

# MORPHOLOGY, GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION OF COASTAL TOURIST DESTINATIONS

guidelines for planning and conflict mitigation

**Carlos Cardoso Ferreira**

Centro de Estudos Geográficos  
Universidade de Lisboa

IGU Pre-conference Symposium

Trier | August 22-25, 2012

Freizeit- und Tourismusgeographie | Universität Trier

- This research has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Program FP7/2007-2013 under grant agreement No.244251.
- The project *SECOA* [Solutions for Environmental Contrasts in Coastal Areas] will consider the effects of human mobility on urban settlements' growth and restructuring in fragile environments, such as coastal areas.
- For further info, go to [www.projectsecoa.eu](http://www.projectsecoa.eu)

- This research is going to be further developed – with a new research project named ESPACETUR – Planning Tourist Spaces in Coastal Areas.
- ESPACETUR will focus on the design, governance and regulation of tourism spaces on coastal regions of Portugal.
- The project is funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT - PTDC/AUR-URB/118612/2010).

## Table of contents:

- Portuguese Coast: an overview
- Tourism in Portugal: basic data
- Planning coastal tourism destinations: evolution and prospective



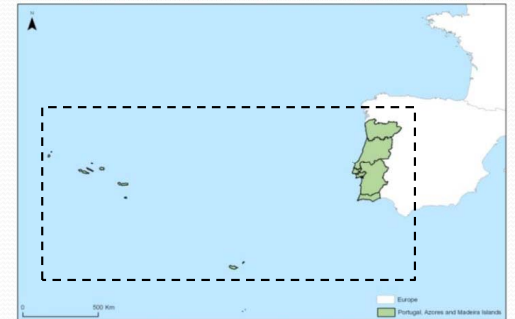
## PORTUGUESE COAST: AN OVERVIEW



### Facts and Figures

#### Location

- Comprises of continental Portugal, Azores (9 islands) and Madeira (2 islands)
- Total: 92.000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Coastline: 1.853 km (continent: 950 km<sup>2</sup>, Azores: 691 km<sup>2</sup>, Madeira: 212 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Exclusive Economic Zone: 1.700.000 km<sup>2</sup> (one of the largest in the European Union)



Portuguese coast: an overview

### Very diverse coastline, comprising:

- Sandy beaches (591 km), with long extension of dunes (important for biodiversity, tourism activities and as buffer areas for flooding);
- Rock beaches: 348 km;
- Rock cliffs;
- Coastal wetlands: Douro, Mondego, Tejo, Sado, Ria de Aveiro, Ria Formosa.

Santa Cruz beach, Torres Vedras



Salgados beach, Almada  
Protected Landscape



Portuguese coast: an overview

### Very rich in fauna and flora:

- Important sites (e.g. Natura 2000 Network) are mainly located on the coast.

Caparica / Lagoa de Albufeira  
(RT Costa Azul)



Estuário do Tejo  
(picasaweb.google.com)

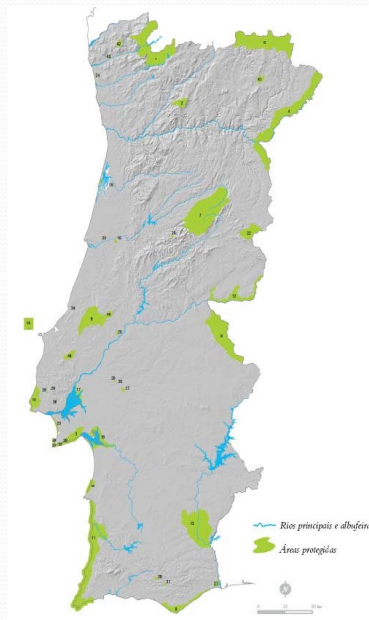
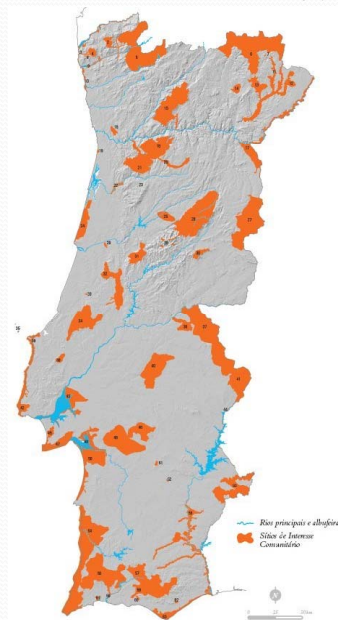


