



**Generalitat de Catalunya**  
Government of Catalonia

**I. Land stewardship, a successful tool for landscape and biodiversity conservation**

**II. The Green Infrastructure Program of Catalonia:  
Promoting ecosystem functions and services inside  
and outside Protected Areas**

**Marta Subirà**

**Secretary for Environment and Sustainability**



**INVESTING**  
in our countryside  
EU Green Week > 31 May 2016



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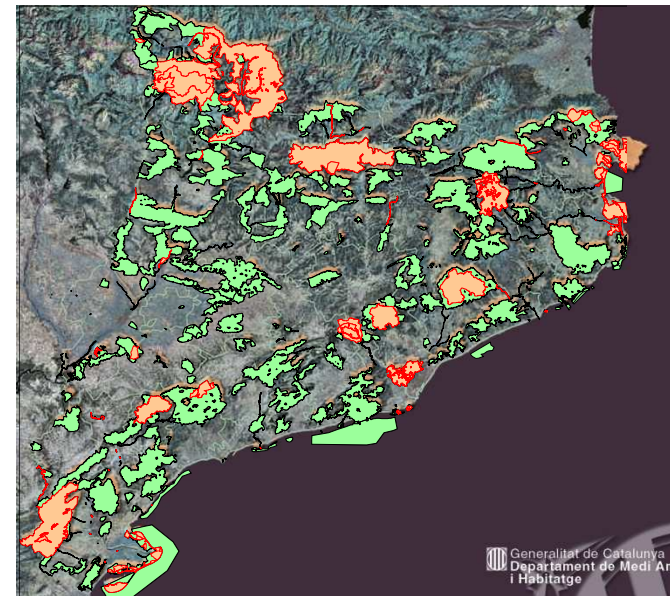
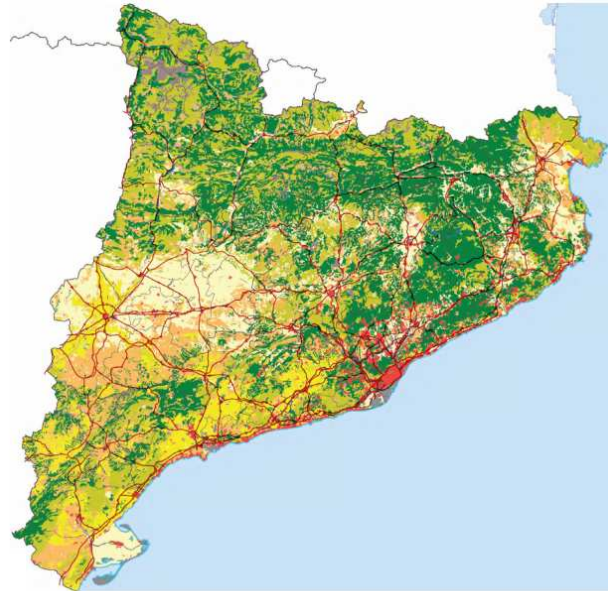
# **I. Land stewardship, a successful tool for landscape and biodiversity conservation**



