



← REGIONAL EXCHANGES AND POLICY
MAKING FOR PROTECTING AND VALORISING
BIODIVERSITY IN EUROPE



Reverse
EUROPEAN PROJECT
TO PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY



WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity means the diversity of living things on Earth. It includes all living organisms: plants and animals, including microorganisms, bacteria and genes, which

interact in a complex way with their surroundings to create living ecosystems:

Biodiversity is not only present in the wilderness and in nature reser-

ves, but also in cities, on farmland and in rural areas.



CULTIVATED BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is also our cultivated heritage: vegetables, cereals, fruits, and flowers. This heritage, maintained by generations of farmers and gardeners, has been under threat for several years now.

Indeed, intensive farming practices and marketing methods have tended to reduce the varieties cultivated in Europe to a few varieties patented by seed producers. Cultivating biodiversity enables species to regain their specific characteristics that are linked to the land, their nutritive quality, as well as their social value. The founding text is the International treaty on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture which came into effect on 2004 (www.planttreaty.org).

WHY PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY?

The erosion of biodiversity is accelerating; it's a proven fact. The scientific community estimates that half of all living species that we know could disappear in a century from now. Indeed, due to human actions, the current rate by which living species are disappearing is 100 to 1,000 times higher than the natural rate.

Five major causes of damage to biodiversity have now been identified:

- The fragmentation and destruction of natural environments linked, in particular, to growing urbanisation and the expansion of farmland;
- The overexploitation of wildlife (overfishing, deforestation, poaching, etc.);
- The introduction of invading exotic species (coyote, Asian hornet, jussie aquatic plant, etc.);
- Pollution (of industrial and farming origin, etc.);
- Climate change (which has a direct or indirect affect on biodiversity).



However, biodiversity provides us with food, health and raw materials. The erosion of biodiversity therefore has **major socio-economic consequences**. In addition to the supply of goods that are irreplaceable and indispensable to our survival, such as oxygen, biodiversity is at the origin of services, which are far vaster than that. Thus, species like insects, bats or birds ensure the pollination of vegetation, yet without pollination there are no fruits or vegetables. Furthermore, natural environments contribute to the natural filtering of water, flood prevention, the structuring of landscapes and the general improvement of our surroundings...

BIODIVERSITY IS LIFE: LET'S PRESERVE IT!

BIODIVERSITY IN 3 KEY DATES:

➤ 1992

EARTH SUMMIT

The 1st United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED), the Earth Summit takes place in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

190 Heads of States and Governments approve of the Declaration of Rio; adopt the convention on biological diversity (CBD) and commit to recognising biological diversity as a “preoccupation common to humanity”.

➤ 1998

EUROPEAN STRATEGY IN SUPPORT OF BIODIVERSITY

This strategy sets out a general framework in which the community policies and instruments unique to satisfying the obligations of the Rio de Janeiro convention on biological diversity are developed. It focuses on four main topics, within which specific objectives are determined and put in place, notably by means of action plans in the areas of **natural resources protection, agriculture, fishing, development aid and economic cooperation**.

Other action plans were then developed on a national level.

➤ 2010

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY

The United Nations Organisation declares the ‘International Year of Biodiversity’ in 2010 to alert public opinion to the state and the consequences of the decline of biodiversity in the world. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD) set the following main objectives for 2010:

- Reinforce citizens’ awareness of the importance of saving biodiversity, as well as of the threats, which impact it;
- Raise public awareness of the actions already successfully carried out by communities and governments to save biodiversity;
- Encourage people, organisations and governments to take the necessary immediate measures to halt the loss of biodiversity;
- Promote innovative solutions to reduce the threats to biodiversity;
- Initiate dialogue between the stakeholders regarding the measures to be taken for the post-2010 period.



THE REVERSE PROJECT

REGIONAL EXCHANGES AND POLICY MAKING FOR
PROTECTING AND VALORISING BIODIVERSITY IN EUROPE

THE EUROPEAN PROJECT REVERSE AIMS TO PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY ON A EUROPEAN SCALE BY SUPPORTING POSITIVE ACTIONS ACROSS THE REGIONS.



Built on the basis of feedback from the field and exchanges on successful partnership initiatives, this project aims to improve the effectiveness of regio-

nal policies on the conservation and development of biodiversity.

3 KEY TOPICS

- 1 AGRICULTURE, FOOD PRODUCTION AND BIODIVERSITY
- 2 TOURISM AND BIODIVERSITY
- 3 LAND DEVELOPMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

The aim is to identify actions, which may be easily transposed to other European regions.

AT THE END OF THE PROJECT

Several documents will be created. Their purpose is to provide relevant tools to local councils and decision-makers to take account of biodiversity within their policies.

- **Strategic and political recommendations** intended for decision-makers, in order to create new perspectives for their local policies.
- **A guide to good practices**, as a genuine operational tool, this guide will group together, in a thematic and practical way, successful experiences which have demonstrated a proven effectiveness in terms of preserving biodiversity. The good practices presented will be easily transposable.
- **A charter** will be proposed on a European scale in order to unite players in a joint project to preserve biodiversity.