Ria Formosa  
(Turismo de Portugal)



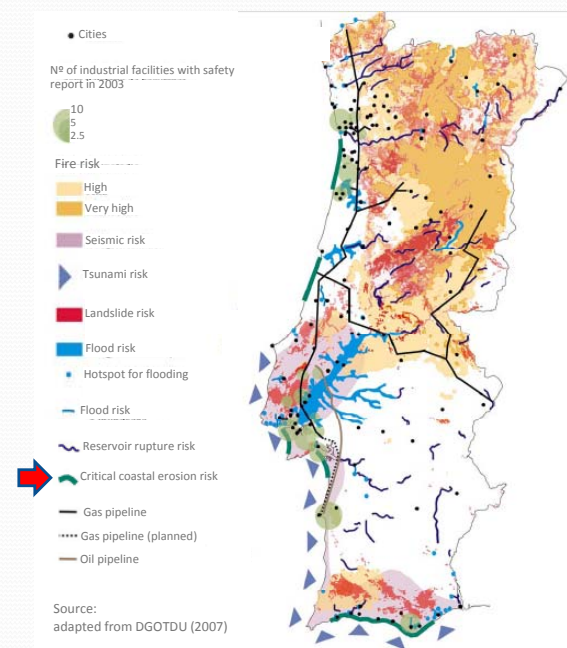
Portuguese coast: an overview



Protected Areas  
(ICNB)Natura 2000 sites  
(www.igeo.pt)

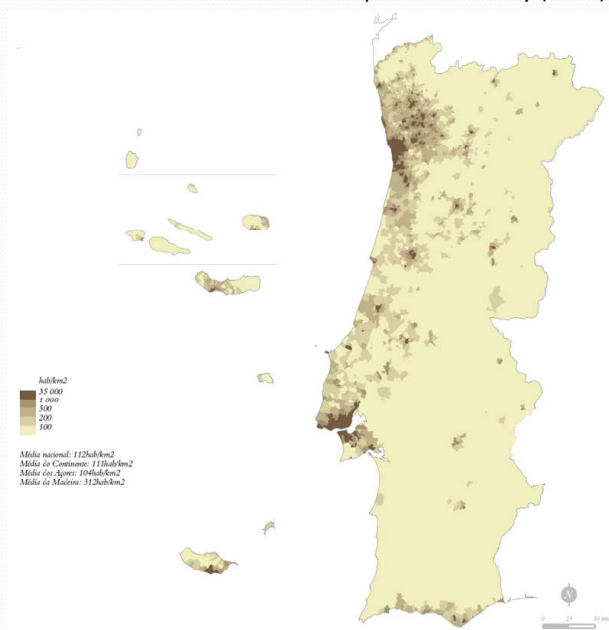
### Issues and risks (continent)

- Coastal erosion and recession:
  - High levels of construction;
  - Pressure from tourist activities;
  - Overexploitation of materials in rivers and estuaries;
  - Dredging (harbour activities).
- High population density:
  - Landscape degradation;
  - Overexploitation of natural resources;
  - Environmental pollution;
  - Land-surface impermeabilisation.



