



*Una manera de hacer Europa*



# BUENAS PRÁCTICAS Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Construction of the cage building for the Wildlife Rescue Centre  
in the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park

Generalitat de Catalunya

## Programa Operativo de Catalunya

Año 2020

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

**The “Construction of the cage building for the Wildlife Rescue Centre in the Aiguamolls de l’Empordà Natural Park” project is presented as a Best Practice**



The operation involves the construction of a new cage building in the Wildlife Rescue Centre adjacent to the Aiguamolls de l’Empordà Natural Park facilities, for the recovery and subsequent release of wildlife in the natural park and other natural areas within the Natura 2000 network, as well as all the protected wildlife in the counties of Girona.

The Natura 2000 network is the key tool for nature conservation in the European Union and its main purpose is to ensure the long-term survival of species and habitat types in Europe, thus helping to halt biodiversity loss. It is characterised as a European ecological network of biodiversity conservation areas divided into Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), established under the Habitats Directive, and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), designated under the Birds Directive.

The Aiguamolls de l’Empordà Natural Park is a wetland located on the Empordà plain, between the mouths of the Fluvià and Muga rivers, and is an area characterised by the current river courses, the old river mouths and the channelling and crop irrigation systems that have historically existed in the area. Alongside the natural park are the Integral Nature Reserves (the highest level of natural protection in the current Catalan legislation) of Les Llaunes and Els Estanys. These areas are characterised by being some of the natural spaces in Catalonia where the greatest variety of animal species can be observed, including all kinds of birds that use the natural park as a refuge and resting place during their migration. In fact, more than 300 different bird species can be found in the park.



More specifically, the project envisages the construction of four cages for flying birds, a cage for passerine birds (which are characterised by having four toes, three of them pointing forwards and the fourth backwards), eight moulting cages, an animal house, a breeding centre, a cold store and a kitchen. These new facilities will allow the existing ones, which are in an unsuitable location, to be relocated.

In total, the facilities have a surface area of 490.64 m<sup>2</sup> of which 271.71 m<sup>2</sup> are open-air and 218.93 m<sup>2</sup> under cover.

The project involves a total cost of €188,872.54, of which a total of €141,654.40 is eligible for funding and an ERDF grant of €70,827.20. It is expected that this operation will have an impact on 2,500 square metres of protected or regenerated land.



This operation is presented as a Best Practice because it meets the following criteria:

**1. High outreach to beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general public**

The operation has been well publicised through the following actions:

**Permanent plaque** affixed to the outer wall of the installation:



**Description of the operation on the beneficiary's website:**

Departament de Territori

Inici | Departament | Mobilitat | Territori i urbanisme | Habitatge | Tràmits | Actualitat

Inici > Departament > Financament europeu > Programa operatiu del FEDER de Catalunya > Període 2014-2020 > Gestió > Objectiu temàtic 6 > Construcció de l'edifici de gàbies del centre de recuperació de fauna al Parc Natural dels Aiguamolls de l'Empordà

## Construcció de l'edifici de gàbies del centre de recuperació de fauna al Parc Natural dels Aiguamolls de l'Empordà

El projecte comprèn les actuacions necessàries per a la construcció d'un edifici de gàbies pel centre de recuperació de fauna annex a les instal·lacions del Parc Natural dels Aiguamolls de l'Empordà. Aquest centre de recuperació de fauna té l'objectiu d'atendre els rescats de fauna que es donin en l'àmbit del Parc Natural dels Aiguamolls de l'Empordà i d'altres espais naturals pròxims inclosos a Xarxa Natura 2000 així com a la totalitat de la fauna protegida de les comarques gironines. Aquesta atenció inclou la recuperació dels exemplars i el posterior alliberament de nou a la natura.

Fitxa de l'actuació:

Beneficiari	Generalitat de Catalunya. Departament de Territori i Sostenibilitat
Executor	Direcció General de Polítiques Ambientals i Medi Natural
Prioritat d'inversió	PI.6.4. La protecció i el restabliment de la biodiversitat i del sòl i el foment dels serveis dels ecosistemes, inclusivament a través de Natura 2000 i d'infraestructures ecològiques
Objectiu específic	OE.6.4.1. Fomentar la gestió, protecció i manteniment del sòl, d'espais naturals i la seva biodiversitat, en particular els protegits, incloent mesures per pal·liar els problemes d'erosió, salinització, desertificació, desforestació i baix nivell de matèria orgànica en el sòl
Cost total operació	188.872,54 €
Cost elegible	141.654,40 €
Subvenció FEDER	70.827,20 €
Termini previst d'execució	02/2019 - 10/2019
Finalització obra	Maig 2020
Enllaç nota de premsa	<a href="#">Visita del conseller al finalitzar les obres</a>

## Press release on the operation:

🕒 11 novembre 2020 13:09 📅 Nota de premsa

### Calvet: "Instal·lacions com la del Centre de Fauna dels Aiguamolls ens ajuden a tenir un país emblemàtic en la preservació de la biodiversitat"

Del. Girona Territori Presidència



El conseller de Territori i Sostenibilitat, Damià Calvet, ha visitat avui l'ampliació del Centre de Fauna dels Aiguamolls de l'Empordà, després que el Departament ha completat les obres que estava executant. L'ampliació ha permès habilitar noves instal·lacions per acollir els animals que arriben ferits o malmesos durant el seu procés de recuperació, i millorar, així, tant l'atenció com les condicions de treball del personal veterinari i assistencial.

