

# Actions

The LIFE Paludicola project comprises over 30 actions, most notably the following:

- Purchase of farm land on the periphery of the wetlands.
- Vegetation management through controlled mowing, scouring and grazing.
- Reforestation and re-vegetation on lacustrine shoreline areas.
- Hydraulic works to enhance flooding and suitable water management over the wetlands.
- Control of the American mink (Invasive Alien Species -IAS-).
- Monitoring and assessment of results, with the support of a Geographic Information System (GIS) and based on monitoring the populations of aquatic warbler and other species associated with the wetlands under study.
- Environmental communication and education.
- Preparation of a preliminary National Conservation Strategy for the aquatic warbler.



[www.carricerincejudo.es](http://www.carricerincejudo.es)

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# LIFE Paludicola

Habitat restoration for the  
spring and autumn migration of the  
aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)  
in the Iberian Peninsula

Partners:



Co-financed by:



With the support of:



Collaboration:



LIFE 16 NAT/ES/000168



## PROJECT AREAS

### • Castilla y León

1 ZEPA LA NAVA - Campos Norte  
2 ZEC Laguna de La Nava

### • Castilla - La Mancha

4 ZEPA LA NAVA - Campos Sur  
5 Laguna de Boada de Campos  
6 Laguna de Pedraza de Campos

### • Region of Valencia

7 LIC-ZEPA Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca  
8 ZEC-ZEPA Marjal dels Moros  
9 LIC-ZEPA l' Albufera  
10 ZEC-ZEPA Marjal de Pego-Oliva



Manufactured entirely from recycled post-consumer waste

“With the contribution of the LIFE Programme of the European Union”

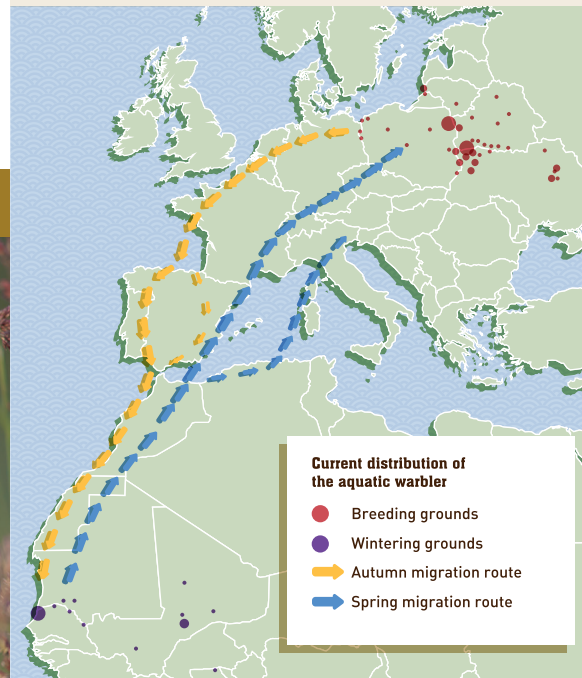


# What is LIFE?

The Environment and Climate Action Programme (LIFE) is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout the EU. The programme's overall aim is to catalyse changes in policy development and implementation by means of solutions and best practices to reach environmental and climate-related targets, and through promoting technological innovation applied to the environment and climate change.



## What makes the aquatic warbler special?



The aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) is the only globally threatened passerine bird found in mainland Europe (classified as Endangered in Europe). Its population worldwide is currently estimated between 9.000 -13.000 singing males. Poland, Belarus and Ukraine host the largest breeding populations. It is confined to fewer than 40 regular sites in only 4 countries, with 4 sites supporting over 80 % of the global population which, from a conservation perspective, places the species in a critical situation.

This species crosses the Iberian Peninsula regularly on spring and autumn migrations between its winter quarters in Africa and its nesting grounds in central and Eastern Europe. The Iberian Peninsula's wetlands are essential to the conservation of this species, which relies on these stopover grounds during its annual migrations.

The habitat destruction during the second half of the 20th century has caused this species' population to drop dramatically (by 95%). Direct loss of habitat through drainage and canalisation of the wetlands, changes in agricultural uses deriving from the abandonment of traditional livestock farming and from more intensive crop production has led to the successional overgrowth that is unsuited to this species. All these threats have led to the aquatic warbler species being classified worldwide as Vulnerable. It is also included into Annex I of the EU Wild Birds Directive, in Appendix II of the Bern Convention and in Appendix I of the Bonn Convention.

## Background: LIFE Carricerín cejudo (2002 · 2006)

The LIFE project "Conservation of the aquatic warbler in the ZEPA Nava-Campos" (LIFE 2002 NAT/E/8616) established the baseline for this project with the recovery of the Laguna de La Nava flood plains and habitat improvement actions. These included testing various methods for management the vegetation in the wetlands, whose growth gave rise to problems such as clogging, eutrophication and biodiversity loss. Data was likewise gathered on the migrations and stopover length of the aquatic warbler at Laguna de la Nava.

In April 2003 the signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of the Aquatic Warbler (Bonn Convention) committed to working together to improve the conservation conditions for the aquatic warbler.



## LIFE Paludicola (2017 · 2020)

The Paludicola project (LIFE16 NAT/ES/000168) works to restore the habitat of the aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) on its pre-nuptial and post-nuptial migrations over the Iberian Peninsula. The project budget totals €1,550,968 of which 75% is supported by the EU financial instrument LIFE.

The project encompasses 9 zones within the Natura 2000 Network in Castilla y León, Castilla La Mancha and the Region of Valencia from October 2017 until December 2020. The actions envisaged under this project aim to enhance the conservation of the wetlands by designing the necessary tools for their sustainable management and by monitoring the area's natural assets, in an overall effort to arrest the downward trend in aquatic warbler numbers, as this species is dependent on these wetlands during its annual migrations.

Members of this project include Fundación Global Nature and the Department of Development and the Environment of the Council of Castilla y León. The project is co-financed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environmental Affairs through Fundación Biodiversidad, the Department of Agriculture, Environment, Climate Change and Rural Development of the Generalitat Valenciana (Regional Government of Valencia), the City Hall of Torreblanca and the firm INFERTOSA.