

Gender related issues in Góis, Portugal

All the young researchers involved in the research tasks from ESAC are women. A high percentage (around 30%) of the technicians involved in the forest planning and management are women.

In the study site, many of the land owners are absent and old, reason why, the newest approach relies in the formation of management units that are ruled by technicians of which a high percentage are women.

Roles, tasks

Before the new strategies, women were not directly involved in the strategic dimension of forest management. They could be involved in some of the least heavy tasks, such as the thinning or collection of the understory vegetation.

Traditionally most of the heaviest tasks of timber cutting and firefighting are performed by men.

Traditionally men are the ones who decide, manage and speak out in name of household's forest land.

Impact of land degradation on inhabitants (women and men) with and without changes in land management

Forest fires have a heavy impact on household income, since an important source of income and the revenue of investment is lost for more than a decade (in the case of eucalyptus plantation) of for life (in the other species). This will result in the impoverishment of the household, where women probably have to bear the worst of the situation.

The reduction of forest fire risk and incidence will increase the income of households, which will improve drastically the resources available for all, including women.

Both men and women attend the workshops

All the young technicians working at municipal level in forest management remained linked to the project activities. This means at least 5 women in Góis and Mação.

The new conservation measures reduce the amount of work in cleaning the forest understory and the scrub fields vegetation, therefore reducing the effort of women.

[The new conservation measures (**SLM Technology**) in the categories:
• **vegetative** (controlling understory growth and shrubland vegetation, and improving grazing conditions).



By reducing degradation risk, DESIRE will improve household income, which is directly related with the increase of women quality of life.

There are several stakeholders groups, in each of them, women play an important role, either as technicians involved in forest management, where they represent more than 30% of the total number, or as part of the household that own the forest areas and perform the management actions.



The inclusion of prescribed fire allows the diversification of activities in Mediterranean mountain areas, which diversifies the economic activities, some of which performed by women, that will have an important role in generating income and therefore will strength their position in the household and communities. Prescribed fire is an important management tool to create landscape diversity and reduce forest fire risk. Prescribed fire is a management practice based on traditional knowledge.

Mr. André Claro Household

Mr. André Claro and his family is the remaining inhabitant at Aigra Velha hamlet. Mr. André has a wide knowledge of how to leave in Mountain areas, based on a multiplicity of activities and products.

Where all the other inhabitants found too hard a living, Mr. André Claro, using traditional approaches managed to create a living, that allowed him to provide higher education to his soon and two daughters.

Based on what they have learned at school and with their father, both son and daughters are strongly considering to return to the small hamlet in the top of Lousã mountain with new ideas to make a living there.

Contact Core Page gender expert:
Heleen@corepage.org

Contact Desire study site coordinator:
aferreira@esac.pt

Contact DESIRE project coordinator:
Coen.Ritsem@wur.nl