

CONSERVATION OF

HIGH MOUNTAIN LAKES & MIRES

CONFERENCE 2026

28-30 OCTOBER

VIELHA – VAL D'ARAN

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

LIFE RESQUE ALPYR

Life

NATURA 2000

DAY 1 · WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER

Plenary & Paralell Sessions

8:00-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	Opening Ceremony with Authorities - **Mr Juan Antonio Serrano Iglesias**, Mayor of Vielha e Mijaran - **Mr Francisco Bruna**, First Deputy Síndic, Aran General Council
9:15-10:00	Presentations by - **Lluís Florit** (Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park) - **Marc Garriga** (Alt Pirineu Natural Park) - **Daniele Stellin** (Mont Avic Natural Park) - **Rocco Tiberti** (Gran Paradiso National Park)
10:00-10:30	Keynote PLENARY - **LIFE RESQUE ALPYR: Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems of Protected Areas from the Alps and Pyrenees** (**Marc Ventura,** CEAB-CSIC)
10:30-11:00	*Coffee break*

LAKES — Auditorium

11:00-11:45 — **Keynote L1: Eradication of nonnative trout to restore mountain lake ecosystems: Examples from western North America** (**R. Knapp**, Univ California-Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research)

11:45-12:30 — **Session L1: Ecological impacts of fish introductions**

L1-1. Paedomorphic alpine newts in Alpine and Balkan high-mountain lakes in the context of fish introduction. (**Mathieu Denoël**, Univ Liège-FNRS)

L1-2. Fish introductions reshape antipredator activity in *Rana temporaria* tadpoles across alpine lakes. (**Giorgia Mattioli**, Univ. di Pavia)

L1-3. A genetic perspective on the invasion history of the European minnow (*Phoxinus* spp.) in the Pyrenees and the Italian Alps (**Marc Ventura**, CEAB-CSIC)

12:30-13:30 — **Session L2: Biological recovery following fish removal**

L2-1. Regional population connectivity in the endemic Pyrenean amphibian *Calotriton asper* and patterns of recolonization after fish removal. (**Federica Lucati**, CEAB-CSIC)

L2-2. Recovery of amphibian assemblages in Pyrenean lakes following the removal of non-native fish (**Guillem Saguer**, Sorellona)

L2-3. Recovery of littoral macroinvertebrates in high mountain lakes following eradication of non-native minnows and trout (**Víctor Osorio**, CEAB-CSIC)

L2-4. Limited effects of fish removal on prokaryotic diversity in high-mountain lakes of the Alps and Pyrenees. (**Ester Eckert**, CNR-IRSA)

MIRES — Meeting room

Keynote M1: Climate drivers of biodiversity and conservation in European fens (**Borja Jiménez-Alfaro,** Univ. Oviedo)

Session M1: Mire ecology, biodiversity and ecosystem functioning

M1-1. Decoupled protist community and food web structure across mountain wetlands. (**Víctor Lecegui**, Univ. Barcelona)

M1-2. Intraspecific variation in the distribution of diatoms in the waterscape of a high mountain valley. (**Marc Valeros**, CREAF)

M1-3. Community assembly of mountain mire diatoms: disentangling stochastic and deterministic drivers across spatial scales. (**Joan Gomà**, Univ. Barcelona)

Session M2: Ecological trajectories and responses to environmental change

M2-1. Habitat-specific vegetation change in Cantabrian mires revealed by vegetation resurveys and Landsat time series. (**Alessandra Pollo**, Univ. Torino)

M2-2. Monitoring mountain peatland resilience in the Pyrenees: Presentation and first insights from the Pyrenean Sentinel Peatland Observatory. (**Thirsa van der Veen**, ANA-CEN Ariège)

M2-3. Hydrological changes in the Momposina Depression, Colombia: A paleolimnological study of the last 600 years based on diatoms. (**Júlia Romeo**, Univ. Barcelona)

