

Activating Community Resilience to Wildfires

COMMUNITY EVENT: JUNE 24, 2026
QUINTA VALE DA LAMA, ODIÁXERE

THIS EVENT IS COORDINATED BY
THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS:

Proposed methodology

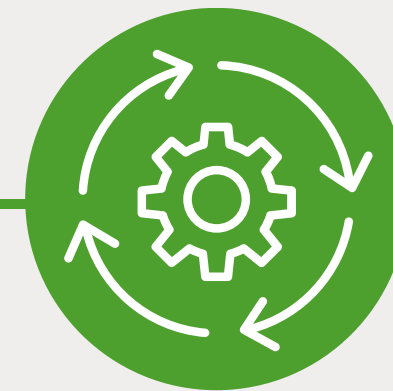
The Region



Hazard Survey Wheel

—
Understanding the
vulnerabilities of our regions:
Coast, Barrocal, Meia Serra,
and Serra.

The Initiative



Disaster Risk Mitigation

—
Continuous cycle of
community engagement:
Prevent, Prepare, Respond,
and Recover.



THE REGION Hazard Survey Wheel

ANALYSIS OF THE WESTERN ALGARVE BY SUBREGIONS:
COSTA; BARROCAL AND MEIA SERRA AND SERRA

Examining our territory across eight essential dimensions.



Zone 1: COAST

Rapid and Localized Effects



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Threat and Frequency

A high frequency of minor fires is attributed to aridity and negligence. These incidents have a very brief duration, with prompt and effective control measures implemented within approximately one hour.

Vulnerability

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Action Potential

Enhanced controllability through landscape diversification (e.g., the upkeep of vegetable gardens) and proactive collaboration among established landowners.

ZONE 2: BARROCAL AND FOOTHILLS

Human and Ecological Susceptibility



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Threat and Frequency

Annual events characterized by a swift onset, lasting up to one day, frequently attributed to human activities, droughts, and wind.

Vulnerability

Watercourses face the threat of irreversible loss. The risk is heightened by vulnerable populations, including elderly residents and new settlers lacking local training.

Action Potential

Active surveillance and robust knowledge sharing (the wisdom of the elders) facilitate early warning systems and the establishment of secure villages.

Zone 3: MOUNTAINS

High Level of Destruction

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Threat and Frequency	Vulnerability	Action Potential
Severe and prolonged events (3 to 5 days), significantly exacerbated by topography, strong winds, and climate change (extreme droughts).	Significant harm to the ecosystem (including fauna, flora, and soil) and infrastructure, accompanied by a gradual ecological recovery period (estimated at 5 to 10 years).	Mitigation necessitates robust coordination among Civil Protection, organized community responses, and a proactive rural economy in fuel management.

Territorial Risk Matrix

	Event Duration	Scale of Devastation	Control Complexity
COAST	Up to one hour	Situated / Plots	Immediate intervention by residents
BARROCAL AND FOOTHILLS	Up to one day	Waterways and settlements	Monitoring and technical instruction
MOUNTAINS	3 to 5 days	Ecosystem and agrarian economy	Coordinated institutional engagement

