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Convention on the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
(UNECE)

S/ referência	Data	N/ referência	Data
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Subject:	Letter addressed to the Implementation Committee from organizations cooperating in the project "Reconnecting Iberian Rivers"		

The Portuguese national focal point of the UNECE Water Convention has received on 13th of January 2023 a letter from the Chair of the Implementation Committee of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) to inform both Portugal and Spain about the reception of a letter from non-governmental organizations cooperating in the project "Reconnecting Iberian Rivers". In this letter, these NGOs express concerns regarding the operation and overall fit for purpose of the Albufeira Convention ("Convention").

The Chair of the Implementation Committee has requested the views on the matter from both countries. Without prejudice to the information the Spanish authorities may provide to UNECE, the Portuguese authorities would like to address the matters in the aforementioned letter.

The signing stakeholders consider that:

There is a lack of cooperation between the two countries:

Portugal shares five river basins with Spain, integrated in four international River Basin Districts - RBDs (Minho, Douro, Tagus, and Guadiana). The shared basins occupy 46% of the territory of the Iberian Peninsula - 64% of Portugal and 42% of Spain. They also contain approximately 67% of Portugal's and 39% of Spain's surface water resources. These data highlight the importance of these basins for both countries and the necessary coordination in their management.

The two countries have a long history and of bilateral treaties regarding those rivers dating back to the 19th century, mostly to define boundaries and uses of the rivers' bordering stretches. The culmination of such cooperation is undoubtedly the 1998 Agreement on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Waters of the Portuguese-Spanish Hydrographic Basins, better known as the Albufeira Convention. The Convention was signed before the adoption of the 2000 European Union Water Framework directive (WFD), but it tracked closely the directive's negotiation and therefore is fully aligned and includes the objectives of the WFD.

The centuries-long cooperation and agreements between Portugal and Spain reveal both countries ultimate shared interests on water planning and management of transboundary water resources. The existing intergovernmental structures and mechanisms, including at the highest

government level through the annual Portuguese-Spanish Summits, national competent ministries and authorities and obviously the Convention's own structures have decisively supported both countries throughout these last couple of decades, reinforcing their commitment with the International and EU water law acquis.

The Albufeira Convention covers many topics related with water planning and management. Ten years after the Convention's adoption, in 2008, the two countries adopted a Revision Protocol densifying the annual water flow regimes with inter-annual seasonal regimes. This revision and upgrade provided better conditions for the environmental sustainability of the shared water basins.

The Albufeira Convention establishes the following as cooperation bodies for the pursuit of its objectives:

- The Conference of the Parties (CoP) – political and diplomatic in nature;
- The Commission for the Implementation and Development of the Convention (CADC) - technical and operational in nature.

The CoP has met three times and the CADC has held 24 plenary meetings, in addition to the hundreds of technical meetings of the working groups and thousands of institutionalized exchanges of information, reflecting an intense bilateral operation. Indeed, the Convention's operation through the CADC and its working groups have steadily picked up pace and added substance over the years.

Several events pushed the agenda forward, such as the 2004/5 and 2021/22 droughts (several other, less intense droughts in between), the 2019 "Tejo river challenges", the occasional Guadiana river "Jacinto de Água" occurrences, the three WFD river basin planning periods cooperation activities, and more generally the realization of already-upon-us climate change impacts.

In addition, several joint technical-scientific cooperation projects have been developed, at the level of the River Basin Districts, involving the water basin bodies of the two countries associated with other central, regional and local public administration entities, universities, researchers and public companies and NGOs. A list of these joint projects can be found in Annex I to this letter.

Certainly cooperation between Portugal and Spain under the guise of the Albufeira Convention has room for improvement, and both countries are keenly aware of that as can be attested in CADC records. But improvement would add to an intense and deep cooperation and exchange already taking place – especially over the last decade. The Albufeira Convention is not only a bilateral treaty, it is one of the most detailed and sophisticated international transboundary water agreements that has, by and large, worked as envisioned by both countries and pursuant to its provisions.