# Regional context

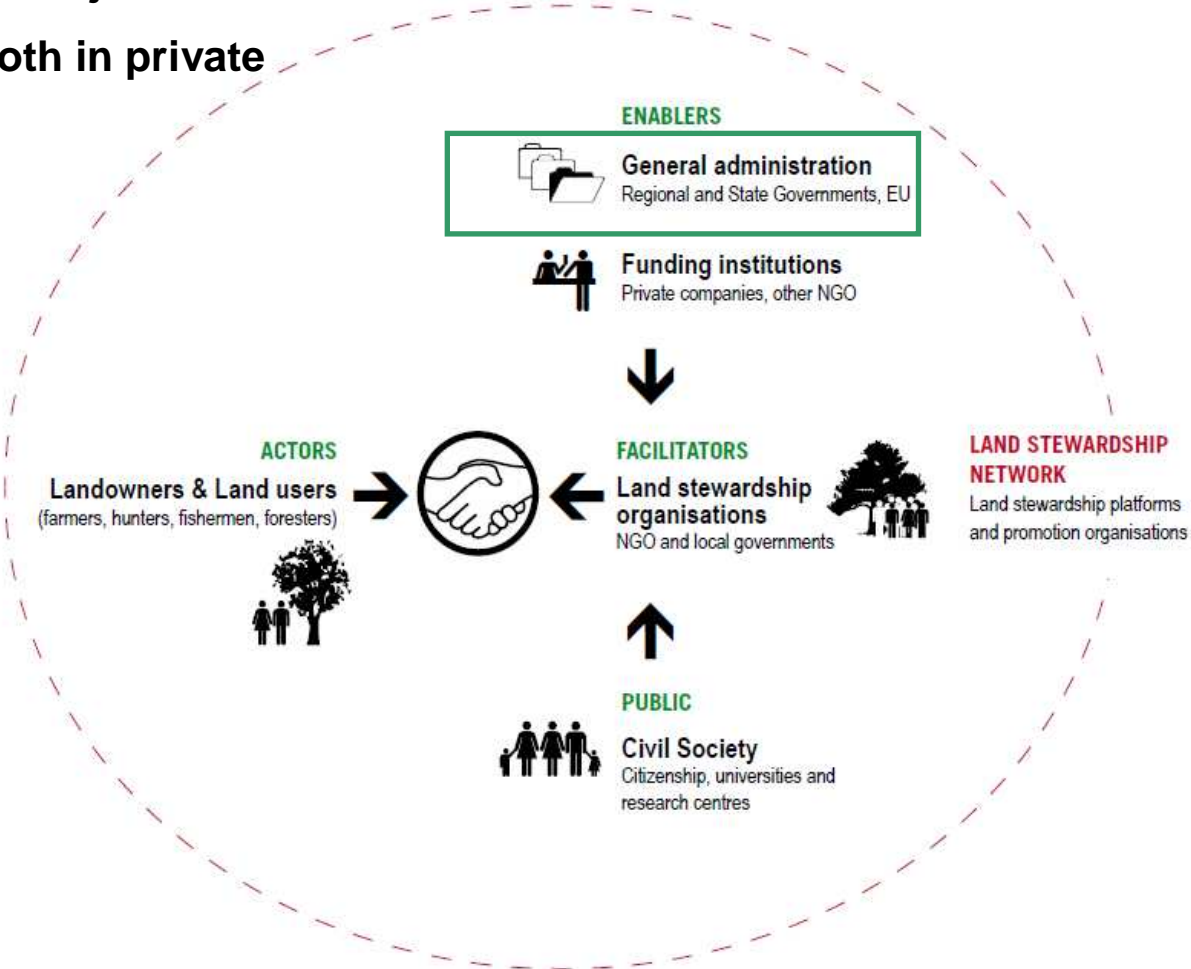
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- ❑ Highly biodiverse (significant contribution to EU biodiversity)
- ❑ Extensive Protected Area Network (~ 32% of terrestrial land already protected)
- ❑ Densely populated area (>7.500.000 inhab.) and high human pressure
- ❑ Investment in GI projects, but lack of specific planning to date



