

## Nature conservation

The Lands of Priolo get their name from a bird that can only be found in this territory: the Azores bullfinch (*Pyrrhula murina*). This unique species was once "critically endangered" with an estimated population of 400 birds.

Several LIFE projects (European Commission program for nature conservation) were developed in this territory in order to ensure the survival of the species:

- 1994-1996 - LIFE Conservation of the Azores bullfinch
- 1997-2000 - LIFE Azores Natural Heritage
- 2003-2008 - LIFE Priolo
- 2008-2012 - LIFE+ Sustainable Laurel Forest
- 2012-2018 - LIFE+ Lands of Priolo



These efforts allowed to recover the species, with 1300 estimated birds, and improve their status to a lower threat (Endangered).

Main actions consisted in restoration of Priolo's habitat: the Laurel Forest, but also peatland restoration in the Planalto dos Graminhais, restoration of slopes with biophysical engineering techniques and production of native species in nurseries. The results can be observed in the central area of Serra da Tronqueira, also named SPAPico da Vara / Ribeira do Guilherme.

In the Lands of Priolo there are another two forestall nurseries that produce Azorean native species used for Priolo conservation and other conservation actions and the Furnas Lake Hydrographic Basin Land Plan that aims to improve the ecological conditions of this lake.

## Azores Bullfinch (Priolo)



The Azores bullfinch (*Pyrrhula murina*), locally known as Priolo, is a bird only found in the eastern part of São Miguel Island. This charismatic bird was once "Critically Endangered" but now has become more abundant thanks to conservation efforts undertaken in its habitat, the Azorean Laurel Forest, since 2003.



<http://life-terrasdopriolo.spea.pt>



<http://centropriolo.spea.pt>

## The Priolo Brand



All companies joining and using the Priolo Brand are committed to practice sustainable tourism in the Lands of Priolo.



[cets.srrn.azores.gov.pt](http://cets.srrn.azores.gov.pt)



Nordeste & Povoação  
São Miguel, Azores



# Conservation in the Lands of Priolo



Co-financed by



This territory was Awarded with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism since 2012



# Check-list

- 1  **Priolo's interpretation centre\***  
Schedule: Feb 15<sup>th</sup> - Apr 30<sup>th</sup>: Sat, Sun & hol: 12:00 - 17:00  
May 1<sup>st</sup> - Set 30<sup>th</sup>: Tue to Sun: 10:00 - 18:00  
Set 30<sup>th</sup> - Nov 15<sup>th</sup>: Sat, Sun & hol: 12:00 - 17:00
- 2  **Forestall Recreation Reserve of Cancela do Cinzeiro and Endemics Park\*\***
- 3  **Forestall Recreation Reserve of Vila do Nordeste e Viveiro Florestal\*\***  
Schedule: Oct 1<sup>st</sup> - Apr 30<sup>th</sup>: All days: 08:00 - 21:30  
May 1<sup>st</sup> - Set 30<sup>th</sup>: All days: 08:00 - 24:00
- 3  **Forestall Disclosure Centre of Nordeste\*\***  
Schedule: All year - Mon to Fri: 09:00 - 17:00  
May 1<sup>st</sup> - Set 30<sup>th</sup>: Sat & Sun: 13:30 - 17:30
- 4  **Criptomeria reconversion area**  
Criptomeria cutting for restoration of original altitudinal Laurel Forest (2007)
- 5  **Miradouro da Tronqueira**  
Restoration of altitudinal Laurel Forest (since 2006)
- 6  **Mata dos Bispos**  
Restoration of mesic Laurel Forest (since 2012)
- 7  **Forestall Recreation Reserve of Água Retorta\*\***
- 8  **Labaçal**  
Restoration of mesic Laurel Forest (since 2010)
- 9  **Planalto dos Graminhais**  
Peatland restoration (since 2011)
- 10  **Nurseries of native species of LIFE+ Lands of Priolo project\***  
Schedule: All year : Fridays: 10:00 - 12:30 & 14:00 - 16:00
- 11  **Forestall Recreation Reserve of Furnas Nurseries\*\***
- 12  **Monitoring and Research Centre of Furnas\*\*\***  
Schedule: Oct 1<sup>st</sup> - May 31<sup>st</sup>: Tue to Sun & hol.: 10:00 - 17:00  
Closed: Jan 1<sup>st</sup> | Carnival Tuesday | Easter  
Jun 1<sup>st</sup> - Set 30<sup>th</sup>: All days: 10:00 - 18:00
- 13  **Furnas Landscape Laboratory\*\*\***  
Several action of landscape architecture
- 14  **Microbial Observatory of Furnas\*\*\*\***  
Schedule:  
Set 16<sup>th</sup> - Jun 31<sup>st</sup>: Tue-Fri: 10:00-17:00 | Sun & hol.: 14:30-18:00  
Jul 1<sup>st</sup> - Set 15<sup>th</sup>: Check <http://centrosciencia.azores.gov.pt/>  
Closed in: Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, Easter (Friday), Santo Cristo (Sunday) & Dez 25<sup>th</sup>

