



LIFE LxAquila - Stewardship network for the conservation of peri-urban Bonellis eagles

LIFE19 NAT/PT/000414

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Project description:

Background

The endangered Bonellis eagle, *Aquila fasciata*, has a unique population in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area (LMA), Portugal. In Europe, it is the only known population of this priority species to survive in a densely populated area and to nest exceptionally close to human settlements. The European Bonellis eagle population is endangered, but recovering from a severe decline during the 1980s. Tree-nesting breeding adaptation is aiding a notable trend inversion in less populated southern Portugal. However, there is no evidence of a positive trend for the LMA population. In this context, mitigation of the identified threats requires an interdisciplinary, cooperative approach based on socio-economic data and the support and promotion of private land conservation initiatives, particularly outsider protected areas. Thus, this conservation project is structured under the land stewardship approach, not yet a common practice in Portugal, and the European Land Conservation Network. The land stewardship approach is greatly suited to addressing property and use rights, and to test incentives related to protection of breeding sites, in order to bind Bonellis eagle stakeholders and policy-makers to the effective, sustainable land management necessary for this species conservation.

Objectives

The LIFE LxAquila project will create a land stewardship network for the conservation of the vulnerable peri-urban population of Bonelli's eagle in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area (LMA) in Portugal. This population represents the best European genetic heritage of this priority species for addressing adaptation to future habitat changes caused by increased human presence. Project partners and landowners of nest sites will form the basis of the network, and will

implement and monitor conservation actions to mitigate the major threats.

The main project objectives are to:

- Protect Bonellis eagle in the peri-urban, agro-forested landscape of LMA through the long-term protection of breeding sites and enhancement of hunting areas, by reducing disturbance during breeding season and human-induced mortality;
- Establish an innovative, long-lasting and cooperative platform for Bonellis eagle conservation that empowers, and encourages to act, key stakeholders (such as landowners, land managers), and that facilitates policy-making and adaptive strategies in face of global threats, such as habitat loss and degradation, and climate change;
- Implement and promote the land stewardship network concept for nature conservation in Portugal, in line with the European Land Conservation Network, particularly in peri-urban areas and private land outside protected areas, and prepare its replication and regulatory uptake;
- Demonstrate and assess its impact, and disseminate strategies of land-use planning and agro-forestry management that reconcile rural development with biodiversity conservation and boost sustainable socio-economy and regional distinctiveness and competitiveness, which can be replicated across other European contexts;
- Raise awareness of civil society for the importance of predator conservation and its compatibility with human development by using an umbrella, flagship species surviving under human pressure transforming the community into guardians of their neighbouring natural values.

The project contributes to the implementation of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, especially Target 3 (Increase the contribution of agriculture and forestry to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity); Birds Directive (Bonellis eagle is an Annex I species); EU Forest Strategy and climate policy relating to forest resilience; and the EU Action Plan for the Bonellis eagle through recommendations for the species range in Portugal.

Results

Expected results:

- Bonellis eagle ecological parameters assessed in the project area (distribution, breeding sites, main juvenile dispersal areas and breeding parameters);
- 7 juvenile eagles tagged and tracked;
- Priority social aspects on human-raptor coexistence in peri-urban areas identified;
- At least 50 stakeholders engaged in the stewardship network;
- At least 37 long-term land stewardship agreements with landowners (at least one per targeted nest) covering at least 315 ha of buffer area around the nests;
- Contain at least 90% of the disturbance events and other threats detected;
- Increased Bonellis eagle population, to 18 occupied territories and at least 1 juvenile/pair;
- 100 most dangerous pylons of power lines made safe;
- At least 250 patrols of canine teams during the project to detect illegal

poisoning;

