

Progress Report on the Implementation of the act4nature Portugal Commitments

Individual Commitment I

Establish at least 2 local partnerships, with the involvement of local communities, to promote and develop new projects that apply nature-based solutions to promote biodiversity or ecosystem services in the management of easement vegetation, contributing with a direct impact to solve concrete problems by December 2025.

General Status of Execution

Ongoing (50%)

Execution Summary

REN is already acknowledged as a promoter of native species, a recognition largely derived from the reforestation programs that have been implemented in REN's rights-of-way, using native species such as strawberry tree, olive tree, almond tree or, more recently, Ermelo orange trees. Other initiatives to value native species, such as the Garrano horse, also illustrate the work that has been carried out by REN in the promotion of biodiversity.

To pursue this goal, two partnerships have been approved in 2024, by REN's Executive Committee, focusing on **fuel management using native species**.

Given the special and unique features of the land assigned to the Vila Pouca de Aguiar substation (a total of 6,5 ha) a Protocol was agreed upon between REN and AguiarFloresta – Forestry and Environmental Association from Vila Pouca de Aguiar and the IPB (Polytechnic Institute of Bragança) with the goal of using a native species of cow (maronesa), valuing and protecting an indigenous species, to make a more sustainable management of fuel, promoting the integration of Natural Capital and ecosystem services, creating shared value with local communities.

The project aims to use Maronesa cows for extensive grazing on the land attached to the substation, an "animal forestry brigade" with at least 40 cows.

The second Protocol, also already approved by REN, will be implemented with AEPGA – Association for the Study and Protection of Donkey Cattle. This Protocol's goal is to make use of Miranda donkeys (a native species), for fuel management in the land surrounding the Lagoaça substation. The project will use 12 Miranda donkeys for extensive grazing on the land attached to the Lagoaça substation.

With the protocols terms' already agreed, we are currently waiting for the formalization of signatures to start with the first tasks of the project.

Individual Commitment II

Promote at least 4 specific projects for the conservation and restoration of Nature, in addition to legal obligations by December 2025.

General Status of Execution

Ongoing (50%)

Execution Summary

The four act4nature projects defined by REN for the conservation and restoration of nature, beyond legal obligations, are focused on four geographical areas:

a) Lagoaça substation:

On the land surrounding this substation, REN will carry out the recovery of water lines and ponds and the conversion of bush areas into biodiverse pasture, contributing to increasing the resilience of the infrastructure, using nature-based solutions.

b) Panóias substation:

On the land allocated to the Panóias substation, a sowing plant will be implemented for various pastures rich in legumes. This measure aims to favour biodiversity and contribute to the reduction of the risk of fires, making fuel management more sustainable and based on Nature.

c) Macedo de Cavaleiros Substation:

The Macedo de Cavaleiros substation and its annexed land, with 15 ha, have been central in the management of fuel for rural fires prevention. The partnership with the Seminary of the Nossa Senhora da Conceição Missions and the Humanitarian Association of Volunteer Firefighters of Macedo de Cavaleiros adds a sustainable dimension to this mission. The project aims to manage the fuel of a forest area of 10 ha and the agricultural management of a traditional rainfed olive grove with an area of 5 ha, on the land attached to the substation, targeting the valorisation of traditional products (olive oil, olives and honey) as well as the organization of training sessions meant for intergenerational knowledge transfer, between the elderly of the local parish and young migrants, about the cultivation of olive groves (olive oil and olives) and honey production. This partnership will contribute to a more sustainable fuel management, based on the principle of creating shared value with local communities and promoting ecosystem services.

d) Riba d'Ave

Around Riba d'Ave photovoltaic premises, REN is set to install a biodiverse sowing rich in legumes with surface soil tillage and the use of hydroseeding and grazing areas for vegetation control.

The above identified projects have different execution indicators: some are waiting for the appropriate timings for their implementation, as is the case with sowing. The tasks associated with the land of the Macedo de Cavaleiros are awaiting the formalization of the signing of the Protocol to move forward.

Individual Commitment III

Elaborate and publish the Natural Capital Strategy Management by December 2025.

