Challenges for new entrants to farming and the role of public support: comparing Northern and Southern European Agriculture
22-23 September 2015

Silvo-pastoral systems on the edge: questions faced by land managers in the Portuguese Montado

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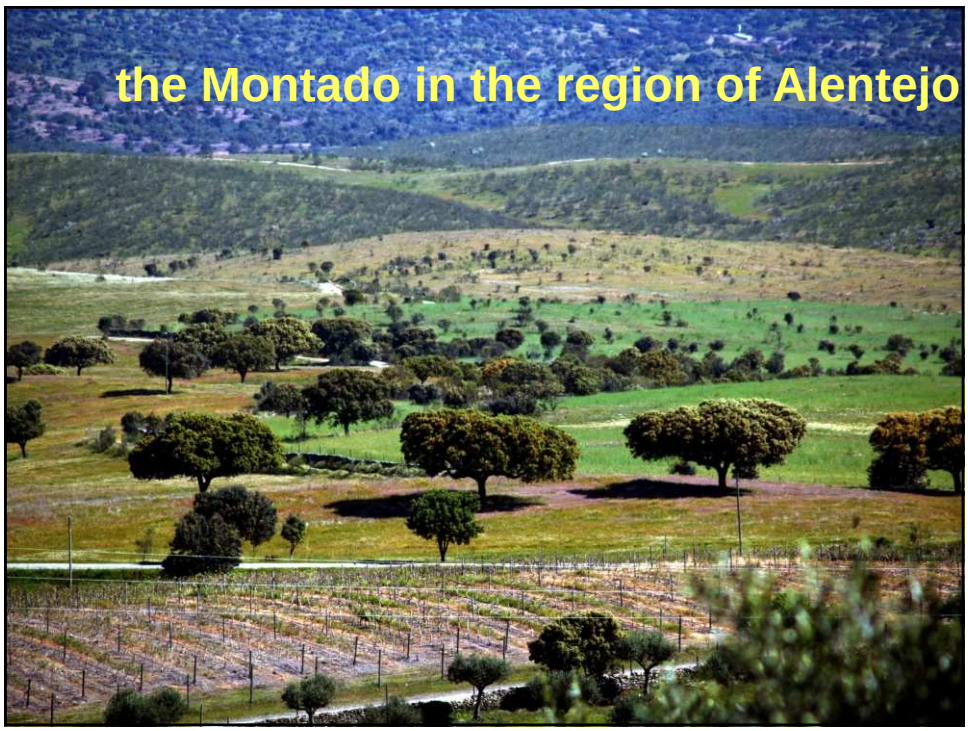
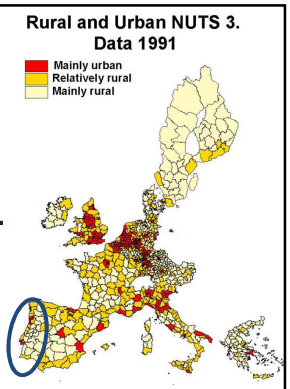


