LIFE "The Green Link"

"LIFE Climate Change Adaptation" - LIFE15 CCA/ES/000125

Summary	The **Green Link** aims to demonstrate the environmental and economic benefits of an innovative tree growing method that has the potential to restore desertified areas across the Mediterranean border. Mediterranean societies are increasingly facing floods, water scarcity, heat waves, prolonged droughts, flows variability, temperature rises and decreased rainfall with related impacts on vegetation. The impact of these phenomena is expected to intensify the existing risks of desertification and forest fires, particularly in regions where water scarcity is already a concern. **Developing adaptation measures aimed at reducing the vulnerability of these ecosystems and strengthening their resilience is therefore of crucial importance.** The Green Link project seeks to contribute to the development of effective adaptation strategies across the Mediterranean region by testing an innovative growing method to restore desertified areas. This consists of replacing traditional irrigation techniques with the Cocoon, a water-efficient, low-cost and 100% biodegradable. Through six trials in three different Mediterranean countries suffering from desertification, the project will: 1. **Demonstrate that Cocoon technology can help combat desertification and climate change** in the Mediterranean while providing a competitive market alternative to traditional irrigation. 2. Demonstrate the **economic feasibility** of an improved and more sustainable technology to plant trees without the use of irrigation. 3. **Design specific ecological interventions** (study of assisted migration of species) for a more efficient adaptation to climate change and enhance ecosystem services, particularly in relation to soil quality improvement and biodiversity. 4. Integrate novel methodologies to **measure biodiversity, soil carbon stock, soil loss and human well-being while allowing for the assessment of climate change impact and resilience in the future.** 5. **Map ecosystem services** for adaptation strategies in order to gain a better understanding of the positive outputs of the project. 6. **Replicate the project experience** and actively engage stakeholders (research, SMEs, NGOs, governments & local communities) in order to increase awareness and dissemination of adaptation strategies, and share methods and results for uptake across Southern-Europe.
	Expected results include: **1.** 90% survival rate after planting for all the species selected. **2.** Savings of up to 50% for planters (taking into account lower maintenance and dead trees repositioning costs) vs. traditional methods in these areas. **3.** Soil quality improvement by 20% due to improved water retention, and further green cover, microorganism and mycorrhiza. Planting along height lines will also help prevent soil erosion. **4.** Increase of biodiversity by at least 15%, and positive growth of soil carbon stock over time. **5.** Comprehensive modelling and mapping of local ecosystem services. **6.** Increased awareness and dissemination of adaptation strategies on forest management among stakeholders (particularly on EU relevant legislation and objectives).
Execution	1st July 2016 - 31st March 2020
Total project budget	€ 2,966,802
EU Financial Contribution	€ 1,772,581

			Involvement	Country
	Coordinating Beneficiary			
1	**Centro de Investicaciòn Ecològica y Aplicaciones Forestales** http://www.creaf.cat/	CREAF	Leader of the LIFE Project Technical monitoring and control Protocol for measurements above ground Dissemination	Spain
	Associated Beneficiaries			
2	**Biopoplar Srl** www.biopoplar.com	biopoplar ibérica	Technical assistance & management (connections, sensors..) Execution of trials in Calabria Dissemination	Italy
3	**Centre for Research and Technology Hellas** www.certh.gr	CERTH	Technical assistance Execution of trials in Greece Biomass assessment and mycorrhiza infestation Dissemination	Greece
4	**Cabildo de Gran Canaria** www.grancanaria.com	Cabildo de Gran Canaria	Technical Assistance Management of reforestation Execution of trials in Gran Canaria Dissemination	Spain
5	**Centro de Investigaciones sobre Desertificación (CSIC-CIDE)** www.csic.es	CIDE	Technical Assistance Technical Monitoring Analysis of monitoring indicators below ground Dissemination	Spain
6	**Land Life company BV** www.landlifecompany.com	LAND LIFE COMPANY	Inventor of the Cocoon technology Technical support and execution trials in Valencia (Spain) Assessment of planting costs and savings Dissemination	The Netherlands
7	**Centro Andaluz para la Evaluación y Seguimiento del Cambio Global (UAL-CAESCG)** www.caescg.org	CAESCG	Technical assistance - Execution trials in Almería Stakeholder consultation - Dissemination Stakeholder consultation Assessment of ecosystem services Policy recommendations	Spain
8	**Van Leijen Srl**	Van Leijen European Cooperation & Grants	Compliance Manager Overall project management and reporting Dissemination	Italy
9	**Volterra Ecosystems SL** http://www.volterra.bio/	VOLTERRA power up your soil	Technical Assistance Assessment of cover crops and mycorrhiza infestation Execution of trials in Catalonia Dissemination	Spain