



1ª Oficina Doutoral de Inverno

Fundação Côa Parque

Development and Implementation of a Safeguard Plan for the Open-air Rock Art of the Côa Valley

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Introduction

The Côa Valley Archaeological Park embodies a singular instance of prehistoric art from across the globe. The park's status as a **World Heritage Site** introduces a central conservation challenge. The outlining of a conservation plan must consider a few relevant variables as the exposure to meteoric elements, the impact of human activity on the land, and tourism. These factors must be considered in the context of the Anthropocene. The current paradigm of action is oriented towards to a resilience heritage promotion basis which frames within a line of sustainable conservation whose premises focus on the development of preventive strategies and programed conservation guidelines.

Objectives



To **reinterpret** the biogenic, geochemical and anthropogenic data present in the Côa Valley Rock Art environment on the framework of a programed conservation plan.



To develop a **risk assessment matrix** for the Open-air Rock Art of the Côa Valley, based on an evaluation of all the variables and specificities covered.



Drawing up a **Management Plan** with short- and medium-term monitoring and maintenance measures. Conservation plan will be testing and improvement.



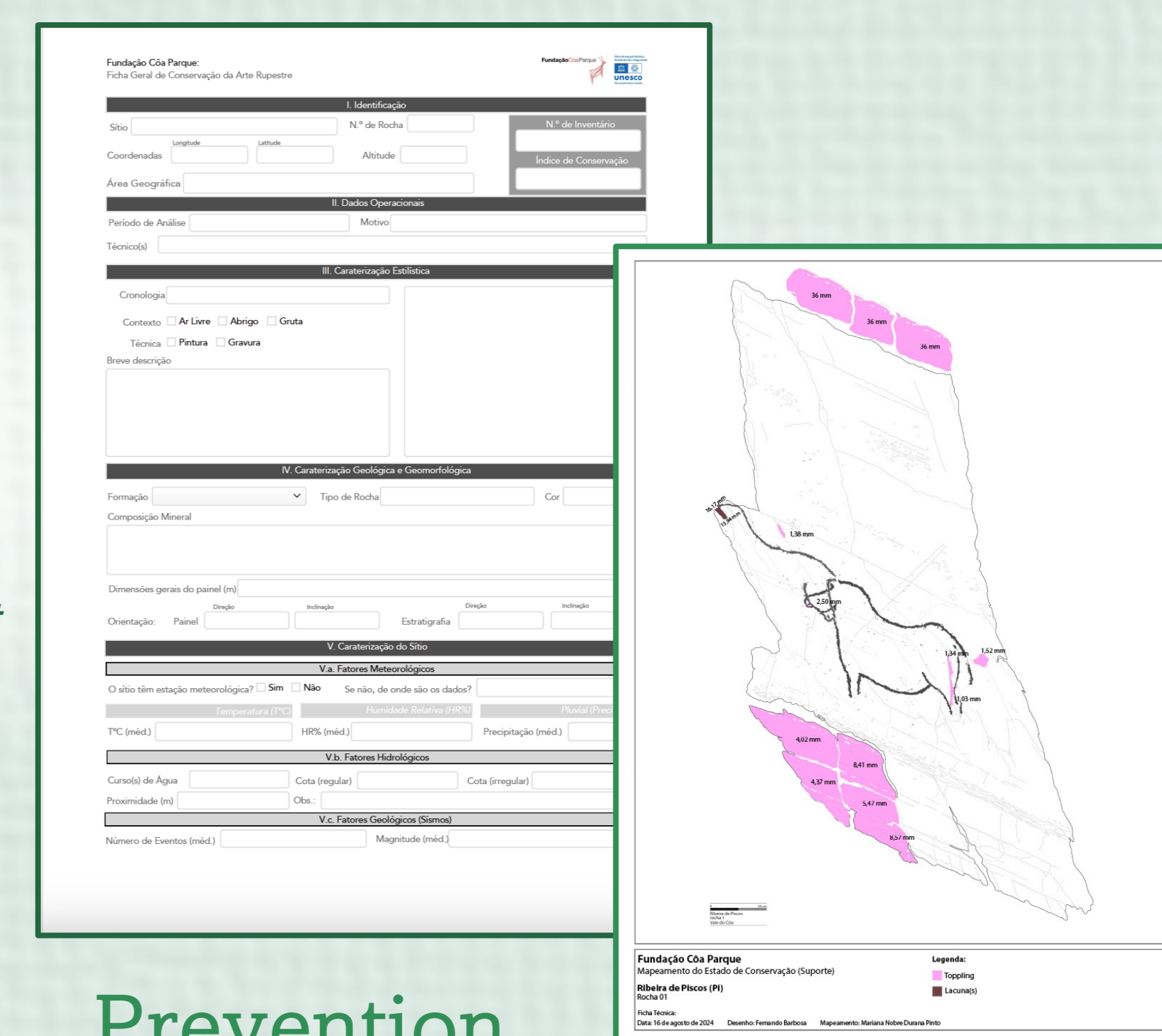
Drawing up an **Emergency (or Disaster Response) Plan**, covering damage that may occur from time to time and with a high impact on the engravings, namely: floods and fires, etc.

Methods

The methodology to be used will include a **risk assessment** of the rock art in the natural context of the so-called *Parque Arqueológico do Vale do Côa*, and the creation of a **risk matrix** that will serve as the basis for defining a **management plan** that includes mitigation, curative interventions and monitoring.

Expected Results

Safeguard Plan of open-air Rock Art



Embankment. Flooding in the 90s.
Source: CNART photographic archive.

Emergency
Emergency Plan for each disaster event (ex.: flooding, fire, etc.).



Prevention

Study, Documentation, Monitoring and **Risk assessment**

Risk assessment organized in three stages:
- Heritage value,
- Deterioration agents
- State of conservation.

Conservation

Conservation intervention, Mitigation based on the Management Plan

Re-evaluation of conservation and restoration interventions carried previous (2004).

