

PORTUGAL

Do small structures or restoration works need a permit?

They might. Even small or conservation-focused works can require licensing, prior communication or another form of prior control, depending on the type of work, location and applicable planning rules.

What types of works should I check?

You should check before carrying out works such as:

- installing fences
- removing or replacing barriers
- building hides, shelters or lookouts
- creating or changing paths
- demolishing, reconstructing or converting buildings
- moving earth or remodelling land
- working near watercourses, wetlands or riparian areas
- carrying out works in protected or classified areas.

Why might permission be needed?

Because the activity could fall under planning, construction, water, protected area, or public interest restriction rules. The fact that the purpose is ecological restoration does not, by itself, remove the need to comply with those rules.

What should I check first?

Before starting works, check:

- the applicable Municipal Plan
- whether the land is affected by REN, RAN, Public Water Domain restrictions or other public-interest restrictions
- whether the land is in a protected area or Natura 2000 site
- whether the activity involves water use or works affecting water resources
- whether the municipality or another competent authority requires licensing, prior communication or authorisation.

Key Takeaways

1

Small-scale rewilding works may still require prior checks or authorisations.

2

Always confirm the position before starting works, especially where the land is protected, classified, subject to public-interest restrictions or close to water resources.