

# In situ and Ex situ innovative combined techniques for coastal dune habitats restoration in SCIs of northern Spain



## PROJECT DETAILS

**Funding Programme:**  
 LIFE Programme  
**Sub-Programme:**  
 LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity  
**Funding Scheme:**  
 Demonstration Actions  
**Project Reference:**  
 LIFE13 NAT/ES/000883;  
 UE-14-ARCOS-LIFE13-000883  
**Project Duration:**  
 54 Months (from 2014-07-01 to  
 2018-12-31)  
**Total Project Value:**  
 € 1.327.816  
**EU Grant-Aid:**  
 € 945.428  
**Funding to UniOvi:**  
 € 485.439

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project scope is implementing innovative methodologies that allow the integrative and proper management of Natura 2000 sites and implements concrete conservation actions for maintaining its natural resources and ecological environments.

Life+ ARCOS has a demonstrative focused on the application of innovative and intelligent systems for the ecological and suitable management of Natura 2000 sites, with the final aim to establish concrete species and habitat conservation actions and best practices for the protection of threatened species and concrete dune systems situated in the north of Spain.

Life+ ARCOS is based on the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (together with the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC) and the most important articles (Paragraphs 6-1, and 6-2) of those Directives, which define how Natura 2000 sites should be managed and protected. It is also defined the need of addressing appropriate conservation measures in the EU Member States to maintain and restore the habitats and species and to avoid those activities that could significantly reduce these species populations or the degradation of their habitats. Furthermore, the project has a demonstrative character by implementing innovative methodologies already tested with suitable results in other areas.

The expected results and best practices of Life+ ARCOS will promote future conservation plans and improve those existing ones towards the conservation of Natura 2000 sites at regional, national and EU level.

## Objectives

The main goal of this project is to ameliorate the conservation status of the threatened Cantabrian Coastal sand dunes by the restoration of 10 areas included in 10 selected Natura 2000 sites in order to achieve an optimum conservation estatus of these areas.



The Life+ARCOS objectives are aligned and focused on the conservation priorities proposed in "Priority Action Frame for the Natura 2000 in Spain"<sup>1</sup>. These objectives can be resumed as follows:

Objective A: Contribute to the restoration, improvement and maintenance of the habitat types and species of Community interest presented in coastal sand dunes.

Objective B: Contribute with the obtained results to the proposed plans that should be updated every six-years in order to maintain or restore the favourable status of conservation of habitats and species of interest associated to coastal dune ecosystems in the Atlantic Biogeographic Region (2nd and 3rd points of the General Priorities to the entire Natura 200 network in Spain (F.2. section), p. 30 of the MAC).

Objective C: Contribute to the prevention, control and eradication exotic invasive species (16th point of the F.2 section in the MAC)

Objective D: Promote the social participation in the conservation and restoration programs of habitats included in SCIs under the Natura 2000 network, improving the governance policies.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

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