General Status of Execution	Ongoing (50%)
Execution Summary	<p>The presentation and kick-off session for the Natural Capital Strategy Management took place in May 2024 with the scientific advisory of NBI (Natural Business Intelligence).</p> <p>In order to compile and critically analyse the required data from REN, needed for this strategy design, work sessions and follow-up meetings have been organised, with several activity areas from REN. At the end of 2024, the first preliminary REN materiality analysis was completed with the identification of potential impacts and dependencies regarding nature using the ENCORE tool.</p> <p>At the moment, the details regarding the sectoral materiality analysis, indicators and metrics for the assessment of natural capital that integrate indicators of impacts, dependencies and actions related to biodiversity and ecosystems are being finalized. The project and the tasks associated with this commitment are on the outlined time route and the final project is expected to be completed and published within the defined deadlines.</p>

Individual Commitment IV

Between July 2023 and December 2025, develop at least 3 new initiatives to promote Biodiversity with community involvement, supporting associations, companies and non-profit organizations.

General Status of Execution	Ongoing (50%)
Execution Summary	<p>The 3 new initiatives to promote Biodiversity selected to integrate this commitment are the following:</p> <p>a) Ermelo Orange Trees (<i>finished</i>)</p> <p>REN and the Union of Parishes of São Jorge and Ermelo, from Arcos de Valdevez, planted, in 2024, 1350 Ermelo orange trees (a native species) in the corridor of the power transmission lines, in an area of about 3 ha.</p> <p>The planting of this native variety of orange trees, unique in the country, is part of REN's commitment to the defence of the forest against fires and aims to preserve and enhance this traditional fruit of the region, with a history dating back to the thirteenth century, and which arrived in this territory at the hands of the Benedictine Monks.</p>

For REN, the planting of native species compatible with the respective fuel management and annual income generators on the land crossed by the power transmission lines are essential to enhance these territories and ensure the continuity of a production that was being lost. The initiative will generate value for land owners and local community, through the commercialization of the fruit, to be produced organically, allowing producers to enter a more exclusive and financially attractive market. The Ermelo Orange has already been distinguished as a "Slow Food" product and has unique characteristics thanks to the microclimate of the place where it grows, providing a sweeter and juicier fruit. For decades, orange trees were very important for the development of the local community, but with the aging of the population and the trees themselves, production has suffered losses.

This project required a particular approach in close collaboration between REN, the service provider and local communities to:

- identification of the best trees from the old orchards, by local producers, for grafting on selected rootstocks;
- preparation of the soil for planting (removal of pine stumps, followed by ploughing and opening of pits);
- Soil pH correction and manure application; biodiverse permanent pasture sowing;
- installation of an irrigation and sealing system;

b) Birdlife compensation measures on the Estremoz-Alandroal Line

With this initiative, it is intended to outline and implement, with the scientific validation of CIBIO (Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources), a species compensation plan (avifauna) in the Estremoz-Alandroal line. The compensation measures will involve the owners of land and the plan will be implemented over 5 years, in partnership with the IP.

c) Pigeon-houses recovery

This initiative will be carried out in association with Palombar (Association for the Conservation of Nature and Rural Heritage) and aims to recover and maintain 6 traditional pigeon-houses, in the municipalities of Mogadouro and Freixo de Espada à Cinta, on REN land.

The primary objective is to increase the availability and abundance of prey for Bonelli's eagle. Traditional pigeon-houses play an important role as a food source for Bonelli's eagle. However, the abandonment of traditional agricultural practices has led to a significant decrease in functional pigeon-houses and, consequently, to a decrease in the availability of prey for Bonelli's eagle. In addition to the recovery and maintenance of the pigeon-houses, sowing will also be made available on the properties where the pigeon-houses are located, to promote the species in the surrounding land.

The terms of the protocol are agreed between the parties and were approved by REN's Executive Committee. The next steps in the execution of the project are awaiting the formalization of the signing of the protocol.

Links <https://youtu.be/AST7xYk7QXQ>

Photographs



(Ermelo Orange Trees Plantation Initiative)

Individual Commitment V

Promote training actions with the participation of at least 50% of employees in the operation and maintenance areas, contributing to the increase of knowledge and/or skills for biodiversity management by December 2025.