In a sense, the Albufeira Convention is one of many thousand formal and informal instruments and mechanisms that both countries share in modern times, reflecting the increased interdependence between the two Iberian states since the late seventies and obviously since the mid-eighties after their joint accession to the European Union (then EEC).

The current way of working of the Albufeira Convention is not in line with the requirements and obligations stemming from the UNECE Water Convention. Because of the organizational structure and the ways of working, the Convention is not fit for purpose for its task and obligations deriving from subsequently approved legislation such as the Water Framework Directive (WFD):

The Directive 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (“WFD”) defines in Article 2 the River Basin District (“RBD”) as the area of land and sea comprising one or more neighbouring river basins and associated groundwater and coastal waters, designated as the principal unit for the purposes of river basin management. Article 3 of the WFD requires that, in the case of river basins covering the territory of more than one Member State, these are included in an international RBD.

The recital 35 of the WFD states that the WFD is to

"contribute to the implementation of Community obligations under international conventions on water protection and management, notably the United Nations Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, approved by Council Decision 95/308/EC, and any succeeding agreements on its application".

The article 3.4 of the WFD states that for international river basin districts

"Member States shall ensure that the requirements of this Directive (...) are coordinated for the river basin district as a whole. For international river basin districts, the Member States concerned shall together ensure this coordination and may, for this purpose, use existing structures stemming from international agreements."

In compliance with Article 3.4 of the WFD, the Portuguese and Spanish authorities agreed to carry out this coordination through the Albufeira Convention suitable, in particular through the CADC. The decisions of CADC are taken by consensus and are subject to oversight by the respective governments. In the framework of CADC, there are the technical working groups, which submit their conclusions, recommendations, or communications to the Heads of Delegations for approval by agreement of the CADC.

Each country has set up a technical secretariat to carry out the work under the Albufeira Convention. In Portugal this work is undertaken by the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) as the National and Regional water Authority. APA reports to the Ministry for Environment and Climate Action. In addition, the Portuguese delegation to the CADC is composed of several public administration departments (agriculture, energy...) and is led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, APA serving and deputy-lead. In Spain, there's also a multi-agency team, and both the technical secretariat and the delegation lead is carried out by the General Water Directorate (Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge).

In practice, each of the parties has a technical secretariat in operation that supports the respective national delegation at the CADC, maintaining permanent bilateral contact, ensuring, namely: permanent monitoring of flow regimes; the coordination of action in emergency situations, both droughts and floods; the coordination of planning for the management of water resources and the risk of flooding in shared RBDs; technical-scientific cooperation within the framework of joint projects, evaluation of cross-border projects.

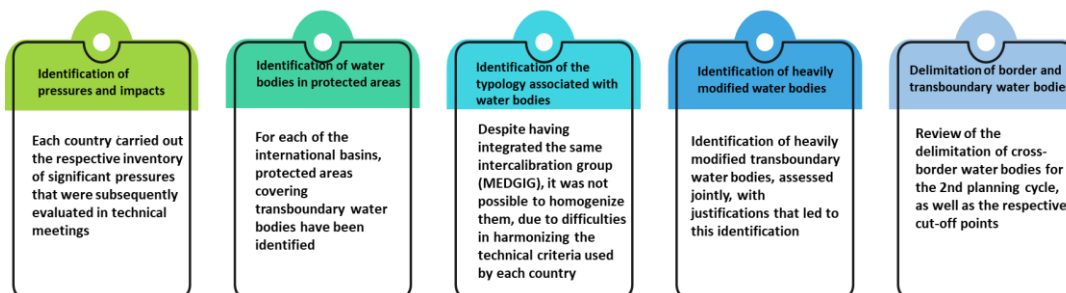
In sum, the Albufeira Convention organizational structure is perfectly aligned with international best practices and, in particular, the WFD and Portugal's National Water Law.

The signing letter stakeholders recommend an integrated cross-border river basin approach to develop river basin management plans:

Portugal and Spain have articulated the elaboration of the shared RBDs plans of Minho, Douro, Tagus and Guadiana since the first WFD planning cycle (2010-2015)

In the second planning cycle (2016-2021) the two countries structured the articulation work by addressing the following themes and methodologies:

Coordination



The articulation work carried out by the parties was recorded in a document in Portuguese and Spanish, called “[International coordination document](#)”, which was delivered to the European Commission in September 2017.

