

## SPAIN

# Biodiversity's restoration, & preservation & enhancement

### Location

Municipality Cañamero

### Programming period

2014 – 2020

### Priority

P4 – Ecosystems  
management

### Measure

M15 – Forest-  
environmental-climate

### Funding (EUR)

RDP support 243 140

### Project duration

2015 – 2019

### Project promoter

Municipality Cañamero

### Contact

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### Website

n/a

Rural Development Programme (RDP) support enabled the reforestation of land and ornamental public spaces with native forest species, while promoting environmental awareness, education and training.

## Summary

This project is a collaboration between a Local Authority, the Town Council of Cañamero, Spain and the General Directorate of Forestry Policy of the Regional Government of Extremadura. The aim of this project was to consolidate the local nursery which produces native plants and to provide environmental awareness, education and training.



The nursery is included in the network of forest nurseries managed by the General Directorate of Forestry Policy to reforest land and ornament public spaces with native forest species. These nurseries have been modernised over time and they have the infrastructure that enables them to produce large numbers of plants from different native species.

## Results

RDP support enabled direct and indirect jobs to be created and sustained, due to the maintenance and operation of the nursery. It also created the need for jobs associated with logistics, transportation and other complementary services. The agreement allowed 87% of the funds to be directed to personnel costs, 29% for permanent staff and 58% for temporary staff.

In addition, there have been a large number of donations of native forest plants to municipalities with less than 5 000 inhabitants. Donations of plants have also been made to environmental education and training projects carried out in schools and organisations such as NGOs. This has contributed to the objective of raising awareness, educating people and improving forestry training.

## Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ It is important to point out the great effort made by the nursery team in the traceability of the plants produced, starting from the production, collection, care and treatment of the seed, right through to their final destination. The staff, however, noted that mechanisms must be strengthened to ensure that these native species are used for repopulating the most vulnerable ecosystems, as in the case of *Prunus Lastanica*.
- ❑ It is also important to note that forest production requires a great investment of time and that there is no quick solution. Good forestry programming and planning, through regional forest plans, should include a medium and long-term vision, so that nurseries have a sufficient margin to operate and be prepared to meet current and future demands.

### Context

Extremadura is one of the six autonomous regions with the largest relative forest area in Spain and it has 10% of the total national forest area. Extremadura has a rich ecosystem made up of three types of forest formations: the Mediterranean evergreen forest, the evergreen forest of holm oaks and cork oaks and the riverside forest. Even so, the forests in this region have suffered a process of degradation and loss of biodiversity, mainly due to climate change and forest fires. This resulted in a loss of biodiversity, soil erosion and water pollution.

Sub-measure 15.2 is programmed in Rural Development Programme of Extremadura and it aims to conserve, recover and extend the forest belts that depend, to a large extent, on the correct management of the genetic material available in forests. The aim of these actions is to conserve native species which, for various reasons, may be threatened, or be at risk of disappearance and genetic loss. It also aims to increase production in different sectors, such as wood or cork, as well as to improve the quality of the species in the region's forests. To achieve this, the Measure promotes actions aimed at seed collection, sowing and maintenance of different productions, as well as the creation and maintenance of clonal banks, or the implementation of databases with the stocks of forest materials in the region.

As a framework for the region's forestry policy, the Extremadura Forestry Plan has provided the means for the conservation of biodiversity and natural heritage through nurseries explicitly designed for this purpose. The specific setting of these nurseries, in addition to increased diversity and productivity, allows trials and studies of forest species to be carried out. These include production techniques, mycorrhization and seed germination, producing protected species and species that break the mono-specificity and make forests more resistant to the impacts of climate change.

### Objectives

The main objective to be achieved with this Measure in Extremadura is the maintenance and improvement of ecosystems, and ecosystem services, through the creation of green infrastructure and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Additionally, the project is to:

- Promote the collaboration between the Junta de Extremadura (RDP Management Authority) and the Cañamero Town Council, for the conservation of biodiversity and natural heritage and, in particular, of forest genetic resources in the local nursery; and

- Consolidate the Cañamero nursery and to involve the administration and citizens to positively influence the work of awareness, education and environmental training.

### Activities

The nursery is located near the Rucas River, approximately 4 km from the town of Cañamaero, which has a population of 1 614 inhabitants. The nursery has a main building as well as an additional room that is used as an interpretation classroom, with audiovisual material and other explanatory panels describing the main tree and shrub species of Extremadura and of the specific area.

The nursery has different terraces separated by wide paths, and a greenhouse as well as a shade house, which is necessary for all species requiring shade. There are sprinkler, gravity and micro-sprinkler irrigation systems, which have electrical and solar panel systems. In addition, it has facilities to carry out dissemination and awareness-raising tasks about forestry training.

For awareness-raising, there are information boards and explanatory panels with technical data sheets for each of the species. In the nursery, the available material is combined with interactive dynamics during visits, mainly from educational centres in the area, especially for the young people. In addition, as it is very close to the Villuercas-Ibores-La Jara Geopark, complementary visits are organised between the nursery and the Geopark.

It should be noted that the Geopark is home to the public entity 'La Lorera de la Trucha', which manages the protected ecosystem. The area has the highest number of specimens of *Prunus Listanica* in Europe, a species considered to be a relic of the forests and which is categorised as an indicator of the changes of its habitat, due to its sensitivity. Due to its proximity to their facilities, the nursery is specialised in the production of this plant, although they also have species of different origins.

For the nursery to function correctly and to achieve the objectives set, it is necessary to have a good technical team available. To ensure this, public funds have been earmarked for hiring personnel with specialised training to undertake all the tasks related to the collection, selection, cleaning and storage of seeds and the preparation of the barracks and shelves. They also do all the work involved in planting, irrigation, pruning, transplanting, extraction and fertilisation. The employment pool, currently around 150 positions, rotates every 15 days, which means that many families are directly linked to the nursery, in one way or another.

### Main results

RDP support has enabled the creation and maintenance of direct and indirect jobs, due to the maintenance and operation of the nursery, as well as other jobs associated with logistics, transportation and other complementary services. The agreement, which is articulated by a grant to the Town Council of Cañamero, granted in 2015 and maintained until 2020, has allowed 87% of the funds to be directed to personnel costs, 29% for permanent staff and 58% for temporary staff.

In addition, there have been a large number of donations of native forest plants to municipalities which have less than 5 000 inhabitants. There have also been donations of plants for environmental education and training projects carried out in schools and organisations such as NGOs. This has contributed to the objective of raising awareness, educating people and improving forestry training.

### Key lessons

It is important to point out the great effort has been made by the nursery team in the traceability of the plants produced, starting from the production, collection, care and treatment of the seed, right through to their final destination. The staff noted that they need to work with

great care and attention to ensure that species do not crossbreed, cloning is used to maintain the native species and genetic variety. However, they pointed out that mechanisms must be strengthened to ensure that these native species are used to repopulating the most vulnerable ecosystems, as in the case of *Prunus Lastanica*.



It is also important to note that forest production requires a great investment of time, because it is not something that can be generated in a matter of days. Good forestry programming and planning, through regional forest plans, should include a medium and long-term vision so that nurseries have a sufficient margin to operate and be prepared to meet current and future demands.

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### Additional sources of information

[http://extremambiente.juntaex.es/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=458&Itemid=292](http://extremambiente.juntaex.es/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=458&Itemid=292)