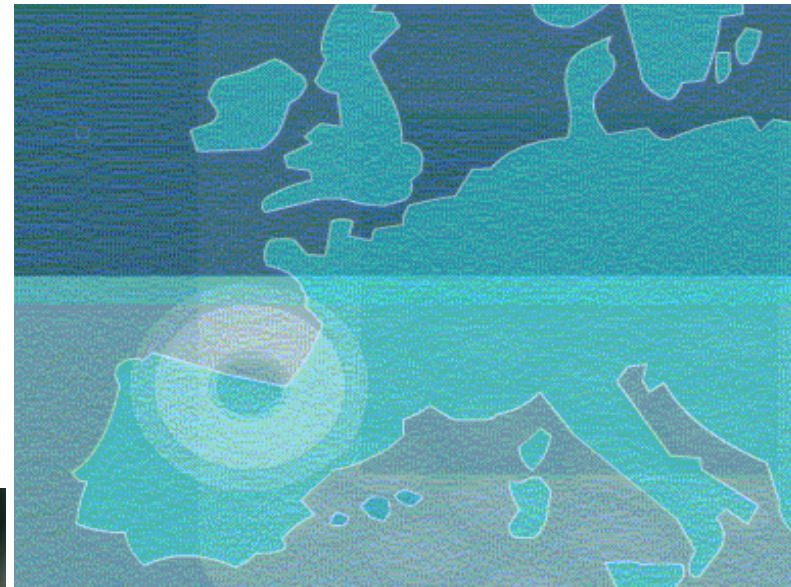
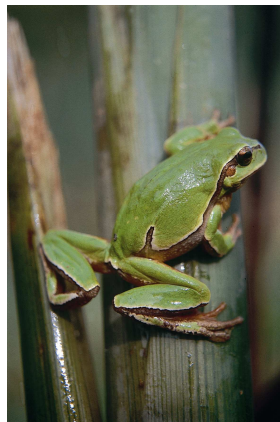


BEST PRACTICE PRESENTATION

P12: Basque Government

The Territorial Plan for Wetland Areas of the Basque Country



Detailed description of the action (1)

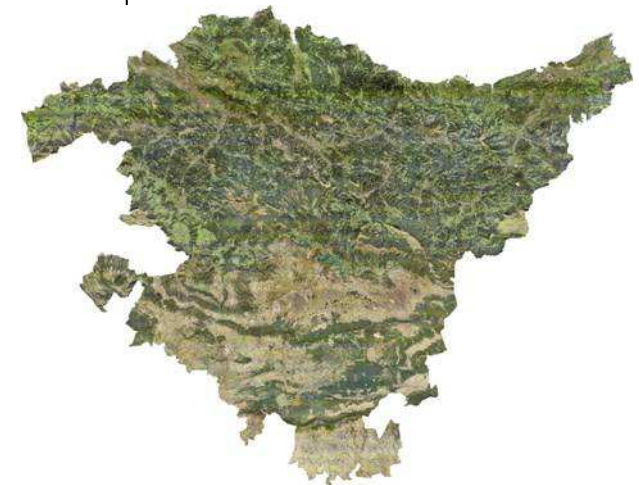
General objective:

To develop an instrument of territorial planning to preserve the wetlands in the Basque Country

The Territorial Plan for Wetland Areas is an instrument that:

- Identifies
- Makes an inventory
- Classifies
- Diagnoses
- Cartographies
- Establishes the regulation of uses and activities in accordance with the capacity of reception

