



## ✦ WOMEN'S TRES ✦ TRADITIONAL FIRE TRAINING EXCHANGE

February, 1st – 10th. 2024  
Portugal – Europe

**We invite participants of all genders, from any background, discipline and origin, to join us in the first European WTREX (Women's Traditional Fire Training Exchange), taking place in Portugal, February 1-10, 2024.**

**We aim to explore the growing role of women in fire management, while providing a hands-on training experience for practitioners to learn about fire as a natural ecological process and how to use it as a tool to manage forest fuels and wildfire risk in the landscape. The event will be organised under an Incident Command System structure, while sharing experiences and knowledge with local and international peers.**

### **Specific objectives:**

- 1. To know and identify fire use techniques used in rural communities in the mountains of Alto Minho (Northwest Iberia), for the renewal of pastures, hunting activities and protection against wildfire hazards.**
- 2. To increase the knowledge of fire professionals in using fire as a landscape management tool for nature conservation and integrated wildland fire prevention and control.**
- 3. To elevate diversity in perspective, background, and talent in order to create solutions for today's complex fire problems.**
- 4. To broaden the fire practitioners' knowledge and experience in basic concepts of safety, fire behavior, planning and implementation of prescribed burns and fire impacts on the ecosystems.**
- 5. To exchange experiences and knowledge among participants from different backgrounds and origins, building a support network for female fire practitioners working to advance their careers in integrated fire management.**



**Target Group:** fire practitioners in general, technicians, researchers, firefighters from different agencies of the hosting country (volunteer and professional firefighters, foresters, helitack crews, students, others), among others.

**Registration Fee:** there is a non-refundable 275 Euro fee for accommodations, food and other participation expenses.

**Description:** the training utilises the Incident Command System and all participants will have the chance to assume different positions and responsibilities during the operational periods. They will also complete fire behavior and weather observations and monitor fire effects, learn about ignition techniques and driving patterns of traditional burning, techniques for prescribing the traditional use of fire, preparation of control lines, practicing with different tools and equipment (hand tools, weather kits, pumps and engines, etc.).

Burn Plan implementations will take place in different municipalities of Alto Minho, in different fuel types and different altitudes (between 200 and 1.000 meters). Temperatures will range between 7 and 15.° C.

There will also be different visits and staff-rides to previous burn locations to observe fire effects and learn from researchers and managers about the impact of fire in the territory.



so they can interact and receive instructions.

Without exception, all participants are required to bring certified and approved boots for wildfire fighting. The remaining Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may be provided by the WTREX organization upon request.

**Meals and Travels:** all meals, transportation and accommodation will be available from dinner of February 1st until lunch of February 10th, 2024. Travel expenses to and from the country of origin from and to the WTREX location will be the responsibility of the participants. For participants arriving by plane and landing at the airport of Oporto (Portugal), the organization can arrange transportation to and from the WTREX base camp upon request.

**Base Camp:** Centro de Educação e Interpretação Ambiental da Paisagem Protegida de Corno do Bico, Paredes de Coura - Alto Minho/Portugal (<http://www.cornodebico.pt/portal/>)

**Coordinates:** 41.913033, -8.492774

### ✦ What will we learn in this WTREX?

- Ecology of fire-adapted ecosystems in the Iberian Northwest.
- The importance of traditional fire use for habitat conservation.
- Social impact of prescribed fire inside and outside rural communities.
- Monitoring of fire effects and the effectiveness of fire management.
- As one of the cornerstones of the WTREX program, the unique opportunity to train and be trained in a positive and respectful environment.
- Observe and participate in an 10-day Incident that utilises the Incident Command System.



Photo by Chris Ferner (WTREX, Northern California, 2016)

**Requirements:** all international participants (outside the European Union) must obtain, at their own expense, the necessary authorization and other international travel documents (such as passports and visas). When required, the WTREX organization may send an official invitation letter to expedite authorization processes.

**Safety and Health:** the predominant language will be Portuguese, although Spanish and English will be accepted. Bilingual participants with fire experience will be the leaders of the teams

**Registration Process:** this process is divided into three phases:

- **1st Phase (1 to 15 November 2023):** Application. Submit the application form.
- **2nd Phase (27 November to 4 December 2023):** Registration. If the participation is approved, the candidate must confirm their participation.
- **3rd Phase (5 to 15 December 2023):** Payment. Confirm the Registration Fee payment.



**There are 40 available vacancies** and the selection will be made taking into account the geographic and / or regional heterogeneity and the diversity of the participants' backgrounds. Selected candidates will receive a confirmation email from the WOMEN'S TREX PORTUGAL-EUROPE organization.

International participants whose countries are not in the European Union will receive an invitation email so they can use it to obtain their respective permit and/or other documents required for international travel.

### Final Considerations:

- Due to the intrinsic nature of this WTREX and the diversity of the Alto Minho landscape units, the locations where the prescribed burns will take place have varied characteristics.
- We will do our best to respect special dietary requirements (vegetarian or vegan or other).
- **WTREX is NOT** a course, but rather a unique opportunity for exchange of knowledge and training, while protecting our forests and ecosystems against wildfires in the Alto Minho Region.
- The implementation of the burn plans will depend on the weather conditions.
- The distance between the base camp of the WTREX and the units is a maximum of 30 km range.
- The weather in February, in Alto Minho, is usually cold and humid.
- Drug use, excessive alcohol consumption as well as sexual harassment, racist statements or otherwise harmful behaviours are completely prohibited and may lead to removal from the event.



Send us your Application. We are waiting for you! Join us!

**APPLY HERE: WOMEN'S TREX - PORTUGAL EUROPE 2024**

**For further information, contact us:**

[wtrexportugal@gmail.com](mailto:wtrexportugal@gmail.com)

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