LIFE Potamo Fauna (LIFE12 NAT/ES/001091)

Project duration: 1 January 2014 - 31 December 2017

Total cost and EU contribution: TOTAL - 1.900.262,00 euros / UE - 949.981,00 euros









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Ecological paper



Ajuntament de Banyoles





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LIFE Potamo Fauna

Conservation of river fauna of Community interest in the Natura 2000 network sites of the Ter, Fluvià and Muga river basins





LIFE Potamo Fauna is a project aimed at the recovery and long-term conservation of various endangered river fauna species of Community interest. It involves strengthening the populations and improving the habitats of species such as the White-clawed Crayfish as well as other molluscs, fish, amphibians and pond turtles. It also works to combat certain invasive alien species. These actions are carried out at natural sites of Ter, Fluvià and Muga river basins.

The project is co-financed by the European programme LIFE + which promotes actions to recover and maintain habitats and species of flora and fauna in protected areas of the European Union that form part of the Natura 2000 network.

Areas of action (11 sites in the Natura 2000 network):

- Upper Garrotxa Massif of Les Salines
- Volcanic Region of La Garrotxa
- Riparian habitats of the Upper Ter
- Transversal Catalan System
- River Fluvià
- River Brugent
- River Llémena
- Mountains of Rocacorba Puig de la Banya del Boc
- Lake Banyoles
- Xuclà and Riudelleques streams
- Riparian habitats of the Lower Ter



Specific objectives and actions:

• Recovery and conservation of three seriously endangered species of aquatic fauna by releasing individuals bred in captivity: the Naiad *Unio Elongatulus*, White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) and European Pond Turtle (*Emys orbicularis*).

• Recovery and conservation of three endangered species of aquatic fauna by transferring populations in a good condition in the same river basin: Desmoulin's Wnorl Snail and Narrow-mouthed Wnorl Snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana and V. angustior*) and Mediterranean Barbel (*Barbus meridionalis*).

• Strengthening the populations of Mediterranean Turtles (*Mauremys leprosa*) and five other amphibians native to the River Ter by creating micro-wetlands: Marbled Newt (*Triturus marmoratus*), Common Midwife Toad (*Alytes obstetricans*), Western Spadefoot Toad (*Pelobates cultripes*), Natterjack Toad (*Bufo calamita*) Mediterranean Tree Frog (*Hyla meridionalis*).

• To combat various invasive alien species of crayfish, fish, river turtles and molluscs by means of population control.

• To roll out awareness-raising and information campaigns about endangered river fauna and the problems of invasive alien species.

• Interaction with the technical/scientific community by organizing technical site visits and specialized conferences.

For more information: www.lifepotamofauna.org

