



For the lovers of open air sports, a keep-fit circuit, 1.700 metres long, with six exercise stages, borders the circumference of the park.

With children in mind, imitation park keepers' houses have been installed, real Wendy houses, where the very young can play for hours; a children's play area, with swings, slides and climbing ropes, provides a world of adventure.

For those who wish to spend the day here or to picnic out, tables, benches and barbecue spots are provided for meals in the open air; public conveniences have also been built, equipped with facilities for the disabled.

A vantage point, built on the highest spot in the "Pinhal da Paz" Park, offers a magnificent view of the town of Ponta Delgada and surroundings.

Visitors will discover a wealth of flora, including fine specimens of Japanese red cedar, azalea, bamboo, firetree, acacia and pine as well as theme areas with cacti, palms, ferns, camellias, endemic plants and over two acres of lawn. As for fauna, there is an aviary with peacocks, guinea fowl and pheasants, and a lake with swans.

There is also a stage and a supporting annex for theatrical performances and other cultural or recreational activities.



Governo Regional dos Açores

Secretaria Regional da Agricultura e Florestas

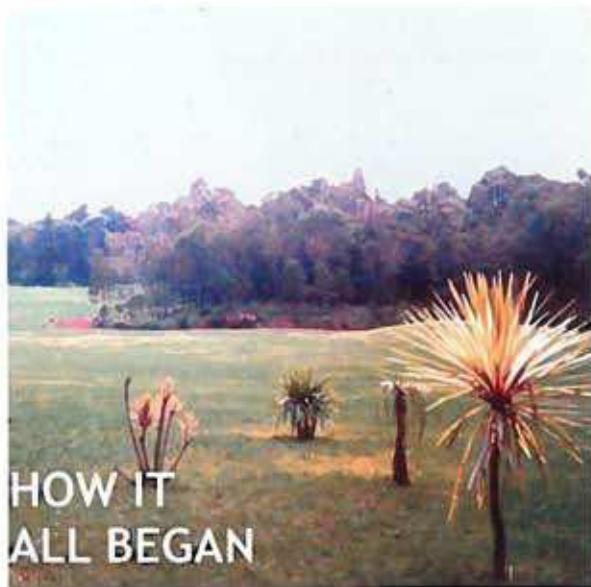
Direcção Regional dos Recursos Florestais

Serviço Florestal de Ponta Delgada



Recreational Forest Reserve Pinhal da Paz





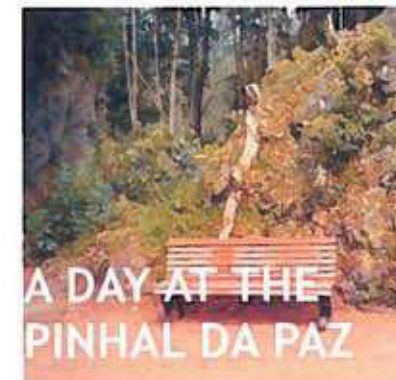
The project for the “Pinhal da Paz”, formerly known as the “Mata das Criações”, was begun by António do Canto, who inherited the land, which occupied approximately 140 acres of lava formation, with rocky outcrops, pyroclastic matter highly susceptible to erosion, where the vegetation comprised pine trees, firetrees and green broom. From this wilderness, António do Canto patiently created the future park, planting maritime pines, Japanese red cedars and exotic ornamental species such as hydrangeas, azaleas, tree ferns and eucalyptus trees, opening up pathways and roads, building houses, collecting rainwater and creating pasturelands and orchards. The new park soon became well known to the local inhabitants and it was popular for tourist outings, which led António do Canto to change the name of the park to “Pinhal da Paz”, literally, “The Pine-grove of Peace”.

In the seventies, the heirs of António do Canto managed to preserve the character of the “Pinhal da Paz” but in time, due to the costs of its upkeep, it gradually lost its beauty and order and reverted to its original wild state. In the eighties, the Regional Government of the Azores issued a decree establishing the “Recreational Reserve of the Pinhal da Paz” as a leisure zone. They planned measures for its conservation, bearing in mind the wealth of flora, the botanical variety, the fact it extends for over 9 miles, and the regularity of visitors to the park, drawn by the exuberance of the azaleas. The reserve was to be managed by a committee, but the committee was never actually nominated and the park reverted to its former wild state again.

Finally, after a period of toing and froing in negotiations, the Regional Government of the Azores acquired the “Pinhal da Paz” from the António do Canto family, on 19th September, 1988. However, improvements could only go ahead once the VII Regional Government, through the Regional Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment, had placed it under the auspices of the Regional Directorate of Forest Resources. It was made a Recreational Forest Reserve by the decree of 21st June, 2000.

