



Team members:

Alexander Goldman, Duarte Teixeira, Mara Dionisio

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OVERVIEW

Through our first team meetings, we discussed what we could do before our first client meeting. While we were still unsure of the nature and scope of our project, we were eager to begin research on what was certain. We knew that we'd be working with Madeira Living Labs, which aims to foster new innovations through human-centric, user-driven research. We knew that the Island's levadas- a major tourist attraction- would be our target for innovation.

Levadas are ancient man-made canals that span the sides of many of the island's mountains. They were built to redirect water from the rainy Northern side to the more agriculturally developed and drier south. Walking paths were built alongside the canals for easier maintenance. Now, levada walks are perhaps the island's largest tourist attraction.

Our team went on the Levada dos Tornos to experience first-hand and take notes about what we might build to deepen the experience. Although 2 of us are from Madeira itself, it is nevertheless a different experience knowing that we will build something to add another dimension to the Levada walks.

Through early discussions with Monchu, we learned that the scope and nature of our project had shifted: we would now be working with Wakes.Uma.Pt, a University of Madeira project that had developed high resolution weather forecasting models for the island. Using this data, we will build a tool to help tourists and locals make better decisions about what outdoor activity to do based on the weather.

The microclimate system makes decision-making with regards to weather a meaningful endeavour- because it might be raining on one side of the island and sunny 20 km away, understanding the weather means you can almost always find a beautiful place for a sunny levada walk.



PLANS: It is time to prepare for our first client meeting on Monday. We will endeavor to understand what Wakes.Uma.Pt does, how it gathers and manipulates data, and of course how it is being used on the island. From there, we will begin the true research necessary to determine the best way to solve the problem our client presents us.

PROGRESS: Through initial meetings with Monchu, we narrowed in upon the scope and scale of our project. We have discussed, as a team, our expectations and priorities for the semester, and we feel prepared to succeed in whatever specific project we pursue.

Alexander Goldman