

THE NEWSLETTER OF RIPARIAN FORESTS

Newsletter n° 4

May 2019

LIFE ALNUS—THE FOREST OF THE RIVER

Agreement with hydroelectric company Estabanell Energia for the improvement of ecological flows of Ter River

At the end of December 2019, Life Alnus, together with the Agència Catalana de l'Aigua, Centre de Recerca dels Rius Mediterranis and the CTFC, have signed an agreement with the company Estabanell Energia, to implement ecological flow in two hydroelectric plants: Mariner (Sant Pau de Seguries) and Gallifa (les Masies de Voltregà). In this way, one of the objectives set with respect to habitat improvement is achieved, action *C3.3 Habitat improvement in strongly hydrologically regulated river sections*.

Life Alnus will carry out an ecological monitoring of the effects of the release of these ecological resources on the aquatic communities and the riverside vegetation. The river flow release is expected to improve the availability of water in the most critical periods of the year, a fact that allows better vegetative conditions for alders and the functionality of the ecosystem as a whole.



Photo: Ter lock and meeting with Estabanell Energia. Jordi Bas

Ending of inventories to identify the action in lone stands in the Ter basin

In February, the work aimed at collecting data for the forest inventories preparation has been completed. These data allow us to know the conservation status of the riverside forest, the species present, the impacts, the uses (agricultural, forestry, fishing, recreational ...) in order to implement measures or actions that bring

us closer to the objective of improvement and conservation of riverside forests and river areas.

The actions are aimed at the elimination of invasive species (such as robinias, amaranth and negundos), various forest treatments aimed at improving forest stands and riparian forest (alder, willow, ash, ...) and habitat improving for fauna linked to river areas.



Life Alnus documentary collection

Technical meetings for the development of future “discussion rooms”

Meetings between the partners of Life Alnus and ARC Mediación are aimed to design and trace diverse lines of work that will begin this year in the frame of the Classrooms of debate, action E2.

Meeting 1: *Agricultural, livestock and forestry management of riverside*

Meeting 2: *Riverbank governance at municipal level*

Meeting 3: *River conservation custody that can be undertaken from the private sector*

Meeting 4: *Recreational activities (fishing, hiking, mountain biking) and conservation of river shore*

Aula 5: *Allow compatibilization for environmental flows to restore the riparian forest with hydroelectric production*



Photo: Arnau Picó. CTFC

Video broadcast for LIFE ALNUS project

LIFE Alnus video project is already broadcasted. Two versions have been made, a long one that lasts around four minutes, and a shorter version of approximately one minute.

Longer version is more detailed and explains the importance and type of riverside forests. It also refers to the current problems with this type of forest and the executive actions of the LIFE Alnus project.

Short version summarizes the most relevant aspects and has been created with the aim of disseminating it on social networks.

Both versions contain an overprinted text and have been produced in the three project languages: Catalan, Spanish and English.

The traveling exhibition that opened last November 2019, incorporates an audiovisual with the long version to help explain and spread the project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDoSc7awxjs>

The exhibition “River Forests, the Great Unknowns” is on its way

Catalonia alder grove conservation, restoration and governance in a single exhibition. "The forests of the river, the great unknown" is focused on riverside forests dissemination. Presenting different posters aimed to publicize the ecological importance of these forests, problems they have, climate change, anthropic extractive and productive uses, as well as their disappearance. Finally, what actions are taken to improve alder groves, in the rivers Ter, Segre and Besós basins, within the European project for the promotion of the environment and sustainable development.

At the moment, the exhibition has been seen at the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Vic, at the Center Cívic i Cultural La Fàbrica de Santa Eulàlia de Ronçana, at the Museu de Ciències Naturals de Granollers and at the Institut Antoni Cumella de Granollers. The following planned itineraries are postponed without a defined date due to Covid19, although closed commitments will be respected to the maximum. In order that the exhibition does not stop, digital content has been enabled and made public:

<https://twitter.com/LifeAlnus/status/1248189528751378433>



Photo: Exhibition at Centre Cívic La Fàbrica, de Sta Eulàlia de Ronçana.

Alder groves and riparian forests preservation statement

In April, and taking advantage from the latest river flooding episodes, where riverside forests have been at the forefront of current news, a consensus statement was issued between LIFE ALNUS project partners. In this statement, project objectives were defined as well as all internal discussions, rethinking and new ways of riverside vegetation managing and treating were issued. On the same hand, main ideas and lines of management and improvement that are proposed from the project.

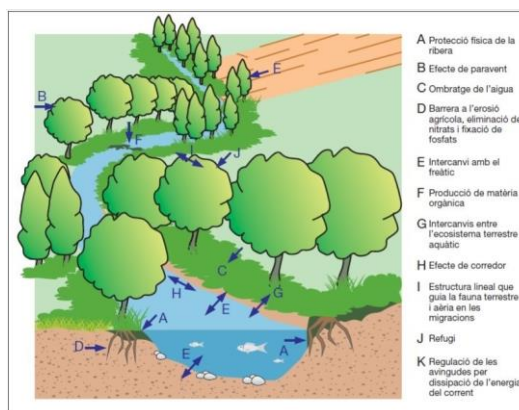
Here we leave the link of the statement:

https://lifealnus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Comunicat_Preservaci%C3%B3Vernedes_2020_LIFEALNUS_def.pdf

Apart from the statement, a thread has been prepared on Twitter with a pedagogical and constructive spirit about the streams and rivers of our environment, taking advantage of debate generated by the storm Gloria.

Here we leave you the link of the Twitter thread:

<https://twitter.com/LifeAlnus/status/1221736889117544450>



Photos: CERM and LIFE ALNUS documentary collection

Consequences of the storm in Basses de Gallissà

Between 19th and 23rd of January, storm which caused heavy snowfall and rainfall took place in Catalonia. Most part of the territory was affected by it.

Specifically, Segre River suffered an important increase in its flow, which caused the river to exceed the first section of the hillock that had been moved away during the work done by LIFE Alnus.

The water went through the hillock and circulated along the path, bringing sediment and returning the natural river dynamics.

This fact demonstrates that the ecological connectivity (hydraulic, sedimentary and biological) between the river and the river bank has increased. It is important to underline that a high volume of water circulated through the open canal. All this water, together with the water which entered through the hillock, brings sediments and nutrients, and it infiltrates through the soil. All these facts allow the recovery of the water table level, creating the conditions for the riverbank forest to develop.

To sum up, the riverbank area is connected with the river again.



Photo: Pilot actions in Bellver de Cerdanya. Josep Fabra



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