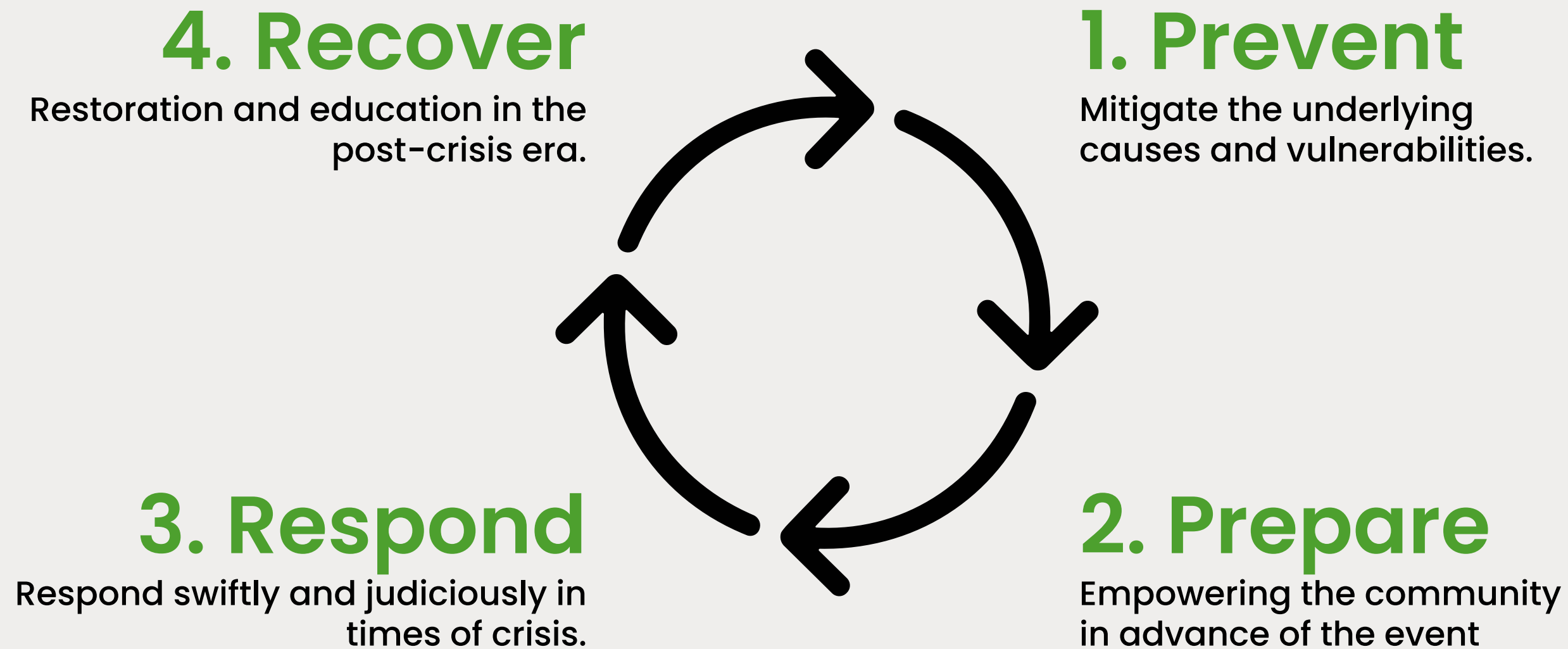
As we progress from the Coast to the Serra, the impact escalates significantly, necessitating a shift from swift individual actions to systemic and meticulously coordinated responses.

2. THE INITIATIVE

Disaster Risk Management

THE ONGOING CYCLE OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: PREVENT;
PREPARE; RESPOND; AND RECOVER.

The Ongoing Cycle of Community Resilience



Phase 1: Prevent



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Working

- Presence of indigenous forests in regions of reduced density.
- Areas featuring active professional management and vegetable gardens that enhance the landscape with water.

Gaps

- Rural exodus and gradual decline of the local economy.
- Inadequate management of watercourses and ridgelines.
- Characterized by combustible monocultures.

To Enhance

- Promoting mosaic agro-silvo-pastoral systems.
- Establish riparian galleries using fire-resistant species.
- Establishment of a tax specifically allocated for fire prevention.

Phase 2: Prepare



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Working

- The population was informed through the Safe Villages initiative.
- SMS notifications and the fogos.pt platform
- Clearing of land (within a 50-meter radius) and nearby water reservoirs.

Gaps

- Risk alerts do not reach the entire population due to insufficient coverage.
- Insufficient unobstructed access and inadequate training for frontline intervention.

To Enhance

- Ensure gravity-fed water systems operate independently of electricity.
- Establish community tool-sharing exchanges (excavators, shredders).
- Establish formal meeting points for individuals and coordination.

Phase 3: Respond



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Working

- Prioritizing the protection of life and residences.
- Local brigades outfitted with tractors and pump kits.
- Agile networks (WhatsApp) facilitate rapid communication with firefighters.

Gaps

- Insufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the community.
- Rural roads deteriorate following rainfall, impeding access to resources.
- Communication breakdowns between the community and external institutions.

To Enhance

- Designate specific meeting points for the protection of domestic animals.
- To enhance the technical readiness of the urban-rural interface.
- To guarantee that the local community assists the visiting firefighters by providing practical knowledge of the terrain.

Phase 4: Recover



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Working

- Comprehensive understanding of post-fire practices.
- Utilization of transverse barriers to alleviate soil erosion.
- Support for solidarity from local residents' associations.

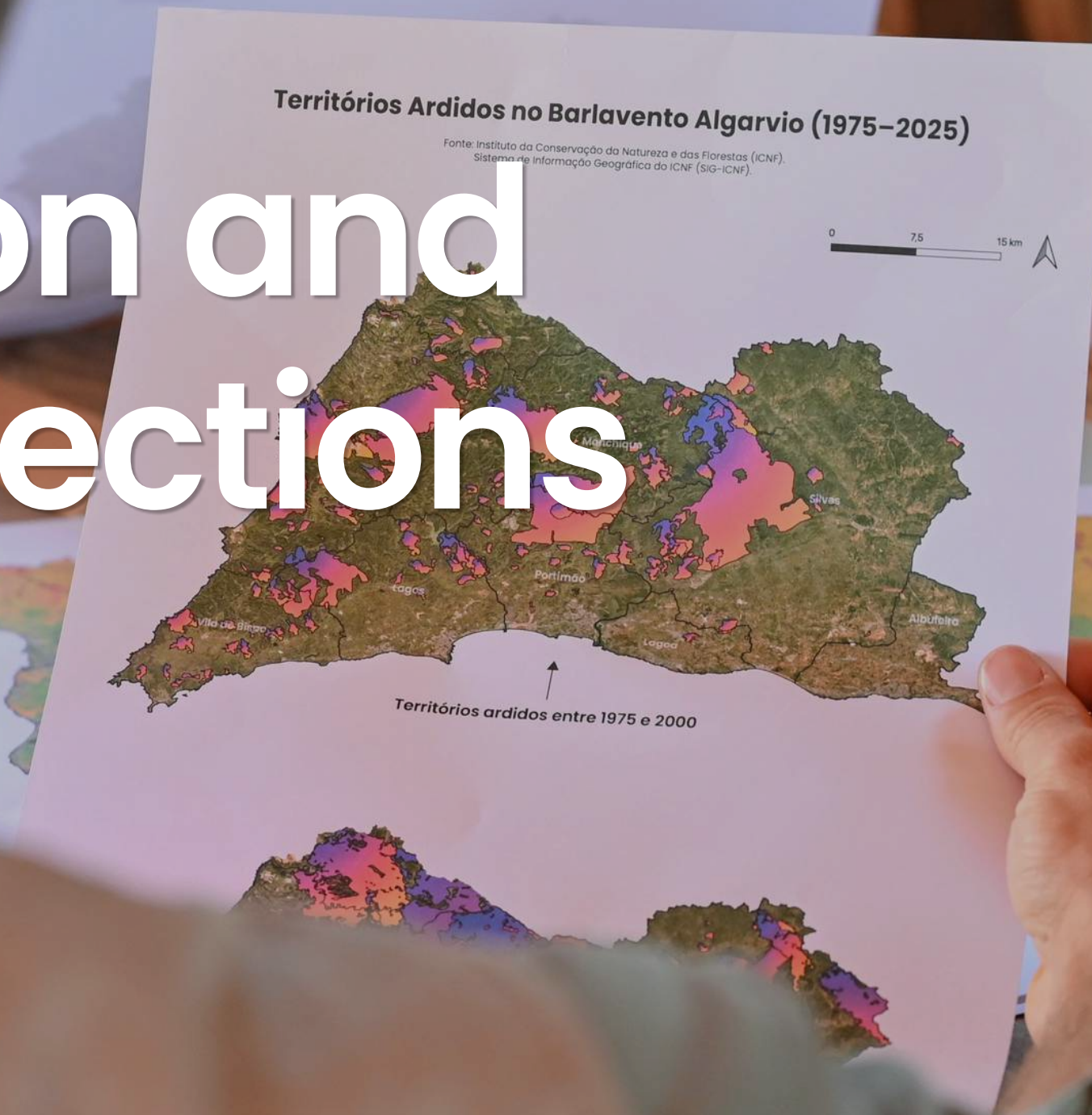
Gaps

- Catastrophic decline in biodiversity, soil quality, and seed reserves.
- Abandonment of the territory resulting from demotivation and a deficiency in resilience.
- Limited literacy and inadequate dissemination of state funding avenues.

To Enhance

- To advocate for prompt and streamlined access to governmental assistance.
- To mobilize and empower civil society for immediate ecological restoration initiatives.
- Proactively replanting with indigenous species to guarantee future sustainability.

Conclusion and Future Directions



Summary: The Foundations of Our Resilience

Pillar One

Knowledge and Communication

To guarantee comprehensive alerts (without blind spots), continuous education, and enhanced community networks.

Pillar Two

Living Territorial Administration

To advance the agro-silvo-pastoral mosaic, safeguard waterways through riparian buffers, and avert rural abandonment.

