

Natura 2000 Mediterranean Forest Habitats

Forests are key ecosystems in the Mediterranean region. They provide many services to society, but at the same time they are subject to serious threats. In Spain, over 50% of Natura 2000 area is covered by forests. Their environmental value is still very high, but the changes they have suffered in recent times, due to the abandonment of traditional activities and climate change effects, demand the development of new management models focused on the maintenance of ecosystem services. To achieve this goal, scientific knowledge on forest conservation and forest adaptation to climate change —available in a large body of high-quality scientific literature— should be effectively translated into actual management practices.

LIFE RedBosques

The RedBosques project aims to improve the management of Spanish Mediterranean forests included in Natura 2000, facilitating access of practitioners to state-of-the-art knowledge. The ultimate goal is that forest managers effectively include biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation objectives in their daily practice.

Specifically, RedBosques seeks to:

- Outline baseline scenarios for assessing the conservation status of Mediterranean forests.
- Develop criteria and tools for the design and implementation of forestry management practices in Natura 2000 Mediterranean forests with objectives that regard biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.
- Transfer state-of-the-art knowledge to target audience and stakeholders.

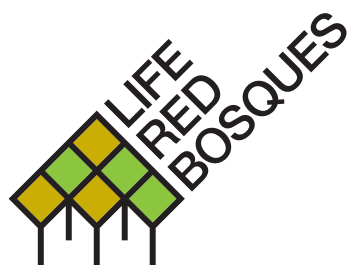
To achieve these goals, during a 3-year period, different actions will be carried out in order to:

- Identify the project's target audience and stakeholders.
- Set up the project's working group and the manager's technical discussion forum.
- Set up an exchange programme among Spanish Natura 2000 forest managers.
- Identify a national Network of Reference Forests, based on shared criteria and protocols.
- Identify forest management best practices including conservation and climate change adaptation objectives.
- Implement several forest management demonstrative actions that include conservation and climate change adaptation objectives in Els Ports Natural Park.
- Transfer the results: training programme, communication actions, technical publications...

Target audience and stakeholders

Forest management in Natura 2000 is often a shared responsibility among different departments within the same public administration. Therefore, good coordination among protected area managers, forest managers, and other public officers and employees, is paramount in order to achieve the conservation objectives. All these professionals are, therefore, the target audience of the project.

In addition, considering that more than 70% of protected forest area in Spain is privately owned, it will be essential to involve forest owners in the implementation of the project results. Likewise, these should be incorporated in the daily practice of other professionals that collaborate with forests managers from consulting companies, conservation organizations or research centers.





Project actions

- A.1** As a preparatory action, potential target audience and stakeholders will be identified and included in a directory (starting in 2017)
- B.1** Setting up a working group and a technical discussion forum where forests managers could discuss the project's advances and results (starting in 2017)
- B.2** Exchange programme for protected area managers and rangers (in 2017 and 2018)
- B.3** Baseline scenarios for Mediterranean forests management: protocol for the identification of old-growth forests, identification of a national Network of Reference Forests and a technical seminar in Els Ports Natural Park (in 2017)
- B.4** Best practices for forest management with conservation and climate change adaptation objectives: gathering of best practices, dissemination and a technical seminar in Guadalajara (2018)
- B.5** Technical seminar in Zaragoza for the identification of criteria for the design and implementation of forestry management practices in Natura 2000 Mediterranean forests, (in 2019)
- B.6** Demonstrative actions in Habitats of European Interest in Natura 2000: forest management demonstrative actions with conservation and climate change adaptation objectives will be executed in Els Ports Natural Park (starting in 2017)
- B.7** Development of specific software for assessing and monitoring Reference Forests (starting in 2017)
- B.8** Training for Natura 2000 professionals (starting in 2019)
- B.9** Elaboration of technical documents for Natura 2000 Mediterranean forests management (in 2019)
- D.1** Communication and dissemination actions: project's web, social networks, project's newsletter... (starting in 2017)

HOW TO JOIN REDBOSQUES PROJECT?

Forest managers and protected area managers from the public administration

If you are a forest manager or a protected area manager, you could:

- Receive information about the project's advances and results.
- Be a member of the working group, and participate in the technical discussion forum.
- Participate in different technical workshops and seminars.
- Participate in the exchange programme.
- Participate in the training programme on Mediterranean Forest Management in Natura 2000 (in 2019).

Forest owners and other professionals related to forest management

If you are a forest owner, or a professional involved in forest management, you could:

- Receive information about the project's advances and results.
- Access to all technical information, databases, online tools and results of the demonstrative actions.
- Participate in the training programme on Mediterranean Forest Management in Natura 2000 (in 2019).

PROJECT FACTS

Funding: European Union through the programme LIFE Environmental Governance & Information 2015. Co-funded by the Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente through the Fundación Biodiversidad.

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