In 2020, the two countries prepared a [coordination document](#) for the mid-term evaluation process of the 2016-2021 planning cycle measures for the international river basins shared by Portugal and Spain, which was also submitted to the European Commission.

For the third planning cycle (2022-2027), despite the difficulties resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic, the two countries followed the same articulation methodology carried out in the second cycle and an “International coordination document” will be finalized in the summer of 2023 and sent to the European Commission.

There are several joint projects underway that aim to improve and deepen the management of international basins (Annex I).

The Albufeira convention in its current form is not fully suited to address the impacts of climate change:

The Albufeira convention includes the cross-border coordination of actions contributing to prevent and mitigate the effects of extreme events as droughts, water scarcity and floods.

Portugal and Spain annually draw up a joint hydrometeorological report on the Portuguese-Spanish river basins at the Spanish and Portuguese control stations. The report is analyzed and formally approved at a plenary meeting of the CADC and published on the [Convention's website](#).

Since beginning of the 2021-2022 hydrological year, the two countries have prepared quarterly reports to monitor flow regimes, which include a chapter of information on extreme hydrological phenomena, where the drought and scarcity indices of both countries are updated. The reports are published on the websites of [Portugal](#) and [Spain](#) for public access.

Within the scope of the working group for the exchange of information, the two countries have in place a mechanism for monitoring the flow regimes of the Convention, with monthly meetings to analyse the hydrometeorological situation. These meetings are complemented by a meeting in mid-February and another in May at the level of senior officials in the water authorities. In drought situations, as determined at the May meeting, the top officials of the water authorities meet at a frequency that is convenient to coordinate the release of flows and thus promote compliance with the Convention.

On the other hand, at the XXIV plenary meeting of the CADC, Portugal and Spain agreed to reinforce the measures to prevent and tackle water scarcity in the river basins shared by both countries within the framework of the Albufeira Convention and after a drought that has affected both countries.

Thirdly, during the XXIII plenary meeting CADC meeting, held on 10.02.2022, it was approved the mandate and composition of a specific working group on drought and floods, with the aim to deep the bilateral cooperation in this area.

Complementary to this, in the context of the European Union, the 2022-2024 Work Programme of the Common Strategy for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive has been launched. The Commission wants to give greater prominence within water policy to quantitative water management, specifically to ecological flows (eflows) and the allocation of resources (water balances), as it considers these to be two key issues for achieving good ecological status of water. This is what the Commission calls "Enhancing water resilience", which has to do with the quantitative management of water resources by the Member States. This represents a qualitative leap in the Commission's action in water policy because it has been focused mainly on quality aspects, and not so much on the future regulation of quantity aspects through the WEI+ indicator, basically to limit the impact of the most water-consuming economic activities (agriculture and industry).

Within this structure, an ad-hoc working group on drought and scarcity was created, co-chaired by the European Union, Portugal and Spain (ATG on Water Scarcity and Droughts).

This group held its first meeting in April 2022 and has a working mandate with the documents that will result from it, including a document on good practice cases on transboundary cooperation in drought and scarcity management. This document was elaborated in the second half of 2022 and after discussion and agreement within the working group and the decision groups of the Common Implementation Strategy, it will be presented as a contribution to the United Nations Water Conference in March 2023.

Both countries are co-leading the work on deliverables 5 and 6 of this European group. Regarding Deliverable 5 "Report on WS&D management in terms of river basin management planning and risk reduction", its elaboration is scheduled for the first quarter of 2024. - This deliverable is led by Portugal, with the support of Spain and the Commission. It aims to address water and sanitation management in terms of river basin management planning and risk reduction, including the issue of water security in the context of climate change.

Deliverable 6 "Report on good practices on water allocation mechanism" is led by Spain, with the support of Portugal and the Commission. It is also planned for 2024 and a report on water allocation mechanisms under the WFD, describing their key features (legal regimes and water rights, reserve of allocatable resources, allocation, and reallocation mechanisms, monitoring and enforcement) and identifying good practices related to scarcity and drought management.

