Coastline Plans   
Actions in the barrier islands   
River front recovery actions 

[http://www.polislitoralriaformosa.pt/accao\\_galeria.php?id=1](http://www.polislitoralriaformosa.pt/accao_galeria.php?id=1)



## Polis Litoral Ria Formosa

[www.polislitoralriaformosa.pt](http://www.polislitoralriaformosa.pt)

### Projects:

- To recover barrier islands;
- Beach nourishment and dune recovery;
- To recover the hydrographic network sustaining the lagoon system;
- To build and improve harbour facilities;
- To improve bathing facilities;
- To recover the river fronts and build walking paths.

### Tavira's re-qualification project



## Polis Litoral Ria Formosa

[www.polislitoralriaformosa.pt](http://www.polislitoralriaformosa.pt)

### Stakeholders:

- State;
- Municipalities;
- NGOs;
- Port authorities;
- Enterprises;
- Local associations.

### Constructions, Faro beach



### Ancão beach project



### Some performance indicators:

- To recover 48 km of the coastline and 5km of the lagoon;
- To recover 37 ha of river front;
- To recover 12 beaches;
- To demolish 1300 constructions;
- To recover 89 ha of barrier islands.



# ...moltes gràcies

Carlos Cardoso Ferreira

Centro de Estudos Geográficos

Universidade de Lisboa

[carlosferreira@campus.ul.pt](mailto:carlosferreira@campus.ul.pt)