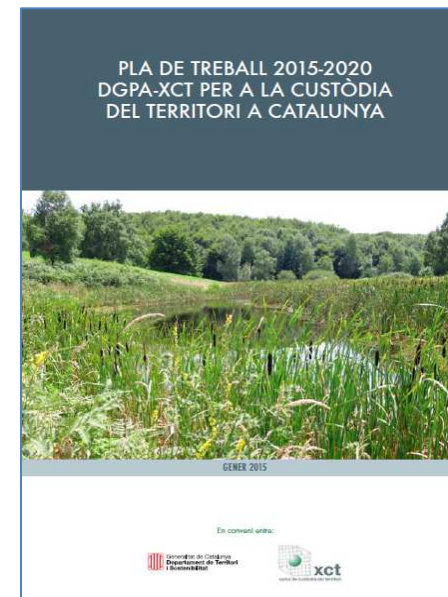
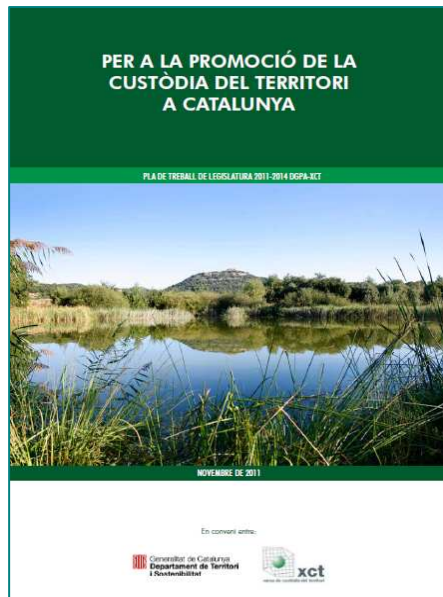
# Land Stewardship Strategy

Regional governments play a major role in promoting LS as enablers, both in private and public areas



# Supporting Land Stewardship in Catalonia

The Catalan Government has been strongly supporting Land Stewardship since 2010



*Around 80 LS organisations and 850 agreements operating in Catalonia. The Catalan Government fosters LS as a successful strategy for landscape and biodiversity conservation by supporting the Catalan Network of LS (XCT), that gathers more than 160 members and offering direct financial support to the NGOs*



# Main Figures

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## Financial and institutional support is given to LS

### *Work Plans XCT-DGPA*

- 1.400.000 eur budget for the Work Plan 2011-2014
- 2.700.000 eur budget for the Work Plan 2015-2020

### *Public funding for LS initiatives*

- 800.000 eur aprox. Call for Projects 2009-2011 (9 NGOs)
- 600.000 eur Call for Projects 2012-2014 (11 NGOs)
- 600.000 eur Call for Projects 2016-2018 (9 NGOs)

*The Work Plan 2013-14 helped to achieve 90 LS agreements, covering almost 6,000 Ha of land, 2,300 km<sup>2</sup> of marine area and 75 km of riverside*

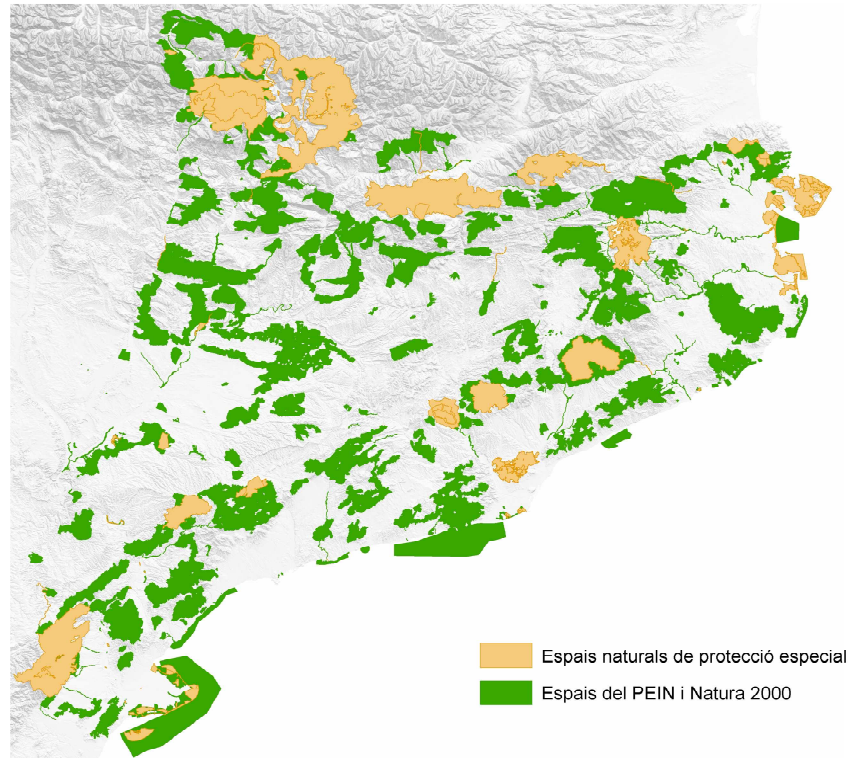




# Why do we support LS?

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LS agreements are deployed in public and private areas of natural interest

