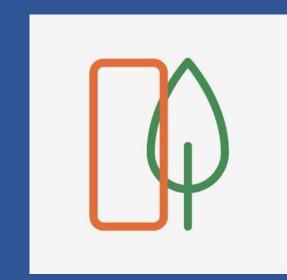
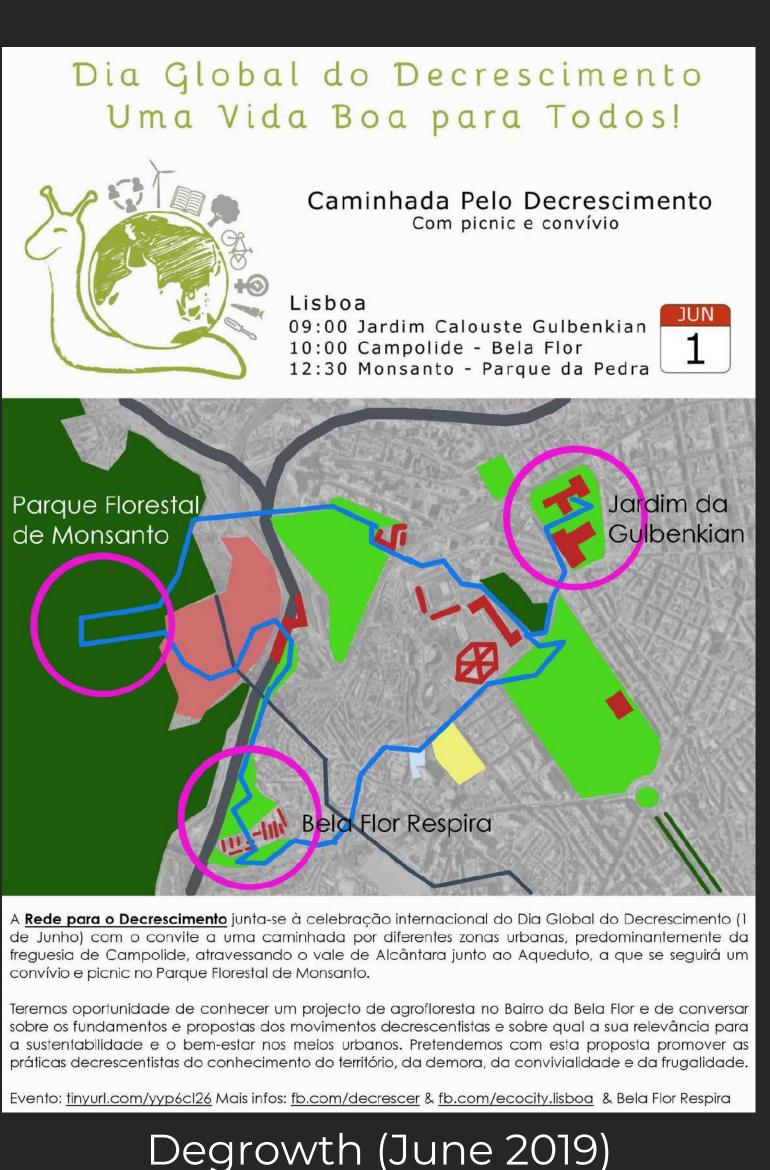


