

## PORTUGAL

### Do I need an Environmental Impact Assessment for Rewilding Activities?

Usually not for ordinary rewilding activities but you should always check before starting works. EIAs are generally aimed at larger projects or projects likely to have significant environmental impacts. However, a rewilding activity may still require an EIA depending on its location, scale, nature and likely effects.

### When is an EIA usually unlikely?

An EIA is generally unlikely for ordinary, small-scale rewilding works, such as:

- minor habitat-restoration works
- low-impact land-management changes
- small structures or interventions, where local rules allow them
- activities that are unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

However, “rewilding” as a purpose does not automatically exempt a project from EIA rules.

### When should you be more cautious?

You should be especially cautious if the project:

- is in or near a protected area or Natura 2000 site;
- affects wetlands, watercourses, forests or protected habitats;
- involves land consolidation, afforestation, reforestation, deforestation or other listed activities;
- involves large-scale works or earth movements; or
- may affect biodiversity, soil, water, air, climate, cultural heritage or landscape.

### What should I do before starting?

Before beginning works:

- identify the proposed activity;
- check whether the land is in a protected area or Natura 2000 site;
- check applicable municipal, regional and sectoral rules; and
- ask the competent authority whether EIA screening or an EIA is required.

## Key Takeways

1

Most ordinary rewilding works are unlikely to require an EIA.

2

A competent authority may require an EIA if the activity is likely to have significant environmental impacts.