Durant la visita, Calvet ha defensat que **"som un país que pretén fer del medi ambient, la biodiversitat i la sostenibilitat una de les seves senyals d'identitat,**

**amb infraestructures que ho permetin i el centre que visiten avui, n'és un".**

El conseller ha agraït la tasca de l'associació IAEDEN i **"de totes aquelles persones voluntàries, entitats i fundacions que van fer possible la construcció i que han donat suport i han permès que el centre no es tanqués, com l'Associació de càmpings, i algun en concret que fins i tot h van aportar recursos".**

A més, Calvet ha posat en valor que la construcció de les noves instal·lacions **"ens permet renaturalitzar la zona allà on hi havia l'antic centre de fauna, que és un hàbitat d'interès comunitari inundable i donem més valor afegit al parc natural".** La voluntat, ha afegit, és que **"Catalunya sigui un lloc emblemàtic en la preservació de la biodiversitat".**

L'actuació, que ha suposat una inversió de 189.000 euros, ha estat finançada amb fons estructurals FEDER de la UE i suposa la culminació del trasllat a l'entorn de serveis del Cortalet –la seu del Parc– de les antigues instal·lacions de les Closes.

## News about the operation in various digital media:

### El Centre de Fauna dels Aiguamolls estrena instal·lacions i obre una etapa d'esperança

Per Redacció ACN - 17 Novembre, 2020

👁 1242 🗨 0



Fotografia: Àngel Reynal

El nou edifici ha suposat una inversió de 189.000 euros finançats amb fons FEDER de la Unió Europea

# Acaben les obres d'ampliació del Centre de Fauna dels Aiguamolls de l'Empordà



Un grup de flamencs al Centre de Recuperació de Fauna dels Aiguamolls aquest 11 de novembre del 2020. (Horizontal)



Sent-te part  
del canvi,  
la digitalització  
i la innovació

L'ampliació ha permès habilitar noves instal·lacions per acollir animals que arriben ferits o malmesos durant el seu procés de recuperació i millorar, també, tant l'atenció com les condicions de treball del personal veterinari i assistencial.

L'actuació ha suposat una inversió de 189.000 euros, finançats amb fons estructurals FEDER de la UE i suposa la culminació del trasllat d'aquest espai fins al Cortalet.

I és que quan es va crear, l'any 1984, el centre es va situar en uns terrenys del Parc Natural dels Aiguamolls de l'Empordà dins una zona inundable que és reserva integral. Per aquesta raó, sempre ha estat present la necessitat de traslladar-lo a un altre indret, dins l'àmbit del Parc Natural.

## 2. The project incorporates innovative elements

This operation mainly entails an optimisation of space and time compared to the previous building thanks to a new organisation of space, in particular by locating the new building next to the existing admission area, clinic, operating theatre and treatment area.

In addition, the partitioning and layout of the new cages and equipment were carried out in such a way as to ensure energy efficiency, this being a first for the facility because the requirements for energy-efficient use were not met in the past.

Finally, the new building was constructed in such a way that the accesses are adapted to suit the needs of all types of people, regardless of their mobility circumstances, making it fully accessible and at the same time respecting the passage restrictions applied to ensure the proper functioning of the natural park. At the same time, the building is characterised by its integration into the surrounding natural environment.

## 3. Matching the results obtained from the operation to the objectives set

The Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy of Catalonia is the strategic planning document that defines the roadmap for nature conservation policies in Catalonia until 2030. It is based on six guiding principles – knowledge and management of information on natural heritage, conservation of habitats, species and ecological processes, reorientation of the territorial model, integration of sectoral policies, administrative structure and legal framework, and social engagement – which

define the priorities of the Catalan Government's action to conserve nature and halt biodiversity loss in Catalonia. The strategy is based on the need to protect areas, recover species, restore ecosystems, manage humanised areas and halt the biodiversity loss associated with certain human activities.

In this sense, the results obtained are satisfactorily in line with the goals established in the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy with regard to the recovery of species, an objective that has been achieved thanks to the construction of the cages for the care of the different bird species. At the same time, other milestones have also been achieved, such as the management of humanised areas, that is to say, the environmentally efficient management of all those areas of the natural park that receive a greater human influx, either with greater control of the capacity or by increasing the distance from the natural areas in the case of areas intended for the public.