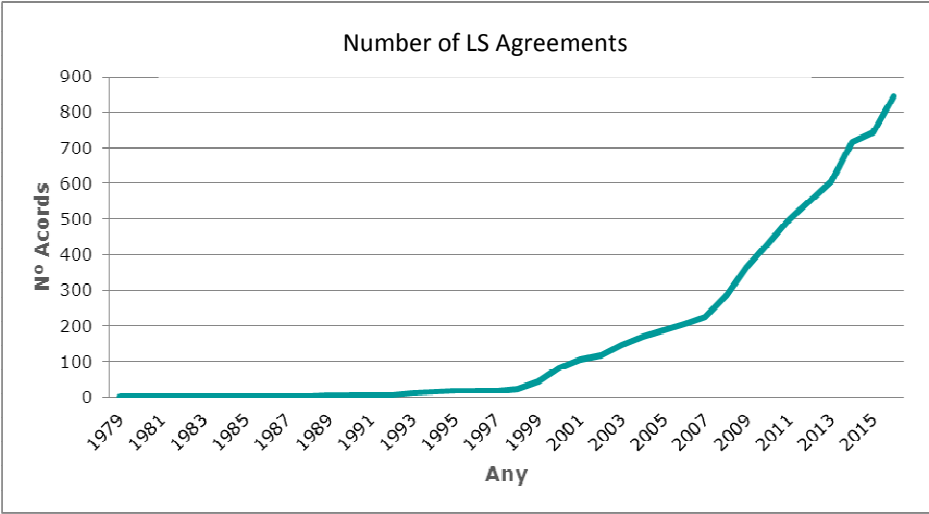
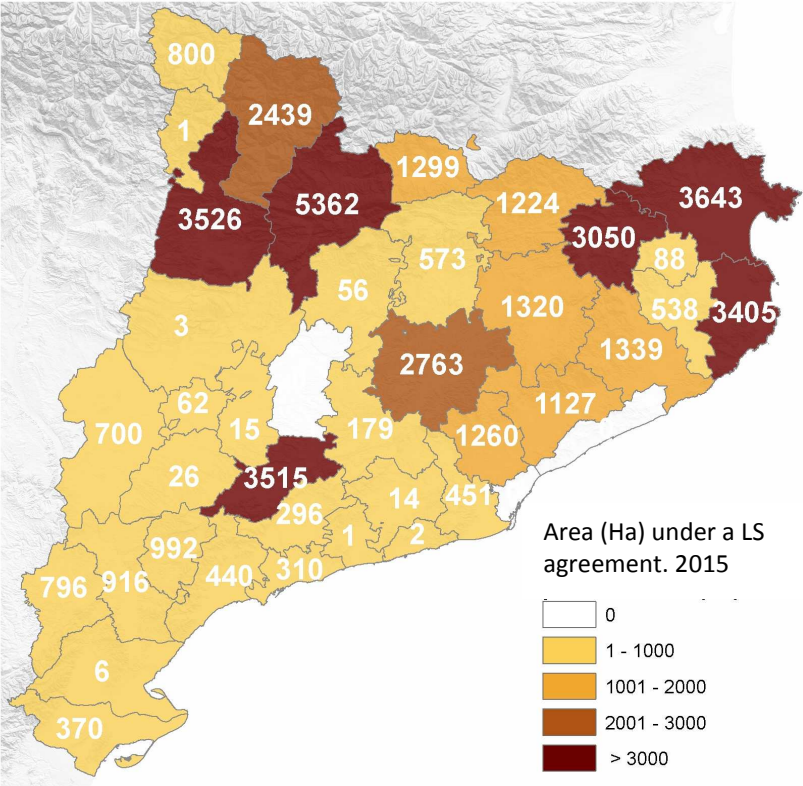