a particular context:
what is specific Southern European

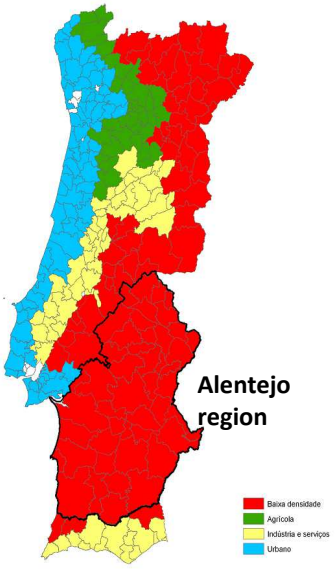


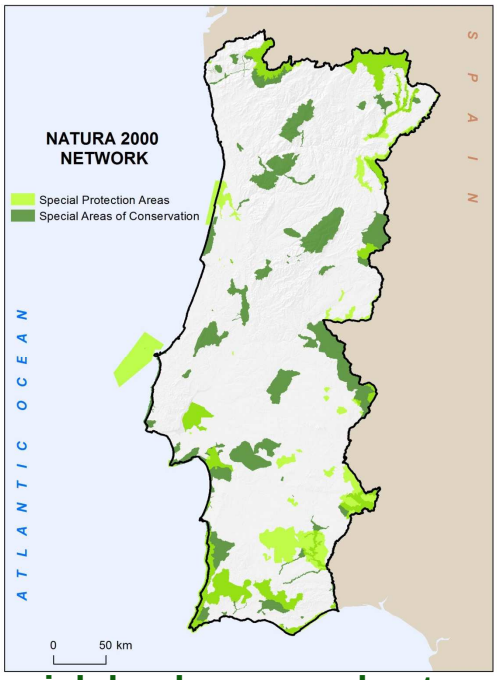
» scarcity conditions for agriculture:
poor and shallow soils, steep slopes, dry summers,..
» water availability as a limiting factor: low intensity
« trinity *ager* + *saltus* + *silva*: complementarity
and fuzziness

» low entrepreneurship: traditional systems kept
« property structure highly stable: land as a family
heritage more than as a production factor
» low taxes on land ownership: non-use is always a possibility

« society strong connections to rurality: rural roots are close, local
communities still have bindings, social structure also outside the
rural keeps connected to land ownership structure
» high attractivity for new activities: landscape and climate
» traditional farming systems (HNV) support multiple services

an empty countryside ...





...a rich landscape and nature

Mediterranean complexity:
two complementary and distinct landscape patterns
two HNV-High Nature Value Farming Systems

Farmland with high proportion of semi-natural vegetation

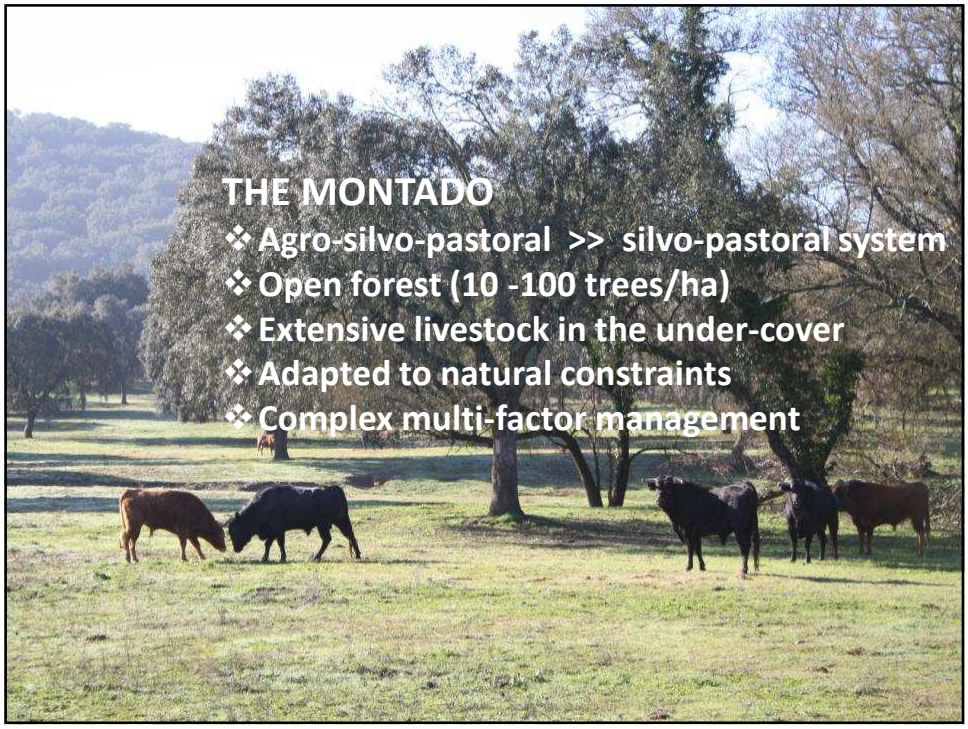
- Large scale
- Silvo-pastoral, Montado
- Extensive grazing