13:30-14:30	*Lunch*

14:30-15:15 — **Keynote L2: Restoring Norwegian Mountain Lakes by Eradicating Invasive Fish with Rotenone** (**Helge Bardal**, Norwegian Veterinary Institute)

15:15-16:15 — **Session L3: Fish eradication and restoration techniques**

L3-1. The use of mechanical and chemical fish eradication techniques for the restoration of Pyrenean high-mountain lakes. (**Quim Pou-Rovira**, Sorelló)

L3-2. Determination and fate of Rotenoids in high mountain lake waters after invasive fish eradication treatments with rotenone piscicide (**Barend Van Drooge**, IDAEA-CSIC)

L3-3. Early warning and rapid eradication of alien fish in a high mountain lake. (**Ibor Sabas**, Univ. Innsbruck)

L3-4. FishMe Management toolbox: Knowledge and information on fish removal in mountain lakes. (**Davnah Urbach**, Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment)

Session M3: Grazing, management and restoration outcomes

M3-1. Vegetation responses to livestock exclusion. (**Eulàlia Pladevall-Izard**, Univ. Barcelona)

M3-2. The response of *Carex nigra* to disturbance by herbivory and trampling. (**Paula Vicenç-Sabater**, Univ. Barcelona)

M3-3. Bridging community needs and peatland restoration in páramo ecosystems in the Andes of Ecuador. (**Ricardo Jaramillo**, Michigan Tech University)

M3-4. Grazing management on CO_2 flux dynamics in Pyrenean mountain peatlands. (**Violeta Martínez-Amigo**, Univ. Barcelona)

16:15-16:30	*Coffee break*

16:30-17:30 — **Session L4: Lake ecosystem functioning under environmental change**

L4-1. Threats of mountain lakes and consequences for human, animal and environmental health. (**Dirk Schmeller**, CRBE-CNRS)

L4-2. Effects of multicompartment mercury contamination on communities of zooplankton, bacteria and micro-eucaryotes in water and biofilm of mountain lakes. (**Adeline Loyau**, Toulouse INP)

L4-3. Decadal shifts in macrophyte communities reflect the impact of climate change in Pyrenean lakes. (**Esperança Gacia**, CEAB-CSIC)

L4-4. Which factors regulate the water chemistry of high mountain lakes? An assessment of local and regional drivers in the Western Italian Alps. (**Michela Rogora**, CNR-IRSA)

Session M4: Restoration and conservation of mountain mires

M4-1. From threat assessment to ecological restoration: improving the conservation status of Pyrenean mountain mires. (**Aaron Pérez-Haase**, Univ. Barcelona)

M4-2. Effects of selective mowing and biomass management on vegetation structure and flowering in abandoned wet hay meadows. (**José M. Blanco-Moreno**, Univ. Barcelona)

M4-3. Restoring high-mountain *Sphagnum* communities in the Central Pyrenees: Seven years of mire recovery after dam removal. (**Eulàlia Pladevall-Izard**, Univ. Barcelona)

17:30-18:30	**Poster Session**

DAY 2 · THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER — Auditorium

8:30-9:15 **Keynote C1: Introduced fish and native semi-aquatic and terrestrial insectivores: cross-ecosystem trophic interactions in high-mountain lakes** (**Lucia Bello**, Univ. Calabria)

9:15-10:15 **Session C1: Aquatic-terrestrial linkages and catchment influences**

C1-1. Ecological restoration of several Pyrenean lakes and its interaction with bat communities. (**Jordi Serra-Cobo**, Univ. Barcelona)

C1-2. Hydroelectric regulation as a key driver of *Galemys pyrenaicus* decline in the Catalan Pyrenees (**Laia Nogué**, CEAB-CSIC)

C1-3. Mountain pond fencing as a livestock management approach for improved pond conservation. (**Lena Fehlinger**, Fundació Privada Bionexus)

C1-4. Non-native minnows as drivers of trophic cascades in high mountain lakes. (**Teresa Buchaca**, CEAB-CSIC)

