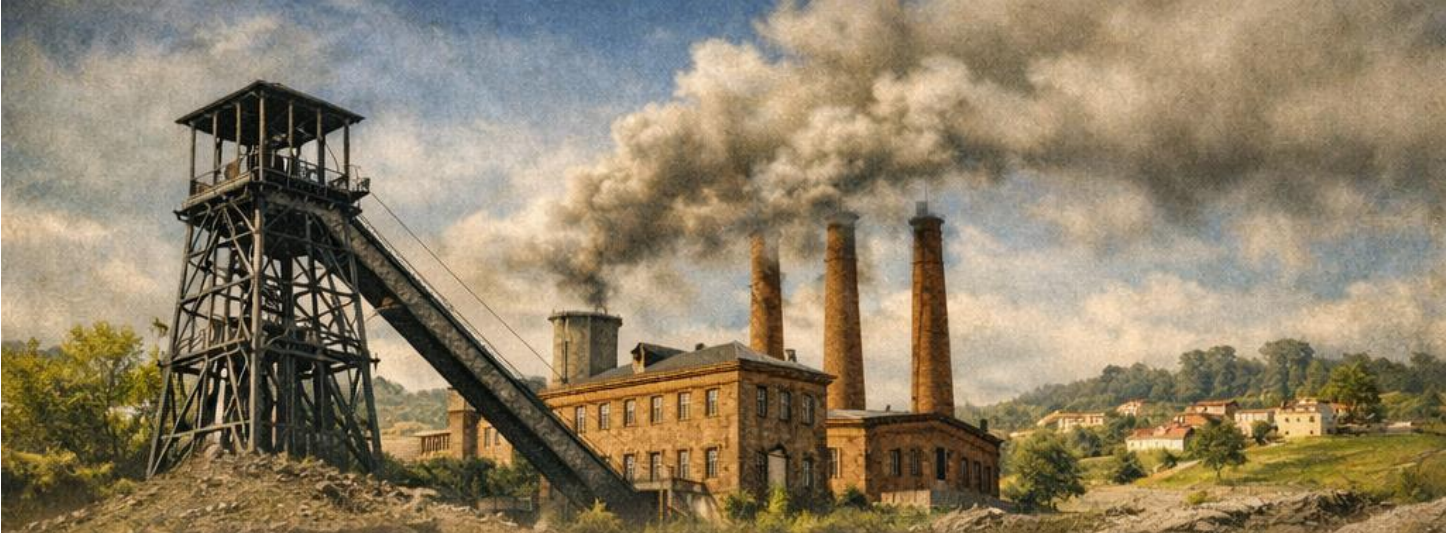




SÃO PEDRO DA COVA MINES

Environmental Legacy of a Former Coal Mining Site

The old coal mines left waste piles that still pollute the environment today:

Rainwater passes through the mining waste and picks up harmful metals like iron, manganese, and arsenic. This polluted water flows into small streams such as Ribeiro de Murta, eventually reaching Rio Ferreira. It can make the water unsafe for animals, plants, and even farming.

Why it matters: Polluted water harms fish, insects, and spreads contamination to other areas.

Polluted Streams

In São Pedro da Cova, water pollution remains a critical environmental issue rooted in its coal mining history and a massive, decades-long illegal dumping event.

- **Main Polluted Waterways:**
 - Silveirinhos Stream (Ribeiro Silveirinhos)
 - Ferreira River (Rio Ferreira)
- **Primary Sources of Contamination:**
 - Mine Drainage
 - The Legacy of Toxic Waste
 - Coal Self-Combustion
- **Recovery Projects:** The area is currently being transformed in to a Multifunctional Mining Park.

Landscape Changes

These landscape changes in São Pedro da Cova are a classic example of the environmental liabilities left behind by intensive mining. The case of the waste heap that is still burning is particularly complex, as it involves the spontaneous combustion of coal waste, continuously releasing gases and heat.



Authors: Fabiano, Nelson, Diogo - 8-D