#### **4. Contribution to the resolution of a problem or weakness detected in the territorial area of execution**

As discussed above, Natura 2000 is a tool for nature conservation in the European Union whose main objective is to ensure the long-term survival of species and habitat types in Europe, thus helping to halt biodiversity loss. In Catalonia, there are 117 sites covering a total of 1,062,365 hectares, including the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà region, where the natural park of the same name is located. The park contains the facilities of the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Wildlife Rescue Centre, which is the focus of this operation, as it is where the actions are carried out.

As has been pointed out, prior to the operation, the Wildlife Rescue Centre was in an unsuitable location, since it was in a flood zone and, moreover, inside an Integral Nature Reserve. Integral Nature Reserves are areas that receive the maximum administrative protection and in which all human intervention is excluded in order to allow the natural evolution of the ecosystem. Thus, the area where the centre was previously located entailed a series of inconveniences for daily activities and, at the same time, did not allow for compliance with the legally established degree of protection. For this reason, the relocation of the Wildlife Rescue Centre outside the Integral Nature Reserve is an improvement, as the objective of not having human activity in the area will be achieved and the ecological functionality of the area will be improved by not having these impediments.



At the same time, we also find that biodiversity – traditionally described as the variety of life in all its forms, and which is important as it helps combat climate change and reduce the impact of natural hazards – is now at risk because climate change, pollution, invasive species, hunting and overfishing are causing its loss. In response, the European Parliament committed itself to the conservation of at least 30% and the strict protection of at least 10% of the land and sea areas of the Union's territory, objectives that should be addressed at EU and national level with the cooperation of regional and local governments. In this respect, the operation has an impact on addressing the degradation of local biodiversity, as it aims to protect part of the territory.



## **5. High degree of coverage of the target population**

Firstly, and in relation to the problem that the action aims to resolve regarding the location of the Wildlife Rescue Centre, the operation has a positive impact as the centre has been relocated and is therefore no longer located in a problematic area. At the same time, with the substantial improvement in the capacity to receive species entering the centre and with the grouping of the existing facilities, the performance of the workers has been increased by reducing the time spent travelling and by better adapting to the growing needs.

At the same time, we find that this action is focused on combating the degradation of biodiversity by improving care for the birds that cross the Mediterranean on their migration route. In this sense, by increasing the space dedicated to the recovery of the different species, it is also successful in combating such degradation.



Finally, although it is not the main benefit, it should be noted that the improvement of the infrastructures, as well as the centre's location and the care it provides, has led to an increase in the number of visitors to the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park. The main benefit of this increased tourism is for the economy of the region.



#### **6. Consideration of the horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as well as social responsibility and environmental sustainability**

Both during its preparation and implementation, the project was carried out in compliance with the criteria of social and environmental responsibility, as well as equal opportunities and non-discrimination, in application of Law 17/2015, of 21 July, on effective equality between women and men.

In turn, the Generalitat de Catalunya's own Equal Opportunities Plan was applied, which promotes equal opportunities between women and men, the achievement of a work-life balance, the promotion of non-discrimination practices and initiatives aimed at the integration of groups with difficulties into the workplace.

It also complies with the obligations regarding the promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination on the grounds of sex, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. Moreover, it complies with the Administration of the Generalitat de Catalunya's protocol for prevention, detection, action and resolution in situations of sexual harassment, on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation and/or sexual identity.

Finally, it should be noted that the technical director of this project was the architect Carme Bosch, who specialises in the field of sustainability and is the technical director of the construction project.



## **7. Synergies with other public intervention policies or instruments**

The conservation and protection of the environment form part of the range of activities, which, at regional and local level, are of interest to the European Union. More specifically, we see that the European Green Deal, which was presented by the European Commission in December 2019, includes a series of social policies and actions against climate change and a series of sustainability laws, among other measures, that seek to preserve, maintain and improve the natural capital of the European Union, as well as to protect the health and well-being of citizens from environmental risks and effects. In this respect, it can be seen that the action taken is in line with the objectives of the Green Deal.

At the same time, the project for the construction of a cage building in the natural park can be included in the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy of Catalonia 2030, which sets out the actions of the Generalitat in terms of conservation in these two areas. The ultimate goal of this strategy is to halt the degradation of the natural heritage and the loss of biodiversity in Catalonia, guaranteeing sustainable use and ensuring the provision of the ecosystem services on which we depend.

This operation can also be linked to the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Observatory, which is the body responsible for improving the organisation, integration, processing, dissemination and accessibility of information on natural heritage and biodiversity.

Finally, the construction of a new cage building is also included in the Strategic Plan for Environmental Education and Volunteering in the Wildlife Rescue Centres of the Generalitat de Catalunya 2019-2022.





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# BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

## Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

**Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional**