



Multipurpose dam combining storing and supplying water for irrigation and human consumption with other uses: flood control, touristic navigation and run-off storage.

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The project is situated outside a Natura 200 site

The project was subjected to an EIA.

There will be some impacts but all the possible alternatives were considered

Compensatory measures will be adopted

The European commission will be notified

The project is justified for imperative reasons of overriding public interest

The imperative reasons of overriding public interest are:

- a) Human health and public safety considering that it's a high flood area
- b) Territorial cohesion: touristic development of a depopulated area
- c) Economic development: revitalization of agriculture promoting sustainable farming practices (such as using waste heat from data centres to heat hydroponic greenhouses for pineapples in the future)

The alternatives considered were:

A desalination plant and a 2000km long water pipe for irrigation (permission declined)

A nearby hotel to accommodate the tourists (permission declined)

There are no alternatives for the other uses of the multipurpose dam.

The impacts on species will be compensated through

- a) restoration of a coastal habitat for a critically endangered bird species
- b) a breeding program for endemic lizards
- c) heavier sanctions for any infractions

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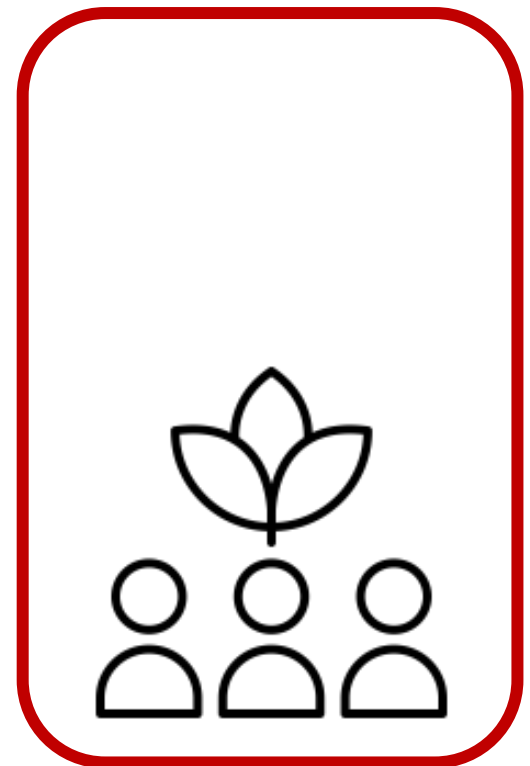
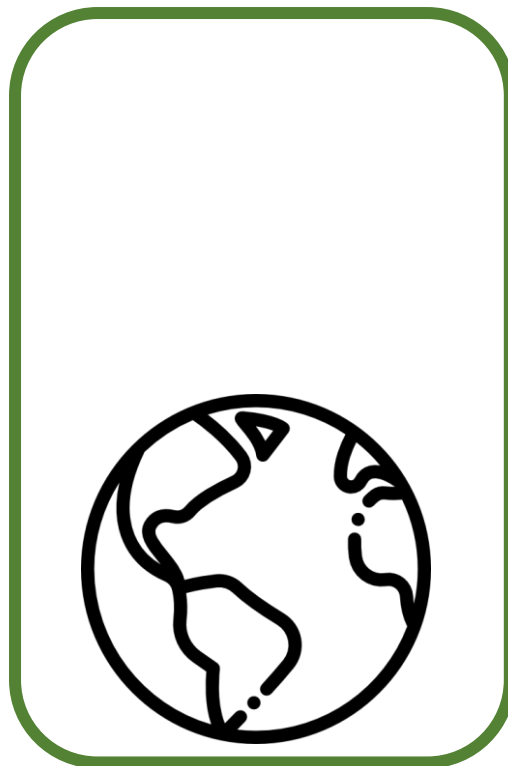
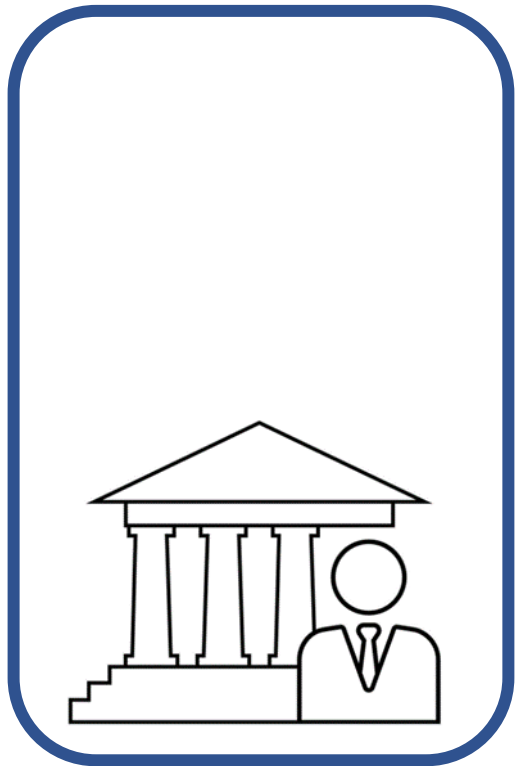
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Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*)

