



Sustainable management of the cultural landscapes in the NW Iberian Peninsula: best practices and conservation innovation

WS 2.2.A: The future of Mountain forests

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“Forest of deciduous broadleaved species, mainly oaks (Os Ancares, Galicia, Spain)”

- OBJECTIVE
- MATERIAL AND METHODS
- RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
- CONCLUSIONS



OBJECTIVE

The conservation of cultural landscapes and traditional land-use practices are key to achieve sustainable development. The landscape dynamics is the result of human intervention from centuries ago.

Our aim is to propose a set of actions for innovation in landscape conservation and recovery of the traditional uses.





MATERIAL AND METHODS

We studied the resilience and transformations of the cultural landscapes in the Eastern Mountains of Galicia. The work have focused on the evolution of natural broadleaf forests, intensively exploited since ancestral times.

Today, they have a high environmental interest, being recognized as habitats of Community Interest as part of the NATURA 2000 network.



“Quercus pyrenaica forest (Courel, Galicia, NW Spain)”

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

These forests were transformed into agricultural land, exploited for the naval and railway industries, joined the Church's possessions, suffered forest fires and replaced by fast-growing species.

These actions have led to a reduction in the area occupied by them. Now, broadleaved forests cover small and sloping sites, remaining where soil features often prevent other use, and the natural regeneration is limited by human activities. There is a modified landscape but with a slow transformation, and where the biodiversity conservation and rural tourism have great importance.



CONCLUSIONS

In the current climate change scenario, the following recommendations for the management of these forests would allow their adequate recovery and conservation:

- The current situation raises the problem of its socioeconomic reconversion. From a positive viewpoint, the area covered by these forests has increased, and there is a greater knowledge about the importance of their conservation.
- First, it would be necessary for the Forest Administration to promote a correct management method for the forest owners.
- Favor the afforestation with deciduous broadleaved species, in particular with those species that make up the climax formations (*Quercus robur*, *Quercus petraea*, *Quercus pyrenaica*, *Castanea sativa*, and others).



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!