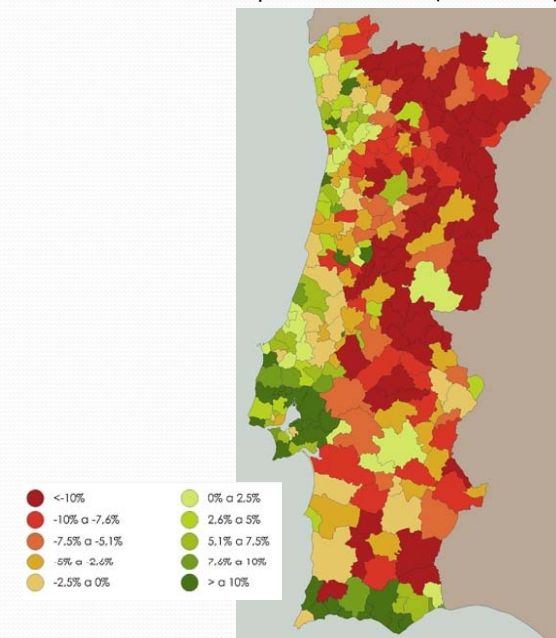
Roughly 75% population lives and works in coastal areas (job opportunities, accessibilities, temperate climate, natural resources, social and cultural assets, ...).

Population Density (2001)



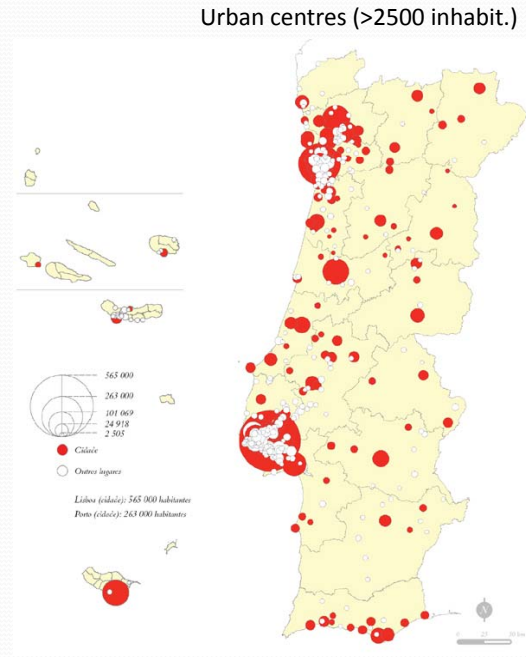
Significant population increase in most coastal municipalities

Population Growth (2001-2011)





Urban concentration along the coast and severe anthropic pressure in some areas (e.g. Lisbon)



Coastal (or near coastal) infrastructural networks:

- Ports;
- Airports;
- Railways;
- Highways;
- natural gas supply;
- (...)

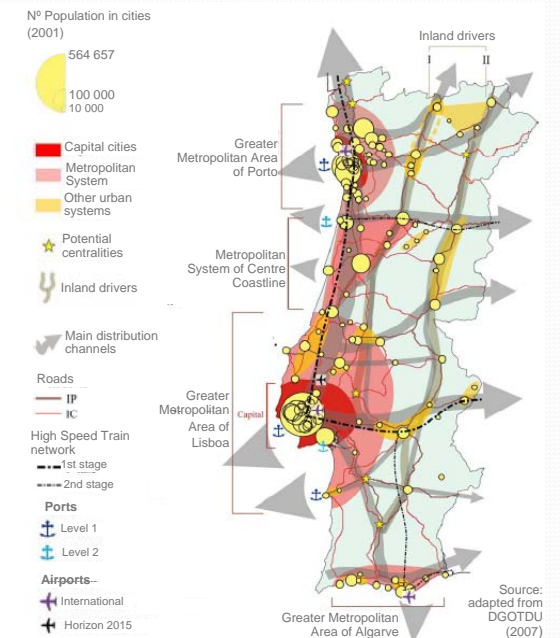


Some of the finest examples of historical-cultural heritage (and its specific preservation sites/areas).



Socio-economic synopsis (continent):

- 85% Gross Domestic Product;
- High concentration of industries and services (tourism included).

