

2008

CORTICEIRA AMORIM

Towards Sustainable Development



AMORIM



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## Natural Choice Programme

The Natural Choice Programme was launched in 2008 with the goal of coordinating all CORTICEIRA AMORIM's activities relating to sustainable development in a single programme, with the main purposes:

- making sustainable development practices a factor of positive differentiation among CORTICEIRA AMORIM's different groups of stakeholders;
- raise the awareness of employees and society in general of the need to adopt more environmentally friendly behaviours;
- contribute to the building of a better world.

To help create enthusiasm for the Natural Choice Programme and its goals, a motivational structure has been created that begins with CORTICEIRA AMORIM's CEO and extends to all company employees.

### Motivational structure



The motivational and support structure for the programme includes a team of about 100 Sustainability Ambassadors, from all Business Units (BU) and several operating areas, who play a fundamental role as agents of change, while promoting sustainable development.



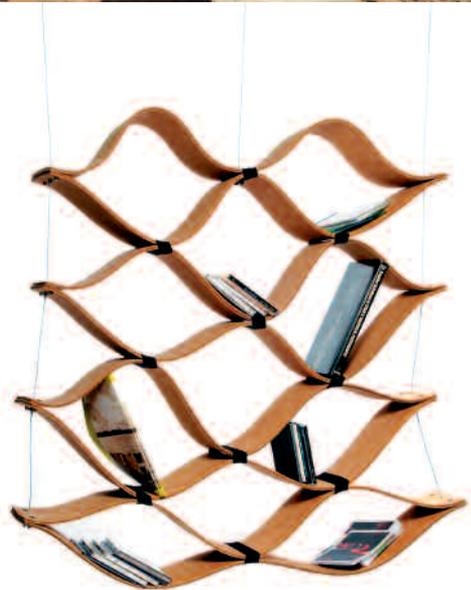


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## Research, Development & Innovation

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### Projects and activities developed in 2008 by R&D Centres:

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Optimization of the extraction of cork compounds and its valorisation.

Launch of new stopper research projects: migration of TCA through different closures and the wine/stopper interaction.

Launch of a new cork stopper: Acquamark®.

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Launch of the Linocomfort and Vinylcomfort flooring lines for domestic spaces.

Treatment of cork boards with steam, increasing the efficiency rate in the reduction of TCA.

Second installation of the ROSA Evolution system, consolidating leadership in terms of sensorial performance.

New collection of Series 4000 designs and dimensions for commercial applications.

Development of a floor coverings range featuring Noise Reduction Technology (NRT).

Introduction of Thermal Protection Systems solutions designed for aerospace applications.

Production of ecological cabins, created to address the eco-tourism needs.

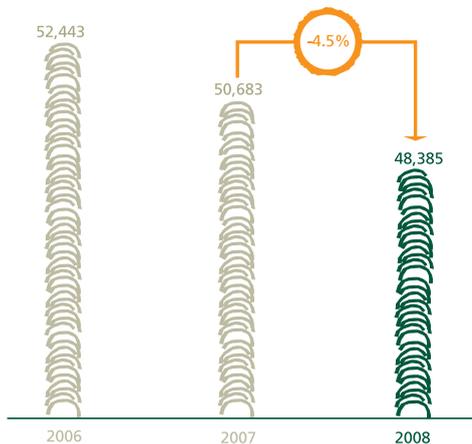


CORTICEIRA AMORIM is one of the main promoters of FSC forestry management certification in Portugal and the first FSC-certified cork company in the world.

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## CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions (tons/year)



## Global Warming

Biomass supplies 60% of CORTICEIRA AMORIM's energy needs. Increased use of biomass and the global reduction in energy consumption, enabled CORTICEIRA to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 4.5% in 2008 in comparison with 2007, as shown in the graph at left.

Regarding transportation of goods and products, it should be noted that, in 2008, the utilization of sea shipping routes increased to 57%, enhancing CORTICEIRA AMORIM's focus on more environmentally friendly transportation options.

## FSC Forest Management System

In 2008 CORTICEIRA AMORIM strengthened its commitment with the non-governmental organisation Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) by implementing the chain of responsibility management system in line with this standard in five additional units. As of 2008, a total of nine CORTICEIRA AMORIM units have obtained this prestigious certification.

Amorim Revestimentos is a member of the Forest & Trade Iberian Network, launched by WWF, an alliance of about two dozen Portuguese and Spanish companies that encourages the responsible consumption of cork, timber and paper as a contribution to preventing further degradation of the world's forests.



**GLOBAL  
FOREST  
& TRADE  
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By November 2008, more than 35,000 hectares of cork oak forest in the Iberian Peninsula had been certified. In 2008, the WWF and UNAC (Union of the Mediterranean Forest) announced the launch of a joint effort aimed at the preservation and efficient management of cork oak forests. UNAC is committed to obtaining FSC certification for 150,000 hectares of cork oak forests (20% of Portugal's total cork oak forest) before 2011.



"Cork is the bark of the Cork Oak tree (*Quercus Suber*), is nature's foam, a foam with a unique combination of properties." *NASA Technical Reports Server.*



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## Biodiversity

As part of the European Initiative on Business & Biodiversity, CORTICEIRA AMORIM provided in 2008 free technical advisory service to forestry producers for identifying and adopting best practices in the management of cork oak forests and associated biodiversity. The service proved highly successful, with 20 cork oak estates, covering a total of 5,437 hectares, applying for this service during its first year.

As part of this initiative, the first Research Award for the "Enhancement of the Value and Sustainability of Cork Oak Forests and Associated Biodiversity" was attributed to the team of the Baeta Neves Applied Ecology Centre at Portugal's Higher Institute of Agronomy for its work on "Grazing Exclusion and the Biodiversity of Pastures: Reasons for the Adoption of Grazing Rotation".

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## Affirmation and promotion of the environmental advantages of cork

As world leader in this sector, CORTICEIRA AMORIM plays an important role in affirming and promoting the environmental advantages of cork that remain undiscovered on truly global scale.

### Life cycle assessment (LCA) of cork stoppers

The results of this study, conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers in compliance with ISO standards 14040 and 14044, were submitted to independent reviewing bodies. The full report is available at [www.corticeiraamorim.com/en](http://www.corticeiraamorim.com/en) and highlights in a clear way the environmental advantages of the cork stoppers.

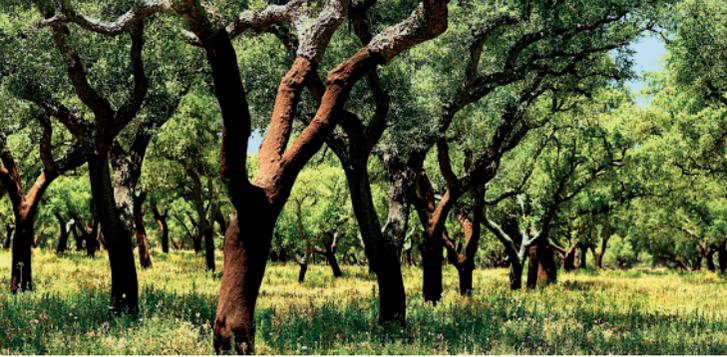
### Green Cork

CORTICEIRA AMORIM participated in the genesis of Green Cork, a pioneering programme for recycling cork stoppers in Portugal that has collected over 12 tonnes of used corks in just six months. In addition to being the first structured recycling initiative, the Green Cork will help to finance nature recovery and conservation programmes.

### Save Miguel

The international campaign Save Miguel is an innovative initiative that aims to defend natural cork – as a unique resource – and to appeal for the protection of cork oak forests, promoted by the Hollywood actor Rob Schneider. The campaign was also supported by the Free Hugs founder and by the Girl Guides.

Save Miguel generated a type of cult following and stimulated discussion about defending cork. Hundreds of thousands of people all over the world saw the film and participated directly in the initiative, through the virtual planting of a cork oak or by signing a statement in support of cork.



"Few ecosystems in the world are truly sustainable, benefiting from an economic activity that supports the ecosystem itself by sustaining biodiversity, nature and forests."

