



Acronym	Gigantes Verdes
Full Title	Gigantes Verdes
Grant Theme	Citizen and stakeholder engagement in Climate-Smart Forestry and forest restoration
Participants	VERDE - Associação para a Conservação Integrada da Natureza, Portugal (<i>coordinator</i>) ARIP ASSOCIAÇÃO REWILDING IBERIA PT, Portugal
Start Date	March 2026
Duration	13 months
Description	Gigantes Verdes (Green Giants in English) is a long-term citizen science initiative that empowers citizens to become Ambassadors for mature native trees — living symbols of biodiversity, resilience, and carbon storage. Through ecological training and hands-on fieldwork, Ambassadors learn to identify, map, and monitor large trees while raising community awareness of the ecosystem services they provide, such as carbon sequestration, shade, and water regulation. The expansion of the Gigantes Verdes initiative as a project funded by FORWARDS will be supported by Rewilding Portugal, which will facilitate the identification and engagement of associations in the regions of Guarda and Sabugal, where it maintains active ecological restoration programmes. Over 13 months, Gigantes Verdes will train 100 new Ambassadors and enable the mapping of at least 5 000 Green Giants within their own communities. The initiative will involve outreach sessions, practical workshops, field campaigns, and public interpretive walks, all supported by an open-source digital platform (www.gigantesverdes.pt) that ensures transparency and knowledge sharing. By combining community empowerment with data-driven forest monitoring, Gigantes Verdes contributes directly to Climate-Smart Forestry principles. It encourages the protection of mature trees that play a decisive role in carbon balance and habitat connectivity, while fostering locally led stewardship of forest resources. The project strengthens participatory frameworks and citizen-led networks capable of sustaining results beyond the grant period and informing inclusive forest management strategies in Portugal.



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