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LIFE + Nature & Biodiversity



Aims

To restore and protect the Natural habitat type of Community Interest, Riparian forest of *Salix alba* - *Populus alba*, habitat 92A0, as well as their main associated habitats, in its most degraded area from the Segura River Basin.

Period September 2014 – August 2019

Total project budget 2,454,611 € (49.75% EU)

Objectives

- Complementing the development of the *Green Infrastructure* approach started in the LIFE+ SEGURA RIVERLINK.
- To regenerate and protect the Habitat 92A0 and its associated protected fauna.
- Control invasive vegetation through low-interventionist restoration actions.
- Fire prevention, mainly in areas next to the river.
- To develop and establish an strategy to control the Invasive Alien Species.

Actions and means involved

Preliminary and Management plans

- Establishment of Reference Conditions and Ecological Monitoring indicators.
- Integral Strategy for the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) management and control.
- Code of Good Agrarian Practice Respectful with the Ripisilva.



Conservation actions and Social involvement

- Land custody network to involve stakeholders on the riparian habitat management.
- Invasive vegetation control by means of ecological engineering strategies.
- Restoration of the native Riparian Habitats through the natural stages succession.
- Education related to the importance of Habitat 92A0 and related to the problem of IAS and volunteering programs.
- A RIPISILVANATURA 2.0 web server creation and a mobile application as an early warning tool.



Monitoring and socio-economic assessment

- Operative indicators at sites with recovery actions.
- Bird community and river-bank associated fauna, vegetation communities, macroinvertebrates, water and sediments, etc.
- Socio-economic assessment.



Directly related to fishes, the project will...

□ Develop a **Strategy for the control of Invasive Alien Species in the Segura River Basin**, directly focused on invasive exotic fishes.

- Definition of target species.
- Risk analysis and pathways.
- Measures to define future management tactics, control and eradication.
- Definition of coordination and awareness actions.
- Economic analysis of costs for implementation.



Why restore Ripisilva?

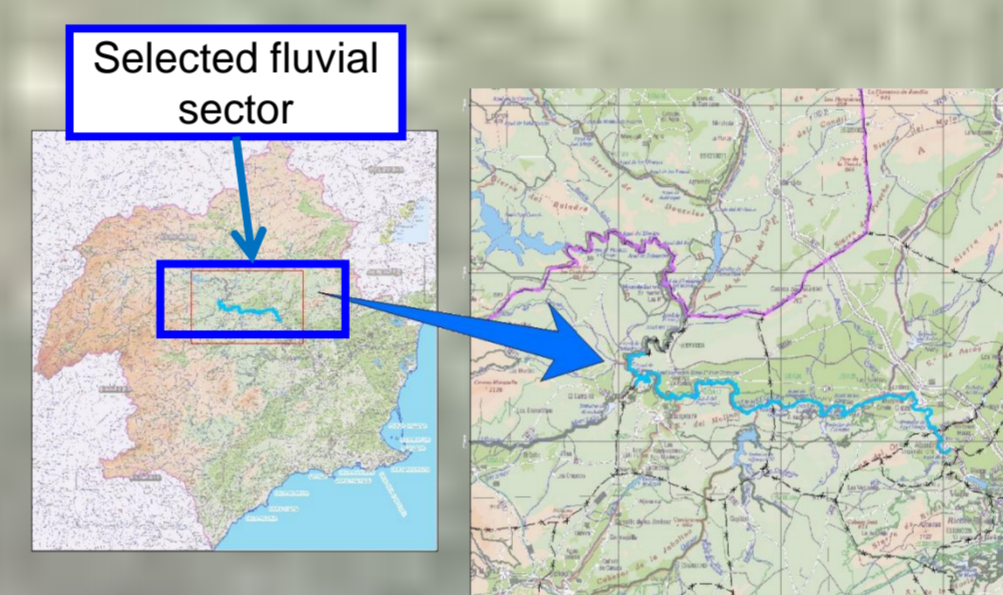
The loss and degradation of the original habitat 92A0 has caused a reduction in the ecological status and represents an advantage for opportunistic and exotic species of both fauna and flora, which entails a reduction of their native biodiversity. A connected landscape structure has higher levels of ecosystems functions than a fragmented landscape.



Because of that, the project will develop a strategy for the control and eradication of Invasive Alien Species in the Segura River Basin, directly focused on both riparian (mainly Giant Reed) and aquatic species.

Segura river basin

SE Iberian Peninsula
18,870 Km²



Action area

Due to the historical pressures of the giant reed or cane, the low and middle part of the Segura River Basin suffers a high impact in their riparian areas.



- The project will be implemented on selected sites over a 57 km stretch of the Segura River main channel.
- In the Nature 2000 Network areas or linking them.
- Including urban areas as a means of facilitating stakeholder engagement.

Added value to the project Outcomes

The project will...

- Protect the riparian habitats allowing their ecosystem services.
- Establish the background and the strategy for control alien invasive species.
- Improve ecosystems services.
- Build a framework of scientific and social knowledge to improve river management quality and to help the implementation and enforcement of EU policy and legislation on biodiversity conservation (Biodiversity Strategy to 2020).



A long term view...

- The green highway of the Segura River will show a functional riparian forest...
- Achieve the maximum ecological potential in heavily modified fluvial sectors and their riparian habitats.
- Implementation of the Strategy control of IAS.



RIPISILVA



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