Case study #12: Lima catchment

Case study cluster: peatlands and wetlands

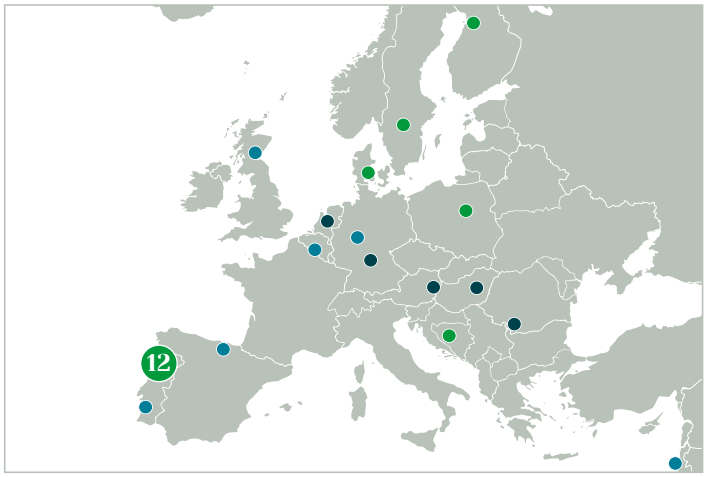
Country: Portugal

Scientific partner: Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Universidade de Lisboa (ISA)

Implementation partner: Municipality of Ponte de Lima (CMPL)

Twinning case study: LIFE BIODISCOVERIES: similar restoration approaches at riparian wetlands of Machada; Municipality of Barreiro; www.lifebiodiscoveries.pt

Website: www.lifefluvial.eu



Demonstration

- **Type of restoration:** passive and active ecological restoration, biological invasions control under LIFE FLUVIAL project
- **Size:** Lima catchment size (2535 km^2); floodplain intervention area: 21 ha
- **Location(s):** Lagoas de Bertiandos e São Pedro de Arcos RAMSAR site, Lima Natura 2000 site
- **Value of the case:** best practices in passive restoration and control of biological invasions dissemination and stakeholder engagement
- **Stakeholders involved:** Regional and local authorities, landowners, local NGOs
- **Sectors involved:** Nature Conservation
- **Innovations being applied:** UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) monitoring of emerging invasive tree pathogen

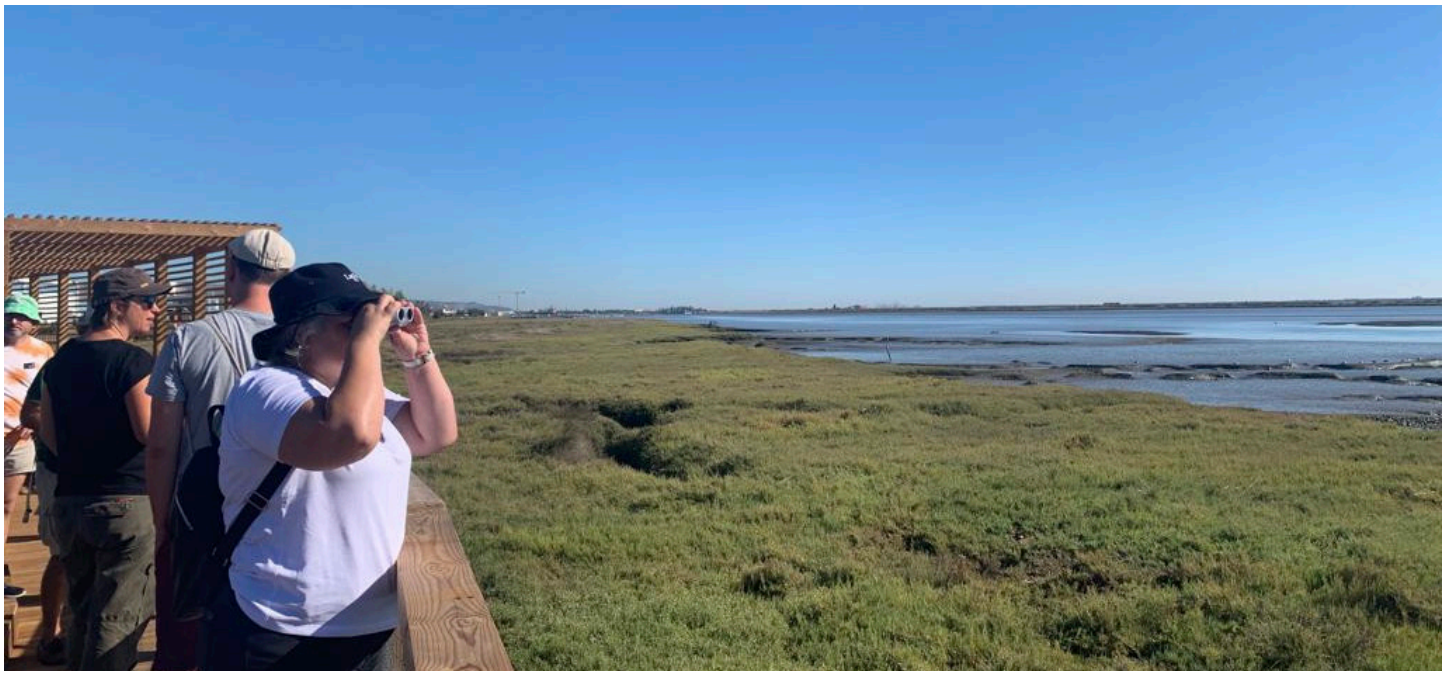
Implemented within MERLIN

- **Restoration measures**: Floodplain restoration through invasive species control, native planting, rewetting and rewilding.
- **Size**: 7.95 ha
- **Scope**: local to regional
- **Vicinity**: rural
- **Stakeholders involved**: regional and local authorities, landowners, local NGOs, future professionals, citizen associations, private companies
- **Estimated costs**: 98,000€ (including planning, monitoring, land acquisition, landowners' compensation and construction costs) + 28,000€ annual maintenance and monitoring costs

Lessons learnt

- Invest in dedicated project coordination from the start
- Build trust through sustained stakeholder engagement
- Plan for long-term invasive species management beyond initial restoration

The MERLIN project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101036337.



Strengths

- Strong scientific expertise
- EU policy alignment
- Stakeholder engagement

Weaknesses

- Stakeholder scepticism
- Political uncertainty
- Limited coordination and funding

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Opportunities

- New EU legislation
- Stronger stakeholder collaboration
- Demonstration and education

Threats

- Climate change and invasive species
- Administrative fragmentation
- Land-use and ownership conflicts

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