

# Mediterranean ecosystem

## Restoration sites

Wetland



## Improving wetlands networks in Spain

L'Albufera de València is a coastal wetland, protected on a regional (Natural Park) and international (Natura 2000, Ramsar convention) scale due to the occurrence of a wide variety of habitats and species of high conservation value. The main habitats it comprises are a shallow freshwater lagoon, a vast extension of rice fields, mature coastal forest, dunes and other transitional littoral habitats. The shallow lagoon, c. 3,000 hectares, is surrounded by a narrow border of marshy vegetation and small islands mainly composed of calcareous peat bogs' habitats.

### Goals

The objective of the successive restoration projects is contributing to overcoming two of the main problems for the conservation of biodiversity in l'Albufera: bad quality of water and the scarcity of permanent flooded habitats and marshlands.

### General information

 SPAIN

**Organisation**  
SAV. Servicio de Conservación de Ambientes Acuáticos/Devesa-Albufera

**Type of organisation**  
Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) or private sector entity

 **Implementation area**  
**105ha**

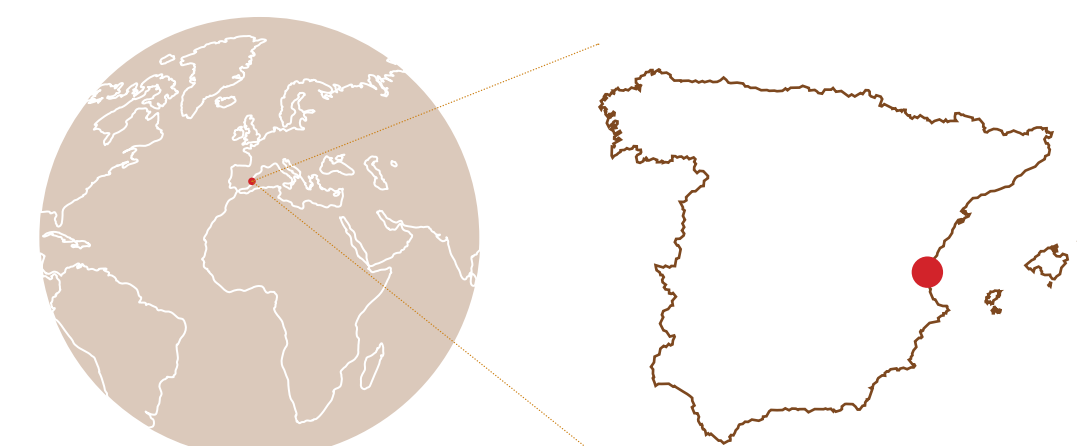
 **Restoration started**  
**2006**

**Contact person**  
Pablo Vera  
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**Website**  
<https://www.sav.es/areas-de-negocio/conservacion-de-espacios-naturales-prottegidos/>

 **Coastline**  
**17 km**

#### Site location



**Tancat de la Pipa**  
39°21'49.8"N, 0°20'46.6"W  
**Tancat de Milia**  
39°18'28.0"N, 0°21'17.8"W  
**Tancat de l'Illa**  
39°16'41.6"N, 0°17'29.5"W  
**Tancat de la Ratlla**  
39°19'38.1"N, 0°23'39.9"W  
**Tancat de Burriel**  
39°21'52.4"N, 0°20'25.3"W



Scan the code for full description



## Type of restoration intervention

- Natural regeneration
- Assisted natural regeneration
- Removal of contaminants
- Assisted water management

## Main drivers of degradation

- Croplands and agroforestry management
- Drainage (wetlands)
- Alteration of vegetation

## What is the practice about

- Restoring constructed wetlands and small patches of aquatic habitats on former rice paddies
- Promote the colonisation and connectivity of fauna and flora from the bordering areas
- Creation of temporary flooding lagoons and marshland habitats mosaics
- Promote the attraction of endangered biodiversity through the improvement of water quality
- Establish management protocols based on an integrated approach, scientific evidence and settlement of common goals.
- Management plans include experimental measures for water management

## Achievements and impact

- All of the restored areas have become biodiversity hotspots
- Colonisation of new species linked to coastal lagoon habitats
- Birds, reptiles, fish and arthropod diversity has been boosted
- Water outputs have bigger zooplankton loads and smaller loads of phytoplankton
- Increase connectivity of the wetland and strengthens the network of restored areas
- In the past 12 years, almost 50,000 people visited the restored areas
- The economic valuation of the provision of ecosystem services has been estimated at more than € 20 million.



Scan the code for more information about Mediterranean Ecosystem Restoration sites



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
**ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION**  
2021-2030