Type I

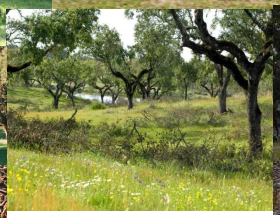
Farmland with a mosaic of low intensity agriculture and natural and structural elements

- Small scale
- Policultural

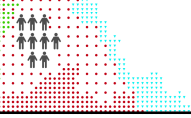
Type II



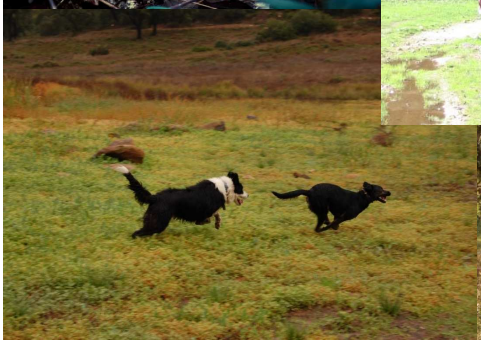
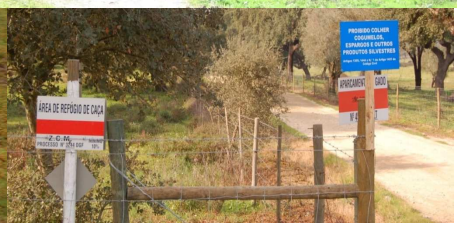
extensively used wood pastures...



... + cork + wood (charcoal)



The Montado: increasingly a highly valued landscape,
» hotspot of biodiversity
» hunting, recreation, bird watching, identity, culture

but threatened: **extensive and non specialised production**
»» hardly competitive in global markets
»» highly vulnerable to policy changes
»» requiring special skills to be preserved

challenges for management increasingly demanding

A **complex system** depending on the **high variance**
of its main components, in different biophysical conditions

TREE COVER

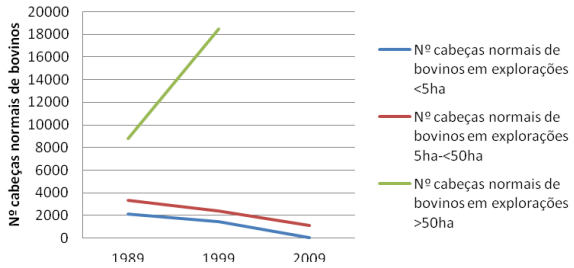
LIVESTOCK GRAZING

PASTURES

at the landscape level → **spatial and functional complexity**
multiple uses and externalities

but farmers are pushed towards
specialization and simplification >> the dominant paradigm

number of cattle heads 1989-2009, Montemor-o-Novo



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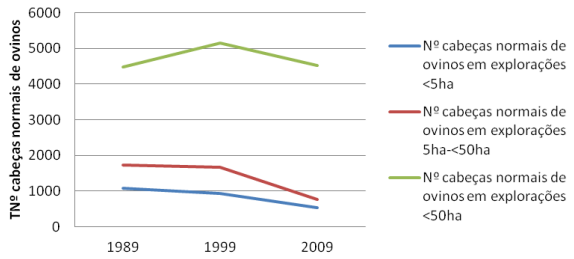


even in a Natura 2000 site:

CAP productivist orientation »» livestock coupled payments

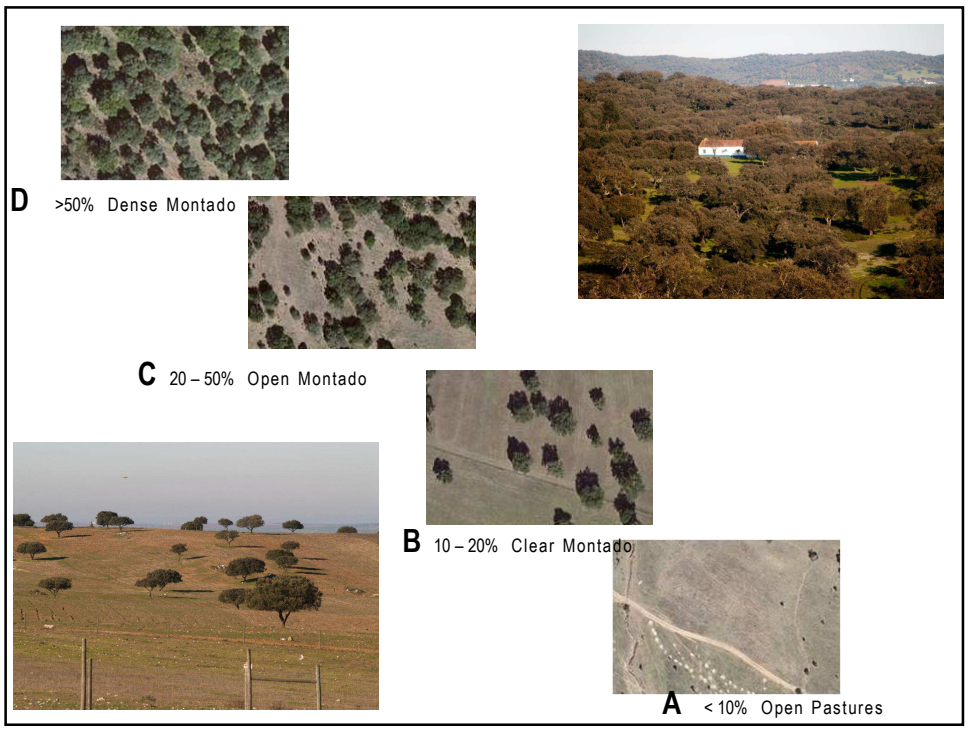
Intensification:
*** livestock density**
*** livestock composition**

Conservation measures constrained to specific sites and financing calendar

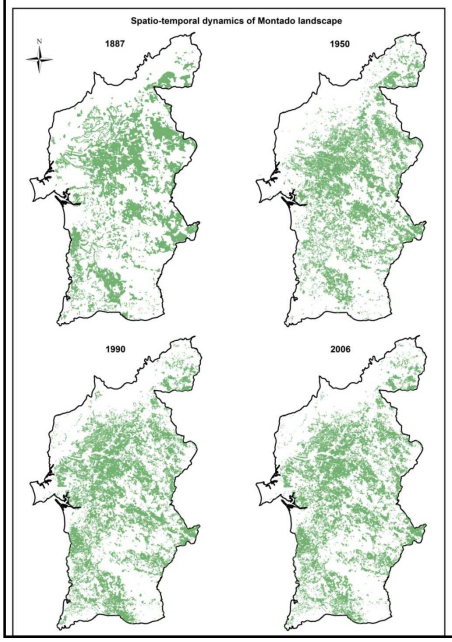
complex and fuzzy landscape pattern >> change is hard to detect:

decreasing tree density + larger clearances

»»shrinking Montado area (5000 ha/year at regional level)



the Montado along time



1887	1 189 200 ha
1950	1 154 192 ha
1990	**1 340 786 ha**
2006	1 251 191 ha

1887 – 1950 **- 35 000 ha (-555 ha/year)**

1950 - 1990 **+ 187 000 ha (+ 4675 ha/year)**

1990 – 2006 **- 90 000 ha (-5625 ha/year)**

Contributions from decision support research : what is driving Montado management ?