Both countries are strongly involved in the consolidation of the Iberian position at European level in drought prevention and management, and to this end they continuously participate in technical meetings of the working group.

Additionally, Portugal has a National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change in force, which includes water resources and has developed a study to assess current and future water availability, taking into account the Iberian dimension.

Meanwhile, at the XXXIII Portuguese-Spanish Summit in 2022, the two governments agreed to work jointly and in a coordinated way in the study of drought and scarcity problems.

The warning and alarm systems are poorly coordinated:

The management of water resources in shared basins, particularly in extreme situations, involves the exchanging of information available in both countries, preferably in real-time. With this objective in mind, the two countries adopted a “Protocol for the exchange of information on hydrometeorological data, for the management of extreme situations, within the scope of the Albufeira Convention”, which establishes the mechanism for the exchange of information in real-time, allowing for more integrated and articulated management in flood situations, generalising the system implemented in the Tagus RBD since 2013-2014, which has been taken as a starting model, to all international basins.

Both Parties have been working technically in the development of the Protocol, integrating its requirements in the existing automatic hydrological information systems in the Spanish and Portuguese RBDs.

Apart from the Protocol, when there is an extreme event, floods, the Portuguese and Spanish water authorities are in real-time contact 24/7 managing the floods and their consequences. This coordination has been undertaken for decades.

Within the scope of the drought and floods working group, it is intended to develop a similar work for the management of prolonged droughts. Within the scope of a common POCTEP project for the Minho and Lima region, a common methodology of indicators has already been implemented and it is now intended to assess its extension to the other shared basins.

There is an ongoing deterioration of the ecological and environmental qualities of the shared rivers between Spain. The Albufeira Convention does not pay sufficient attention to restoring the ecological and environmental connection of the river basins shared by Portugal and Spain and there is no joint monitoring of the indicators to assess the conditions of the shared basins:

On one hand, the Albufeira Convention establishes the framework for cooperation between Portugal and Spain for the protection of surface and groundwater, as well as the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems directly dependent on them. In fact, article 10 of the Albufeira Convention clearly refers to the achievement of the objectives enshrined in the WFD, namely achieving good status and promoting the sustainable use of water.

The 2008 Revision Protocol to the Albufeira Convention, established minimum annual, quarterly, weekly, and instantaneous volumes that in different control sections must be provided by both countries, except in exceptional situations. These exceptional situations are foreseen in the Convention and are identified based on the rainfall accumulated in certain reference rain gauges. The flows set are intended to ensure that current and future water uses are sustainable in each of the basins considered, i.e. that the hydrological and environmental functions of rivers and estuaries are preserved.

On the other hand, the third RBMPs (2022-2027) for both countries, DO NOT show a deterioration of the ecological and environmental quality in the transboundary water bodies of the four international RBDs.

Detailed information can be found in the websites of the [Portuguese Environment Agency](#) and General Water Directorate of Spain (Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge of Spain):

Portugal

- [Minho e Lima \(RH1\)](#)
- [Douro \(RH3\)](#)
- [Tejo e Ribeiras do Oeste \(RH5A\)](#)
- [Guadiana \(RH7\).](#)

Spain:

- [Miño-Sil](#)
- [Duero](#)
- [Tajo](#)
- [Guadiana](#)

The Convention does not actively promote joint cross-border research:

Portugal and Spain developed overall several years the "[Albufeira](#)" project, aimed at the joint and coordinated implementation of actions between Portugal and Spain to promote and protect the good status of the shared water bodies of the Minho, Douro, Tagus and Guadiana and their associated ecosystems. Specifically, it focuses on 68 water bodies (rivers, reservoirs, and transitional waters), and on a surface area of 58 000 hectares of protected areas integrated in the Natura 2000 Network in Spain and Portugal.

Under this project, recently finished (December 2022), several important works have been carried out:

- The analysis of the methodologies for the assessment of the ecological status or potential of shared water bodies used in both countries and a proposal of harmonisation.
- The monitoring of ecological status or potential of shared water bodies for joint assessment:
- In the case of heavily modified water bodies, the development of a catalogue of mitigation measures.
- The improvement of the integration of the environmental objectives of the WFD and the Habitats Directive in water-related Natura 2000 sites: mapping of habitats of interest linked to water bodies and the determination of the ecological requirements of the species and habitats that support the water bodies considered in the project.

