

The imposing headframe of the Santa Bárbara Shaft, once the entrance to a mine roughly 1600 meters long and 550 meters deep, now stands amidst a landscape marked by tailings dams, 20 meters high and green. For over eight decades, the extraction of radium and uranium ores at this site contaminated soils, water, and buildings, affecting public health and ecosystems. With the radiation now contained, the legacy of mining - a slowly receding phantom is part of Urgeirica's history, informing more responsible practices and the careful transformation of its landscape towards a better future.