



Controlling Invasive Plants on Portuguese Islands
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Conferenza finale
Isola del Giglio 23,24 Ottobre 2024



Progetto realizzato con il contributo della Commissione Europea



Progetto finanziato dalla Commissione Europea

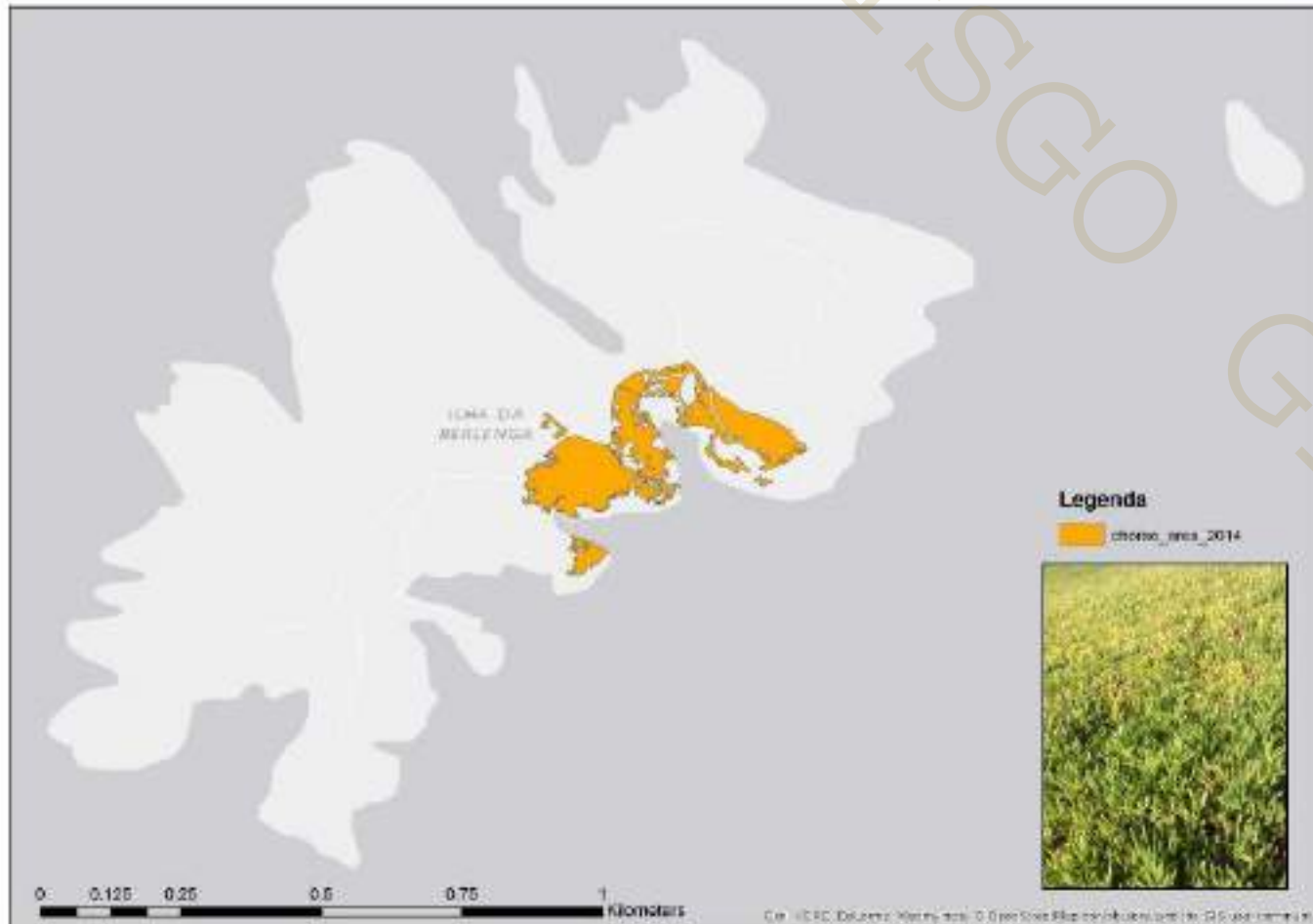




Berlenga *Carpobrotus edulis*



- Rocky Island with 78 ha
- Steep cliffs 80 meters high
- *Carpobrotus* introduced in the fishermen's village in the 1950s
- In 2014 the area occupied was almost 4 ha



Methodology

- Manual removal along the contour lines delimiting strips.
- In the beginning strips with 2-4 meters wide.
- The material removed was rolled and left to dry on top of the *Carpobrotus* mat immediately below.
- Necessary to abseil to reach the most inaccessible patches.



Results

- From October 2014 to December 2018 we removed ~90% of the *Carpobrotus* area



Problems found





July 2014



September 2015



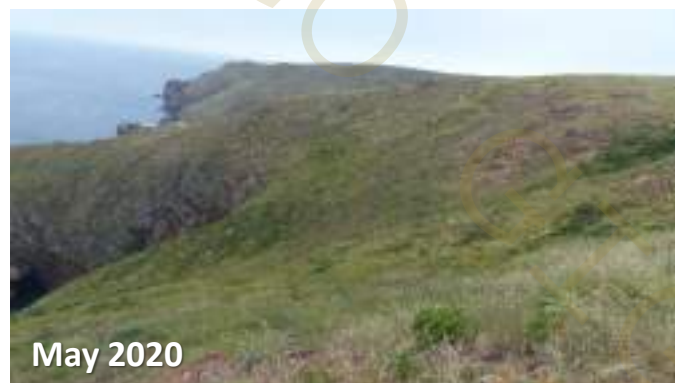
April 2016



April 2018



March 2019



May 2020



May 2021



May 2022



May 2023



May 2024

Deserta Island

C. edulis; Acacia saligna; Agave americana



Invasive Plants Barreta Island

Species

- Acacia sp.
- Agave americana
- Carpobrotus edulis

- Sandy Island with 7 Km-long
- 1 restaurant and 1 fishermen house
- In 2020 the invasive plants occupied an area of 1.6 ha