Pillar Three

Collaborative Community Initiative

Empower the community and local brigades through the provision of shared tools, while ensuring tactical integration with Civil Protection.

Next steps

For Mud Valley Foundation

1

Official information

Promptly distribute official information points to the community.

2

Incorporate education

Incorporate contributions into forthcoming projects to bolster grassroots initiatives aimed at restoration and resilience.

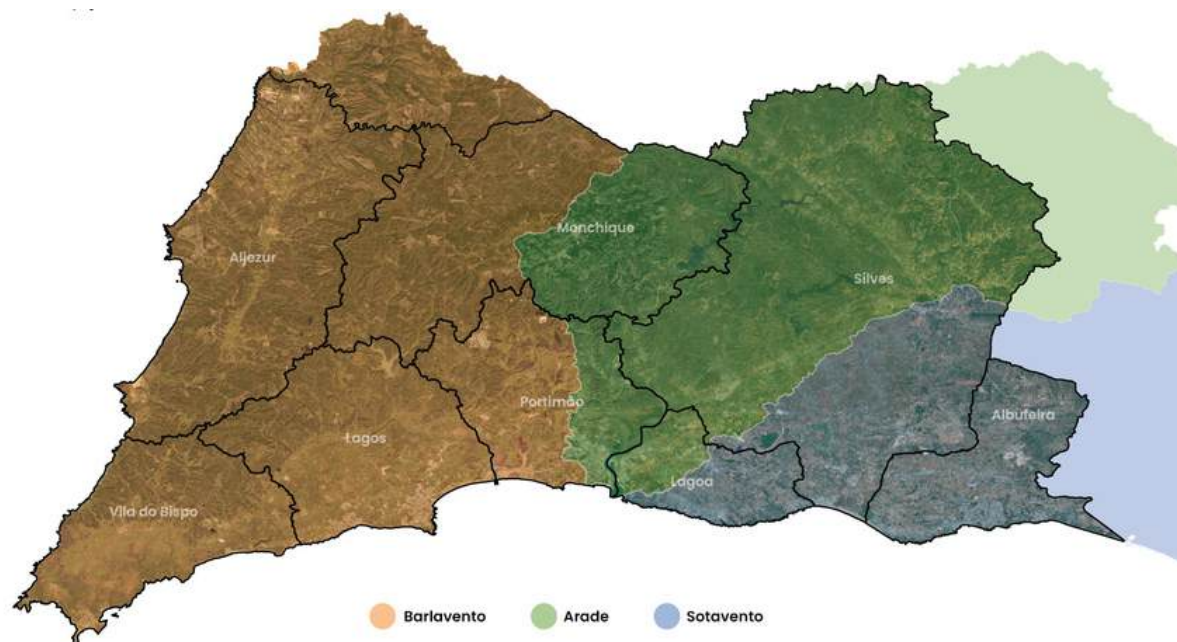
3

Second community meeting

Schedule the second community meeting in November to sustain the spirit of unity, engagement, and collaborative learning.

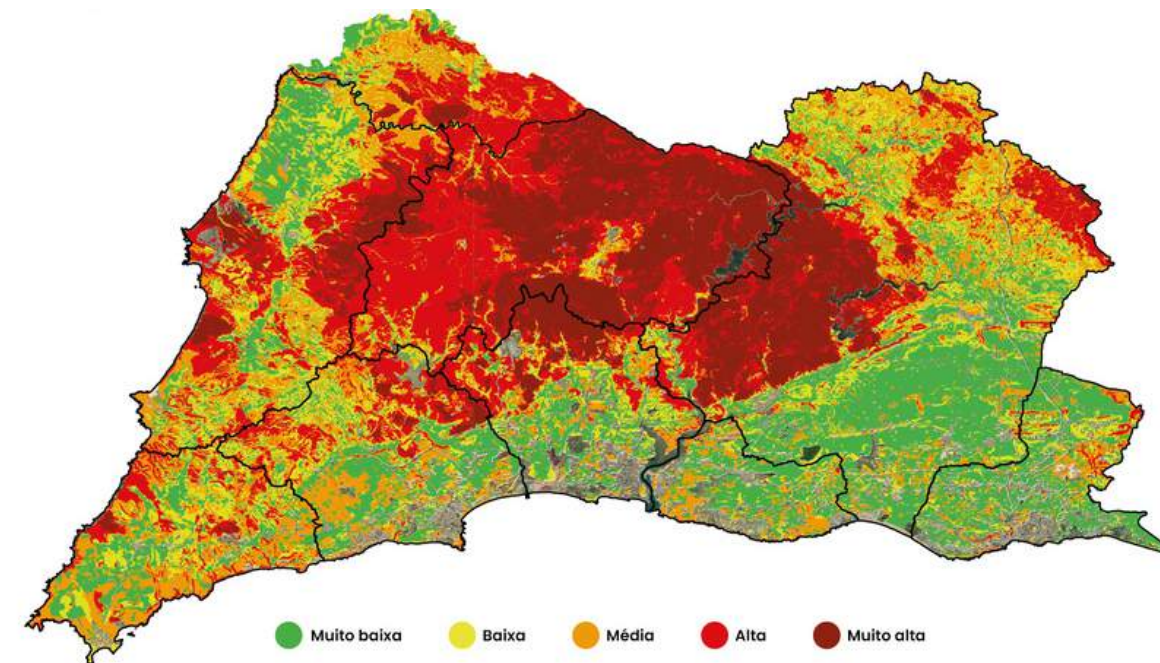
Technical maps of the Western Algarve.

