



Fraternity of Nuno Álvares

Adult Scouts



National Department of the Environment



PRESS RELEASE

## Adult Scouts taken roots in World Wetlands Day

### "XIV CRIAR RAÍZES" - NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY OF THE NUNO ÁLVARES SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

NÚCLEO CIDADE VILA REAL - Lamas de Olo, 8-9 February 2025

As part of the celebrations of **World Wetlands Day 2025**, the XIV edition of "**CRIAR RAÍZES – For a Better World**" took place last weekend, from 8 to 9 February, the national environmental volunteer activity of the Nuno Álvares Scout Fellowship (FNA), organized by the Vila Real local nucleus, with the support of its own National Department for the Environment (DNA) and partnership and technical guidance by the team of the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF) of the Alvão Natural Park (PNALV) and the Wastelands (Baldios) Community of Lamas de Olo.

On the 8th, the activity took place in a mountain environment and with scout dynamics and great spirit of collaboration and conviviality, having brought together 55 FNA members from the regions of Braga, Guarda, Lisbon, Porto, Setúbal and the hosted region Vila Real with the collaboration of its own National Department of Prevention and Health (DNPS), joined by other local volunteers demonstrating its commitment to the preservation of nature in these protected areas of natural relevance previously visited in former editions.

The volunteers, adult scouts, developed a set of nature conservation and environmental awareness initiatives, control of the invasive species - silky hakea (*Hakea sericea* Schrad.) - with cutting and uprooting and reforestation of native species with plants replacing and cuttings, in 10 hectares in Wastelands (Baldios) of Bilhó, in Mondim de Basto municipality, as well as reforestation of native autoctones with replacing plants and cuttings, in 4 hectares, in the Wastelands (Baldios) of Lamas de Olo, in Vila Real municipality.

The result of this day allowed the participants a more direct formative contact with the natural and rural reality of the Alvão Natural Park and its Interpretation Centers and the day culminated with the return of rescue barn owl (*Tyto alba*) recovered by CRAS Veterinary Hospital (CRAS) of The University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD).





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On the morning of the 9th, the adult scouts of FNA had the opportunity to take a guided tour of the "Central do Biel - Museum of Industrial Archaeology", the first hydroelectric power plant in the country in the nineteenth century, in Vila Real, on the left bank of the Corgo River. Followed to participate in the Catholic eucharistic at the Cathedral of Vila Real and to fraternize in a lunch-get-together and the closing session at the headquarters of the Alvão Natural Park with the presence of the collaboratives municipal, associative and ICNF entities.

The balance of this scout volunteer activity within the scope of World Wetlands Day 2025, proved to be very positive, both with regard to environmental awareness about mountain ecology, the control of invasive species and the planting of native trees on slopes hit by forest fires and the recovery of riverside corridors, as well as the involvement with local and official entities and communities in the surroundings of this protected area of National relevance of *Trás-os-Montes* county.

On behalf of the organization of FNA's *XIV Criar Raízes* we want to express our gratitude to the association, entities and the municipality of Vila Real for the support provided, which allowed the repetition of the environmental volunteering action carried out in the Alvão Natural Park and share this year's motto "ALL FOR FRIENDSHIP" to "leave the world a little better place...".

*Alerta para Servir* (Be Prepared)

*Fraternidade de Nuno Álvares*  
Nuno Álvares Scout Fellowship (FNA)

<https://fna-escuteiros.blogs.sapo.pt/>  
<https://fna-escuteiros.pt/site/index.html>  
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Attachments:





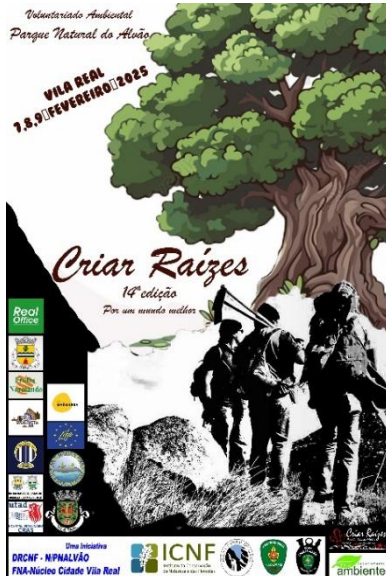
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Poster of the environmental volunteering activity, FNA's XIV CRIAR RAÍZES



Wastelands (Baldios) of Bilh inside Alvão Natural Park, Mondim de Basto municipality. Control of the invasive species - silky hakea.





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Wastelands (Baldios) of Bilhó inside Alvão Natural Park, Mondim de Basto municipality.  
Reforestation of native autoctones



Wastelands (Baldios) of Lamas de Olo inside Alvão Natural Park, Vila Real municipality.  
Reforestation of native autoctones.



Alvão Natural Park - Interpretive Centre of Fisgas de Ermelo.







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Return of rescue barn owl (*Tyto alba*) recovered by CRAS Veterinary Hospital (CRAS) of The University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD).



FNA team of adult scouts and volunteers of the XIV CRIAR RAÍZES in the Alvão Natural Park.





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Visit to the “Central do Biel”, Museum of Industrial Archaeology, Corgo River, Vila Real.



Closing session of the activity XIV Criar Raízes - headquarters of the Alvão Natural Park with the presence of municipalities, associations and the ICNF.

