



Generalitat de Catalunya

Biodiversity Conservation Policy in Catalonia: Challenges and Opportunities

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High Biodiversity Under Pressure

Exceptional Biological Diversity

- ❑ A small, diverse region (30,000 km²); a microcosm containing representative examples of most European landscapes.
- ❑ A greater number of habitats and species than many larger European countries.
- ❑ 65% of the region maintains a high degree of naturalness.

Under Great Pressure

- ❑ Over 7 million people concentrated in 30% of the land area.
- ❑ Large influx of tourists (> 20 million per year).
- ❑ Intense farming, livestock breeding and industrial activity.
- ❑ High rate of dispersed urban development and dense road network.

Response to the Loss of Biodiversity

Catalonia has a consolidated conservation strategy based on:

- Support for knowledge and research.
- Measures to guarantee sustainable use of the natural heritage.
- Projects and action for biodiversity conservation.

Three key spheres of action to implement this response:

- Incorporating biodiversity conservation goals in **sectoral policies**.
- Defining **economic instruments** and taxation policies that favour conservation.
- Getting **society** involved.

Response to the Loss of Biodiversity

The following key tools are used to guide our conservation policy:

- **Involvement and multilevel work.**
- **Support for the subnational legal framework.**

Multilevel Work

At national level

Deployment of the national legal framework (Act 42/2007 on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity).

Participation in the National Strategic Plan on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.

At European level

Common positioning of Spain's autonomous communities in the European Biodiversity Strategy post-2010 (*strategy-political contributions on information, knowledge, the integration of sectoral policies and on financing conservation*).

At international level

Eagerness to implement a subnational action plan within the framework of the CBD goals and strategies

Strengthening our Legal Framework

- Strategic planning of conservation: approval of a Biodiversity strategy, development of sectoral plans, increasing conservation of the natural heritage.
- Global maintenance of ecosystem services as a basis of social wellbeing.
- Improved social participation: land stewardship, public-private alliances, etc.
- Support for the administrative organization: recognition of local organizations, and governance.
- Introduction of economic, tax and financial instruments.

Conclusion

In a region that is rich in biological diversity but also so vulnerable, the experience of multilevel work and the review of the legal framework are undertaken under the perspective of making progress in terms of:

- Putting public policies in line with conservation goals.
- Developing tax instruments.
- Getting society involved.

These reasons justify our eagerness and commitment to implement a subnational action plan for biodiversity conservation.



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