



N°2. DECEMBER 2023

LIFE RESQUE ALPYR INSIGHTS

NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to the LIFE RESQUE ALPYR newsletter!

We are excited to present our project's latest newsletter, shining a spotlight on the incredible achievements we've recently accomplished. Over the past months, we have been immersed in scientific endeavors, conservation actions and outreach initiatives, all in pursuit of our primary objective: restoring and preserving high-mountain aquatic ecosystems.

Our summer field campaign has been pivotal, involving meticulous monitoring of high-mountain lakes and the study of valuable mires ecosystems. We have made significant strides in eradicating invasive fish and successfully carried out the initial restoration initiatives in mires. This hands-on work is providing us with invaluable data, empowering us to make well-informed decisions to restore and conserve these fragile environments.

Our dedication does not stop in labs or fields; we have also put considerable effort into engaging with our community. We have actively taken part in various outreach events, such as Science Week and the European Researchers' Night.

THE BEST OF THE YEAR



Mires restoration in protected areas of the Pyrenees and the Alps

Oct 2, 2022. Within the framework of the LIFE RESQUE ALPYR project, different types of actions are carried out to restore peat bog ecosystems in protected areas of the Pyrenees and the Alps...

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Video report "Trackling restoration in high mountain lakes in the Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park"

Mar 8, 2023. The LIFE RESQUE ALPYR project and also, the previous LIFE LimnoPirineus project, that we lead from the Centre for Advanced Studies in Blanes (CEAB-CSIC)...



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LIFE "Action on European Peatlands – towards restoring peatlands and realizing their multiple benefits across Europe"

May 1, 2023. We have taken part in the LIFE "Action on European Peatlands – towards restoring peatlands and realizing their multiple benefits across Europe", that took place in Berlin...

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Field trip to the action sites of the Mont Avic Natural Park

Jul 19, 2023. Between July 4th and 7th, 2023, a field trip to the action sites of the Mont Avic Natural Park took place, involving personnel from other Alpine protected areas...



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A summer full of activity!

Sept 27, 2023. The summer months are always important for the entire team involved in the LIFE RESQUE ALPYR project, as they mark the beginning of fieldwork....

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The LIFE RESQUE ALPYR project was present at the 2023 European Research Night in Italy

Sep 29, 2023. The European Researchers' Night is a Europe-wide public event that aims to displays the diversity of science, and its benefits, to citizens...

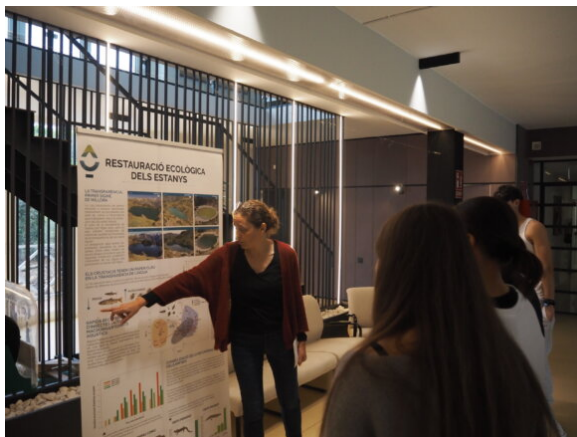
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We participate in science week 2023

Nov 16, 2023. Science Week is an annual event that takes place in November throughout Europe. It is an initiative with the main objective of bringing science and technology closer to the public and fostering scientific vocations among the younger generation...

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WE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN

We are one of the key players in the video "Exploring Nature's Wonders: Ecological Monitoring in Mountain National Parks."

Jan 20, 2023. The Natural Heritage project, led by the Spanish Research Council (CSIC), has counted on the LIFE RESQUE ALPYR project to collaborate in a video inspired by the long-term monitoring (LTER) of the mountain National Parks...



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Dr. Marc Ventura participates in the XVII Research Conference of the National Parks Network

Oct 27, 2023. Dr. Marc Ventura, coordinator of the project and researcher at the Blanes Center for Advanced Studies (CEAB-CSIC), presented the results of the BIOOCULT project at the Research Conference of the National Parks Network...



XVII Jornadas de Investigación de la Red de Parques Nacionales 2023
Presentación de resultados
La investigación en el Parque Nacional de las Tablas de Daimiel en su 50 aniversario

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Wetlands Seminar at #CafèPrismàtic

Nov 27, 2023. Aaron Pérez and Eulàlia Pladevall, representatives from the Biodiversity Research Institute (IRBio) of the University of Barcelona and the LIFE RESQUE ALPYR project, took center stage in this week's Cafè Prismàtic...



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DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT'S ACTIONS?

The actions taken as part of the project include the drawing up of evaluation protocols and preservation plans as well as the execution of specific preservation actions for the proper management of species and natural habitats of European Community interest.

1. Restoring the natural state of some lakes through the elimination of alien fish species allowing the recovery of native species (amphibians, invertebrates, semi-aquatic mammals and bats)

Having triumphed in employing mechanical eradication methods in smaller to medium-sized lakes across the Alps and Pyrenees, we are now set on scaling up this achievement. Our goal is to venture into larger, more intricate lakes, pushing the boundaries to refine protocols for both cost-effectiveness and efficiency. While mechanical methods are preferred for effectiveness, challenges in complex environments prompt us to develop a secure piscicide protocol. Our action plan includes applying rotenone treatments in three Pyrenean lakes, aiming to quantify efficacy and side effects in this experimental initiative.

2. Selective mowing of meadows and neighbouring mires to restore their biodiversity

The project targets biodiversity loss in the Pyrenees through strategic mowing at key sites. We're creating a Management Plan for conservation authorities and administration, focusing on neglected wet hay meadows. Our strategy combines mowing, biomass removal and extensive livestock farming for long-term sustainability.

3. Livestock grazing management to restore mires and surrounding terrestrial and aquatic habitats

Livestock overgrazing harms our mires, but reducing grazing, even temporarily, can initiate healing. We aim for "passive restoration" by reducing grazing through the placement of temporary and permanent fences and assisted plant migration. Our plan also includes protecting a petrifying spring from livestock and tourists, creating alternative paths to aid the area's restoration.

4. Conservation improvement of mires by selective tree clearcutting

The mires of the Pyrenees are facing the challenge of accelerated afforestation due to land abandonment, coupled with rising temperatures and prolonged dry spells. This surge in tree growth is impacting the delicate balance of these ecosystems by increasing transpiration, lowering the water table, and shading out vital light for biodiversity. To tackle this issue, we are initiating clearcutting actions in three Pyrenean sites.



WE'VE PUBLISHED

One of the outreach tasks included in the project is to create a total of three informative brochures.

This initial publication, edited in 6 languages, contains general information about the project. It details the target species and habitats, the conservation actions being undertaken, and explains the main threats faced by high-mountain aquatic ecosystems and the species inhabiting them.

The brochure will be available on the [project's website](#) and also at the tourist offices of the Alt Pirineu Natural Park and the Aigüestortes and Sant Maurici National Park, in Catalonia, and of the Mont Avic Natural Park and the Gran Paradiso National Park, in Italy.



You can find us on Instagram!



The project is co-financed by the EU LIFE 2020 program that promotes conservation actions and recovery of habitats and species of flora and fauna in protected areas of the European Union, integrated into the Natura 2000 network.



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