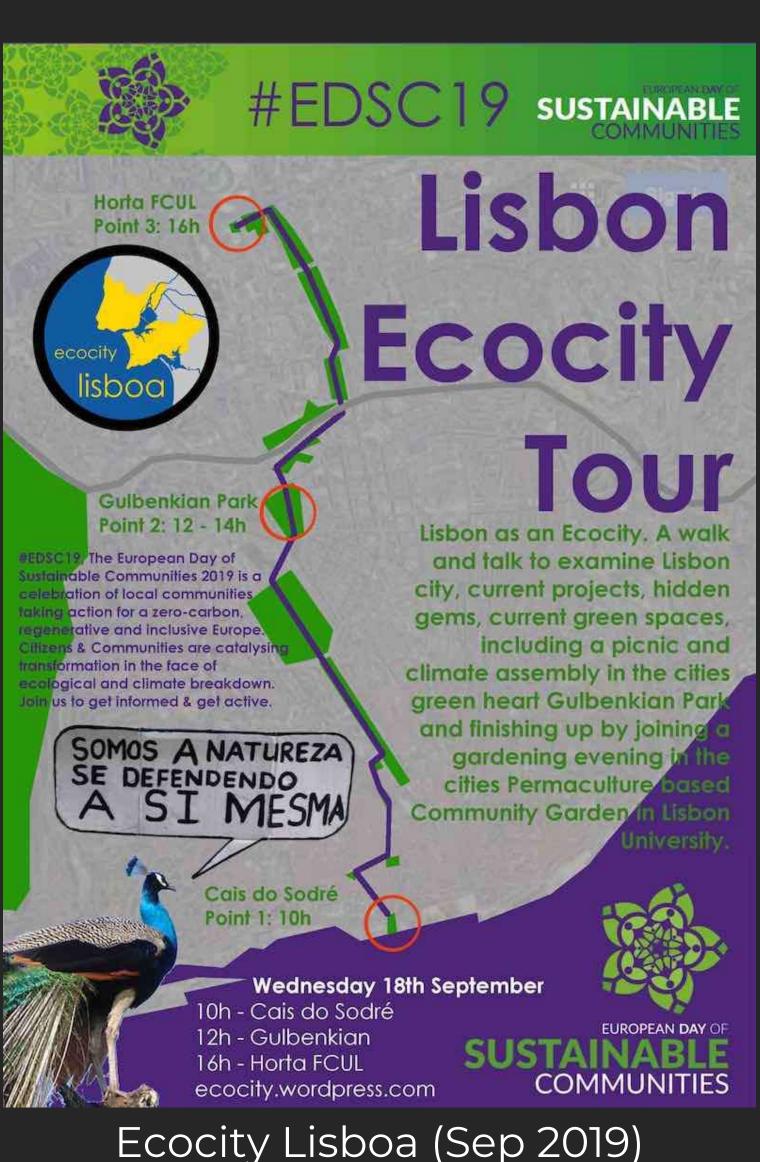
Urban walking tours as a tool to Connect Communities and green our cities

Duncan Crowley, ISCTE, Lisbon, Portugal ECOCITY world summit 2023: 6-8 June 2023, Barbican Centre, London



Posters (A4)







