

# CULTURAL HERITAGE

## Key Facts about the Project's impact on local cultural heritage

The area around the Project has been occupied since the Iron Age and its unique character today is rooted in longstanding agricultural traditions and strong connections to natural resources such as forests and water. Savannah has great respect for the area's 'cultural heritage' and understands that its proposal to develop the Barroso Lithium Project brings with it a responsibility to not only protect physical examples of the area's history and heritage but also to support the local community in its ongoing efforts to sustain and pass on the area's cultural heritage.

### 1. How will the Project limit its impact on cultural heritage artifacts?

- ▶ Savannah conducted an archaeological and cultural survey during the EIA.
- ▶ Archaeological remains and artefacts in the area include wall lines, ceramic materials, monuments and buildings from the Iron Age, Roman era and Medieval period. Savannah will seek to conserve any artefacts and remains it encounters during construction and operation of the Project.
- ▶ Impacts to cultural heritage artifacts will be primarily caused by removal of the surface layers (topsoil and subsoil) where archaeological remains are most likely to be found. Recognising this risk, Savannah will ensure that all areas will be checked by

specialists for the presence of cultural heritage items (such as remains or archaeological artifacts) before the area is disturbed. If archaeological heritage is present, the area will be avoided and left in place if possible. If the area cannot be avoided, the archaeological heritage will be surveyed by archaeologists and comprehensively documented, and all moveable objects will be collected for conservation before any disturbance occurs.

- ▶ Periodic monitoring of the Project work by an Archaeologist will also be undertaken, in particular the work of removing vegetation and topsoil in areas where mining or infrastructure development are going to take place on the Project.

- ▶ Staff from across the technical, exploration and equipment operating teams will be trained so that they can identify the existence of archaeological elements, during the removal of the surface layer and that may constitute archaeological remains.



## 2. How will the Project support the local communities in preserving its 'living' cultural heritage?

- ▶ In parallel with its efforts to protect and document physical cultural heritage artifacts if they are discovered, Savannah would also like to commission an ethnographic study of the valleys of the Beça and Covas rivers (led by local experts and academics and with the assistance of community members who would like to be involved in this fascinating work).
- ▶ With the area so well known for its agricultural heritage, as reflected in the region's status as a World Agricultural Heritage site, Savannah would be delighted to support efforts to preserve, celebrate and enhance the value of this specific aspect of local cultural heritage. Savannah would work with the local communities and experts in the field, including the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, to develop specific support programs but these could include:
  - ▶ Supporting breeding programs for the Barrosã cattle and Bísaro pig.
  - ▶ Promoting Barrosó honey and ensuring flora species used in the Project's rehabilitation are chosen based on their pollination characteristics.
  - ▶ Supply the Project's cafeteria by acquiring products from local suppliers, stimulating local production and contributing to the development of local activities and commerce. It will be possible to create a virtuous circle, stimulating the local economy and the production of local products such as Barrosã meat, honey, smoked meat, vegetables, among many others.

## 3. How will the Project impact the region's special agricultural status?

The Barrosó region has been designated as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations based on its traditional farming system, which is dominated by livestock and cereal production.

The GIAHS status was awarded in 2018 with the understanding that it would not compromise the integrity of existing economic activities in the area such as mineral production. Hence, the Project has no impact on the GIAHS classification.

The total area impacted on the Lease area, including temporarily impacted land, will be less than 0.25% of the GIAHS.

However, Savannah recognises that there is a risk of indirect impacts from its activities, such as perceptions of the region's reputation as a unique agricultural ecosystem. Savannah will work closely with stakeholders to mitigate and minimise such risks by:

- ▶ Supporting Barrosó as a GIAHS territory.
- ▶ Supporting training of agricultural or traditional producers and enterprises.
- ▶ Promoting the economic and social benefits of agroforestry and pastoral systems in the Barrosó region.
- ▶ Supporting the valorization of cultural and natural heritage.
- ▶ Negotiating compensation with those experiencing a loss of income as a result of the Project's development.

More information on how Savannah will manage the Project's impact on agricultural land on the Project can be found on information sheet #4.



If you would like more information or have any questions or comments, please visit or contact the Barrosó Lithium Project Information Centres

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