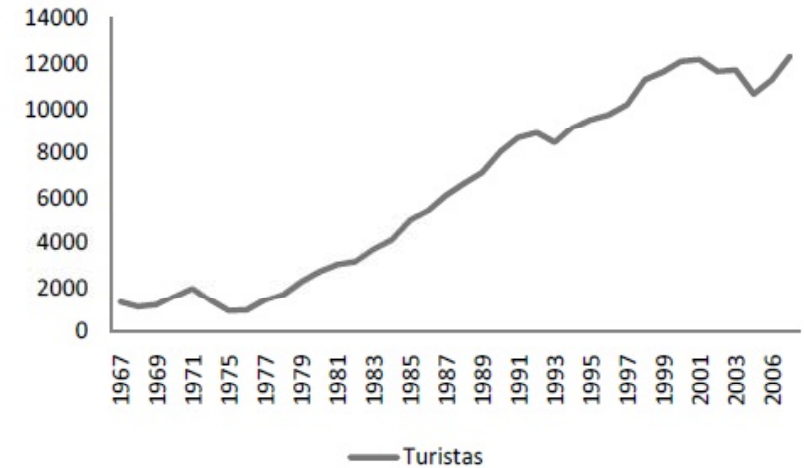




## TOURISM IN PORTUGAL: BASIC DATA

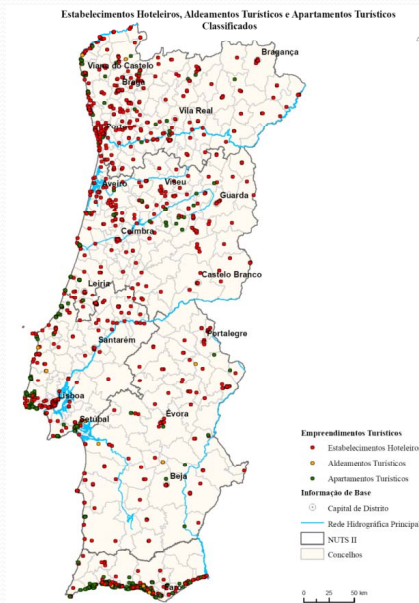


Tourism international arrivals: 1967-2006

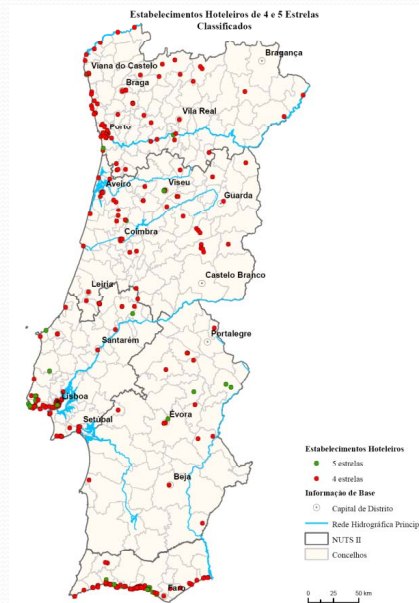


Fonte: Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE), Estatísticas do Turismo, vários anos; Direcção Geral do Turismo (DGT), 2005.

