

A17

INTERPRETATION PROBLEMS IN HABITAT TYPES LISTED IN ANNEX I OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC – PORTUGAL MAINLAND

Carlos Pinto Gomes¹, Carlos Neto², José Carlos Costa³, Jorge Capelo⁴, Sílvia Ribeiro⁶, Rute Caraça⁷, Vasco Silva⁸ & Catarina Meireles¹

¹ *Department of Landscape, Environment and Planning, Institute for Mediterranean Agrarian and Environmental Sciences (ICAAM), School of Science and Technology, University of Évora (Portugal), Rua Romão Ramalho, n° 59, 7000-671 Évora, Portugal. cmeireles@uevora.pt;*

² *Instituto de Geografia e Ordenamento Território. Universidade de Lisboa. R. Branca Edmée Marques, 1600-276 Lisboa. Portugal;*

³ *LEAF - Linking Landscape, Environment, Agriculture and Food (Centro de Agronomia, Alimentos, Ambiente e Paisagem), Instituto Superior de Agronomia, University of Lisbon, Tapada da Ajuda, 1349-017 Lisbon, Portugal;*

⁴ *INIAV/IP - Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária, Quinta do Marquês, 2780-157 Oeiras, Portugal;*

⁵ *University of Évora (Portugal), Rua Romão Ramalho, n° 59, 7000-671 Évora, Portugal. cmeireles@uevora.pt;*

⁶ *Center for Applied Ecology “Prof. Baeta Neves” (CEABN, InBio), Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Universidade de Lisboa, Tapada da Ajuda, 1349-017 Lisboa.*

The Portuguese Sectoral Plan for the Natura 2000 Network includes 88 factsheets with ecological information about Portuguese habitat types listed in Habitats Directive. Produced by national experts - part of the former Lusitanian Association of Phytosociology (ALFA) - these factsheets have been major tools for habitats interpretation and, ultimately, for the implementation of the Habitats Directive in Portugal.

Despite their enormous scientific and operational value, in recent years several questions emerged about the interpretation of some of these habitats. These questions led to the growing realization that a review of the referred habitats factsheets is required. The review must comprise information to solve problems related to habitat interpretation, include recently produced phytosociological knowledge, and the discussion on the presence of habitat types not yet reported for Portugal.

This review is essential for general clarification and standardization of procedures for land characterization and management, in particular inside the Natura 2000 Network.

In this presentation, some of the cases that emerged during the execution of the 3rd National Report under Article 17, will be discussed. For example, the inclusion of riparian *Fraxinus angustifolia* forests in habitat 91B0, the eligibility criteria for habitat 6510, the presence in Portugal of habitats 91F0, 7150, and other habitats not yet mentioned for our territory, will be discussed.