This habitat type comprises species-rich hay meadows on moderately fertile soils of river and tributary floodplains. Haymeadows at low altitudes are mown after most of the plants have flowered, they may be lightly fertilised but frequent or heavy fertilisation quickly reduces the species diversity. These meadows are important for a wide range of invertebrates as well as plants. This habitat is widespread in central and northern Europe, also occurring, but more rarely, in the Mediterranean region. The conservation status of this habitat is generally unfavourable: Unfavourable-bad (and deteriorating) in five out of eight regions (Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental and Mediterranean and usually due to several countries) The major pressures and threats are modification of cultivation practices (agricultural intensification in mowing or grazing and grassland removal for arable land but also abandonment), cultivation itself and fertilisation and use of chemicals, urbanised areas and their development, forest planting on open ground and invasive non-native species.

• adapted from <https://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/10137> and https://forum.eionet.europa.eu/habitat-art17report/library/2007-2012-reporting/factsheets/habitats/grasslands/6510-lowland-hay-meadows/download/en/1/6510-lowland-hay-meadows_.pdf





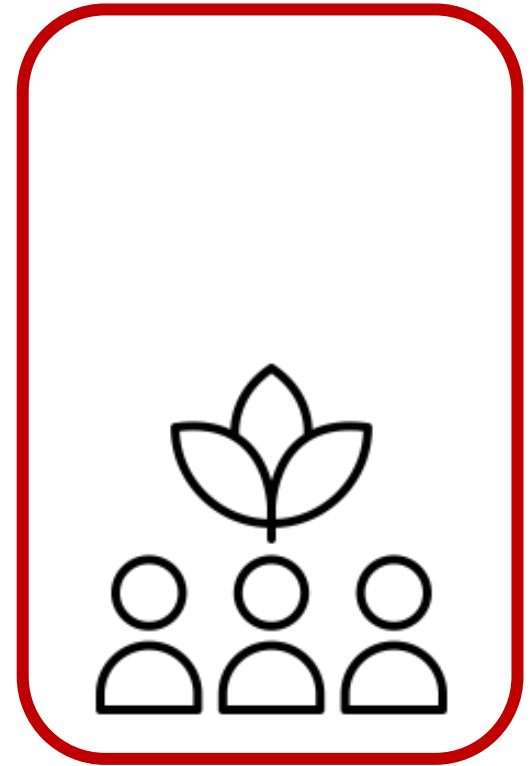
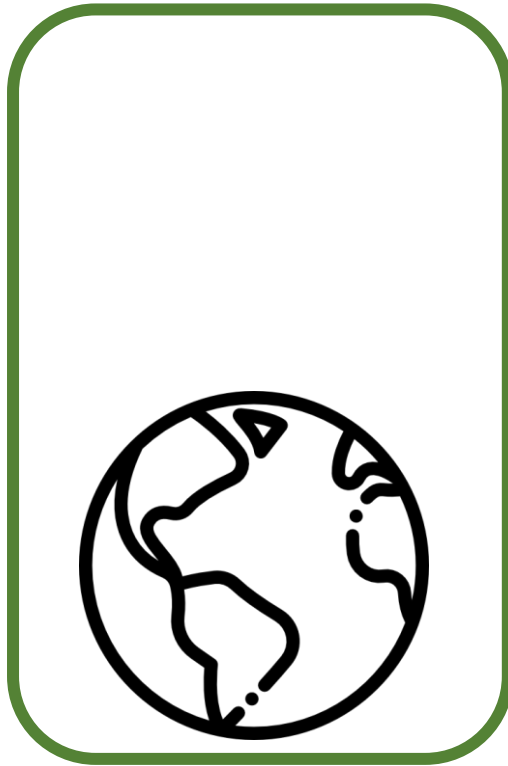
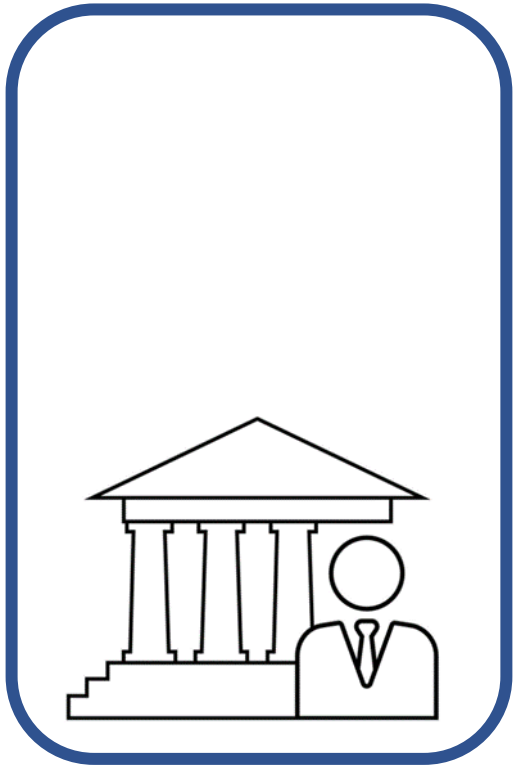
***Karstic calcareous grasslands (Alyso-Sedion albi)**

Open, patchy communities of the Alyso-Sedion albi on exposed bedrock or loose rock, dominated by annuals and succulents. Natural examples are normally found on calcareous or base-rich hard substrates. Secondary sites which are subject to near-natural development (e.g. old quarry sites or spoil heaps) are included.

The grassy limestone hills are rich in flora and fauna, particularly orchids and insects. This dry limestone grassland bears witness to the hay pasture practice of former times. Without management, these sites return to woodland and the characteristic heliophilic species (and their associated fauna) accordingly regress. Yet in many of those places where farming still continues on these hills, the abundance of characteristic flora and fauna species has been lost because of the intensification of land use. Recently, excessive tourist activity on the sites, and the heavy trampling this can mean, have proved disastrous to the flora in places. Of primary concern would be dry limestone grassland sites rich in orchids.

(adapted from <https://www.bfn.de/en/natura-2000-habitats/rupicolous-calcareous-or-basophilic-grasslands-alyso-sedion-albi> and <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE00-NAT-B-007168/restoring-and-managing-calcareous-habitat-types-in-the-region-of-lesse-and-lomme>)





The dam is situated outside the site but its impacts are felt inside.

The protected species occur inside and outside the site.

The project has a strong impact on the species.

The proposed measures do not compensate the impacts.

The European Commission has not yet responded.

There are alternative nature-based solutions for flood mitigation, with less impacts.

Water supply for human consumption is not a priority in a depopulated area.

The agricultural activity proposed is not sustainable.

There are alternative farming practices and the cultivation of other plant varieties should be considered.

Economic development cannot be considered an imperative reason of overriding public interest.

There will be cumulative impacts between the dam, the greenhouses and the data centre that will intensify the species disturbance and habitat loss in the future.

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* *Capra pyrenaica pyrenaica*



These ibexes live in the mountains and prefer forested areas with rock outcroppings and coniferous trees. They feed by browsing. They also feed on forbs and grasses, potentially competing with grazing livestock and introduced species such as the red deer. Breeding occurs from Nov. to Dec. Adult ibex have no natural predators, but the young are susceptible to predation by eagles and foxes. Because of its feeding behaviour, it influences the succession of plants in the habitat. They are important for tourism and are prized as trophy game animals. Conservation efforts are focused on habitat preservation and restoration.

(Adapted from: https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Capra_pyrenaica/)

* *Narcissus nevadensis* Pugsley



It is a species of the genus *Narcissus* (daffodils) in the family Amaryllidaceae. It is a bulbous geophyte and grows primarily in the temperate biome. It is a plant of humid and waterlogged areas, endemic and its native range is limited. It grows on limestone soils, in reed meadows or grasslands between 1400 and 1950 m above sea level. It blooms between March and April. It is a species in serious danger of extinction.

