

P.13 THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE "VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM PROGRAM" TO THE CREATION OF FIRE RESILIENT LANDSCAPES IN PORTUGAL

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Abstract: In recent years, the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires in Portugal have posed significant challenges to rural communities and ecosystems. The "Village Condominium Program" has emerged as a proactive initiative aimed at creating fire-resilient landscapes and persons, fire-resilient landscapes and persons, inhabitants. This study explores the program's contribution to mitigating rural fire risks and enhancing landscape resilience through a detailed case study. Data were collected to assess the "Village Condominium" to its effectiveness in creating fire-resilient landscapes in otic of rural communities and local entities. The municipalities of Góis and Seia (Center of Portugal) were chosen for their high scores in applying for the mentioned program. The research methodology involved qualitative analysis, including surveys, interviews, and site visits, conducted The findings indicate that the "Village Condominium" has been well-received by the rural communities in the Municipalities of Góis and Seia, but still not expressively. The program's implementation has led to positive changes in land use, promoting agricultural and agroforestry practices as alternatives to traditional forest management. These changes have resulted in a reduction of fuel loads and the creation of more fire-resilient landscapes. The case study underscores the positive impact of the "Village Condominium" on the creation of fire- resilient landscapes in rural areas. By effectively engaging rural communities and implementing sustainable land management practices, the program has demonstrated its potential to mitigate fire risks and enhance landscape resilience. Continued support and further expansion of the program can contribute to the long-term safety and well-being of rural communities and ecosystems.

Keywords: Wildfire Management; Community Engagement; Landscape Resilience; Sustainable Practices; Preventive Measures.