



Newsletter N. 1

November 2017

Summary

1. Welcome to the LIFE BACCATA project, Conserving and restoring the yew forests in the Cantabrian Mountains

2

2. LIFE baccata organizes its first Technical Seminar on Cantabrian yew forests

4

3. The LIFE BACCATA project works in the characterization and previous diagnosis of the priority habitat "Mediterranean forests of *Taxus Baccata* (9580 *)" of the Cantabrian Mountain Ranger

6

4. LIFE baccata celebrates the 25th anniversary of the LIFE program

7

5. LIFE BACCATA participates in "Ecosystem Services" in Tallin (Estonia)

8



www.life-baccata.eu

SOCIOS



LIFE15 NAT/ES/000790



ADMINISTRACIONES COLABORADORAS



1. Welcome to the LIFE BACCATA project, Conserving and restoring the yew forests in the Cantabrian Mountains

December 22nd 2016

The LIFE BACCATA project works for the conservation and restoration of the priority habitat of the yew, currently threatened and in regression, in fifteen places of the Natura 2000 Network of the Cantabrian Mountains and belonging to Galicia, Castile and León, and País Vasco.

The yew habitat, also present in other European countries such as Portugal, France, Italy and Greece, is now in an unfavorable and endangered conservation status in the Atlantic region of Spain, and unfavorable or bad in the Mediterranean region, according to the cataloging of the Habitats Directive of the European Union.

The LIFE BACCATA project will operate exclusively on a large area of the Cantabrian Mountains, although the study and the obtained results will have an international reach when finding territories in Portugal, France, Italy and Greece that present this type of habitat, similarly threatened.

The lines of work are developed around:

Know, improving the knowledge of the species of *Taxus baccata* and its habitat through the analysis of its current state and the threats that threaten its survival. This project aims at being a generator of applied technical knowledge and technical reference to later design the appropriate conservation actions and the reconciliation of other uses, within the European Union.

Conserve, protect and extend this habitat through the application of specific silvicultural treatments, eliminating the exotic species that endanger it, cultivating the plants characteristic of these habitats and applying genetic control and conservation measures to ensure their future.

Disseminate, informing and sensitize society about the importance of the natural and sustainable recovery and preservation of this unique species and its habitat, and of the potential socioeconomic benefits it can generate for the local population .



November 2017

Newsletter N.1

The yew has suffered a series of **threats** that directly affect the biodiversity of the areas it occupies, and for that reason, it requires an urgent action as a guarantee of its future.

These threats have originated over the years and are of various kinds, like fires, shortages, infrastructure construction, fragmentation and lack of connection between these natural spaces, or the impact of climate change. Individually or jointly, these threats have endangered the survival of this species, its habitat and biodiversity, therefore, it is necessary to act and guarantee its future in a sustainable way.

El proyecto LIFE BACCATA aplicará las medidas de protección y gestión forestal necesarias que promuevan la mejora del estado de conservación y restauración del tejo y las tejedas, fomentando su regeneración natural, y el de las especies de flora y fauna que los habitan, y contribuirá a frenar la pérdida de biodiversidad.

The LIFE BACCATA project is developed in collaboration with the University of Santiago de Compostela, the Government of Castile-Leon, Cesefor y la Basque Government Corporation for the development of the rural and marine environment, and the Hazi foundation.

Newsletter N. 1

November 2017



2. LIFE baccata organizes its first Technical Seminar on Cantabrian yew forests

June 30th 2017

Newsletter N. 1

November 2017

The organization of this **Seminar**, in which the Junta de Castilla y León and Cesefor participate, responds to the need to have communication tools as a system of dissemination of information, to promote the transfer of knowledge, as well as to exchange experiences with other working groups with the same objective.

The **technical-scientific** sessions will be developed basically to ensure that those technical and scientific efforts already developed on the yew, revert in the entities with responsibility for the conservation of this habitat and in particular in the project area.

In these days there will be exchange of valuable experiences with the purpose of knowledge and management of this habitat. In addition, these seminars are intended to continue and strengthen the joint work network that will provide information on previous experiences already made.

The free seminar will be held at the Centro de Defensa contra el Fuego (Center of Defense against Forest Fire) of the capital of León on June 29, 2017. The entrance will be free to cover capacity. Online inscription.

The LIFE BACCATA project works for the conservation and restoration of the priority habitat of the yew currently threatened and in regression, in fifteen places of the Natura 2000 Network of the Cantabrian Mountains that belong to Galicia, Castilla y León, and País Vasco..

The project plans to act on a large area of the Cantabrian Mountain Range, although the study and the results obtained will have an international reach since there are territories in Portugal, France, Italy and Greece that present this type of habitat, similarly threatened.