General Status of Execution Ongoing (25%)

Execution Summary In 2024, the content of the training actions was designed and approved, and they were introduced in the training portfolio available in 2025. The training actions will start to take place in the 2nd quarter of 2025.

Individual Commitment VI

Ensure the participation of at least 20% of employees in environmental volunteering actions aimed at promoting biodiversity or ecosystem services, promoting awareness and acquisition of new knowledge on the themes of these actions by December 2025.

General Status of Execution Ongoing (91%)

Execution Summary In 2024, REN organised the following environmental volunteering activities:

a) North Coast Natural Park (Apúlia, Póvoa de Varzim) Cleaning Initiative

In July 2024, REN brought together 220 volunteers (**50 REN employees**) for an environmental volunteering action on Apúlia Sul beach. The initiative's mission was to clean up waste and eliminate invasive species in protected

areas, namely the beach weeping fig, classified as a invasive plant. The action took place in collaboration with the ICNF (Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests).

b) Sado Estuary Beach Cleaning Initiative

In October 2024, **30** volunteers from REN collected close to half a ton of marine litter from the Sado Estuary. This action was designed in partnership with Ocean Alive with the aim of preserving the seagrass meadows, essential for the balance of the local ecosystem. In two years of this partnership between REN and Ocean Alive, more than a ton of garbage has already been removed from the beaches of Sado. The volunteers who participated in the initiative collected 400 kilos of garbage, contributing to the "Shellfish Without Garbage" campaign. This initiative aims to raise awareness among shellfish gatherers to collect empty salt containers left in the tide. Seagrass meadows, known as submerged forests, act as nurseries for marine life, filtering water and generating oxygen, and suffer from the impact of pollution.

c) Tapada de Mafra Cleaning Initiative

In May 2024, **60** volunteers from REN dedicated a day to cleaning the Tapada de Mafra ecosystem. Between the cleaning and elimination of weeds, with the support of the Tapada's forest sappers, the program also included the maintenance of leisure furniture. This initiative reinforces REN's continuous commitment to the preservation of natural heritage. The continuity of this volunteer action, which has been carried out annually since 2013, has already allowed the cleaning of a strip of 12.6 hectares of the natural ecosystem in Tapada de Mafra.

The number of REN volunteers involved in environmental volunteering actions both in the North and South of the country, in 2024, amounted to **140** volunteers. This number represents **91%** of the goal of involving 20% of employees in actions of this kind.

Links

<https://youtu.be/rds6kTaj78g>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-reVh9_DOA

Photographs



(North Coast Natural Park Initiative)



(Sado Estuary Cleaning Initiative)



(Tapada de Mafra Clearing Initiative)

Individual Commitment VII

Promote investment in R&D+I in the area of Biodiversity, developing at least one new innovation project and publishing/disseminating at least two scientific studies co-authored with REN by December 2025.

General Status of Execution

Ongoing (50%)

Execution Summary

In order to proceed with this act4nature commitment, a R&D project was selected: "DFOS – Distributed Fiber Optic Sensing for the Detection of Birdlife Collisions on very high-voltage lines".

This equipment was installed at REN's substation in Sines in October 2024, and the analysis and data collection phase began.

As far as scientific studies are concerned, a paper was presented in October 2024 to the Wingspan2024 conference entitled "Mitigating bird-caused electrical faults in a transmission grid increasingly used by nesting white storks: the successful Portuguese case study." This communication, co-authored by REN and CIBIO (Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources of the University of Porto), is part of the scientific work carried out under the REN Chair in Biodiversity, which aims to mitigate the impact of nesting on REN's transport network support.

A second article, under the same thematic scope, and also co-authored by REN/CIBIO, will be published later this year.

Individual Commitment VIII

Report, annually, in a clear and transparent manner, the progress achieved in meeting the individual commitments of act4nature Portugal, publishing a section specifically dedicated to this reporting in the period covered by this commitment by December 2025.

General Status of Execution	Ongoing (25%)
Execution Summary	The individual progress of act4nature Portugal commitments by REN will be reported in the Integrated Report published annually and will also be available for consultation on the company's website.
Links	https://www.ren.pt/pt-pt/sustentabilidade/iniciativas/compromissos-act4nature-portugal