From the mountains to the sea I am the river and the river is me

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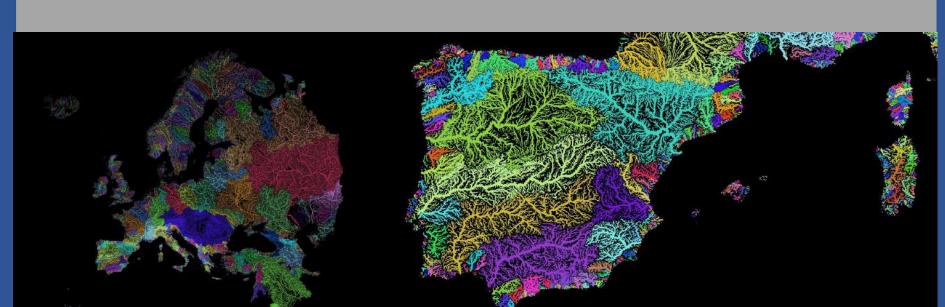
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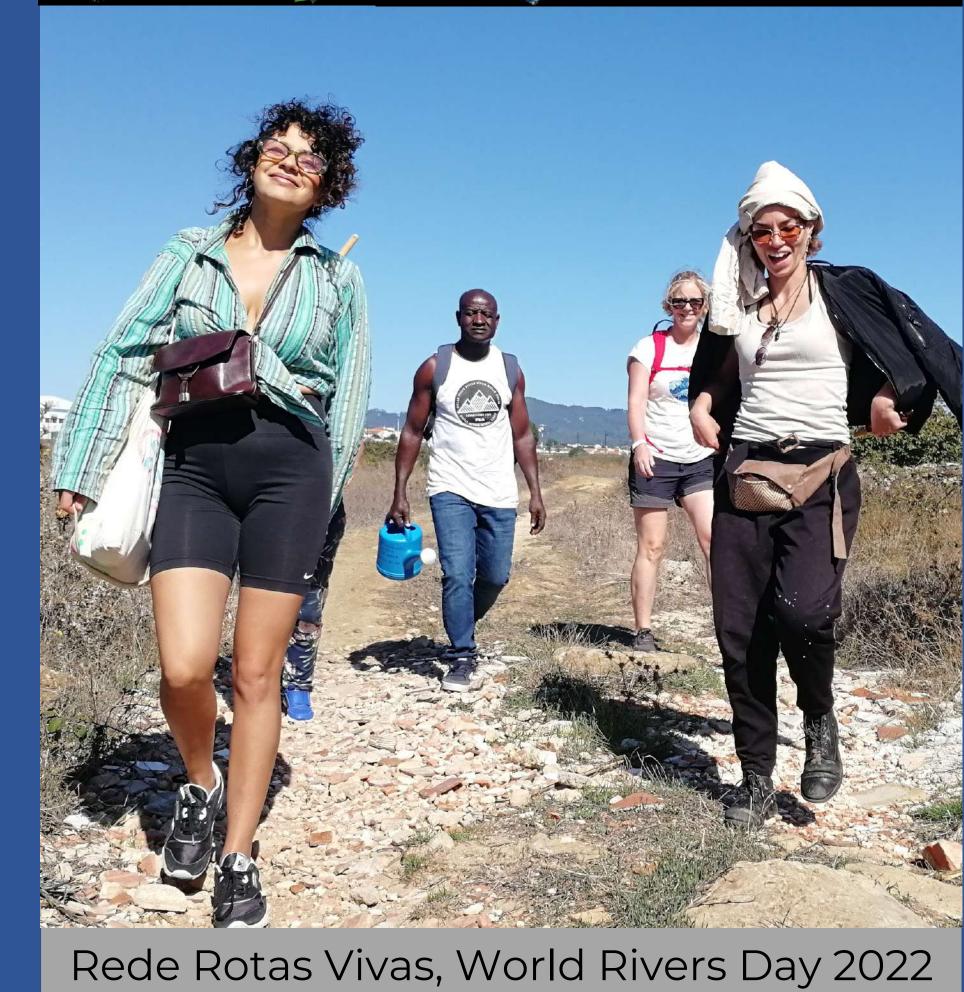
une 2019) Ecocity Lisboa (Sep 20

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Methodology

Seeking to connect communities to community-led enable regenerative transformation of local territories by the people that live there, this Lisbon based action research in recent years developed a particular methodology based around local walking tours. Working with a number of both formal and informal communities and projects (Ecocity Lisbon, UrbanA, Degrowth Portugal, Umundu, We Are Nature, European Day for Sustainable Communities, Rede Rotas Vivas, World Rivers Day), the walks were open public free events that focused on different local areas in the wider metropolitan area of Lisbon.





Objectives

The initial aim was to stitch together different parts of city the communities active therein. Secondary objectives included; create interesting and appealing social event to connect different communities (local, activist, friends, academic, migrants); deep investigation of different territories to find out what groups are active on the ground; invite different actors to co-create a walking tour where a new audience will be brought to their project or social struggle and they get to tell their own story; provoke a dynamic through the event that seeks interaction with residents on the day, to gain insights in histories, local struggles, or hopes for an improved future; map local citizen initiatives and add them to the online Ibero-American network mapping community CIVICS.CC.



Outcomes

Some tours had an experimental aspect, knowing that areas might be blocked, and therefor dangerous, but on these occasions participants were warned of the risks. For other tours, a strong nature component existed, following urban rivers, or streams (some now hidden in underground channels), to invite a group visioning of what a more regenerative territory might look like. In some cases involving the academic UrbanA project, the walk was finished with a group talk, where representatives from different projects were invited to explore dynamics of what a just and sustainable city might look like. In recent months, Cascais council awarded a small "Reinvent your neighborhood" funding grant to the "Rede Rotas Vivas" (Network of living project to develop this routes) methodology, focusing on the 15km long river basin of the "Ribeira das Marianas".



Rede Rotas Vivas, Zambujal (Jan 2023)