THE PROJECT IN FIGURES

- **TYPE OF PROJECT:**
EUROPEAN INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION PROJECT-INTERREG IVC PROGRAM.
- **NUMBER OF PARTNERS:**
14 PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIODIVERSITY.
- **NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INVOLVED:**
7 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.
- **PROJECT DURATION:**
3 YEARS (JANUARY 2010-DECEMBER 2012).
- **PROJECT'S PROVISIONAL BUDGET:**
2,5 MILLION EUROS.



The INTERREG IVC Programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective. It is a EU programme that helps regions of Europe work together to share their knowledge and experience. Launched in 2007, the programme will run until 2013.

KEY MOMENTS



HOW TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH THE REVERSE PROJECT?

Diary of events offered by the partners, conclusions drawn from interregional seminars, focusing on an action:

Find all the latest news and events on the Reverse project on its very own website www.reverse.aquitaine.eu

- **JUNE 2010:**
PROJECT LAUNCH CONFERENCE, BORDEAUX, (FRANCE).
- **JUNE 2010:**
1ST INTERREGIONAL SEMINAR: « AGRICULTURE, FOOD PRODUCTION AND BIODIVERSITY», BORDEAUX (FRANCE).
- **SEPTEMBER 2010:**
LAUCH OF RESERVER'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE.
- **END OF 2010:**
2ND INTERREGIONAL SEMINAR: « TOURISM AND BIODIVERSITY», CRETE (GREECE).
- **BEGIN OF 2011:**
3TH INTERREGIONAL SEMINAR: « LAND DEVELOPMENT AND BIODIVERSITY», MURCIA (SPAIN).
- **END OF 2011:**
4TH INTERREGIONAL SEMINAR: GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICES CONSTRUCTION, UMBRIA (ITALY).
- **BEGIN OF 2012:**
5TH INTERREGIONAL SEMINAR: CHARTER CONSTRUCTION, (ESTONIA).
- **END OF 2012:**
CLOSING CONFERENCE: PRESENTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROJECT'S CONCLUSIONS AND RESULTS, BRUSSELS (BELGIUM).

PRESENTATION OF KEY PLAYERS IN THE REVERSE PROJECT

The partners of the REVERSE project are regional authorities and public establishments, which have for a long time been involved in the protection and development of natural and cultivated biodiversity. They work on varied and complementary subjects such as: conservatories of species in situ, gene banks, the management of natural spaces, the regional strategies for the conservation of biodiversity (ecological corridors, etc.), the local legislation for the protection of biodiversity, education, etc.

The Aquitaine Region is the lead partner of the REVERSE project.



REGIONS

The Regions possess numerous skills related to biodiversity such as environmental management, land development, agricultural development and the protection of outstanding or ordinary local species.



www.aquitaine.fr



www.regione.umbria.it
www.parco3a.org



www.murcianatural.com



www.euskadi.net
www.ingurumena.ejgv.euskadi.net



Der Senator für Umwelt, Bau, Verkehr und Europa



www.umwelt.bremen.de



www.nestos.gr

SPECIALISED LOCAL AUTHORITIES



Arsial

Agenzia Regionale per lo Sviluppo e l'Innovazione dell'Agricoltura del Lazio

ARSIAL (ITALY)
www.arsial.regione.lazio.it



REGIONAL PREFECTURE FOREST DIRECTORATE OF CHANIA (GREECE)

www.crete-region.gr

The regional agency for the development and innovation of agriculture in Lazio is the public establishment in charge of the implementation of the region's agricultural policy.

This direction is the public authority responsible for the management and monitoring of regional natural spaces.

OTHER KEY PLAYERS IN THE PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY



FRANCE

www.cren-aquitaine.fr

CREN

The Regional Conservatory of Natural Spaces of Aquitaine is a non-governmental organisation, which protects numerous natural sites across the region.



SLOVAKIA
www.crvr.sk

PLANT PRODUCTION RESEARCH CENTER -RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PLANT PRODUCTION PIESTANY

This research institute directly depends on the Ministry of Agriculture of Slovakia. It carries out research and development in the area of biodiversity and plant production.



ESTONIA
www.emu.ee

UNIVERSITY OF LIVING SCIENCES OF ESTONIA

This public university is a leading establishment in terms of research and teaching in the area of agriculture and environmental sciences in the Baltic Sea.



GRÈCE
www.maich.gr

MEDITERRANEAN AGRONOMIC INSTITUTE OF CHANIA MAICH

MAICH is a research and teaching establishment orientated towards Mediterranean agronomic issues.



FRANCE
www.bio-aquitaine.com

BIO D'AQUITAINE

Bio d'Aquitaine is an association, which unites 5 associations of producers of Organic Agriculture on a regional level. It notably carries out research on the dynamic conservation of cultivated species.



ALLEMAGNE
www.ttz-bremerhaven.de

BREMERHAVEN TECHNOLOGY-TRANSFER-CENTRE

TTZ is a non-profit Research and Development centre, with expertise in the areas of the environment and food production.



www.reverse.aquitaine.eu



This project is cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and made possible by the INTERREG IVC programme



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