THE PINHAL DA PAZ OF TODAY

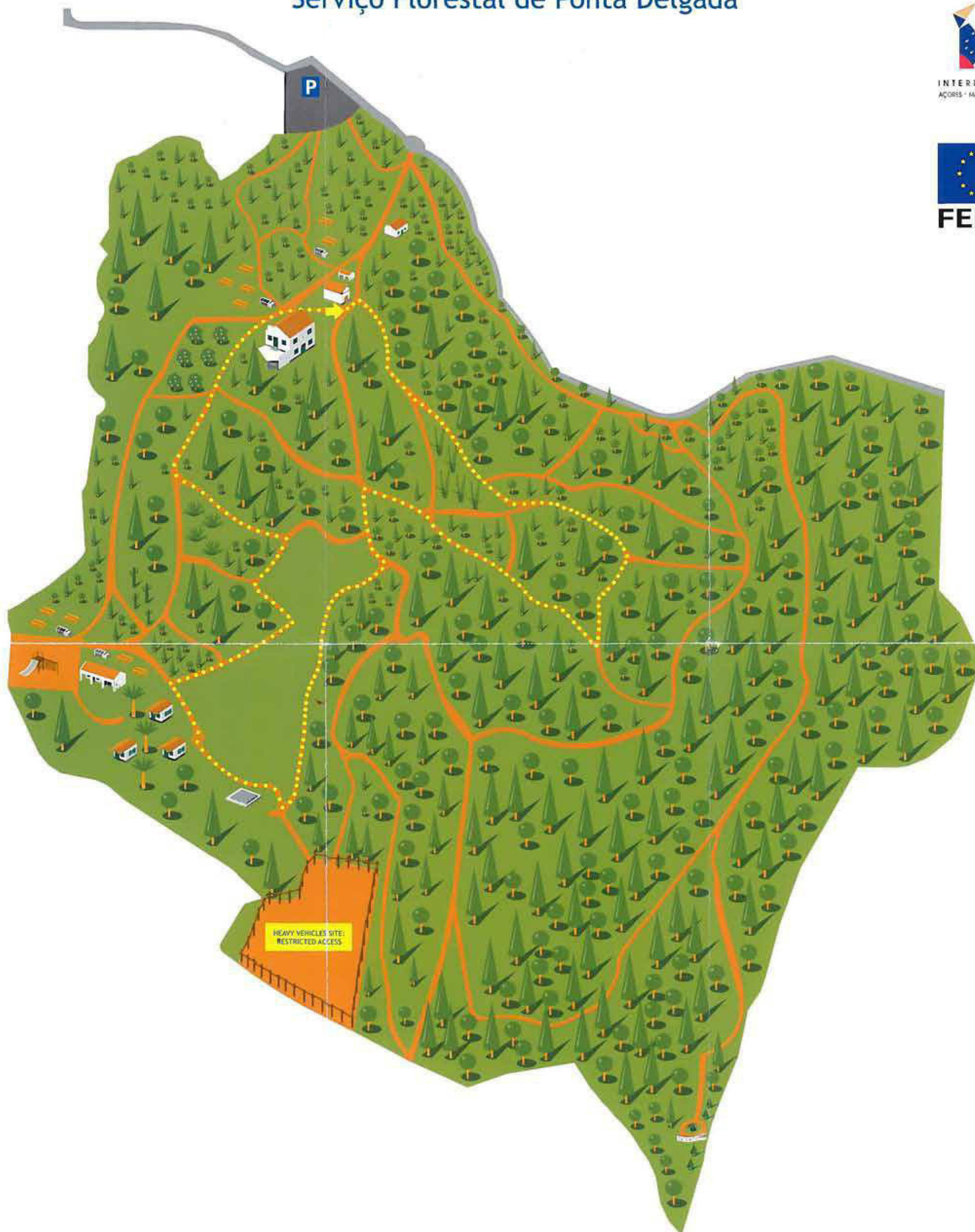
Works to restore the highly degraded property began in 1988, entailing heavy investment in order to recuperate the former beauty and splendour of the park and provide the island's inhabitants with a place for leisure and for the observation of natural species, where respect for Nature and the environment are a priority. The restoration of the “Pinhal da Paz” was boosted by the creation of Ponta Delgada's new Forest Service, which transformed the appearance of the park. They not only maintained its traditional structure and the species that made it famous, but also introduced new species of endemic plant and support infrastructures.



Upon entry, the car park comes into view, built to facilitate access for coaches for tourism or school outings. One only has to walk on a little to realise how much the “Pinhal da Paz” has been improved along its 9 miles of beautiful pathways; there is no danger of one's getting lost thanks to the maps posted around the park, indicating major reference points. A little further on one comes upon the new park-keeper's house; the park-keeper lives there throughout the year so that the park is permanently guarded. Nearby stands the Chapel of the “Senhora da Paz”, which belongs to the time when the park was first constructed and is charming in its simplicity.

THE PINHAL DA PAZ RECREATIONAL FOREST RESERVE

Direcção Regional dos Recursos Florestais
Serviço Florestal de Ponta Delgada



Legenda:

Chapel	Stage	Children's Play Area	Barbecue Grills	Vantage Point	Fern	Camellias	Keep-fit circuit
Toilets	Park Keeper's House	Play Houses	Tables	Japanese red cedars, firetrees and acacias	Palms	Pines	Supporting annex
Toilets	Aviary	Endemic Plants	Bamboos	Cacti			