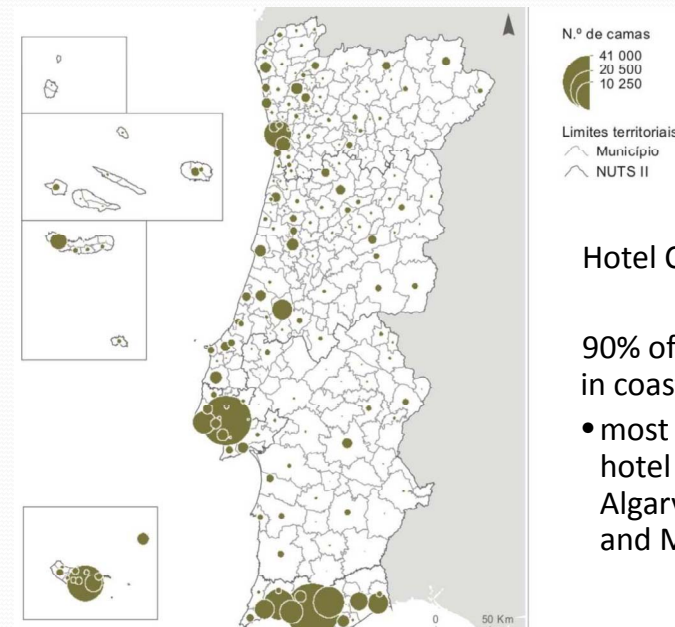
### Conventional supply



### 4 and 5 Stars Hotels



### Tourism in Portugal: basic data



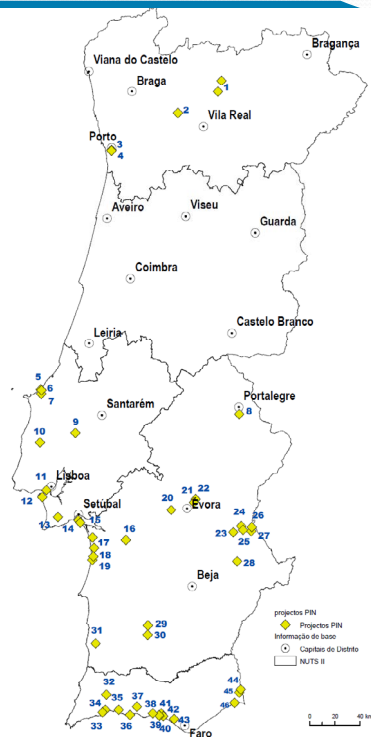
### Hotel Capacity

90% of foreign tourists stay in coastal destinations:

- most significant share of hotel capacity in the Algarve, Lisbon, Oporto and Madeira.

Fonte: INE, I.P., Inquérito à Permanência de Hóspedes e Outros Dados na Hotelaria.





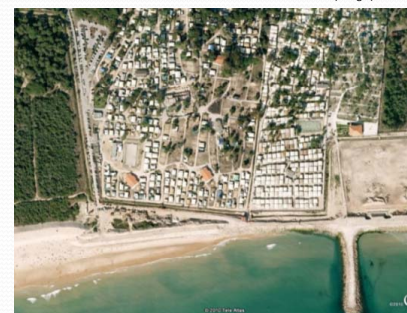
## 46 PIN Projects (November, 2011)

PIN – National Relevant Projects

Major touristic projects

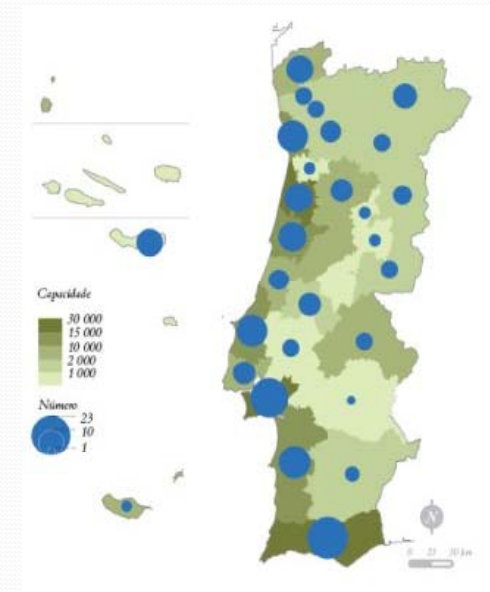
Turismo de Portugal, 2011

The majority and the largest camping parks are located on (or near) the coast



## Camping Parks

(Atlas de Portugal)



