

CONFIRM THE CONSENTS PROCEDURE/REQUIREMENTS BEFORE STARTING WORKS

Before starting works or changing land use, confirm with the competent authority or a qualified professional whether any licence, authorisation, prior communication, EIA or other procedure is required.

Rewilding projects may be conservation-driven but they still need to comply with planning, protected-area, water, construction and environmental assessment rules.

PORTUGAL

STEPS

ACTION

NOTES

1

CHECK PERMITTED LAND USES AND PLANNING RULES
Consult the applicable territorial planning instruments (especially Municipal Plans)

- Check:
- If the land is classified as urban or rural
 - Dominant use of the land
 - Whether compatible or complementary uses are allowed
 - If the proposed rewilding activity fits the applicable land-use classification
 - If any change of use requires a planning procedure or municipal approval

Municipal Plans identify permitted uses, construction parameters, land classification, protection status and applicable public-interest restrictions. A rewilding objective does not override planning rules.

2

CHECK IF PUBLIC INTEREST RESTRICTIONS OR EASEMENTS APPLY

- Pay particular attention to:
- National Ecological Reserve (REN)
 - National Agricultural Reserve (RAN)
 - Public Water Domain (DPH) / water-related restrictions
 - Infrastructure easements
 - Classified heritage restrictions
 - Other public-interest limitations identified in the Municipal Plan.

These restrictions may limit the use, occupation or transformation of privately owned land, even where the proposed activity has a conservation purpose.

3

CHECK IF LAND IS IN A PROTECTED OR CLASSIFIED AREA

- Confirm whether the land is located in a protected area, Natura 2000 site or another classified area relevant to nature conservation.
- Check whether specific plans, conservation rules, ICNF involvement or additional authorisations apply.

Protected or classified status may support conservation objectives, but it may also impose specific limits or procedures before works or management changes can take place.

4

CHECK IF WATER PERMITS ARE NEEDED
If the project involves water use, watercourses, riverbanks, wetlands, ponds, riparian restoration or works affecting water resources

Check whether a permit for the use of water resources (TURH), prior information request, or another authorisation is needed.

Water-related activities may require specific authorisation even where the purpose is ecological restoration.

5

CHECK IF CONSTRUCTION OR PHYSICAL WORKS REQUIRE PRIOR CONTROL (may be relevant for fences, barbed wire, hides/lookouts, paths, demolition/reconstruction, converting farm buildings, landscape remodelling, other physical interventions)

Confirm if the activity requires licensing, prior communication or other municipal procedure.

Everyday interventions on rewilding land may still qualify as urban development operations (operações urbanísticas) and may therefore require a permit, prior communication or another form of prior control.

6

CHECK IF AN EIA OR ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING IS REQUIRED

- Be especially cautious where the project:
- is located 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 activities listed in the EIA framework;
 - involves large-scale works or earth movements; or
 - may have significant environmental effects because of its nature, size or location.

Rewilding activities are generally unlikely to require EIA, but an EIA may still be required depending on the activity, location, scale and likely effects.