





Una manera de hacer Europa



"The eradication of the first focus of the invasive species Myriophyllum aquaticum detected in Lopidana (Vitoria-Gasteiz)"

URA (Ur Agentzia- Basque Water Agency)

Programa Operativo de País Vasco

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Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

It is presented as Good Practice <u>"The eradication of the first focus of the invasive species Myriophyllum aquaticum detected in Lopidana (Vitoria-Gasteiz)".</u>

URA (Ur Agentzia- Basque Water Agency) works on the eradication of the first focus of the invasive species Myriophyllum aquaticum or foxtail detected in the Basque Country in Lopidana, in Vitoria-Gasteiz, detected in late 2018. This species was located in a small lagoon (a point where the Vitoria quaternary aquifer emerges), close to the town of Lopidana, and a tributary of the Zadorra river on its right bank.



It was detected by a neighbor who informed the river inspection about the presence of a new plant on the raft where farmers collect water. This plant was displacing another native species (sequin) and was reproducing at high speed. In total, it is calculated that this initial focus has an extension of about 120 m2 of plant coverage, distributed in the surroundings of a pond, and all the specimens are located at a depth of between 0.5 and 1.0 m, with little or no current.

Myriophyllum aquaticum is an invasive exotic aquatic plant native to South America







The eligible cost is 13,883.54 euros, of which 50% (€ 6,941.77) are co-financed by the ERDF.

The impact of the action in the area will improve the presence of indigenous species, eliminating the invasive ones. The restored area reached 250 m2.

Below, we present the arguments that make this action a Good Practice according to the defined criteria:

CRITERION 1.- HIGH DIFFUSION BETWEEN THE BENEFICIARIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The action has been disseminated in compliance with the communication obligations through the following means:

Apart from those actions required by European regulations such as the poster and the exhibition in the specific section of the single web portal of the member state



Cartelería



Apartado web URA

https://www.uragentzia.euskadi.eus/u81-

Other publications are also collected such as:





en-la-erradicacion-del-primer-focode-la-especie-invasora-myriophyllumaquaticum-detectado-en-euskadi-enlopidana/



Web Departamento Medio Ambiente, Planificación Territorial y Vivienda (G.V.)

Publications on other websites

https://www.lavanguardia.com/local/paisvasco/20190612/462844544870/ura-trabaja-en-la-erradicacion-del-primer-foco-de-una-especie-invasora-del-amazonas-detectado-en-lopidana-vitoria.html



 $\underline{https://www.eldiario.es/norte/euskadi/URA-erradicacion-Amazonas-Lopidana-Vitoria\ 0\ 909209932.html}$

https://www.20minutos.es/noticia/3668913/0/ura-trabaja-erradicacion-primer-foco-especie-invasora-amazonas-detectado-lopidana-vitoria/

 $\frac{https://www.elmedio.es/ura-trabaja-en-la-erradicacion-del-primer-foco-de-la-especie-invasora-myriophyllum-aquaticum-detectado-en-euskadi-en-lopidana/$



Likewise, social networks have been used as other dissemination tools for the operation.

https://www.facebook.com/556463927783141/posts/2189368744492643/

 $\underline{https://gasteizberri.com/2019/06/ura-trabaja-en-la-erradicacion-del-primer-foco-de-la-especie-invasora-myriophyllum-aquaticum-detectado-en-euskadi-en-lopidana/$

CRITERION 2.- THE ACTION INCORPORATES INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS.

The novel element of this action is that for the eradication work, the use of mechanical methods (due to the risk of fragmenting the plant and facilitating its expansion) or chemical methods (because it is an aquatic ecosystem) was ruled out. Manual methods were chosen, consisting of covering the plant with a biodegradable jute blanket the invasive species Myriophyllum Aquaticum, as well as placing sandbags on top of it to take it to the bottom, with the aim of preventing the passage of light and favor its crushing. This system uses natural means in balance with the environment and with very low maintenance costs.