Yew

Yew has suffered a series of threats that directly affect the biodiversity of the areas it occupies. These threats have appeared over the years and are of various kinds: fires, fellings, construction of infrastructures, fragmentation and lack of connection between these natural spaces or the impact of climate change. Individually or jointly, these threats have endangered the survival of this species, its habitat and the biodiversity they contain, therefore, it is necessary to act and guarantee its future in a sustainable way.

LIFE BACCATA will implement the necessary **forest protection and management measures** that promote the improvement of the conservation status and restoration of yew and yew forests, promoting their natural regeneration and that of the species of flora and fauna that inhabit them, and will contribute to slow down the biodiversity loss.

The project, co-financed by the European Commission under the LIFE Call, takes place between 2016 and 2020 in fifteen places of the Natura 2000 Network of the Cantabrian Mountains that belong to Galicia, Castilla y León and País Vasco. The University of Santiago de Compostela participates as coordinator of the project and the partners are the Junta de Castilla y León, Cesefor and Hazi, Corporation of the Basque Government for the development of the rural and marine environment.

More information on the project website: www.life-baccata.eu



November 2017

Newsletter N.1

3. The LIFE BACCATA project works in the characterization and previous diagnosis of the priority habitat "Mediterranean forests of *Taxus Baccata* (9580 *)" of the Cantabrian Mountain Ranger

June 2nd 2017

The goal of the work is to carry out the characterization and previous diagnosis works of the priority habitat 9580 *, "Mediterranean Forests of *Taxus baccata*", present in different spaces of the Natura 2000 Network of the Cantabrian Mountains.

The characterization, diagnosis and evaluation of the initial situation of this habitat correspond to the preparatory actions of the LIFE BACCATA project, which is aimed to obtaining the necessary information to develop the technical planning of the conservation actions and the monitoring of the impacts of the project. It will provide relevant information to clarify the interpretation of habitat 9580 *, update its cartography, the Nat2000 forms and the valorization of this habitat.

In addition, the **ethnocultural study** of the yew forests in the places of action is necessary to guide the program of dissemination of the project, to involve the local population in the conservation of the yew forests, as well as to valorize this habitat and its relation with the local population.

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Newsletter N. 1

November 2017



4. LIFE baccata celebrates the 25th anniversary of the LIFE program

June 6TH 2017

LIFE BACCATA celebrated last Friday, 9 June, the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the **Habitats Directive (DC 92/43 / EEC)** and the launch of the European LIFE program, assessing its impact and advantages over the environment for a quarter of a century.

A seminar was held where 4 **LIFE Nature and Action for the Climate projects**, developed in the last 25 years in Galicia, presented to the audience the great step that implied its execution and implementation, through its results, the challenges overcome, the environmental benefits provided and the knowledge generated .

The rapporteurs of LIFE BACCATA highlighted the enormous effort that this project represents in favor of the conservation of the yew forests, considered a type of priority habitat for its conservation, reason why this project has the maximum financing (75%) of the European Commission.

Finally a small debate was opened so that the attendees could ask questions about the projects exposed



Newsletter N.1

November 2017

5. LIFE BACCATA participantes in "Ecosystem Services" in Tallin (Estonia)

May 10th 2017

The project LIFE BACCATA attended the event "**COSTING THE EARTH? – TRANSLATING THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES CONCEPT INTO PRACTICAL DECISION MAKING**", aroganized by LIFE VIVA GRASS in Tallin (Estonia) on 10-12 May 2017.

The event addressed all strategic aspects of inventory and assessment of the services provided by ecosystems, as well as decision-making based on this approach, which is now becoming one of the most apt alternatives to evaluate the impact that our activities have in the environment.

The event was attended by over **100 participants from 18 countries**, most EU member states. During the different sessions, members of LIFE BACCATA exchanged views and shared knowledge and methodologies with other assistants, resulting in very successful and satisfactory sessions, allowing the replicability of LIFE BACCATA actions into other projects, and incorporating the lessons learned by them to the scope of LIFE BACCATA. Knowledge of other realities through the different projects involved, made possible interesting contacts to emerge so, in the future, these relationships could be materialized in possible collaborations in the framework of ongoing projects or to develop new projects, information exchanges and research.

The LIFE BACCATA project aims to improve the conservation status of the priority habitat type 9580 * "Mediterranean forests of *Taxus baccata*" in 15 protected areas of the Natura 2000 Network of the Cantabrian Mountains, increasing its area of occupation, improving its structure and functionality, as well as its prospects for the future. The project also includes a series of measures to disseminate and transmit the results obtained, as well as an information and awareness program for the general public on the importance of habitat 9580 *, the values of biodiversity and the services provided by the ecosystems covered by the project.

November 2017

Newsletter N.1





Newsletter N. 1

November 2017



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