



**The Protected Area of Lagoas de Bertandos e S. Pedro de Arcos**, located in Ponte de Lima, is an important area for nature and biodiversity conservation, regional, national and internationally, as evidenced by, respectively, the following statutes of conservation and protection: i) regional Protected Area; ii) Community Importance Site and; iii) Wetland of International Importance.

This importance comes, essentially, from the presence of various biotopes, typical of continental wetlands, to which are associated habitats and species of priority conservation. Regarding the flora, stands out that 508 species were inventoried, including some Iberian endemic species, some species in critical danger of extinction, rare and endangered, that provides a great value of flora to the area (eg *Carex versicaria*, in critical danger of extinction, the only known population in Portuguese territory is in the Protected Area).

About fauna, the Protected Area presents a variety of vertebrate that reflects specific richness values, considered significant. There were inventoried, so far, nine species of freshwater or migratory fishes, 13 amphibians, 11 reptiles, 41 mammals, where are included 11 species of bats, and 144 birds. To note that were identified 25 species of freshwater and terrestrial vertebrates with high conservation priority, mostly associated with wetlands.

In terms of Odonata, 28 species were identified, representing 44% of the continental Portugal odonata fauna, to stand out: *Coenagrion mercuriale*, *Oxygastra curtisii* and *Aeshna affinis*. The first two, listed in the Habitats Directive, are typical current waters species.

There are still known 65 species of diurnal butterflies, 2 considered endangered in Portugal (*Limenitis camilla* and *Apatura ilia*) and 12 moderately threatened, and 166 species of moths (nocturnal butterflies), 4 of them identified for the first time in the Protected Area and in Ponte de Lima.

To notice that, based on the conclusions of the last investigation project made in the Protected Area, these numbers do not reflect, for some groups, the total species diversity in the area, so it is expected that new projects reveals new discoveries. Furthermore to mention the almost total lack of information on invertebrates.



The importance of the area natural values, as shown by the exposed information, is the reason and the starting point for a enhancement project that has already 12 years of existence. In parallel to nature and biodiversity conservation, the project explores all the potential present in the rural areas, constituting a real instrument of rural development with strong visitors attraction.



For more information about the Protected Area, activity areas and associated equipment, consult [www.lagoas.cm-pontedelima.pt](http://www.lagoas.cm-pontedelima.pt).