Resources offered by the Mud Valley Foundation



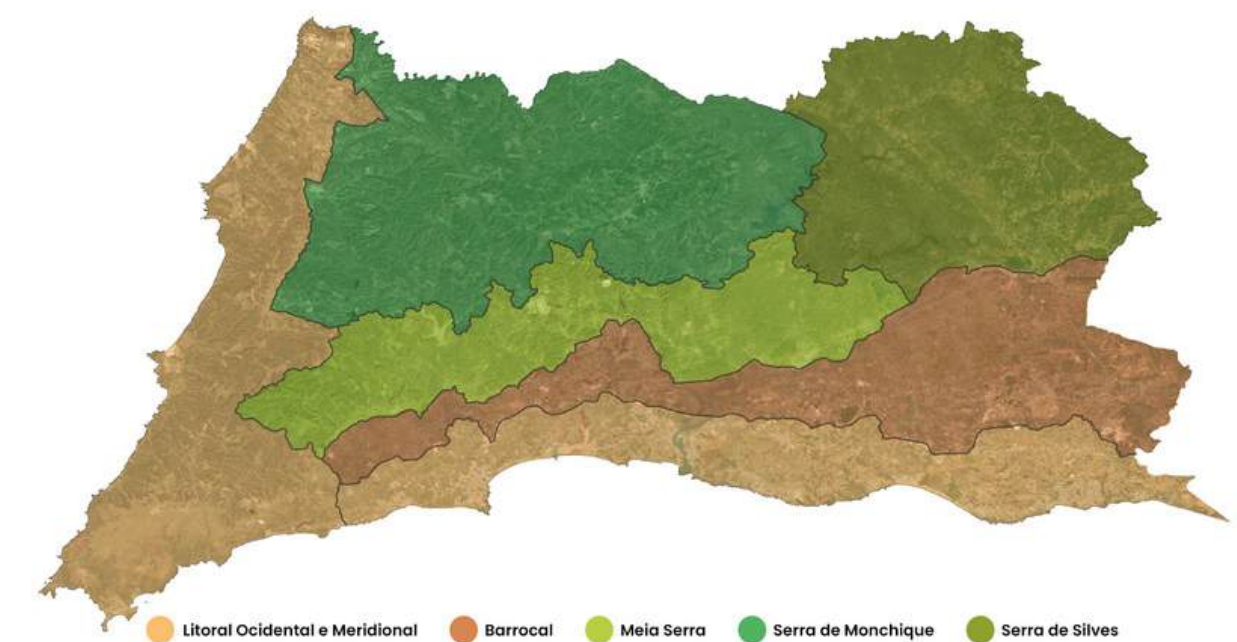
Principais Bacias Hidrográficas do Barlavento Algarvio

FONTE: Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente (APA) / SNIAmb - Principais Bacias Hidrográficas (DGA) de Portugal Continental (RESPIRE Hydrography).



Perigosidade de Incêndio Rural do Barlavento Algarvio (2020-2030)

Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas (ICNF), Sistema de Informação Geográfica do ICNF (SIG-ICNF).



Sub-Regiões Homogêneas do Barlavento Algarvio

ICNF - Sistema de Informação Geográfica do ICNF (SIG-ICNF).



**Click here to
access the maps**

Framework

Resources offered by Orla Design



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Thank you!

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