*LS complements and reinforces the network of public Protected Areas (32% of Catalonia)*



# LS Inventory 2015

42,905 ha. under Land Stewardship Agreement (1,4% of Catalonia)

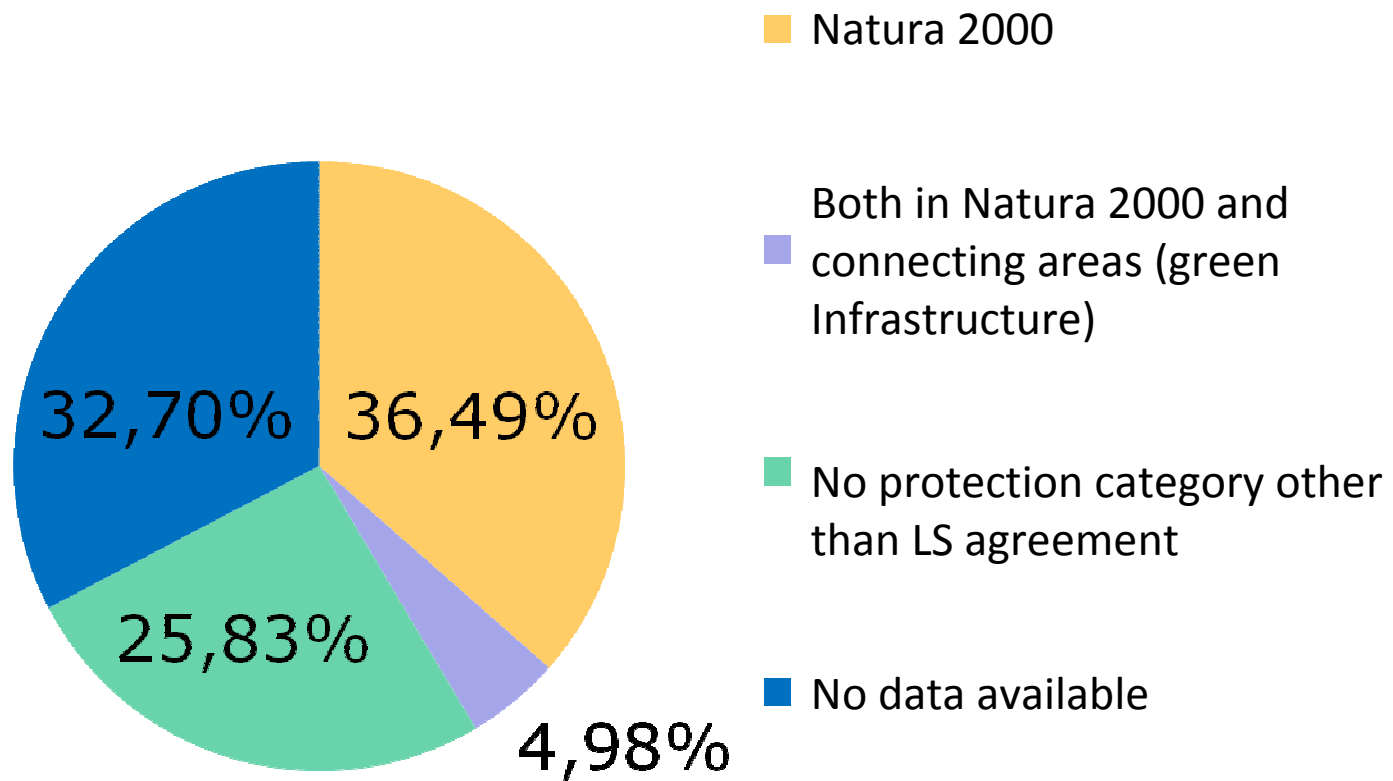




# LS Inventory 2015

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## Land category protection under LS agreements



