

Good Practice Cases in Sustainable Tourism Destinations

Quinta do Pisão Nature Park, Cascais (Portugal)

ITEMS		DESCRIPTION	PICTURES
Name of the organization submitting this practice case	Name	Coastal and Marine Union EUCC and Cascais Municipality	
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	Name (in EN) of the destination	Cascais	
	Administrative Organizations and country	Cascais municipality is located in the district of Lisbon, in central Portugal. It consists of six parishes: Cascais, Estoril, Parede, Carcavelos, São Domingos de Rana and Alcabideche.	
	Tourism Organizations	Estoril Coast tourist region	
	Surface	97.4 Km ²	
	Resident population	206,479	
	Tourism Arrivals	N/A	
	Tourism nights	1.136.943 nights a year	
WHO	Name	Cascais Ambiente	
	Website	www.cm-cascais.pt	
WHY	The reason for action	Quinta do Pisão is located in the North of the municipality of Cascais, at the base of the Sintra mountain range, and it covers an area of 380 hectares within the Sintra-Cascais Natural Park. Dedicated to farming, forestry and pasture, Quinta do Pisão represents an important heritage, both in the structural organization, partitioning and rational use of the landscape, and through the presence of ruins of cultural and architectural value. Human intervention in this territory resulted in the appearance of new habitats and ecological niches, which are important nowadays for nature preservation. Making this space available for visitors represents a unique opportunity and a great asset for the metropolitan area of Lisbon, and it will also contribute to preserve and maintain this precious cultural landscape that is a central part of the collective memory of Cascais.	
	Issues and challenge	Misuses such as motocross, poaching, ride in all-terrain vehicles, abandonment and vandalism of the built heritage. Widespread abandonment and degradation of ecological space.	 

HOW		Safeguarding and managing this cultural landscape involves allowing a certain degree of human intervention in support of efforts to restore or maintain habitats, species, and ecosystems. The combination of man-made and native forests and cultivated fields and pastures multiplies the niches and the opportunity for the development of biodiversity. The overall aim of this project is to maintain and promote the biodiversity of the area through in situ conservation of agricultural plants and animals. The natural and cultural heritage present in Quinta do Pisão is an important educational resource and a recreational and tourist focus. A network of trails allows visitors to explore the landscape heritage of the area. These trails can be travelled by foot, bicycle, SEGWAY, donkey or horse. Visitors can make use of digital guides or nature guides which help them to orientate themselves in the park. Electric vehicles are also available to ensure the accessibility for disabled people.
RESULTS	Benefits	Since opening to the public, the Quinta do Pisão Nature Park receives on average 2000 visitors per month who are attracted by nature trails, the beauty and tranquillity of the area, the diversity of habitat and landscapes, and the numerous nature and cultural activities that are regularly performed by Cascais Ambiente, such as the Art Festival in the landscape (Land Art Cascais), hiking, donkey rides, livestock management activities, planting native trees and nature conservation activities with volunteers.
	Recognition and Awards	QualityCoast Silver Award 2013
Coverage of GSTC criteria for destinations		C1 Attraction protection, C2 Visitor management plans, C3 Visitor behaviour and interpretation in sensitive sites, D2 Ecosystem protection
REFLECTION	Multiplier effect and transferability	Management of the landscape, which combines nature conservation and productive components associated with the agriculture and animal husbandry. Promotion of environmental awareness activities in the countryside.
	Lessons learned and critical success factors	It was noted that it is essential to promote the ecological recovery of the sites before upgrading and allow visitation, in order to generate their resilience to visitation and interpretation process. It is intended to demonstrate that the rational use of space is compatible with its preservation through a weighting between the carrying capacity of the environment and the number of visitors and activities.