*Humberto Rosa, Portuguese Secretary of State for the Environment*



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## Challenges, Objectives and Goals for 2009

CHALLENGES	OBJECTIVES AND INITIATIVES	GOALS FOR 2009
DEVELOPMENT OF CORK OAK FORESTS AS A GUARANTEE OF THE ECOSYSTEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the use of best practices for sustainable forest management</li> <li>Increase areas with FSC certification<sup>(1)</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Award for "Best Practices for Cork Oak Forest Sustainability and Related Biodiversity"</li> <li>Provide free technical advisory services for at least six forest owners</li> </ul>
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the number of patent applications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit applications for four new patents</li> </ul>
TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve employees' educational qualifications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the academic and educational qualifications of 300 employees between 2007 and 2009</li> </ul>
AFFIRMATION AND PROMOTION OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THE USE OF CORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the recycling of cork stoppers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the amount of cork stoppers recycled in Portugal under the Green Cork programme by at least 25%</li> <li>Introduce the recycling programme in at least one other country</li> </ul>
LEADERSHIP FOR RESPONSIBLE COMPETITIVENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</li> <li>Reduce water consumption</li> <li>Introduce a code of conduct for suppliers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2.5% reduction on 2008</li> <li>A 4% reduction on 2008</li> <li>By the end of 2009</li> </ul>

<sup>(1)</sup> CORTICEIRA AMORIM will continue to be one of the most active companies in promoting FSC certification, but it is outside the scope of its responsibilities to define or impose targets in this area.



Innovation, design and R&D makes cork coverings and insulation the first choice for eco-construction.



CORTICEIRA AMORIM and its subsidiaries are an integral part of a conservationist effort to guarantee the survival of hundreds of thousands of cork trees throughout the Mediterranean Basin, a natural and renewable resource that plays a key role in CO<sub>2</sub> retention, in preserving biodiversity and in combating desertification.

Know and prefer cork products. Contribute – like us – to a balanced cork forest ecosystem, natural habitat for a large number of animal species, some of which are endangered, as in the case of the Iberian lynx, the black-winged kite, the black vulture, the imperial eagle and the black stork.

“Every single preserved species makes our world a wealthier place.”

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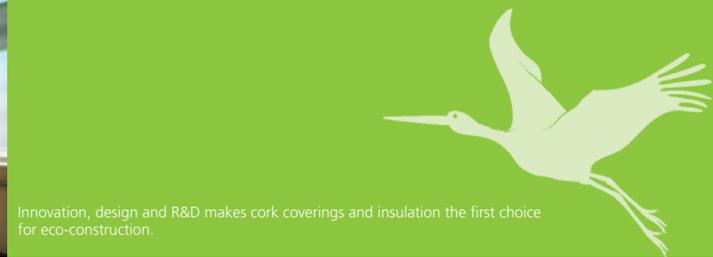


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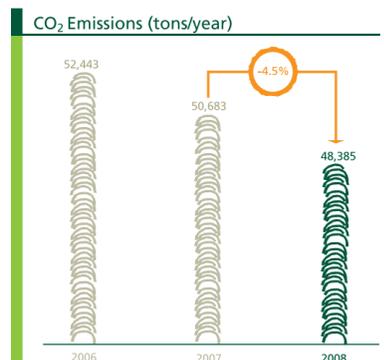
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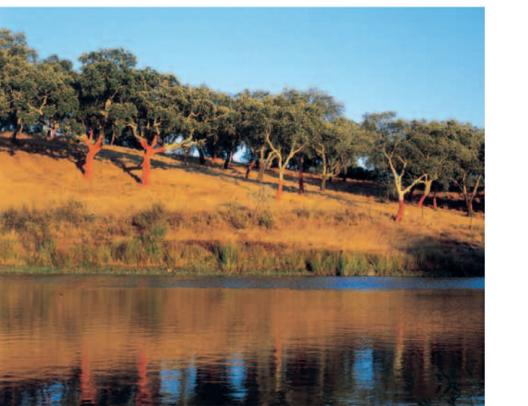
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