Concentration of golf courses in coastal tourism developed areas



## Golf courses

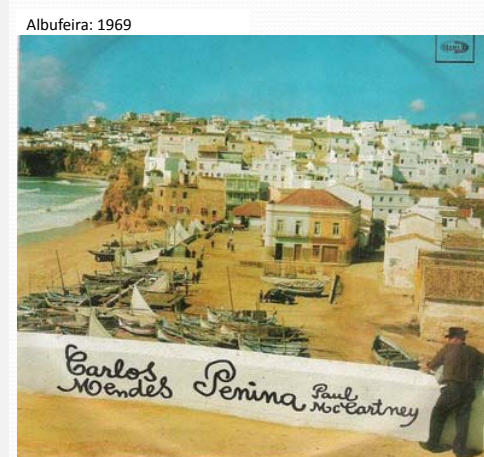
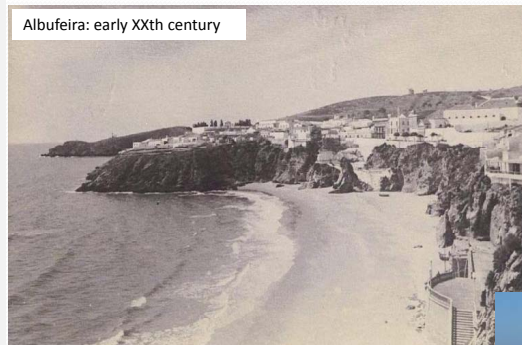
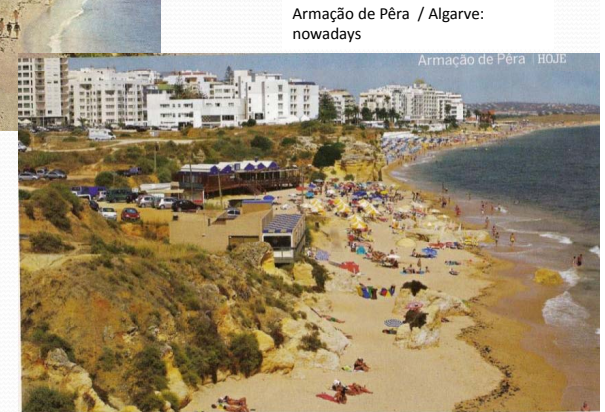
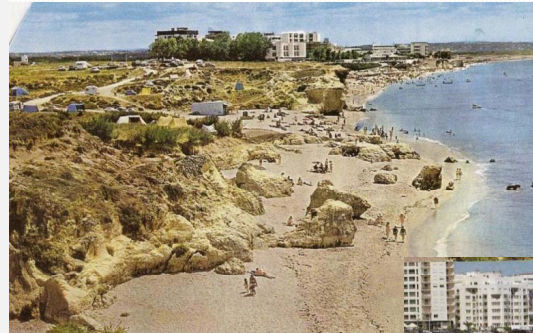
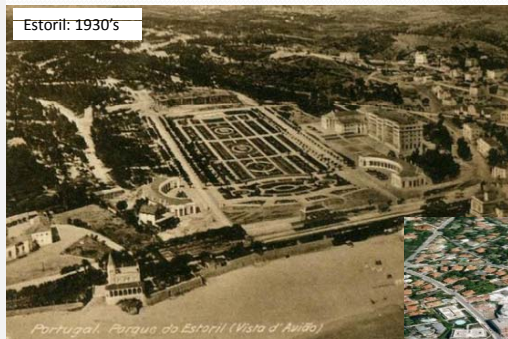
(Atlas de Portugal)



