

# 1. Lithium mining in Barroso, Portugal

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*Demonstration organised by civil society organisations from Barroso against lithium mining in the region.*

## Summary

The Barroso region of Northern Portugal is a UN Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System. Deposits of lithium in Northern Portugal were identified in the early 1990s and the country is in the top 10 global producers of lithium. The case study focuses on one proposed lithium mining contract and associated policies, including Portugal's Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality 2050 (RNC2050), the EU's Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Act (2024) and the European Green Deal (2020).

Drawing from the GreenPaths analytical framework, the social impacts the study investigates relate to *injustice and inequality*, and *loss and damage*. The project-level concept is *decarbonisation*, the sectoral concept is *renewables* and the case study concepts are *new extractivism* and *green/land grabbing*.

In addition to environmental and socioeconomic well-being, there are cultural, ontological, and affective factors regarding the potential erasure of traditional ancestral practices and cultural heritage underpinning the local way of life. Governmental officials and

