

BEST PRACTICE PRESENTATION

Basque Government – Directorate of Biodiversity
and Environmental Participation

DESIGNATION OF THE AÑARBE FOREST RESERVE ZONE (action in progress)

Location : Public land belonging to the
municipality of Errenteria

Bodies implementing the action : City Council
of Errenteria

Detailed Description of the action

Añarbe:

- Communal forest located in Errenteria, covered by beech and oak woods, surrounding a large reservoir.
- Part of the Aiako Harria Nature Reserve and Natura 2000 Site of Community Importance (SCI).

Forest Reserve Zone within Añarbe:

- 910 hectares home to fauna and flora of great interest.
- Administrative proposal for designation put forward in 2010 by the City Council of Errenteria.
- Creation of the Reserve Zone involves:
 - Changing policy of the Nature Reserve.
 - Integrating it in the management plan for the Natura 2000 Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Aiako Harria

Background of the action (1)

Basic data about AÑARBE:

- Part of Aiako Harria, which is Nature Reserve of 6,779 ha. since 1995, and Natura 2000 SCI since 2004
- 100% of the surface is public, belonging to Errenteria
- Main values: forests (beech, oak); indicator and specialist forest species



Background of the action (2)



GOALS/EXPECTED RESULTS

- 1) Designate a new Reserve Zone in the Aiako Harria Nature Reserve.
- 2) Introduce active policies to restore and reconstruct the characteristics of mature forest habitats.
- 3) Effective protection of natural habitats and of species of wild flora and fauna.
- 4) High levels of biodiversity in natural forest and fluvial habitats.
- 5) Legal recognition of biodiversity values.
- 6) Better protection of Añarbe's reservoir basin.
- 7) Become good practice of innovative local management of forest and fluvial biodiversity.





TARGETS

- 1) Local communities in the area of Donostia – San Sebastian.

PROS

- 1) Reserve Zone lies within public land that belongs to the municipality of Errenteria.
- 2) Proposal for designation stems from public participation (Local Agenda 21).
- 3) Other public bodies agree, as well as ecologists and conservationists.
- 4) Añarbe connects Natura 2000 sites in Gipuzkoa and Navarre.

CONS

- 1) Only a few local hunters were against it.

METHODOLOGY AND COST

- No specific material, nor human, nor financial resources.
- Forest and habitat cartography provided by the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa used in order to identify those tree stands containing habitats of Community interest (acidophilic beech woods, 9120), as well as acidophilic oak woods.
- Human resources:
 - ✓ Environment Office Manager
 - ✓ Municipal forest ranger
 - ✓ Cartography technician
 - ✓ Administrative staff

➤ Cost: 0€



EVALUATION OF THE ACTION

- Not possible to evaluate yet, as still in progress.
- No method for evaluation developed yet.



TEACHINGS OF THE ACTION

- Value of participatory processes.
- Coordination and collaboration among public authorities is feasible and positive.
- Local authorities can take initiative for the protection and improvement of biodiversity through land planning.



FOLLOW UP

What are the future actions?

Integrate Añarbe Forest Reserve Zone in all planning and management documents.

Continue restoring biodiversity values in Añarbe.

What could you improve?

Coordination and collaboration among public authorities involved could be improved further.

CONCLUSION

Land planning serves both as an instrument for the protection of biodiversity, and to recognise and communicate its values

