

William Wroblewski Abrantes, 35, is a musician, married, and since October 2019, father of a daughter. Her name is Inês. William returned from France to the land of his ancestors. In 2018, he bought 5,000 m² of land at Sítio do Cano, in Monchique, to set up as an organic farmer. He began to clear the land, which had been abandoned for 13 years. Ten days after the signing the notary contract, his land burned in the fire of August 5, 2018 – he lost all fruit trees, but also goods such as tools, the trailer, music recording material, hard disks and the creative works of his entire life....

William wrote to Monchique Alerta on September 26: *"Due to the fire, we are in great financial trouble to continue the installation of our project in Monchique. We have access to two springs, which are on the highest spot on our land. The slight slope and other conditions allow us to water the soil thanks to gravity. We need to build a tank to reserve water, also in case there are future fires..."*.

Nuno da Silva Carvalho, 42, osteopath, teacher, lives at Balsa Ameiro, Cabeça de Ferro, in Monchique-Alferce. He has lost his home, the native forest, two agricultural warehouses, tools, machines, a wooden house, irrigation systems and tanks, cork, ... among others.

Nuno wrote to Monchique Alerta on 2 September: *"We need financial help to build a water tank and a firefighting system with sprinklers..."*.

Ana Rosário Nunes, 67 years old, and **Carlos Alberto Abafa**, 74 years old, retired teachers in the area of Plastic Arts, live in the village of Monchique. They have a seven-hectare forest with species of cork oak, strawberry tree and chestnut tree. It burned down. The affected property is located in the parish of Monchique, next to the village (north), on the hill known as Cerro do Toiro, Quinta do Bem Parece.

Ana wrote to Monchique Alerta on September 10: *"We always feel like temporary caretakers of a space, in this case, of a small portion of forest that has been given to us by another generation and that we must take responsible care of it, so that we can move on to the next. Profit is not our goal, but we are concerned about the self-sustainability of the space we take care of, because we believe that this is the best defense of this small forest that we want to preserve. But, as in all agreements, in this case of post-fire, it is necessary to take care of the space, take care of the surviving trees, create space to stimulate natural regeneration and give opportunity for space and light so that the baby cork oaks that already appear on the ground can grow. Some new ones will even have to be planted and need irrigation..."*

Jelly (58) and Joop Boomsma (68), a Dutch couple living in Portugal, bought in 1992 a ruin in the area of Arqueta, in the south of the Nave, Monchique. Each year, during several winters, they rebuilt a part of their house until they were able to open the new house. They were able to retire earlier due to a serious illness, which they were able to cure in the meantime. On the night of August 6, they were forced by GNR to leave their house and left the site. Although there was no combustible material around their house, the building burned down. They had cleaned everything, according to the law. This was one of the best examples that one should not simply evade all the owners. Eucalyptus leaves, burning and flying, set fire to the base of the roof of the house during his absence. In 2020 they will start again to rebuild a ruin, without support, and with a loan.

Jelly wrote to Monchique Alerta on June 11: *"There were no firefighters and our house burned down completely. We could have put out the fire with water..."*