behind the pattern, unfolding the processes

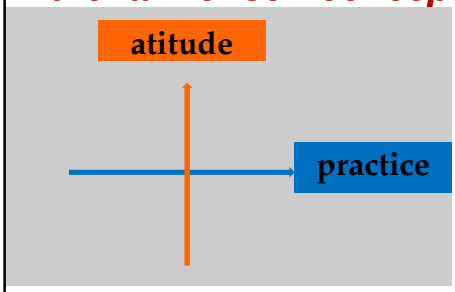
the multiple services provided are most often not intended outputs in farmers decisions

farmers are not the only ones to take decisions that will impact on land use, and thus on landscape

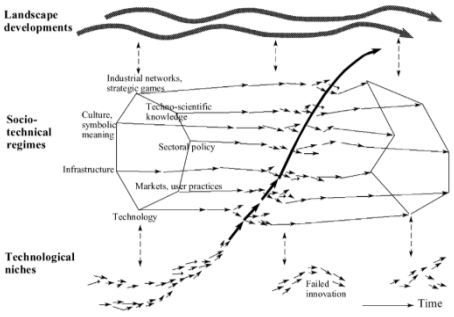
understanding complex decision processes at different governance scales
»» requires new approaches combining different tools

looking behind the land management in place:

1.*the farmer self-concept*



2.multilevel perspective: what room is there for innovation



steps forward:

- **understanding the relation between action and though**
  »» identifying tensions and conflicts

*** assessing if and how the regimes can open for innovation**

Questions faced by farmers: which strategy for the farm ?

assessing constraints and opportunities
interacting with other users
they are aware of new societal demands
they discuss multifunctional management models
but:
they feel conflicts between different sector policies
and tensions between management models
pressure for mainstream production and security of income
(CAP payments) + farmers self-concept
»» often farmers action is in conflict with his/her beliefs

WHY the preservation of Montado is not a priority ?

>> the productivist ideal is linked to:
• the social position within the agricultural community
• weakness of an integrative rural institutional framework
• low culture of innovation

>> the multifunctional ideal is linked to:
* role as keeper of family heritage
* knowledge of biophysical constraints
* opening to new societal demands

one or the other can be strengthened
depending on societal goals + what is more valued

and more than discourse, guidelines issuing from the regime

...in the different regimes, the multifunctionality of the Montado is said to be in the agenda, BUT:

- There is no interaction between the concerned regimes: agriculture, conservation, real-estate, tourism...
- There is no room for a territorial and heritage based strategy

* Agricultural regime: pressures from society are deviated

policies remain strongly focused on production

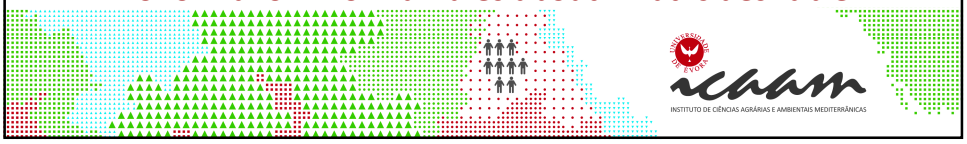
environmental issues are shaped into ecosystem services

>> *supported by equaly focused analytical models*

* Conservation regime » weakest partner

* No normative institutional anchoring:

no formal or informal rules about what is desirable



Can new entrants have a role ?

More prone to have a different mind-set

» but still the mind-set of many other regime actors needs to be more flexible

More prone to collaboration and co-production of knowledge outside the known regime and regime actors

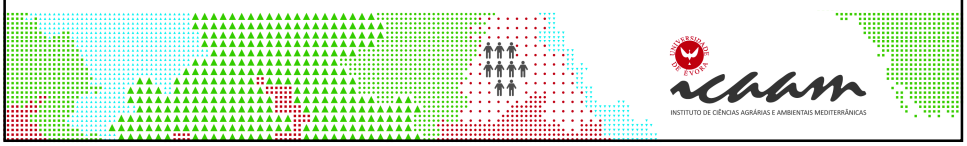
Access to multiple networks and resources» *often alternative*

potentially the needed innovators

building up on the heterodoxy of Mediterranean agriculture

but also a need for

integration and support in existing frameworks



Thanks !
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