- 55 ha of managed habitat for fire prevention in 2 high fire risk territories;
- Three acclimation enclosures and 8 artificial warrens for wild rabbit;
- 200 ha of managed habitat for wild prey in 3 wild prey-depleted territories;
- Four stewardship network meetings (one per year);
- At least 19 participatory workshops with stakeholder groups for feedback on social perceptions and for dissemination, replication and transfer of the network concept, targeting 200 stakeholders inside and outside the project area;
- At least 250 environmental awareness and educational activities;
- At least 22 school groups involved in the environmental education plan, targeting 20 000 students and 650 teachers;
- At least 7 500 people reached by environmental awareness activities, such as the Eagles days, the Festival of Raptors and participation at local events, and the development of an environmental education virtual reality app;
- At least 90 000 people reached by general project information activities with the use of online media and partners media (social networks, information boards, websites, etc);
- Presence at national and international scientific and conservation events and one international symposium organised in the project area;
- Evaluation of project's impact on socio-economy and ecosystem services;
- Short documentary on Bonellis eagle conservation and the stewardship network in peri-urban landscapes;
- Live streaming webcam from a Bonellis eagle nest;
- Custom-tailored Conservation Action Plans integrated in upcoming revisions of at least 5 Municipal Master Plans, 5 Municipal Fire Protection Master Plans and 3 Forest Management Plans and 2 Management Plans of Natural Parks, targeting the most vulnerable territories, mainly outside protected areas; and
- Best-practice guidelines on Bonellis eagle and other endangered species conservation in peri-urban landscapes in Europe and recommendations for private land conservation policies in Portugal, targeting stakeholders, landowners and also the general public.

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Environmental issues addressed:

Target EU Legislation

- Nature protection and Biodiversity
- COM(2011) 244 final “Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 ...
- Directive 79/409 - Conservation of wild birds (02.04.1979)
- Land & Soil
- Council Resolution on a Forestry Strategy for the European Union (15.12.1998)

Target species

ACCIPITRIDAE Aquila fasciata

Natura 2000 sites

Not applicable

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Beneficiaries:

Coordinator	Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves
Partners	EDP-D(EDP Distribuição - Energia, S.A.), Portugal CMA(Município de Alenquer), Portugal CMTV(Município de Torres Vedras), Portugal SEO(Sociedade Española de Ornitologia (SEO/BirdLife)), Spain TNM(Tapada Nacional de Mafra), Portugal PSML(Parques de Sintra – Monte da Lua, S.A.), Portugal GNR(Guarda Nacional Republicana), Portugal CML(Município de Loures), Portugal ICNF(Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas, I.P.), Portugal CL(Companhia das Lezírias, S.A.), Portugal CMM(Câmara Municipal de Mafra), Portugal CMVFX(Câmara Municipal de Vila Franca de Xira), Portugal

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Administrative data:

Project reference	LIFE19 NAT/PT/000414
Duration	01-SEP-2020 to 01-SEP -2025
Total budget	1,930,085.00 €
EU contribution	1,446,288.00 €
Project location	

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LIFEfoodCycle - Digital circular economy market place for food waste prevention

LIFE19 ENV/PT/000689

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Contact details:

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Project description:

Background

An estimated 88 million tonnes of food waste is generated annually across the food supply chain (FSC) in the EU, representing around 20% of total food production. Retail and wholesale is responsible for an estimated 5 million tonnes (5%), of which 83% (3.8m tonnes) is considered avoidable. It is thus the FSC section with the highest waste reduction potential. Furthermore, around 6% of total GHG emissions in EU and 8% of global GHG emissions result directly from food waste. The impact of food waste also has socio-economic and ethical consequences.

Objectives

The main objective of the LIFEfoodCycle project is to implement a business model in the food retail sector that optimises food chains and reduces food waste (by at least 10%, equalling 1 600t/year), along with related emissions. The project plans to provide European food retailers and stakeholders with a user-friendly digital tool, Circular Economy Market Place (CEMP), to facilitate the trade of food surplus that is nearing its expiry date, which is currently treated as waste. It will thus promote environmentally sustainable business practices in the EU.

Specifically, the project aims to:

- Create a local digital CEMP to facilitate the trade of food surplus;
- Enrol around 10 local B2B users (businesses and charities) per supermarket and 50 supermarkets in total (i.e. 500 users in total) in the CEMP;
- Demonstrate the marketability/economic viability of the CEMP and its underlying new B2B business model, by achieving at least 50% profitability rate by the end of the project; and
- Facilitate the adoption and scalability of the solution to other waste

products and at other locations while increasing the types of stakeholders (waste suppliers and users) – with at least 10 geo-locations and two additional waste products identified during the project.

The project contributes to the several EU policies, such as the Roadmap to a Resource-Efficient Europe, the EU Action Plan for Circular Economy, the Waste Framework Directive, the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Food Losses & Waste; the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and the Green Procurement Policy. It also focuses on the Paris Agreement and the European Court of Auditors' Combating Food Waste.