for all the wetlands within the Basque Country



Detailed description of the action (2) Group I

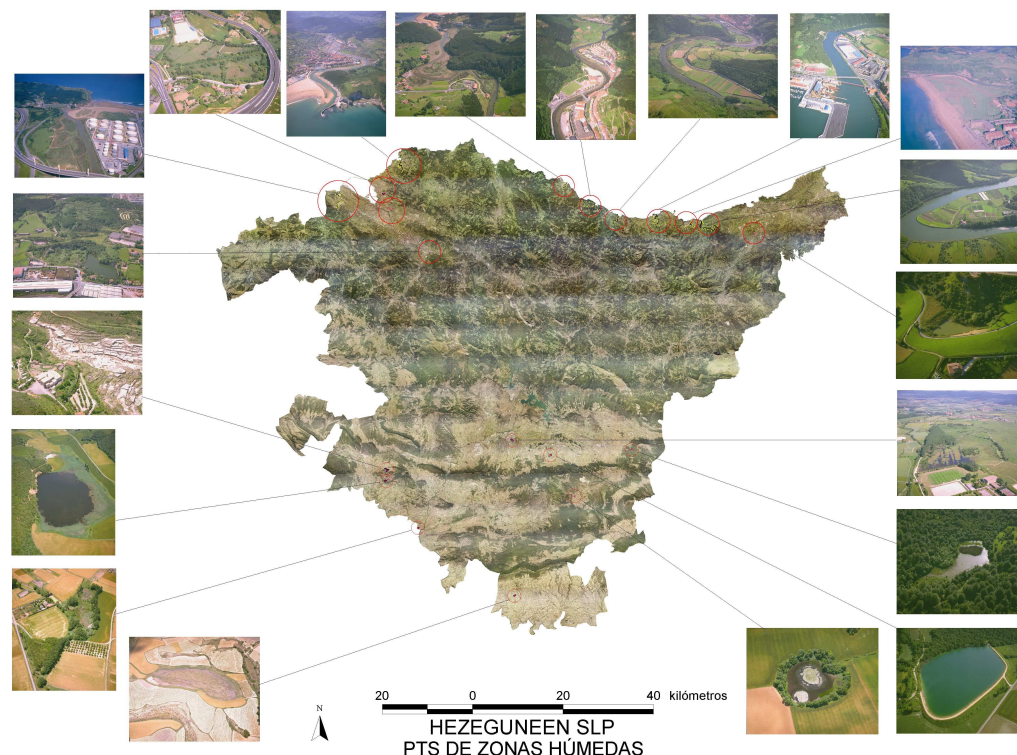
- Wetlands within Natural Protected Areas
- Type, size and relevance differ widely
- Their protection regimes are those of the corresponding Protected Areas



Detailed description of the action (2)

Group II

- Protection regime established by the territorial plan itself
- Regulation of uses and activities for each category



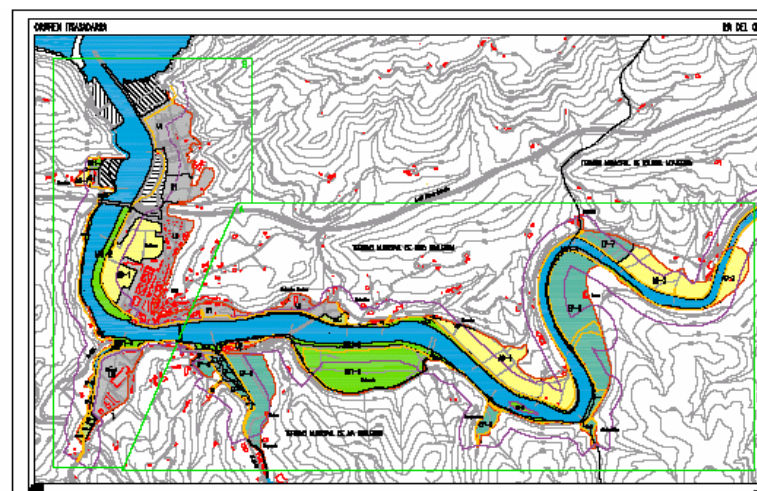
Detailed description of the action (2) Group III

- About 300 inland wet areas
- Not highly relevant
 - *but one Ramsar*
- Recommendations to be taken into account by the **local planning**



