



The case is about exploitation and exploration in a sensitive area

SCALE

Local

EXTENSION OF THE PROJECT

29 km²

TYPE OF MINING

Underground mining

MINERAL RESOURCES

Copper, zinc, lead



Direção-Geral
de Energia e Geologia



LNEG

SOMINCOR Neves-Corvo Mine

A metallic mine site at Natura 2000: A mine of biodiversity

The Neves-Corvo Mine is located in the south of Portugal, at the Iberian Pyrite Belt. It is one of the EU's largest underground copper and zinc mines. It is operated by SOMINCOR since 1998 and employs around 2000 workers.

The area of the concession (1.619 ha) and the industrial area (840 ha) partially overlap the **Natura 2000 Network**: the **Special Protection Area of Castro Verde (PTZPE0046)** on the north of the industrial area, and the **Guadiana Site of Community Interest (PTCON0036)** - the Oeiras river, main water course in the mining area.

SOMINCOR applies high performance, environmental and social standards in its operations and continuously develops actions for the preservation of biodiversity, as well as transparency, awareness and public engagement actions, namely:

1. Protocol with the Environmental Authority and projects for the promotion of biodiversity with nature protection NGO's.
2. Social programs for local communities involving the municipalities and NGOs for the support of needy families; promotion of educational activities; protocols with senior universities; and a protocol with an equestrian association for hippo therapy and riding lessons for children with development disorders.
3. Protocols with beekeepers and agreements with local farmers to maintain agricultural activity in 50% of the mine area.
4. Development of a noise minimisation project.
5. Development of a field guide "A mine of biodiversity" and a film "The Song of the Earth- A mine of biodiversity".
6. Fosters research, innovation and technology within several academic institutions.

