

ACTION NAME: D6 Pyrenean desman, evolution of the state of preservation of its population numbers and habitat
D6 Follow-up of the Pyrenean desman
Special Conservation Zone (SCZ) being acted upon:
SCZ River Baztán and Artesiaga stream, SCZ Belate, SCZ River Bidasoa and SCZ River Leizaran
LINK WITH NATURA 2000
The action is encompassed within the following SCZ Management Plan Operational Objectives: 7.1.1 Establish the state of the population of Pyrenean desman
Key Elements of the promoted SCZ -REASONS
The Pyrenean desman , a species of community interest with which this follow-up action is directly related, is undergoing a rapid decline in its distribution area and the assessment of its state of preservation requires an on-going follow-up regarding the population size, the number of individuals, etc.
PLACE OF ACTION AND MUNICIPALS:
Baztan, Malerreka
Date
2015-2020
Budget
€101,800
Related project actions (follow-up)
Due to the requirements of the species, the preservation actions with the greatest link are those that imply the elimination of obstacles and dammed areas of a certain size. However, some envisaged preservation actions such as the restoration of rivers and river banks, will improve the availability and state of preservation of the habitats ideal for the desman.
Description of the action - OBJECTIVES
Assess the state of preservation of known core populations and the ecological requirements of the Pyrenaen desman, as well as the state of preservation of the habitat , in the basins of the Leizaran and Bidasoa rivers, thus providing a reference image at the start of the project and another at the end, through contrasting them to be able to assess the efficiency of the proposed preservation actions.
Description of the action - BACKGROUND
The information collected by the Gipuzkoa Provincial Council and the Government of Navarre over the past 30 years indicates the persistence of the species of community interest, the Pyrenean desman (<i>Galemys pyrenaicus</i>), in the basins of the Leizaran and Bidasoa rivers, despite its irregular distribution and rapid decline. The main threat identified is the destruction of its habitat, which has led to significant fragmentation of its population. On the other hand, the uncertainty regarding some aspects of the ecological requirements of the desman, with the current information available, means it is not possible to perform rigorous assessments of the state of preservation of its habitat. This circumstance becomes even clearer when working on a small scale, such is the case for very localised restoration works (eliminating obstacles, for example). Given the shortfalls described, more detailed information is required in terms of the basin, which would provide a much more precise references as to the state of preservation, regarding both the population and the habitat, at the start and end of the project.

Description of the action - **INITIAL AND CURRENT CONDITION (C actions)**

Description of the action - **ENVISAGED ACTIONS/DESCRIPTION OF FOLLOW UP**

Follow-up of the population and establishment of the occupied area: trapping will be performed using semi-submerged pots. Excrement will also be collected, which will be genetically analysed to confirm whether or not the species is present. Work is envisaged over a total number of 20 stretches of 2-3 km (10 in the Leizaran river basin, and 10 in the Bidasoa river basin: Baztan, Amezti, Ezpelura, Zeberia, Marin and Artesiaga rivers. The predicted parameters to be obtained are: presence, amount, composition by sex and age.

In terms of **follow-up of the evolution of the potential habitat for the species**, it will be approached by taking reference of food resources (size and abundance of aquatic insects) and shelter (condition of the river bank vegetation, the edges and river channel).

Initial and final assessments will be carried out.

JUSTIFICATION What are the desired results? - ENVISAGED RESULTS

The expected quantitative results for this action are:

- Determine the **area** occupied by the species in the selected basins, at the start and end of the project.
- Discover the state of preservation of each of the **population cores** at the start and end of the project.
- Establish the state of preservation of the habitat of the desman at the start and end of the project.
- Assess the efficiency of the related preservation actions.