(Adapted from: https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcissus_nevadensis and https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338842813_Narcissus_nevadensis_THE_IUCN_RED_LIST_OF_THREATENED_SPECIES)

Petrocoptis grandiflora Rothm

It is a perennial herb of 15-30 cm with opposite leaves and pentamerous flowers arranged in dichasia with a purple calyx. The species grows almost exclusively in limestone crevices, overhangs and ledges. It is endemic, with a restricted distribution occurring in small scattered populations on dolomite outcrops. Flowering occurs between March and mid-June. The first mature fruits appear in June. It is pollinated mainly by long-tongued bees (Anthophoridae) which characteristically demand a high-sugar nectar.

(Adapted from: https://navarro.webs.uvigo.es/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Navarro_1993_Petrocoptis.pdf)

Lacerta monticola



It occurs in granite rock areas up to 2000 m. Males show bright greenish (or cyan) colours with distinct dark markings in spring but will lose these colours later in the year. The length of the tail visibly exceeds that of the body. They are best encountered during mating season in spring while in summer they may be more secretive. High spatial concentration of the population makes them vulnerable highly to threats such as habitat destruction, alteration or degradation, geographic isolation, tourist pressure or wildfire.

(Adapted from: <https://www.eurolizards.com/lizards/iberolacerta-monticola/> and <https://www.museubiodiversidade.uevora.pt/lenco-de-especies/biodiversidade-actual/animais/cordados/repteis/iberolacerta-monticola/>)

* *Carabus olympiae*



This beetle species belongs to the family of ground beetles (Carabidae) that is local endemic. It is probably a forest species, but the most finding is in open, secondary treeless vegetations with dominating scrubs as bilberries, cranberries and rhododendrons. It has a metallic emerald green livery with iridescent and bluish reflections, sometimes with red shades. This species is not able to fly due to its reduced wing length. The species is mainly threatened by insect collectors. Collecting is reported as the main threat.

(Adapted from: <https://forum.eionet.europa.eu/habitat-art17report/library/2007-2012-reporting/factsheets/species/arthropods/carabus-olympiae/download/en/1/carabus-olympiae.pdf> and <https://uk.inaturalist.org/taxa/96736-Carabus-olympiae>)

* *Artemisia granatensis* Boiss



It is an endangered plant (Royal chamomile) belongs to the tribe Heleniae Benth, subfamily Asteroideae (Asteraceae). It is a small perennial bush with a very well-developed root system which grows deeply in the rocky soil where it usually lives. The mature plant is aromatic possessing a pleasant fragrance. It is endemic and its presence has been reduced to scree deposits and rocky areas of high-altitude mountains (2400-3220 m). Infusions of the plant are used in folk medicine due to the digestive properties, and it has been over collected for sale. At present it is seriously endangered.

(Adapted from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0031942213001210>)

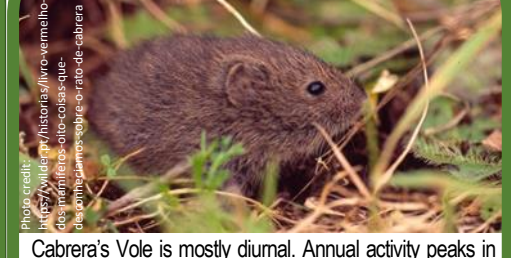
Leontodon boryi Boiss



Commonly known as hawkbits, it has yellow flowers and leaves radiating out from a growing point situated at ground level. This enables it to tolerate mowing and grazing. It is a perennial weed often confused with dandelion and other weed species. It grows in pastures and lawns, especially where the soil fertility is fairly low as it can tolerate these conditions well. It has a deep tap-root which allows it to continue growing actively during dry periods when grasses around it have browned off. It has wind-blown seeds, which are an important food source for certain bird species.

(Adapted from: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leontodon> and <https://www.massey.ac.nz/about/colleges-schools-and-institutes/college-of-sciences/our-research/themes-and-research-strengths/plant-science-research/new-zealand-weeds-database/hawkbit/>)

Microtus cabrerai



Cabrera's Vole is mostly diurnal. Annual activity peaks in winter occurring in sites with dense vegetation. Eats vegetation, only occasionally insects. Prefers natural pastures and managed pastures often at often 500 - 1200 m. Populations are frequently fragmented, small, and widely isolated; therefore, landscape connectivity and surface runways are important. Populations occur in the proximities of small streams, ponds, and agricultural margins that are fed by high water tables or irrigation ditches. Dispersal abilities of Cabrera's Voles are crucial to maintain metapopulations. Main conservation problems relate to habitat loss and fragmentation. Due to habitat-patch dynamics in agricultural landscape, extinction rates are high.

(Adapted from: <https://www.gbif.org/species/2438668>)

