

NEW SPECIAL LAND USE PLANS

PUBLIC LAW

Two important special land use plans were published on February 4th: the *Management Plan for the National Park of Peneda-Gerês*, which was approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers number 11-A/2011 and the *Management Plan for the Natural Park of Sudoeste Alentejano e Costa Vicentina*, approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers number 11-B/2011.

*Publication of the Management
Plans for the National Park
of Peneda-Gerês and for the Natural
Park Sudoeste Alentejano
e Costa Vicentina*

Underlying the elaboration of these new special land use plans was the evolution of the legal framework regarding protected areas, namely the Sectorial Land Use Plan of Rede Natura 2000.

The intervention area for the *Management Plan for the National Park of Peneda-Gerês* is constituted by parts of the Municipalities of Melgaço, Arcos de Valdevez, Ponte da Barca, Terras de Bouro and Montalegre, while the intervention area of the *Management Plan for the Natural Park of Sudoeste Alentejano e Costa Vicentina*, includes parts of the Municipalities of Sines, Odemira, Aljezur e Vila do Bispo.

Both Plans establish a number of “**Prohibited actions and activities**”, as well as “**Conditioned actions and activities**” in their respective intervention areas. This means that the construction of real state and/or touristic facilities in the area of intervention of the Plans, are subject to specific rules and conditions set out in such regulations. Moreover, a **wide-range of urban operations is subject to legal opinion from the Institute of Nature Conservation and Biodiversity**, as well as to the general rules of licensing.

The *Management Plan of the National Park of Peneda-Gerês* defines, in its area of intervention, the **priority locales for nature conservation and biodiversity, which are subject to different types of protection and use**, thus setting its typologies.

Wide-range of urban operations is subject to legal opinion from the Institute of Nature Conservation and Biodiversity

As for the regulation of the *Management Plan for the Natural Park of Sudoeste Alentejano e Costa Vicentina*, it is based upon the same goals and policy, also establishing **rules for the development of activities compatible with the balance of the ecosystems and the valuation of economic, social and cultural aspects of this protected area.**

It is relevant to stress that the **Plan foresees two different types of areas**, the *Land Mass Area* and the *Marine and River Area*, **which are subject to specific zoning.**

As such, and bearing in mind the examples of touristic facilities, the promoters of these types of facilities in the area of intervention of the Plan, are subject to specific rules set out in the regulation.

It should be noted that the special land use plans, to which correspond the above mentioned plans, prevail over the municipal plans for land use, and establish specific regulation for the execution of general works.

Finally, we note that both Plans came into effect the February 5th, 2011.

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