

Inland wetlands of Northern Iberian Peninsula: management and restoration of mires and wet environments



PROJECT DETAILS

Funding Programme:
 LIFE Programme
Sub-Programme:
 LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity
Funding Scheme:
 Demonstration Actions
Project Reference:
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 UE-12-TREMEDAL-LIFE11-000
 707
Project Duration:
 40 Months (from 2012-07-01 to
 2015-10-30)
Total Project Value:
 € 2.824.867
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 € 1.412.433
Funding to UniOvi:
 € 424.948

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Peaty and wet habitats are types of wetlands found mainly in Northern Europe with its cold and damp climate. Whilst scarce in the Iberian Peninsula, some isolated examples are found in mountain areas. These ecosystems are not well-known or valued by the local population, or wider society, thus contributing to their degradation (and in some cases destruction) through use in ways not compatible with conservation. The project involves a group of inland wetlands in Northern Iberia that are included in the Natura 2000 Network or are important for the connectivity of Natura 2000 sites. They contain habitats of Community interest, some of them priority habitat types, including seven different types of peat habitat, as well as other wet habitats. The sites also contain important populations of key species. For example, there are estimated to be 1 150 examples of the plant *Eryngium viviparum* within the Parga-Larda-Támoga SCI, 5.7% of the population for the whole of Spain.

Objectives

The overall intention of the 'TREMEDAL' project is to improve the conservation status and resilience of the peaty and wet habitat types in the project locations. It will conduct restoration actions and look to implement good management measures to reduce the threats that negatively impact on the habitats. The project will increase understanding and awareness of the habitat types by collating and updating information about the presence, distribution and description of the wet and peaty habitats in and around the Atlantic Biogeographic Region of the Iberian Peninsula. It will look to define management guidelines as well as common indicators to monitor the conservation status of the target habitat types. Concrete restoration actions will include taking hydrologic and topographic measures to halt degradation and implementing targeted management actions to reduce threats and causes of habitat destruction.



These will include actions to eradicate invasive species, remove harmful infrastructure introduced for livestock management, and change forestry and recreational practices that have a negative impact on the target habitats. The project will also establish a germplasm bank of threatened structural plant species to ensure their long-term survival. Beyond the specific actions on the target sites, the project will seek to increase knowledge about the management and restoration of these types of habitats at local, national and EU levels. It will also aim to inform and raise awareness about the values and environmental benefit provided by inland wetlands in general and peaty and wet environments in particular.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Project Coordinator
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