Control of *C. edulis*

13,000 m² removed manually



1,480 m² mulching sheets



Control of *A. saligna*

618 m² from a combination of cutting and herbicide application



Control of *A. americana*

- 1,000 m² controlled
- Smaller plants manually uprooted
- Larger plants a combination of cutting and herbicide application



Results

- From January 2020 to April 2023 we removed all invasive alien plants
- All methods had regrowth of the target invasive species, except for the mulching sheet areas
- Areas of *A. americana* had the highest percentage of regrowth
- Native vegetation recovery was significant in the mulching sheets areas



May 2020



June 2020



May 2022



Porto Santo Island

Arundo donax



- Island with 42 Km²
- Resident population of 5,562 people
- 119,000 tourists per year
- Intervention area of 64,653 m²



Methodology

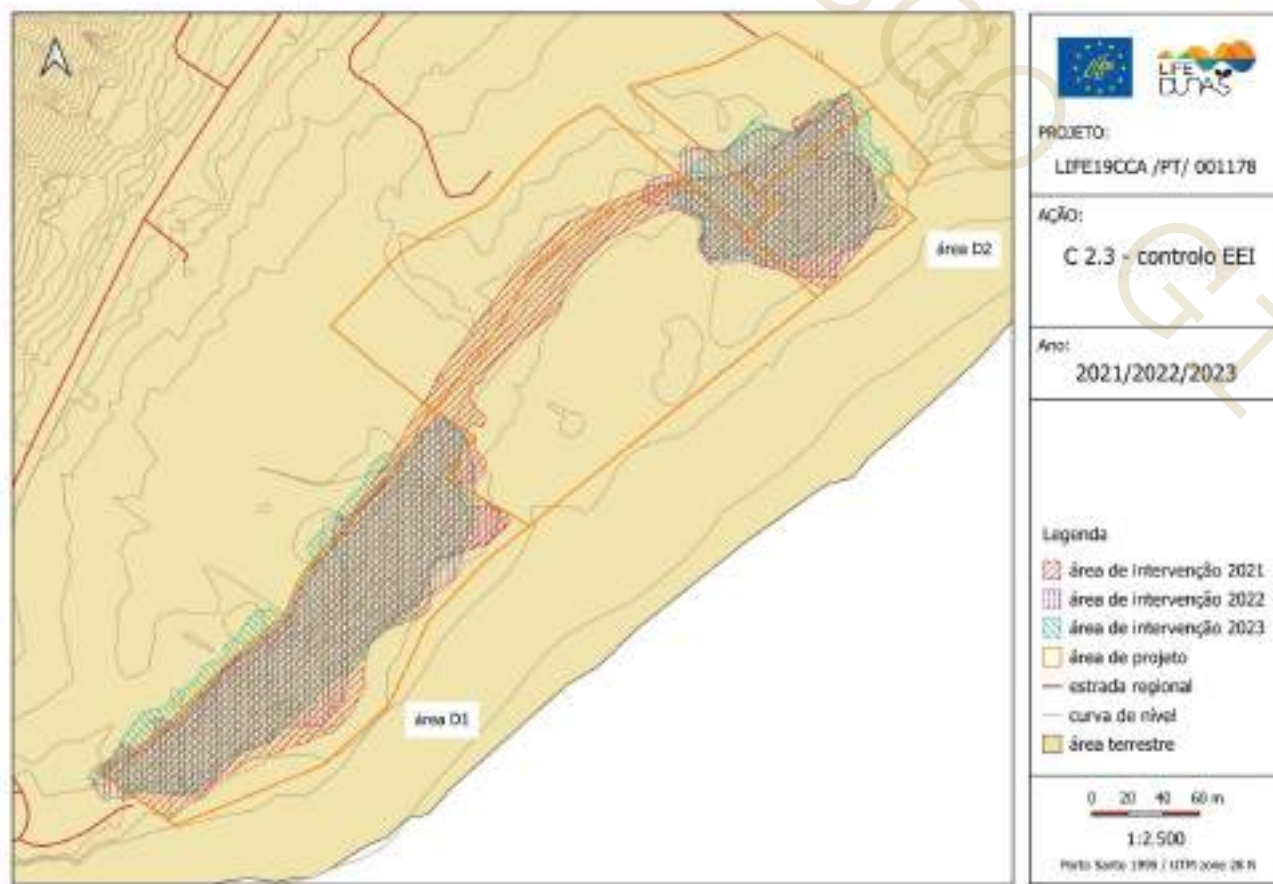
Combination of mechanical removal and herbicide application



Results

A. donax controlled in 30,699 m²

Presence of native flora increased 25%





Considerations

- The persistent regrowth, highlights the importance of long-term commitment.
- Continued monitoring and management, to prevent reinvasion.
- Detailed assessment of local conditions and characteristics of the invasive species before selecting a control method.





THANK YOU!

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