# Then... and now

Images on tourism development along the Portuguese coast

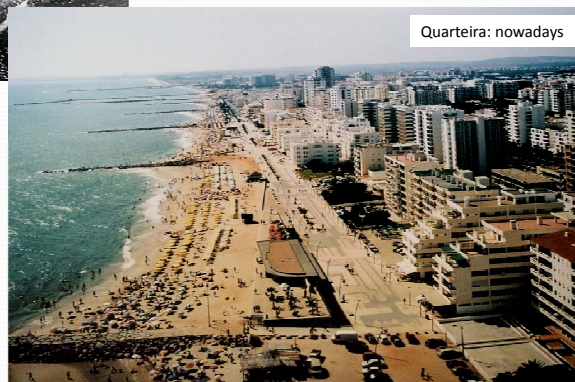






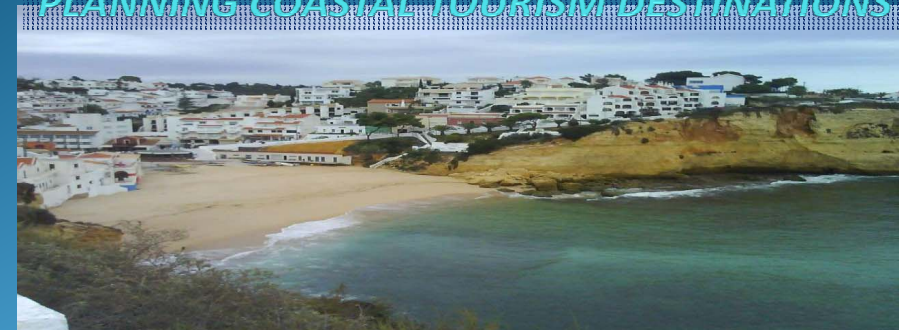


Quarteira: early XXth century

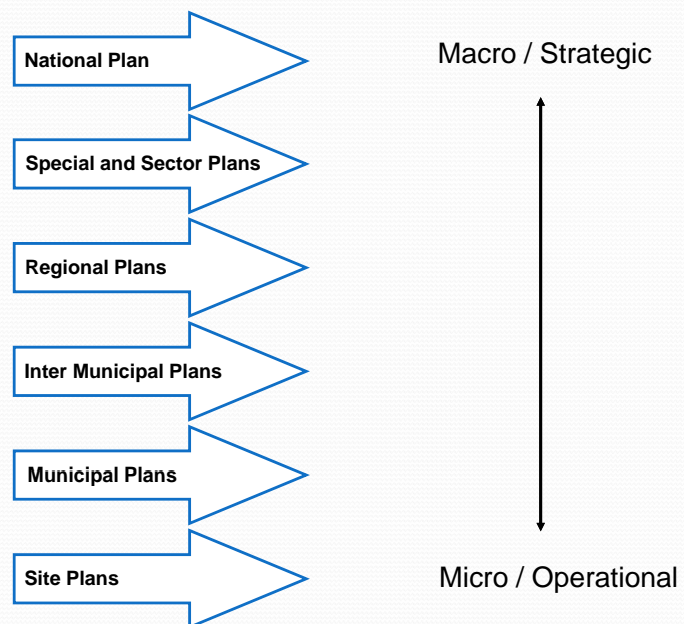


Quarteira: nowadays

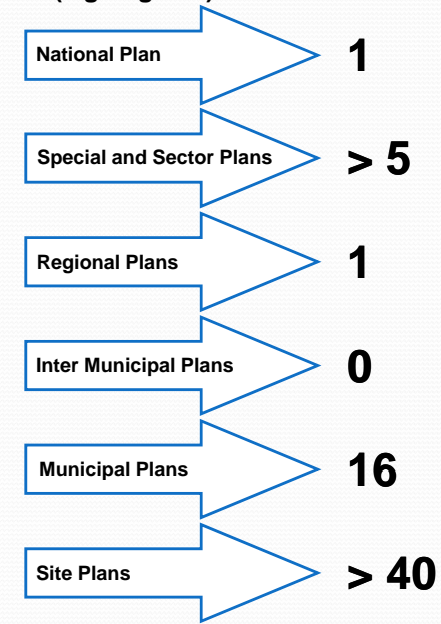
## PLANNING COASTAL TOURISM DESTINATIONS



### Planning tools



### Planning tools – (e.g. Algarve)





## Planning tools

1864 Maritime Public Domain

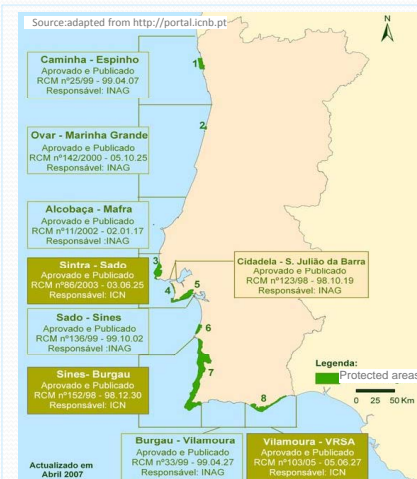
1990 Coastline Urban Management Plan

1993 Coastline Plans (POOC)

- 8 Plans;
- Focused on protecting, managing and improving natural resources and landscapes (500m);
- Aimed at establishing different uses and activities, classifying beaches and regulating their use for bathing, as well as assuring nature protection.

50m (wide) coastal front

Establishes guidelines for coastline land use (2km)



## Planning tools

1998 Coastline Strategy

Establishes guidelines and priority domains for interventions in coastal areas.