Detailed description of the action (4) Categories for land use regulation

- **Special Protection (EP):** Big limitations to the antropic. Secure the renovation of resources. Preserve ecological value
- **Environmental Improvement (MA):** To develop restoration projects
- **Agriculture and livestock (AG):** Preservation of agrological value of the land
- **Forest (F):** To maintain the function of the forest
- **Water protection (S):** Preserve water quality



Background of the action

- Some relevant wetlands in the Network of NPA (Inurritza, Txingudi, Urdaibai, Laguardia...) - Law for Nature Conservation (1994)
- Law on Spatial Planning in the Basque Country (1990)
 - Spatial Planning Directives
 - Territorial Plans

Territorial Plan for wetlands
(the whole territory of the Region)



Target groups

- 1) Local governments
- 2) Researchers
- 3) Citizens in general



Goals / Expected results

- 1) Guarantee the conservation of each wetland area's ecological, landscape, productive and scientific-cultural values
- 2) Enable the improvement, recovery and rehabilitation of landscape, fauna, flora and vegetation in impoverished wetland areas, either due to activities incompatible with their structure and capacity, or due to specific negative impacts
- 3) Establish lines of action that enable a revaluing of natural resources.

METHODOLOGY

- **Informative documents (1998-2000)**
 - Advance document
- **Initial approbation (2001):**
 - Public participation
 - Gathering of suggestions
 - Discussing
 - Drafting the document for the provisional approbation
- **Provisional approbation (2003)**
 - Sectorial reports
 - COTPV
 - Drafting document for the definitive approbation
- **Definitive approbation (2004)**



COST & FUNDING

- General budget of the Basque Country
- 5 years (1999-2004)
- External expertise: 130.000 €
Informative documents
(inventory, cartography, naturalistic studies)
- Revision of the Inventory (2010): 12.000 €

EVALUATION OF THE ACTION

- Monitoring
- Annual reports



RESULTS

- **Inventory** of the wetlands of the Basque Country/Cartography and mapping
- **Classification** of 18 types of wetlands according to origin and function
- Specific **recommendations** for protection according with typologies
- Compulsory **regulation** of land uses and activities for 19 wetlands
- Some **restoration projects** developed (LIFE estuaries)
- Some **research projects** developed (Aranzadi)
- 1st actualization of the **inventory** (2010)

FOLLOW UP

- **What are the future actions?**

Carrying on monitoring

Control for preventing irreparable damages

Ecosystems restoration (LIFE + estuaries)

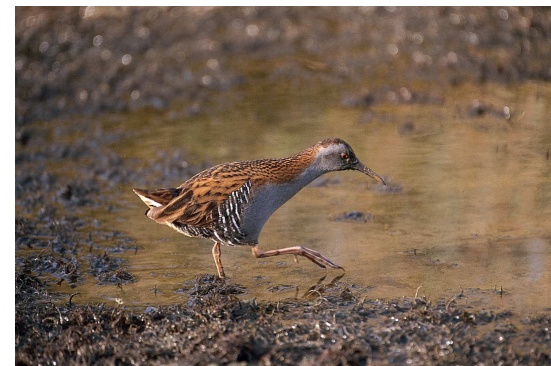
Public use compatible with conservation

- **What could be improved?**

Coordination between research and planning

Communication

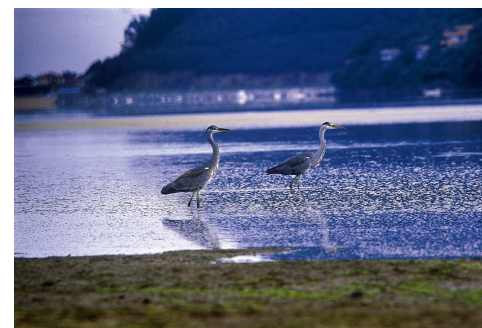
Funding for projects



CONCLUSION

The protection that instruments related to Nature Conservation give to wetlands is sometimes partial. On the other hand, in many cases the wetland itself has not enough ecological interest to be protected by those instruments. In such cases, **territorial planning reveals as a very useful and effective instrument to protect wetlands**

The Inventory is a basic tool for **monitoring**



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