



LIFE Biodiv'Paysanne, an ambitious project : agriculture and management of natural environments in the preservation of biodiversity in the Occitanie region

The Occitanie region (south-west France) hosts incredible species and landscapes, among the richest in France in terms of biodiversity, but threatened by artificial environments, the intensification of agriculture or the agricultural loss that leaves these environments abandoned and damage the natural heritage of the region.



Ovine herd at Bugarach ©X.RufRay & Naturalist inventory in progress in the Lot department ©L.Santucci – Agence Zeppelin

The LIFE Biodiv'Paysanne project thus aims to preserve the region's natural environments and fauna and flora, and the different ecosystems services, either in natural than agricultural environments.

Thanks to the LIFE Biodiv'Paysanne project, the Conservatoire d'espaces naturels d'Occitanie (CEN Occitanie), its coordinator, and the associated beneficiaries, ANA-CEN Ariège and the Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels (FCEN), are equipped with substantial resources to strengthen and manage the network of protected natural sites, the true core job of the CENs, throughout the Occitan territory. This means that more than 25,000 hectares and 300 sites will directly or indirectly benefit from preservation actions in favor of critical species or habitats. Moreover, more than 2,700 hectares of new sites will be acquired or contracted as part of agreements with private owners to enlarge the network of protected natural areas.



The LIFE Biodiv'Paysanne project has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the CEN Occitanie and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union.



Given the current challenges of preserving biodiversity and climate change, the project also focuses on agricultural environments. These, in fact, represent more than half of the surface area of the regional territory and it would be illusory to claim to preserve biodiversity without taking care of them. The project aims to test virtuous agricultural practices which take into account the socio-economic, agronomic and ecological environment of farmers. A network of 60 farms that have the desire to truly become actors in the agroecological transition has been made. These 60 farms will also be supported by competent and complementary partners, namely Solagro, Terre de Liens Midi-Pyrénées, Terre de Liens Languedoc-Roussillon and the Conservatoire Botanique National Pyrénées and Midi-Pyrénées.

All these actors work towards a common goal : the preservation of biodiversity across the region. This project, financed mainly by the European Commission, but also by the Occitanie Region, the Adour-Garonne Water Agency and the Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition, started at the end of 2021 and will end in 2027.

To go further into the project : <https://life-biodivpaysanne.fr/en/> or follow us on our social network on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

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