CRITERION 3.- THE RESULTS OBTAINED WITH THE SAME ARE ADAPTED TO THE ESTABLISHED OBJECTIVES

Among the objectives that are intended with this action are those of increasing the quality of the waters on the banks, increasing the refuge areas for native fauna, the recovery of native vegetation at risk of disappearance, as well as achieving an area lower CO2 level and consequently an increase in the amount of oxygen

These objectives are being achieved with this action, but a review and follow-up of it is also being carried out to find out its evolution and try to avoid the proliferation of new sources. To date, no new outbreaks have been detected, thus fulfilling the planned objectives.

CRITERION 4.- CONTRIBUTES TO THE RESOLUTION OF A PROBLEM OR WEAKNESS DETECTED IN THE TERRITORIAL FIELD OF EXECUTION

Control of invasive plants, which seeks to reverse or contain the expansion of invasive plant species that have great potential for colonization, is one of the priority issues for the defense of nature and native species.

In this case, it should be noted that Myriophyllum aquaticum is an invasive exotic aquatic plant originating from South America, specifically from the Amazon basin. It is a perennial rhizomatous freshwater plant that lives in lakes, lagoons, channels and rivers with little or no



current, which takes root in shallow areas, which is naturalized throughout the world, and has a great capacity to form dense tapestries on the surface of the water displacing other autochthonous species, having as its main route of introduction its use as an ornamental plant, especially for its use in aquariums, making it a species of very difficult control, since its

definitive elimination passes through start-up of the rhizome, which tends to break and remain buried in the substrate, from where the plant can regenerate again. Hence the great relevance of the operation that occurs in the defense in our waters of native species.

CRITERION 5.- HAS A HIGH DEGREE OF COVERAGE ON THE POPULATION TO WHICH IT IS DIRECTED

In addition to the benefit to the ecosystem in which the invasive species is located, this action has a very positive impact on the population as a whole, since it eliminates the risk of flooding due to obstruction of the channels and therefore increases the diversity, both of flora and fauna, with native vegetation.

But in addition, access to the area is facilitated both for fishermen, as it is used for nursery and other recreational uses. The risk of erosion and instability of the banks is also reduced; as well as the landscape value of the riverbank is increased, producing, then, important economic advantages in the treated area.

CRITERION 6.- CONSIDER THE HORIZONTAL CRITERIA FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In 2018, the URA receives the Emakunde (Basque Institute for Women) distinction as a Collaborating Entity in Equality. The necessary requirements to become a Collaborating entity in Equal Opportunity for Women and Men are, on the one hand, to carry out a diagnosis on the situation of women and men in the company and, on the other, the design and commitment of carry out a positive action plan that includes objectives and actions related to the recruitment, promotion and training of staff; training of managerial staff in equal opportunities; reviewing the recruitment, selection and training processes to ensure that the measures taken are reflected in practice; the labor flexibility of workers with family responsibilities; and the carrying out of information and / or awareness campaigns that favor equal opportunities between men and women. These URA badges reflect their firm commitment to improve the situation of women and men in their organization.

In terms of Sustainable Development, since its inception, URA has set itself the objective of achieving a good ecological status of the water ecosystems of the Basque Country, opening a new stage in water management in the Basque Country, from an environmental and sustainable vision of the ecosystem. A new water policy, based on criteria of efficiency, sustainability and participation of the different agents involved.

CRITERION 7.- ESTABLISHES SYNERGIES WITH OTHER POLICIES OR INSTRUMENTS OF PUBLIC INTERVENTION.

In this sense, it should be noted that the Northern Hydrographic Confederation in the Basque Country is also doing important work in the other accounts differentiated from the one known as the Mediterranean in which this action is based through the URA.

Likewise, it should be noted that URA is also carrying out important work on channeling rivers, improving wetland areas and, in some cases, guaranteeing protection on the banks of the Ribera forests.

It should be noted that a good part of these actions are being carried out in collaboration with the Local Entities of the Basque Country, having signed collaboration agreements to undertake actions for the restoration and conservation of riverbeds. Currently, 89 municipalities have signed these agreements in order to coordinate, plan and execute actions that serve to improve the state of the municipality's rivers. Also note that these actions are framed in a collaboration protocol with the Provincial Council of Álava for the conservation of channels, so for the implementation of these types of actions there is a close collaboration between administrations.







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