As already mentioned, in the framework of the Albufeira Convention, joint technical-scientific cooperation projects have been developed and a list of these projects can be found in Annex I to this letter.

Establishment by the competent authorities of a permanent and independent technical secretariat:

It has been identified the need to create a Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) structure of the Albufeira Convention, stable over time, and in charge of the organization, promotion and development of the Convention's issues. At present, many international river basins in the EU have an International Commission within the framework of which they have a permanent secretariat structure.

This Permanent Technical Secretariat will perform both general management and supervisory functions (carried out by an executive secretary) and technical functions depending on the issues addressed (carried out by specialised technical staff).

Meanwhile, at the XXXIII Portuguese-Spanish Summit held on November 4, 2022, Portugal and Spain agreed on a set of measures related to the Albufeira Convention, including promoting the development of a joint Permanent Technical Secretariat of the CADC, in line with best practices in the shared management of international river basins.

It is impossible for CSOs and other stakeholders to participate. They are not been able to get updated information or be involved in the work of the CADC or any of the thematic working groups. In term of stakeholder engagement, accountability and transparency, the Albufeira Convention does not live up to what is required by an international convention:

As it has been explained, the Albufeira Convention establishes two cooperation bodies for the pursuit of its objectives, the Conference of the Parties (CoP) with political in nature, and the Commission for the Implementation and Development of the Convention (CADC) with technical and operational in nature.

It should also be noted that the articulation of the elaboration of the shared RBDs plans within the scope of the WFD provides three periods of public participation lasting six months each, which allows for a broad debate in both countries and jointly.

The bilateral coordination ensured the articulation of the processes of public consultation of the plans, namely with the holding of several joint sessions of public participation in which the stakeholders were always included.

The Albufeira Convention website was created as a tool to allow the interested public to visualize progress in the implementation of the Albufeira International Convention, and to broaden knowledge on transboundary aspects. This platform is key to show the progress in the implementation and development of the Albufeira Convention.

In addition to the Albufeira Convention website, much of the updated information on the Albufeira Convention can be accessed on the websites of [Portuguese Environment Agency](#) and the [Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge in Spain](#).

Currently, the Technical Secretariat of the CADC of Spain, located in the Directorate General of Water, is responsible for updating and modifying the contents of this page, after coordination with the Portuguese Party. The content structure of the website was agreed by both countries at the meeting of the Hydrological Planning Working Group, held in Porto last March 2015.

The website was programmed with the TRIDION content management platform and is from an IT point of view very complex to update or modify. Moreover, it is currently located on the servers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAPA), which also makes it difficult to update. This set of reasons means that, at present, the Albufeira agreement website is very outdated both in design and content, as has been stated in several meetings by the agents interested in the agreement on both sides of the border.

To respond to the CADC agreement for the maintenance and management of the Albufeira website by the Spanish side, it is required firstly to migrate the Albufeira website from the MAPA servers (current location) to the MITECO servers (location in the short term). MITECO's IT services have informed that this migration process is already underway and is scheduled to be completed in summer 2023. Once this is completed, it will be possible to proceed to update the



contents, upload new ones and undertake a potential restructuring to make it more didactic, accessible, and transparent.

Whenever information or meetings are requested by the CSOs, these are held jointly or in each of the countries. There has also been a participation in seminars and other public sessions, either jointly or in each country, or even in international events, to clarify and inform about the results of the application of the Albufeira Convention.

Sincerely,

Nuno Lacasta

President

ANNEX I

RECENT PROJECTS FOR TECHNICAL-SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ALBUFEIRA CONVENTION

MIGRA MIÑO_MINHO - Protection and Conservation of Migratory Fish in the International Section of the River Minho and its Tributaries

Goals:

The aim of the project was to improve the protection and conservation of the fluvial habitat in the international area of the Minho river, from the Freira reservoir to the mouth, with actions to improve the conservation status of water courses and migratory fish species existing in the Minho river and its effluents, namely Trout (*Salmo trutta*), Salmon (*Salmo salar*), Shad (*Alosa alosa*), Yellowtail (*Alosa fallax*), Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) and Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*).

Main beneficiary: Xunta de Galicia. Consellería de Medio Ambiente e Ordenación do Territorio. Dirección Xeral de Conservación da Natureza

Partners: Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas (ICNF, I.P); Confederación Hidrográfica del Miño-Sil; Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente, (APA, I.P); Universidade de Santiago de Compostela; Vicerrectorado de Investigación e Innovación; Centro Interdisciplinar de Investigación Marinha e Ambiental (CIIMAR); Câmara Municipal de Vila Nova de Cerveira.

Activities:

- More mobility and accessibility in river habitat
- Mitigation of pressures of anthropic origin in river courses

Main results:

Improving the mobility of river fish by removing obstacles and installing innovative devices, improving the management of fish species in particular salmon and eel. Deepen the knowledge of the biological state.

<https://2007-2020.poctep.eu/es/2014-2020/proteccion-y-conservacion-de-peces-migradores-en-el-tramo-internacional-del-r-ado-mi-y-sus>

RISC_ML - Risk Prevention of Floods and Droughts in the Minho-Lima International Watershed

Goals:

This project aimed to carry out a geographical and hydrological analysis of the Minho and Lima river basins.

It intended to implement joint prevention, preparation, forecasting and management measures in extreme situations, such as floods and droughts, in the international RBD of Minho-Lima and thus mitigate their effects.

Improved knowledge of the international RBD, establishment of mechanisms for the joint management of droughts and early warning of floods, allowing for better preparation and response in the territory.

Main beneficiary: Confederación Hidrográfica del Miño-Sil

Partners: Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente (APA, I.P); Universidade de Vigo; Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto.

Activities:

- Analysis of the Minho and Lima river basins at a geographical and hydrological level;
- Joint drought plan for the Minho-Lima International Watershed;
- New early warning system against flooding in the International Watershed;
- Basin control systems and natural retention measures against flooding.

Main results:

From the project resulted a new cartography for the international RBD on a larger scale than the existing one, and a new inventory of water resources will be defined taking into account:

- Climate change;
- Meteorological drought indicators;
- Modification of hydrological indicators as part of the design of a joint drought plan for the basin;
- The establishment of a new flood warning system;
- Expansion of the network of control stations to support the tasks that will produce the previous results;
- Design of measures for natural retention against flooding in areas of special sensitivity within the basin.

<https://2007-2020.poctep.eu/es/2014-2020/prevenc%C3%B3n-de-riesgos-de-inundaciones-y-sequ%C3%ADas-en-la-cuenca-internacional-del-mi%C3%B1o-limia>

VALAGUA - Environmental enhancement and integrated management of water and habitats in the transboundary Low Guadiana

Goals:

The main objective of the VALAGUA Project was to improve the protection and sustainable management of the natural spaces of the Low Guadiana, through a triple integration: the territorial integration of the Natura 2000 Network spaces covered in its cross-border continuum, the sectoral integration of water management policies and biodiversity in these spaces, and the social integration of the different actors and users of the territory and its natural resources.

Main beneficiary: Associação de Defesa do Património de Mértola (ADPM)

Partners: Diputación Provincial de Huelva (DPH); Associação para o Desenvolvimento do Baixo Guadiana (ODIANA); Universidad de Huelva (UHU); Universidade do Algarve (UALG); Junta de Andalucía / Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio (JA); Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas (ICNF, I.P); Confederación Hidrográfica del Guadiana (CHG); Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente (APA, I.P).

Activities:

- Compatibility of water uses with the provision of ecosystem services;
- Restoration of habitats and environmental awareness of agents;
- Creation of ecotourism products to enhance cross-border water bodies;
- Integrated management of the Natura 2000 Network and the international hydrographic sub-basin of the Low Guadiana.