# LS & Governance

## LS as a strategy of shared and private governance according to UICN Governance types for natural areas

Governance Type	Sub-types
Type A. Governance by government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal or national ministry or agency in charge</li> <li>• Sub-national ministry or agency in charge (e.g., at regional, provincial, municipal level)</li> <li>• Government-delegated management (e.g., to an NGO)</li> </ul>
Type B. Shared governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transboundary governance (formal arrangements between one or more sovereign States or Territories)</li> <li>• Collaborative governance (through various ways in which diverse actors and institutions work together)</li> <li>• Joint governance (pluralist board or other multi-party governing body)</li> </ul>
Type C. Private governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserved areas established and run by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ individual landowners</li> <li>◦ non-profit organisations (e.g., NGOs, universities)</li> <li>◦ for-profit organisations (e.g., corporate landowners)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Type D. Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous peoples' conserved territories and areas – established and run by indigenous peoples</li> <li>• Community conserved areas and territories – established and run by local communities</li> </ul>



# Final Considerations

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**LS enhances and strengthens nature conservation approach and 'makes the countryside thrive' through ...**

**Higher diversity of STAKEHOLDERS committed with nature & landscape conservation**

**Broader ACHIEVEMENT of conservation targets and active management (not only in public PA)**

**The SOCIALIZATION nature conservation, involving more social sectors**

**A more DIVERSE & RESILIENT governance structure of natural areas**



# Showcasing an agreement –Timonedada d’Alfés

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## LS agreement in a Natura 2000 steppe area owned by the Catalan Government

“Timonedada d’Alfés” (112 Ha) is home to the **last area of wild thyme** (steppe vegetation) existing nowadays in Catalonia. Included in Natura 2000, Mas de Melons-Alfés site (SPA&SAC) hosts a rich and unique **biodiversity**.



The best example of this biodiversity is the **Dupont’s lark** (*Chersophilus duponti*), only found in this site in Catalonia. The species became extinct in 2005 in Catalonia, but in 2016 was again detected in the area.



In 2014 the NGO Trenca signed a **land stewardship agreement** with the Ministry of Territory and Sustainability for 5 years to collaborate in the conservation and improvement of this unique natural area that housed an aerodrome until 2015.



## Showcasing an agreement –Timonedada d’Alfés

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**In 2015 the aerodrome closed down and the LS agreement is now under revision**

Aeronautical use (in blue) was allowed in the property owned by the Catalan Government (in red) until 2015.

Now the terms of the agreement are under review to further improve habitat conservation schemes and public use management.





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## **II. The Green Infrastructure Program of Catalonia: Promoting ecosystem functions and services inside and outside Protected Areas**



## Commitment with EU vision on biodiversity and GI

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### EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy: Restore Ecosystems, establish Green Infrastructure (2050 Vision)

- Halt Biodiversity Loss
- Improve conservation status of species, habitats, ecosystems and ecosystem services
- Set the basis for EU-level action

### COM/2013/0249-Green Infrastructure: Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital

- Contribution to GI in the EU policy (regional, risk management, climate change, natural capital...)
- Support GI projectes at the EU scale
- Improving funding of GI projects
- Improving information and promoting innovation



## Program of Green Infrastructure of Catalonia - Mission

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**GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1: To contribute to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functions and services inherent to natural and seminatural habitats**

- Ecological and landscape restoration of degraded ecosystems
- Improvement of ecological connectivity at different scales within the territory
- Actions to eliminate or minimise habitat fragmentation caused by road and transportation network
- Restoration of river connectivity: removal of non-natural barriers
- Addressment of impacts on biodiversity and landscape originated by existing infrastructures
- Improvement of ecosystems capacity to deliver provision and regulation services

