OPERATION CO_2

Integrated agroforestry practices and nature conservation against climate change

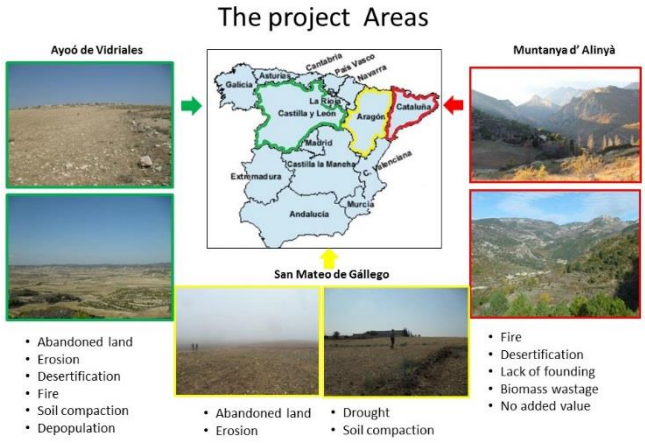
AFTER-LIFE COMMUNICATION PLAN

*The project "**Operation CO_2**" seeks to evaluate the viability of **increasing carbon sequestration** in Europe through **environmentally and economically sustainable, forest and agroforestry management** actions with the end goal of contributing to the **fight against climate**.*

The project aimed to:

- *Promote **conservation** through an **integral management of forests** and the potential of **carbon capture***
- *Transform degraded areas into **integral agroforestry ecosystems***





Project demonstration areas:

1. *The **Integral forest management plan** for CO_2 fixation is being implemented across 5.400 hectares, property of the Fundació Catalunya-La Pedrera situated in the Catalan Pre-Pyrenees in the **Espai Natura Muntanya d´Alinyà**.*
2. *The **Agroforestry Plan** is being implemented to recover eroded areas in Castilla and León (Ayoó de Vidriales) and Aragón (San Mateo de Gállego).*

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Through the AFTER-LIFE Communication Plan, project partners will disseminate the results of *the* ***Operation CO_2*** *project* during at least the following 5 years with using their own resources. To this purpose, several actions are expected to be carried out at regional, national and European levels following three pillars: **Inform, Involve & Inspire**.

Inform

- *Disseminate the projects' purpose, aims and outputs to reach a broader audience, outside the project boundaries, using the material compiled during the project (Layman's Report, project website, Technical Evaluation, Socioeconomic Impact Assessment, etc.).*
- *Encourage new stakeholders to adopt a more sustainable practices such as integral forest management plans and agroforestry principles.*

Involve

- *Contribute to policy deliberation at all governmental levels in order to help make greening practices a top priority in the European agenda.*
- *Keep key stakeholders updated via* ***Operation CO_2*** *communication channels and events.*

Inspire

- *Serve as an impulse to the greening strategy within the CAP payment system considering that a greater variety of crops, improvements in biodiversity and the protection of habitats and water resources contributes to the resilience of soils and ecosystems.*
- *Engage interested parties in committing to combating soil degradation and climate change by "leading by example".*










Beyond the boundaries of the project, the Consortium has established a strong network of farmers that are committed to continuing with **agroforestry practices** in their areas as well as disseminating and communicating the sustainable management implemented, such as: inoculation of mycorrhiza, beneficial bacteria and humus in the soil, planting a mix of bushes and trees, use of protean cover crops and decompaction treatments. The development of a **virtual application** available on the project website will help landowners to develop their own Integral Planting System, by suggesting potential species and showing example plans of viable crops to plant depending on the type of soil and climate in the region. Furthermore, the project results are available online on the project website that can be used for future up-take of these practices. Also we invite you to check out our Layman's Report.

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Further applicability to other areas. *Implementing an* ***agroforestry system*** *in these semi-arid areas may have contributed to reduce the vulnerability of these ecosystems, serving as an* ***adaptation*** *measure* ***to combat the negative effects of climate change****. This model can be replicated to other areas classified as arid or semi-arid in Spain and other Mediterranean countries that also suffer from dry and excessively hot summers. The adaptation should take into account the type of soil, climate of the region and the crops to which it will be applied. The environmental and economic benefits will vary in absolute terms but should remain similar to those of* ***LIFE Operation CO_2****, yielding a higher quantity of healthier products. Technical field management and maintenance activities are easy to implement and available to all stakeholders.*







Example of future After-Life activities

Motivating local farmers to replicate best practices

Partners Beral and Edena have performed 20 quick-scans free of charge to local farmers in each demonstration area that later were evaluated by FSG in order to **advise on the feasibility of implementing an agroforestry plan** in their area. In addition, the online application was explained and will be available to advise other farmers to replicate the method.

Engaging social integration

FCLP has executed a variety of field tasks in the Muntanya d´Alinyà with the help of members of the **Fundación Integra Pirineus** which works for people at risk of social exclusion. Once the project ends, they will stay involved in the maintenance, harvest and processing of the obtained food products.

Fostering liaisons with and transferring of knowledge to diverse stakeholders and end-users

FSG has shared their knowledge in several EU countries to inform and train people in **agroforestry planning** and coordination of **carbon credit certification**. Further, they will continue disseminating the features of management practices and the achievements of this project in their annual planning. As well, partners will continue presenting the project results at (inter)national conferences and seminars (ie. Uva has recently participated in The role of agriculture on climate change 2017) or to University Masters students (ie. FCLP guides several student groups to the plantation areas in la Muntanya d'Alinyà to visit the project site and learn about the results obtained).

Promoting carbon certification as a viable option to increase sustainable EU forestry operations

FCLP and FSG will continue with sharing and promoting carbon certification and related results and the discussion around double counting in order to help influence future EU policies and practices.

Garnering press attention

Ongoing contacts with the press resulted in various **press, radio and TV interviews and articles**. After the closing of the project, all partners will continue with these efforts during coming years (ie. Transfer has contributed with a **case study on agroforestry in Spain** to the FAO-IUCN – CEM , to be published end of 2017).

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Contact: *projects@transferconsultancy.com*

Coordinating Beneficiary: *Universidad de Valladolid*
Associated Beneficiaries:
Transfer Consultancy
Forestry Service Group (FSG)
Alternativas Ecológicas (Edena)
Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera (FCLP)
Fundación General UVa
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Plant Health Cure
Beral Ingeniería

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