

# ASPORTUGUESAS egofriendly footwear



With as portuguesas, be part of a community concerned about the environment, anxious to leave a footprint - a positive one!

We are committed to take care of the Planet, without compromising your look.

### Natural, versatile and sustainable.

Cork is a raw material which is so perfect that no industrial or technological processes have yet been able to replicate.

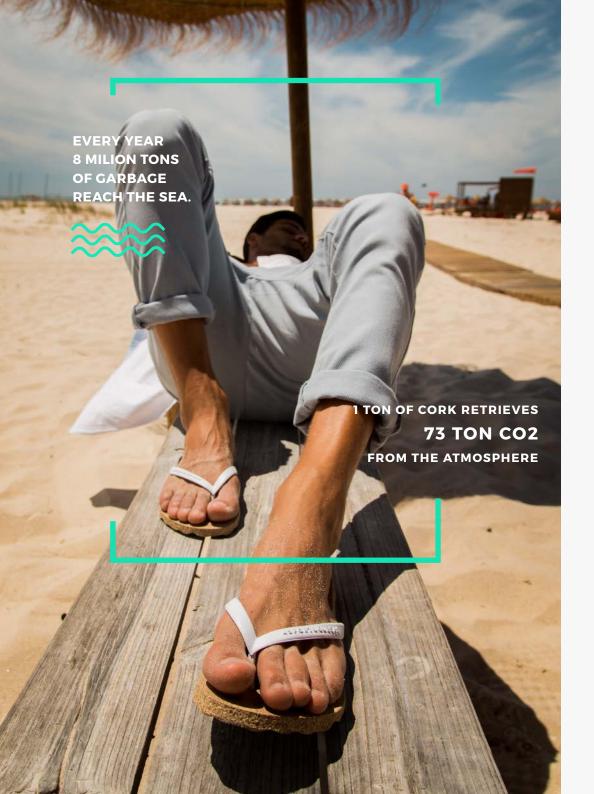
ASPORTUGUESAS is a brand of versatile, sophisticated and laidback footwear.

ASPORTUGUESAS as are touch and texture, substance and glamour, and will leave a mark, in the best sense of the word.

Rubber strap with a soft touch





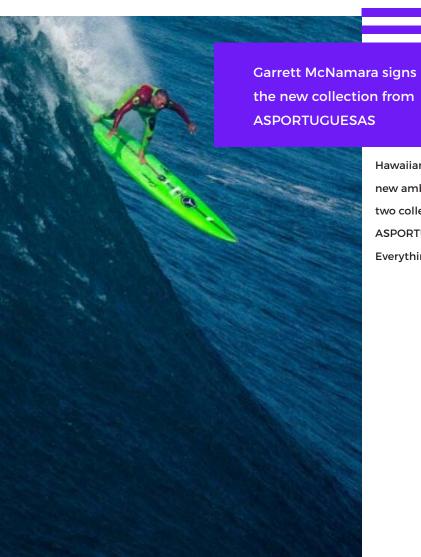




# Say no to plastic! and save our species!

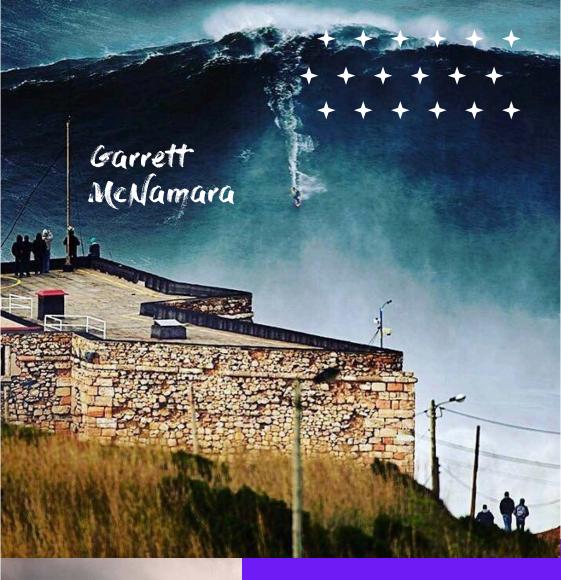
The essence and name of ASPORTUGUESAS are based on the pillars of the forest that brought it to life... The cork oak forest exists in Portugal and it is one of the 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world. It plays an important role when it comes to fighting desertification and has an impressive capacity to retain CO2 – every year, cork oak forests retain up to 14 million tons of CO2 – a precious help in terms of reducing greenhouse gases, the main source of climate changes.