Results

Expected results:

- At least 10% of waste avoided, equalling more than 264.9t/year of food waste across the 50 supermarkets enrolled on the CEMP, and more than 1 600t/year across all 302 Continente supermarkets (impact after project duration);
- A total carbon footprint of 546t/year CO₂-eq considering 50 participating supermarkets and 3 296t/year CO₂-eq considering 302 stores;
- Reduction of transport emissions by 10% due to the decreased need to transport waste to disposal facilities;
- Elimination of the use of 1 248 sheets of paper/year by digitalising all transaction documents;
- Adoption of sustainable business practices by at least 10 local users (B2B and charities) per supermarket (500 users in total);
- Creation of a sustainable and replicable business model for long-term CEMP operation;
- At least 10 locations and two extra waste products identified to which the CEMP can be scaled, multiplying the beneficial environmental and socio-economic impacts across the EU; and
- More than 245 000 individuals/year will be reached via the communication activities, raising awareness of the problem targeted and changed business practices applied.

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Environmental issues addressed:

Target EU Legislation

- Environmental management & assessment
- COM(2008)400 - "Public procurement for a better environment" (16.07.2008)
- Nature protection and Biodiversity
- COM(2011) 244 final "Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 ...
- Waste

- Directive 75/442/EEC - "Waste framework directive" (15.07.1975)
- COM(2015)614 - "Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy" (02.12.2015)

Natura 2000 sites

Not applicable

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Beneficiaries:

Coordinator	SONAE MC - SERVIOS PARTILHADOS, S.A
Partners	PHENIX(PHENIX SAS), France

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Administrative data:

Project reference	LIFE19 ENV/PT/000689
Duration	01-SEP-2020 to 29-FEB -2024
Total budget	2,532,128.00 €
EU contribution	1,381,945.00 €
Project location	

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LIFE DUNAS - LIFE DUNAS

LIFE19 CCA/PT/001178

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Contact details:

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Project description:

Background

The coastline of the Madeira archipelago is mostly rocky or based on rolling rocks. The unique dunes of Porto Santo Island are therefore attractive for touristic use, especially in the summer. However, extreme weather events, with the risk of more intense and more frequent storms, along with rising global sea levels are expected to increase the probability of coastline regression in this EU outermost region.

Objectives

LIFE DUNASs main objective is to improve the resilience of Porto Santo Islands dune ecosystems to the impacts of climate change. The project aims to achieve this through ecosystem-based approaches, nature-based solutions and long-term sustainable use of pre-dune areas.

The specific objectives are:

- Restoration of a higher-risk depression dune area, including geomorphological work using about 90 000 m³ of sand dredged from near-shore sand banks without compromising regular coastal dynamics, followed by ecosystem-based restoration based on production of over 39 000 native plants and control of invasive alien species (IAS) on a wider buffer area;
- Promotion of innovative (re)use of pre-dune areas for agriculture, with production methods and practices that contribute to improved resilience, by mitigating losses due to wind erosion and sand devolving to the dunes; and
- Improvement in overall climate governance and awareness raised among the local population and users of the sand dunes (tourists and tourism service providers), including through active participation and replication/transfer work.

With its use of ecosystem-based measures for sand dune restoration, thus increasing resilience to extreme weather events, LIFE DUNAS will contribute to both the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change (CCA) and Madeiras regional CCA strategy. The project will also support the EUs biodiversity strategy due to the following: improved nesting habitat for the Kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*); improved conservation of the endemic flora species *Lotus glaucus* and *Lotus loweanus*; promotion of sustainable agricultural practices; and control of Invasive Alien Species (IAS). In addition, it will help implement the EUs IAS Regulation; transfer work could also foster the combat of other IAS present in Macaronesia.

Results

Expected results:

- Improved coastal dune resilience, embracing almost 65 000 m² of ecosystems, ensuring protection for the stretch of coastline at greater risk (nearly 3% of the sandy coastline);
- Improved shadowing and microclimatic conditions to face heat waves on more than 45 000 m², through planting of over 39 000 specimens of native flora;
- Greater resilience to wind erosion in pre-dune areas on demonstration plots covering more than 19 000 m² (almost 11 000 m² of vineyard);
- Improved resilience to flooding and erosion caused by storms in vulnerable areas, with full risk reduction for 15 households, one business (a restaurant) and public infrastructure (760 m of road); and
- Complementary reduction in CO₂ emissions from avoided energy consumption of over 235 kg/yr.