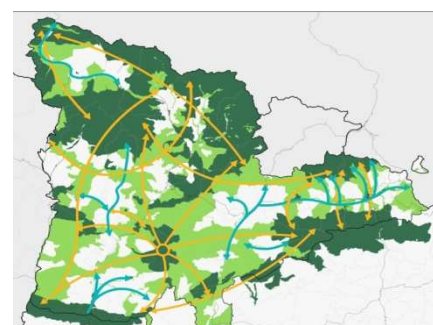
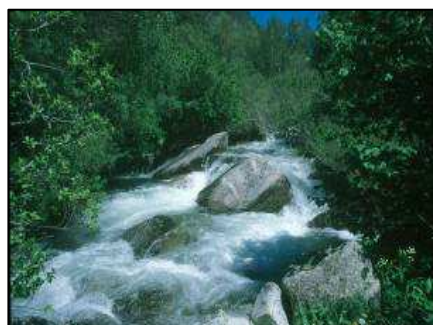


# Program of Green Infrastructure of Catalonia - Mission

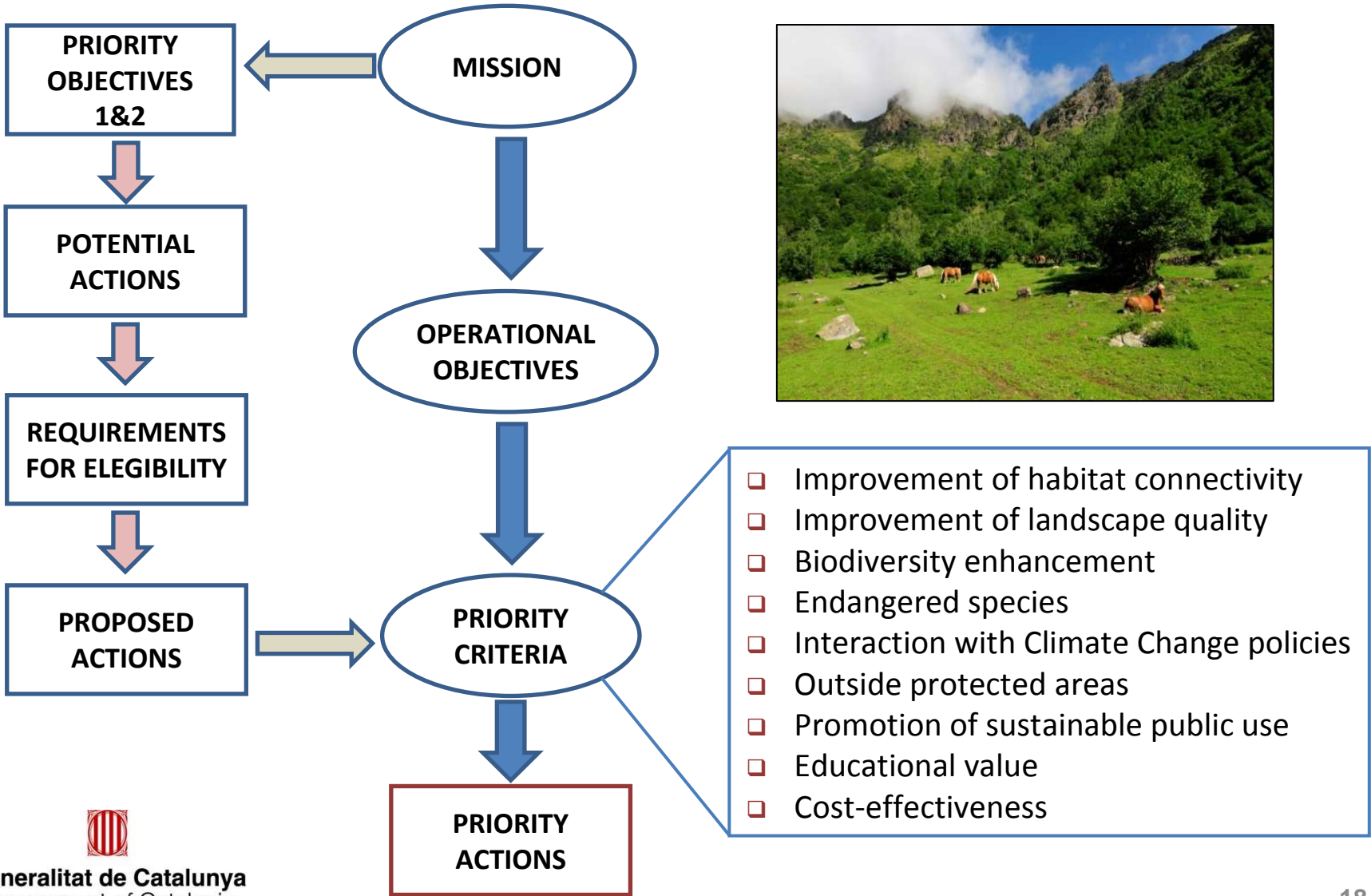
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## GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2: To improve of urban environment and promote Nature-based solutions