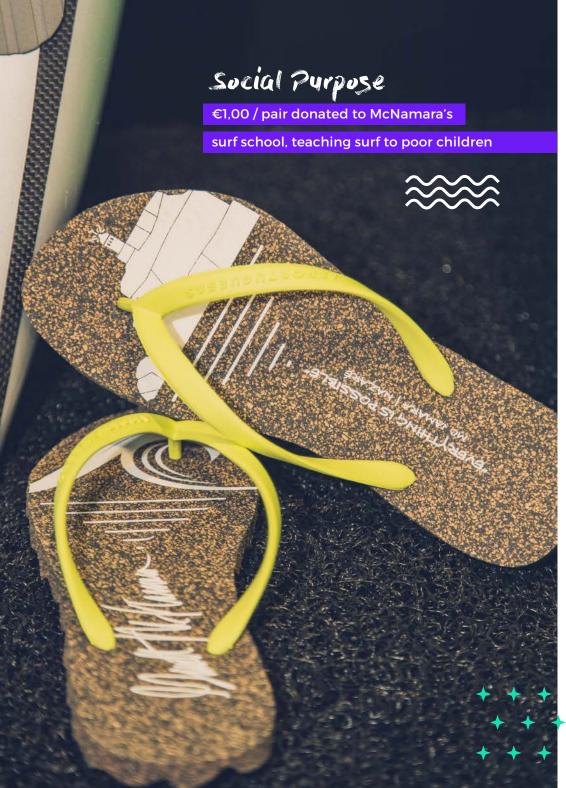
Hawaiian surfer is the brand's new ambassador and will sign two collections per year of ASPORTUGUESAS -Everything is Possible



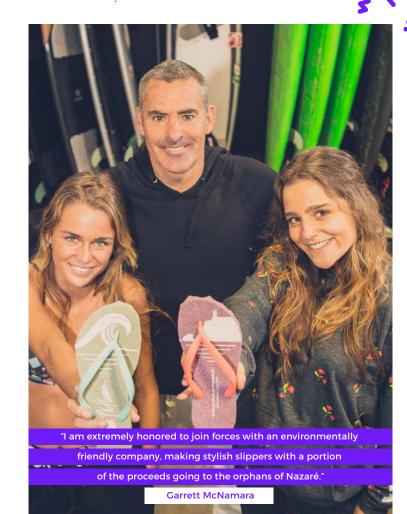




The American professional surfer broke the world record by surfing an estimated 100-foot (30 m) wave in Nazaré-Portugal



## McNamara Line





### ONE OF NATURE'S MOST EXTRAORDINARY PRODUCTS

"Harvested every nine years, without any tree being felled during the process, cork gives rise to an endless array of products, from the traditional to the most innovative and unexpected. The main product is the cork stopper, but not all cork qualifies to be transformed into that noble object."



### What it is



Cork is the bark of the cork oak (Quercus Suber L.), which means that it is 100% natural plant tissue. It consists of a honeycomb of microscopic cells filled with a air-like gas and coated mainly with suberin and lignin. Other compounds are identified in its chemical composition, although in less quantity, such as polysaccharides, ceroids and tannins.

A single cubic centimetre of cork contains almost 40 million cells - around 800 million in a single natural cork stopper.

It takes each cork oak 25 years before it can be stripped for the first time and it is only from the third stripping (at 43 years of age) that the cork, then known as «amadia», has the high standard of quality required for producing cork stoppers.

The first two harvests – the «virgin» cork and «secundeira» cork –, as well as that removed from the base of the tree, becomes the raw material for insulation, flooring and products for areas as diverse as construction, fashion, design, health, energy production and the aerospace industry.

The cork is harvested by specialised professionals, always between May and August, when the tree is at its most active phase of growth and it is easier to strip without damaging the trunk. The cork oak is the only tree whose bark regenerates, acquiring a smoother texture following each harvest. Over the course of its lifetime, which on average lasts 200 years, it may be stripped around 17 times.