2003 FINISTERRA Programme

Aim: To improve the Portuguese coastline through structural measures, allowing implementing the actions stated in the Coastline Plans.

2009 Integrated Management Strategy for the Portuguese Coastal Zones Response to 2002/413/CE

Aim: to provide a policy framework to assure sustainable development in coastal zones.

Key principles (some examples):

- Intergenerational sustainability and solidarity;
- Social cohesion;
- Prevention and precautionary principle;
- Holistic and multidisciplinary approach;
- Shared responsibility.

## Lack of planning?



Construction on barrier islands, Faro/Algarve



## Lack of planning?

Urban beach, Almada/Lisbon



Building at the cliff, Vau/Algarve

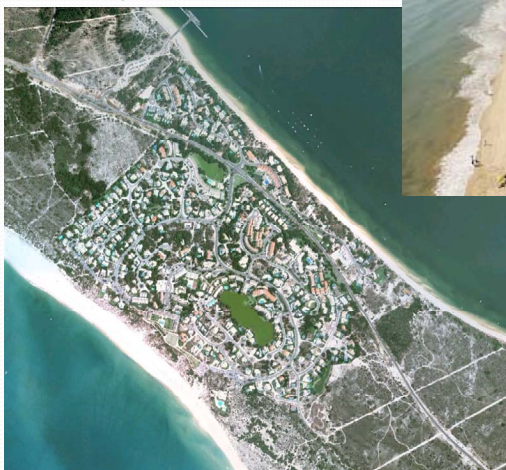




## Resort vs integrated Planning?

Vale de Lobo, Algarve

Soltroia/Alentejo



## Resort vs integrated Planning?

Praia del Rei, Oeste



## Urban sprawl... how can we plan it?



## Urban sprawl... how can we plan it and integrate it?





## Urban sprawl... how can we plan it and integrate it?



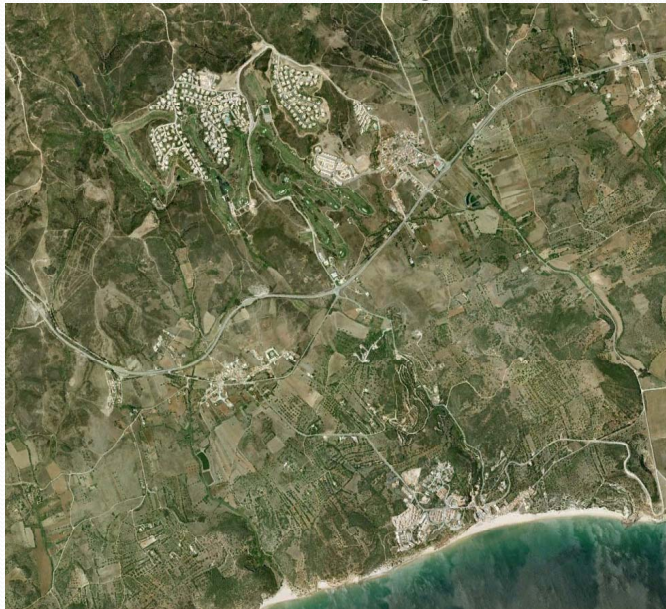
## Tourist enclaves... how to integrate them?

Vale da Telha / Western Algarve



## Tourist enclaves... how to integrate them?

Parque da Floresta / Algarve



### Highlights:

- An unbalanced country...
- A (still coastal) tourist destination...
- Anthropic pressures on land use...
- Different tourist development processes...
- A wealth of legal frameworks and regulations...
- ... problems do persist and some are even new!!!

### Topics for discussion (...or questions to be answered):

- How to cope with such different tourism spaces typologies?
- Conflicts? What sort of conflicts?
- Success vs failure? Lessons from experience
- How to promote knowledge transfer and effective planning?





...Thank you.

Carlos Cardoso Ferreira  
Centro de Estudos Geográficos  
Universidade de Lisboa

[carlosferreira@campus.ul.pt](mailto:carlosferreira@campus.ul.pt)