

## CASE STUDY PT-1 MONTADO (PORTUGAL)

### BRIEF PROFILE OF THE CASE STUDY

- The *montado* is a Mediterranean and multifunctional **silvo-pastoral** land-use system, dominated by cork and holm oaks trees, and it is the main land cover in the Alentejo region.
- The case study area (24,000 ha) is in Central Alentejo and has been declining over the past years because of the aging and lack of natural regeneration of the dominant trees, the landowners being the main actors for its survival.
- The environmental and social benefits selected are **Biodiversity** and **Landscape character** due to the strong relationship of this environment with its local community.



### KEY FACTORS IMPACTING THE PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

The national agricultural policies and the Common Agricultural Policy livestock premiums are leading to the **intensification of grazing**. This type of grazing management focuses on high stocking density and cattle herds have had serious consequences on **montado ecosystem loss**.

The farmers and land owners/managers are aware of the agricultural intensification's negative impacts on biodiversity and landscape character. However, the need to **ensure the income** maintains the system active and is leading land managers to **performance thinking** on the **short term**.

### EMERGING FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS



Landowners have a sense of belonging and of cultural heritage keepers strongly linked to their integration in a well-defined and traditionally dominant social group, and these network structures could be explored in the sense of a more collective strategy making and management understanding in the *montado* areas, where the cultural and identity values would be more activated than what they are today.

Related to the environmental and social benefits provision, we found out that the cork market is a good example of common aims between farmers/land owners, land use system protection and market, as a higher relevance of cork production leads to a higher interest in maintaining a healthy tree cover. Also hunting plays an important role regarding biodiversity conservation and landscape protection, and sustainable tourism could be an alternative in order to supply the high economic benefits from the Common Agricultural Policy.