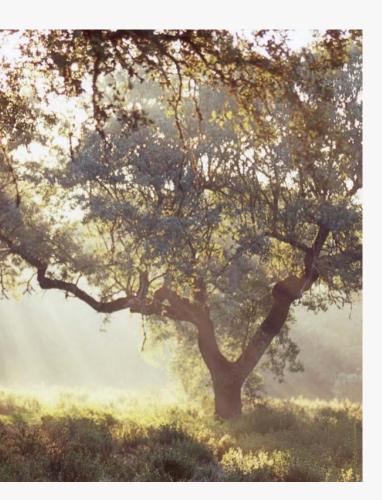


#### NATURAL, VERSATILE AND SUSTAINARI F **SUSTAINABLE**

Cork is a raw material which is so perfect that no industrial or technological processes have yet been able to replicate.



### Key Characteristics





Over 50% of its volume is air, which makes it very light - it weighs just 0.16 grams per cubic centimetre and can float.



#### RETARDANT Cork is also a natural fire retardant: it burns

without a flame and does not emit toxic gases during combustion.



#### **HYPOALLERGENIC**

Because cork does not absorb dust, it helps protect against allergies and does not pose a risk to asthma sufferers.



The natural texture of cork combines softness and flexibility to the touch with a naturally uneven surface. The variable degree of irregularity is given by the type of cork used and the finish chosen.



It is the only solid which, when compressed on one side, does not increase in volume on another; and as a result of its elasticity it is able to adapt, for example, to variations in temperature and pressure without suffering alterations.



Thanks to the suberin and ceroids contained in the cell walls, cork is practically impermeable to liquids and gases. Its resistance to moisture enables it to age without deteriorating.



Cork has low conductivity to heat, noise and vibration. This is because the gaseous components contained in cork are enclosed in small impermeable compartments, isolated from each other by a moisture-resistant substance



Cork is extremely resistant to abrasion and has a high friction coefficient. Thanks to its honeycomb structure, its resistance to impact or friction is greater than that of other hard surfaces.



#### LOCATION



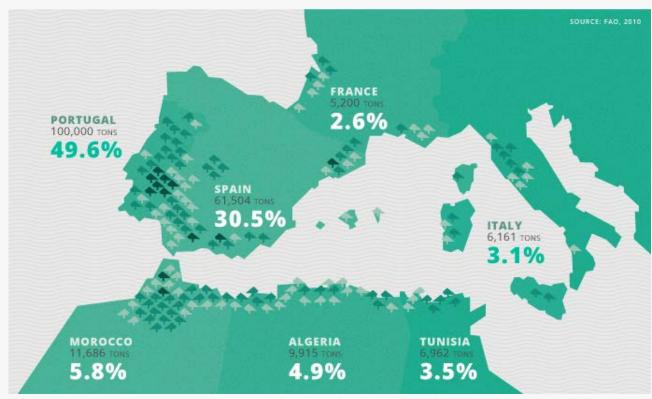
The cork sector plays a particularly important role in these countries, on an economic, social and environmental level.

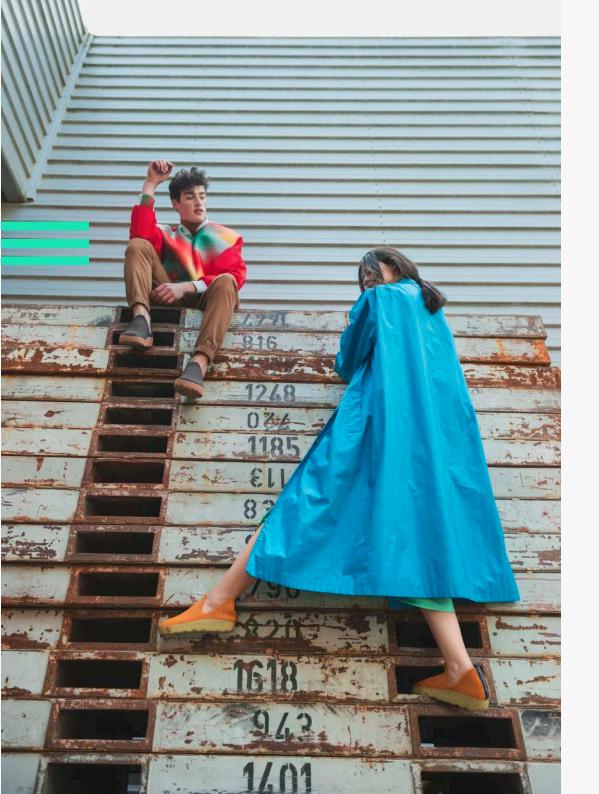
In Portugal, where the cork oak is the National Tree and occupies 23% of the national forest area, important initiatives in reforestation have been developed at a rate of ten thousand hectares per year, or an annual growth of around 4%.