Main results:

The main results of the VALAGUA Project are:

- The integration of qualitative and quantitative aspects of water management among its main users on both sides of the Guadiana basin,
- The integration of this transboundary water management with the conservation of riverside ecosystems,
- The ecotourism enhancement of associated resources,
- The integrated management of water and biodiversity by the main actors and decision-makers in the contiguous territories of the Natura 2000 Network of Low Guadiana.

<https://2007-2020.poctep.eu/es/2014-2020/valoriza%C3%A7%C3%A3o-ambiental-e-gest%C3%A3o-integrada-da-%C3%A1gua-e-dos-habitats-no-baixo-guadiana>

ACECA - Actions to control and eliminate the Water Hyacinth in the cross-border section of the Guadiana River

Goals:

The aim of the project was to develop a Comprehensive Plan to Combat the invasive species Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), carrying out its removal using mechanical and human means, as well as carrying out its containment, control and surveillance to prevent its dispersion. The action was jointly coordinated between the administrations of both countries with protocols of action and minimization of reproduction, to achieve eradication, in the cross-border section of the Guadiana river between the Alqueva reservoir in Portugal and the Montijo dam, downstream of the city of Mérida (85 Km from the Guadiana river section).

Main beneficiary: Confederación Hidrográfica del Guadiana. Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente

Partners: Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente- Administração da Região Hidrográfica do Alentejo. (APA, I.P.); Empresa de Desenvolvimento e Infraestruturas do Alqueva, (EDIA S.A); Dirección General de Medio Ambiente (DGMA); Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Políticas Agrarias y Territorio; Junta de Extremadura

Activities:

- Detection, containment and extraction of Water Hyacinth;
- Prevention, control, surveillance and warning actions to prevent the Water Hyacinth from spreading;
- Analytical work, studies and research in the fight against the Water Hyacinth;
- Establishment of joint action and training protocols.

Main results:

The failure to act can cause severe damage to economic activities (agriculture and tourism). If the Water Hyacinth reached the irrigation channels of Montijo and Lobón, it would affect the irrigation infrastructure, the crops and thus the irrigation communities, cause socio-economic damage, affect the quality of the water supply and public health.

On the other hand, it is intended that the plant does not reach the Alqueva reservoir, with the inherent negative impacts.

<https://2007-2020.poctep.eu/es/2014-2020/actuaciones-para-el-control-y-eliminaci%C3%B3n-del-camalote-en-el-tramo-transfronterizo-del-r%C3%ADo>

NORWATER – Emerging pollutants in the waters of Galicia-Northern Portugal: new tools for risk management

Goals:

The main objectives of the project were to identify the main emerging pollutants (EP), including compounds from runoff from fires, their sources and their transformation products in the watersheds of northern Portugal and Galicia; evaluation of the effectiveness of wastewater treatment plants for the disposal of PE and development of tools to improve treatment systems and increase the efficiency of EP disposal; the development of new analytical methods, new ecotoxicological, predictive and modeling tools for EP that present a potential risk to ecosystems and the transmission of the results to the public institutions involved in the implementation of the WFD and in the management of inland and coastal water bodies and to the companies responsible for water treatment.

Main Beneficiary: CIIMAR – Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research

Partners: Universidade de Santiago de Compostela; Universidade do Porto – Faculdade de Engenharia; INTECMAR – Instituto Tecnológico para el control del medio marino de Galicia; Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente, (APA, I.P); Centro Tecnológico del Mar – Fundación CETMAR; Câmara Municipal de Vila Nova de Cerveira; Município de Viana do Castelo.

Activities:

- Definition of study areas and emerging pollutants;
- Destiny, transformation and modeling of EP behavior: tools for its monitoring;
- Development of nanotechnologies for EP removal in WWTP;
- Development of new modeling and ecotoxicological tools to assess the environmental risk of EP;
- Transfer of knowledge and technology generated to technology companies, WWTP and public entities with competence in the management of bodies of water;

- Organization of cross-border environmental education actions to promote awareness and sensitization in civil society.

Main results: Improve water quality and provide information for the implementation of the WFD in the cross-border scope.

<https://2007-2020.poctep.eu/es/2014-2020/poluentes-emergentes-nas-%C3%A1guas-da-galiza-norte-de-portugal-novas-ferramentas-para-gest%C3%A3o-0>