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**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES:**

**COCA COLA IBERIA**

**WWF MED**

## **About Coca-Cola**

The Coca-Cola Company is the world's largest beverage company, refreshing consumers with more than 500 sparkling and still brands. Led by Coca-Cola, one of the world's most valuable and recognizable brands, our Company's portfolio features 20 billion-dollar brands including, Coca-Cola Light, Fanta, Sprite, Coca-Cola Zero, Powerade and Minute Maid among others.

Globally, we are the No. 1 provider of sparkling beverages, ready-to-drink coffees, and juices and juice drinks. Through the world's largest beverage distribution system, consumers in more than 200 countries enjoy our beverages at a rate of 1.9 billion servings a day. With an enduring commitment to building sustainable communities, our Company is focused on initiatives that reduce our environmental footprint, support active, healthy living, create a safe, inclusive work environment for our associates, and enhance the economic development of the communities where we operate.

Coca-Cola in Portugal is part of the Company's Iberian Division, one of the most relevant in the global context, occupying the second place in Europe and the eleventh in the world. It directly employs about 5000 people and more than 17,000 indirectly in the entire peninsula.

In Portugal, Coca-Cola works closely with the local bottler Iberian Partners / Refrige. Refrige has a plant located in the Setubal district, nearby Lisbon.

The sustainability and social responsibility has always been a strong commitment in Portugal. Thus, we have worked in the past years in the implantation of sustainability projects that bring awareness for specific sustainability challenges. The most recent is the Green Heart of Cork Project.

## **Brief Summary of the Green Heart of Cork: Conservation of the Portuguese oak fields above the Tagus-Sado aquifer – Aquifer Protection and Development.**

Portugal is the world country with the biggest cork oak area. The Portuguese more emblematic tree grow in the fields of the Alentejo and Extremadura provinces, giving to the country the leadership in cork production.

The biggest cork oak spot in the world with more than 797 000 acres (322 517 ha) of continuous cork oak, stands in an area of 1 127 000 acres (456 239 ha) just 60 miles from Lisbon in the provinces of Alentejo and Estremadura. It's one of the environmental habitats, with a diverse ecosystem.

The cork oak field – named the Portuguese cork heart - stands just above the biggest aquifer of Portugal and the biggest subsoil water reserve in the Iberian Peninsula. Just between the Tagus and Sado rivers it covers an area of 1 672 000 acres (676 677 ha) with a capacity of 1 926 000.000 yd<sup>3</sup> (1.472.839.377 m<sup>3</sup>) / year. It serves one million inhabitants and 247 100 acres (100 000 ha) of irrigation fields.

The cork oak has an extremely important role in the aquifer protection and development, balancing the environmental biodiversity, protecting endemic species and overall ecosystem.

The Tagus-Sado aquifer plays an important role in the Portuguese water supply. It is also the provider of water for the Refrige plant (Coca-Cola Bottler in Portugal) which is established also above the aquifer.

The aquifer ecosystem is bounded to the cork oak fields, depending on the environmental balance. The region is also home of some endemic species. Nine bird species, for example, are critically threatened of extinction.

The Green Heart of Cork project stands for a decisive role in that ecosystem protection, and conservation. Its purpose it's to compensate the agricultural and forest owners that contribute for the improvement of the ecosystems basic services with good practices, such as the carbon retention, soil formation, regulation of the water cycle and biodiversity. It encourages good agricultural and forestry practices that contribute decisively to the conservation of cork oak forests and, for that matter, the aquifer.

Coca-Cola is the first and leading pioneer supporter of this WWF Portugal initiative. By sponsoring the project, the company is assessing two main guidelines: contributes to the sustainability of its business – the Refrige plant is located within the aquifer area consuming 654 000yd<sup>3</sup> (500 000m<sup>3</sup>) /year of groundwater; and build conversation about the cork oak and the Coca-Cola efforts towards the sustainability and water protection, linking it to one of the Portuguese emblematic symbols, the cork.

The landowners formed an association and adopted the sustainable forest management practices under the Green Herat of Cork guidelines, in order to receive the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

123 600 acres (50.000 ha), corresponding to an area of 15% of the cork oak fields already have this certification. The Forest Producer Association APF Certifica is FSC certified and member of the WWF Iberian Forest and Trade Network. WWF annually monitor APF Certifica and helps the association to improve their management plans.