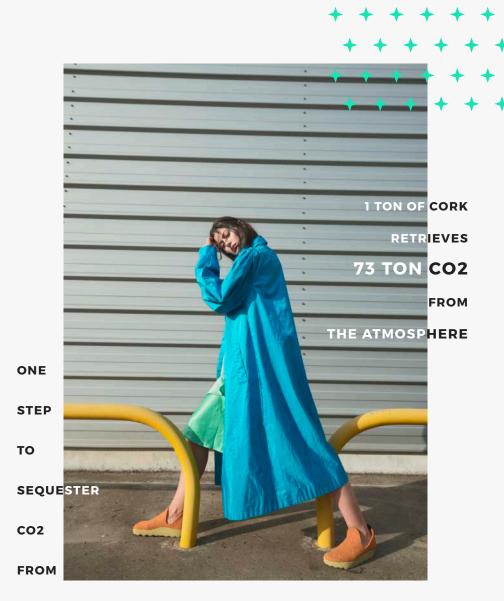
## A forest with a future

Cork oak forests occupy an estimated area of over 2.2 million hectares in the West Mediterranean basin. Around 90% of the area of distribution of the species is found in Portugal, Spain, Morocco and Algeria. From all the cork oak forests, approximately 200 000 tonnes of cork are harvested each year. Portugal, which has a third of the total area of cork oaks, is the largest producer, being responsible for 50% of the world's cork production.

#### Annual cork production by country







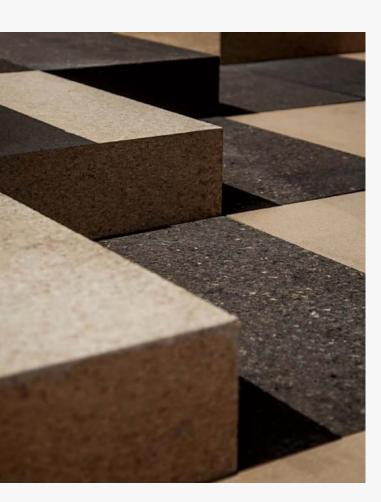
THE ATMOSPHERE



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS**



# A hotspot of life



It is estimated that every year cork oak forests retain up to 14 million tonnes of CO2, a sizeable contribution for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the main cause of climate change.

The montados (cork oak forests) are an important environmental, social and economic pillar in Mediterranean countries. They support a unique and fragile ecology which constitutes a habitat for rare and endangered species. They are the foundation of one of the 35 most important ecosystems in the world for preserving biodiversity - on par with Amazonia, the African Savanna and Borneo. Over 200 animal species and 135 plant species find ideal conditions for survival in the cork oak forest.

Perfectly adapted to the warm climate and arid soil, cork oak forests protect against erosion and resulting desertification. They are barrier against fire, due to the weak combustion of cork and

undertake an important role in the regulation of the hydrological cycle. They also provide an essential contribution to the air that we breathe, by absorbing carbon dioxide, which without them would be released into the atmosphere.

Equally surprising is the fact that the cork oak increases its ability to absorb these gases during the natural regeneration process following stripping - a stripped cork absorbs, on average, five times more CO2. The ability to retain carbon dioxide is also passed on to manufactured cork products, which continue to ensure this function to absorb CO2.



### ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS



# A notspot of life



These forests are a perfect example of the balance between preserving the environment and sustainable development - just the fact that no tree is felled during the stripping of the cork is a unique case in terms of sustainability.

They are the foundations of an economy of the future.

Revolving around cork oak culture is the best paid agricultural activity in the world, besides a wide range of agricultural, forestry, forest grazing, hunting and economic activities - the cork industry is the driving force of this sustainable development, helps to maintain thousands of jobs and keeps people on their land.

According to the WWF – World Wild Fund for Nature, over one hundred thousand people in southern Europe and north Africa directly and indirectly depend on these forests. In Portugal alone, which boasts the largest area of cork oak forest in the world, around 700 companies directly depend on this economy; approximately ten thousand jobs in factory work; 6500 jobs in forest harvesting and thousands of indirect jobs (catering, tourism, etc.).

Manufactured cork (around 70% in stoppers) is intended mainly for export (90%), representing 2,2% of total Portuguese exports.

The cork oak plays such an important role that at the end of 2011, it was unanimously declared by the Portuguese

Parliament to be Portugal's National Tree and has been protected by law since the 13th century.





# The strong Portuguese