- Restoring landscape and manage public use of suburban degraded areas
- Promoting actions based in natural processes (Nature-Based Solutions) related to energy, waste management, water and atmosphere
- Developing adaptation actions to global warming at the regional level
- Showcasing performed actions as a mean to increase environmental sensitivity



# Program of Green Infrastructure of Catalonia – Priority actions





# Program of Green Infrastructure of Catalonia - Funding

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**Specific funds from the budget of the Government of Catalonia :** In 2016 a 2 M € budget is foreseen for the next two years.

## **European Regional Development Fund (FEDER)**

Priority Axis 1 (R+I)

Priority Axis 6 (Preserving and Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency)

## **Horizon 2020 Program**

Tools and metrics to evaluate and predict effectivity of environmental restoration in different ecosystems

## **Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF)**

Projects of Green Infrastructure, payment for environmental services and biodiversity offsetting

**LIFE Program 2014 – 2020:** Foresees funding projects in accordance with objective 2 of the 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and pilot projects or actions of GI

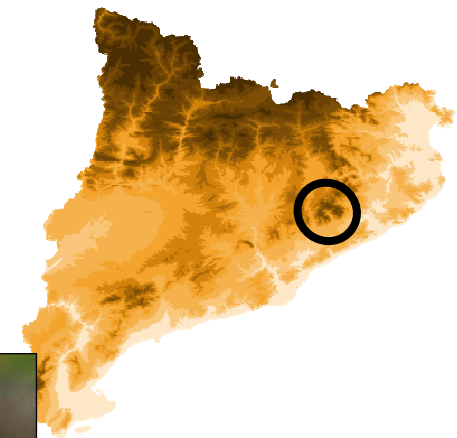


# Program of Green Infrastructure of Catalonia - Examples

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## Example 1: Permeabilization of a rural road with high amphibian mortality rates in Montseny area

- ❑ Roadkill rates of amphibians among the highest in Catalonia
- ❑ Previous studies support the need of intervention
- ❑ Construction of 17 new underpasses and adaptation of 15 existing underpasses along a critical black spot of 3 km
- ❑ Construction project completed. To be carried out in 2017

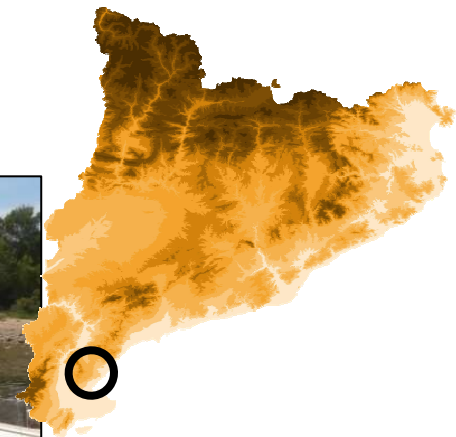


# Program of Green Infrastructure of Catalonia - Examples

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## Example 2: Ecological restoration of *l'Estany* natural harbour

- ❑ Unique natural cove used as a harbour for small sailing boats and with a high emotional significance in the area
- ❑ Uncontrolled use by boats and intensive recreational use led to environmental degradation
- ❑ Removal of abandoned buildings, eradication of invasive plant species, regulation of berth and public use
- ❑ Construction project completed. Execution expected in 2017





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