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Environmental issues addressed:

Target EU Legislation

- Nature protection and Biodiversity
- Regulation 1143/2014 - Prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien ...
- COM(2011) 244 final “Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 ...

Natura 2000 sites

Not applicable

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Beneficiaries:

Coordinator	Secretaria Regional de Ambiente, Recursos Naturais e Alterações Climáticas
Partners	SRA(Secretaria Regional de Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural), Portugal FCUL(Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa), Portugal VP-GVPPS(Vice-Presidência do Governo Regional / Gabinete do Vice-Presidente no Porto Santo), Portugal CMPS(Município do Porto Santo), Portugal IFCN(Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza, IP-RAM), Portugal

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Administrative data:

Project reference	LIFE19 CCA/PT/001178
Duration	01-OCT-2020 to 30-SEP -2025
Total budget	3,082,408.00 €
EU contribution	1,580,734.00 €
Project location	

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LIFE MARONESA - MARONESA - Market Awareness Raising for Opportunities in Needed Extensification and Soil-friendly Agriculture

LIFE19 GIC/PT/001285

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Project description:

Background

Maronesa is a breed of cattle from northern Portugal whose meat has protected status under the EUs Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) regime. The abandonment of mountain pasture areas for these cattle on common land in recent decades has resulted in increased growth of scrub (in particular heaths) and the loss of perennial good quality pastures. This not only reduces carbon storage in soils but also, together with weather trends, increases the risk of wildfires, which further exacerbate these problems.

Objectives

The LIFE MARONESA project will tackle the abandonment of mountain pasture areas for Maronesa cattle on common land. It will set up an integrated framework to encourage climate action in the project area.

The specific objectives are as follows:

- Peer-to-peer knowledge transfer among cattle breeders (front-runner/follower model) and the local population;
- Monitoring, assessment and communication of socio-economic and climatic outputs at landscape and producer level, in the meat market and complementary sectors (e.g. tourism);
- Ensuring improved understanding and valuation of the economic and social benefits of undertaking the climate action work showcased; and
- Ensuring replication with increased engagement of local breeders and at a larger scale, and transfer to other areas.

LIFE MARONESA will help implement the EUs climate change adaptation strategy, by reducing the risk of wildfires and increasing the climatic resilience of

agriculture. A planned technical report on a results-based payment scheme should be useful for the national body in charge of defining and implementing the EUs common agricultural policy. The project will also contribute to implementation of the EUs LULUCF Regulation, the Effort Sharing Regulation and the farm to fork strategy.

Results

Expected results:

- Maintenance of medium-/long-term carbon stock of almost 4 300 tonnes by reducing fire risk and increased carbon sequestration of over 3 300 tonnes/yr of CO₂ by soil through improved land use and management and cattle breeding practices;
- Avoidance of CO₂ emissions by avoided energy consumption in a pilot distribution system for meat sales;
- Significant reduction of severe wildfire risk in the project area (over 7 250 ha) by reducing shrub biomass and increasing landscape mosaics;
- Increased resilience of soil and cover to erosion as well as improved water retention and infiltration on over 625 ha;
- Positive impact on the conservation of several wildlife species, including flora and fauna species protected by the Habitats Directive;
- At least 10 local breeders replicating the practices (over 6% of local breeders and 12% of local cattle);
- At least one transfer case engaging another breeders association prepared during the project and another after its end;
- Technical training of teams from private stakeholders (in agriculture and tourism services) for integrated action with agricultural adaptation; and
- Increased understanding among 100% of residents of the common land area and over 25% of municipality residents about the 'summer wildfire trap'.

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Environmental issues addressed:

Target EU Legislation

- Climate Change & Energy efficiency
- COM(2013)216 - EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change (16.04.2013)

Natura 2000 sites

Not applicable

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Beneficiaries:

Coordinator	AguiarFloresta - Associação Florestal e Ambiental de Vila Pouca de Aguiar
Partners	ACM(ACM - Associação de Criadores do Maronês), Portugal CB(Casal da Bouça, Sociedade Agropecuária, Lda.), Portugal IPB(Instituto Politécnico de Bragança), Portugal

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Administrative data:

Project reference	LIFE19 GIC/PT/001285
Duration	01-OCT-2020 to 30-SEP -2025
Total budget	2,008,298.00 €
EU contribution	1,095,293.00 €
Project location	

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