

## The Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds has a new Executive Director

With more than 23 years of work for nature and environment in Portugal, the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA) starts this month a new stage in its course, with Dr. Domingos Leitão as the new Executive Director. A new phase that intends to give continuity to what SPEA has been doing for the conservation of birds and their habitats, environmental awareness, promotion of ornithology and the push for a more sustainable development.

Domingos Leitão, born in 1968, holds a PhD in Ecology and Biosystems from the University of Lisbon. He is a founding partner of SPEA and current Executive Director, after having held for 14 years the positions of Project Coordinator and Coordinator of the Department of Terrestrial Conservation. Previously he worked at the Institute for Nature Conservation, the League for Nature Protection and the Ministry of Education. At SPEA he coordinated LIFE projects, was responsible for monitoring programmes for IBAs (Important Bird Areas) and for terrestrial birds, and conservation topics related to agriculture, hunting and forestry. He was also involved in the programme of activities for the partners and in the development of ornithological tourism in Portugal.

In the words of Domingos Leitão, the new Executive Director of SPEA: "The challenge is enormous, but I count on all SPEA members, experts, collaborators and partners to work for more results on behalf of birds, sustainable development and our association."



Notes to editors:

The Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds – SPEA – is a non-governmental environmental organization that works for the conservation of birds and their habitats in Portugal. SPEA is part of BirdLife International, an alliance of nature conservation organizations in more than 100 countries, considered one of the world's authorities in the study of birds, their habitats and the problems that affect them.

[www.spea.pt](http://www.spea.pt)

*Translation from Portuguese news release by Google translate and Chris Durdin.*