10:15-10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45-12:30 **Session C2: Biodiversity patterns, adaptation and molecular approaches**

C2-1. Environmental, spatial and stochastic processes shape zooplankton metacommunities in mountain lakes (**Raphael Wilkinson**, SETE-CNRS)

C2-2. Melanised *Daphnia* in harsh waters: adaptive evolution and conservation risks (**Markus Möst**, Univ. Innsbruck)

C2-3. Evaluating the invertebrate biodiversity signal captured by littoral and surface sediment eDNA (**Berta Mateos**, CEAB-CSIC)

C2-4. Environmental DNA uncovers hidden parasite biodiversity in high mountain lakes (**Arnau G. Higueras**, CEAB-CSIC)

C2-5. Hidden diversity in benthic cyanobacterial communities across a Pyrenean lake catchment revealed by full-length 16S rRNA sequencing (**Anna Ticó Pifarré**, CREAF)

C2-6. Shared microbial trophic processes but contrasting functional structures in Andorran alpine lakes inferred via 18S metabarcoding (**Manel Niell**, Andorra Recerca+Innovació)

C2-7. Parasite sedimentary DNA reveals fish introduction into a Pyrenean high-mountain lake by the seventh century (**Elena Fagín**, CREAF)

12:30-13:30 **Session C3: Long-term ecological trajectories and paleoecology**

C3-1. Fourteen millennia of lake dynamics and modern restoration efforts in Sulzkarsee (Styria, Austria) (**Robert Schabetsberger**, Univ. Salzburg)

C3-2. Multi-proxy evaluation of environmental changes in Lake Roumazet (French Pyrenees) after livestock grazing decline and fish introduction (**Guillermo de Mendoza**, Polish Academy of Sciences)

C3-3. Long-term biogeochemical and ecological dynamics of Pyrenean peatlands: preliminary results from the HOLOPEAT project (**Olga Margalef**, Univ. Barcelona)

C3-4. Eight-year monitoring of planktonic prokaryotic and protist communities in six high-mountain Pyrenean lakes using sediment traps as temporally integrated samples (**Artur Oros**, Univ. Girona)

13:30-14:30 *Lunch*

14:30-15:15 **Keynote T1: When is mechanical fish eradication worth it? A decision-making framework for mountain lake restoration** (**Rocco Tiberti,** Univ. Calabria)

15:15-16:15 **Sesion T1: Conservation planning, decision-making and transferability**

T1-1. FWISE: global lessons for the world's first database of freshwater invasive species eradications (**Anabell Espinosa**, Univ. California)

T1-2. LacusPyr, a catalog of lakes and ponds of the Pyrenees (**Jordi Catalan**, CREAF)

T1-3. The French Lake Demonstration Site Network: perspectives on the integration of high-altitude lakes (**Althaea Pangaud**, INRAE-Pôle ECLA)

T1-4. Experimental ecological restoration of high mountain lakes in the French Pyrenees using diver-botanists (**François Prud'homme**, CBNPMP).

16:15-16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30-18:00 **Round table discussion**

18:00-18:15 Closure

DAY 3 · FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER — Field Excursion

The field excursion will include visits to **Lake Muntanyó d'Àrreu**, where restoration actions based on non-native fish eradication are being implemented under the **LIFE RESQUE ALPYR** project, and to the **Clots de Rialba mires**, where livestock-exclusion measures have been established to promote mire conservation.

8,5 km	585 m	Moderate	Lunch
distance	elevation gain	difficulty	provided

BY COACH

Departure: 7:30 h
Return: 15:30 h
Meeting point and return: bus stop at the P3 car park, Vielha.

OWN VEHICLE

Meet at 8:30 h
Meeting point at the hiking trail parking area.



Lake Muntanyó d'Àrreu



Clot de Rialba mires

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CONSERVATION OF HIGH MOUNTAIN LAKES AND MIRES
& 2nd International Meeting on the Conservation of High Mountain Lakes







LIFE20 NAT/ES/000369
Co-funded by the European Union































