



The Role of Land Stewardship Agreements in Mobilizing Private Nature Financing

Investing in Nature Restoration – Building a sustainable future

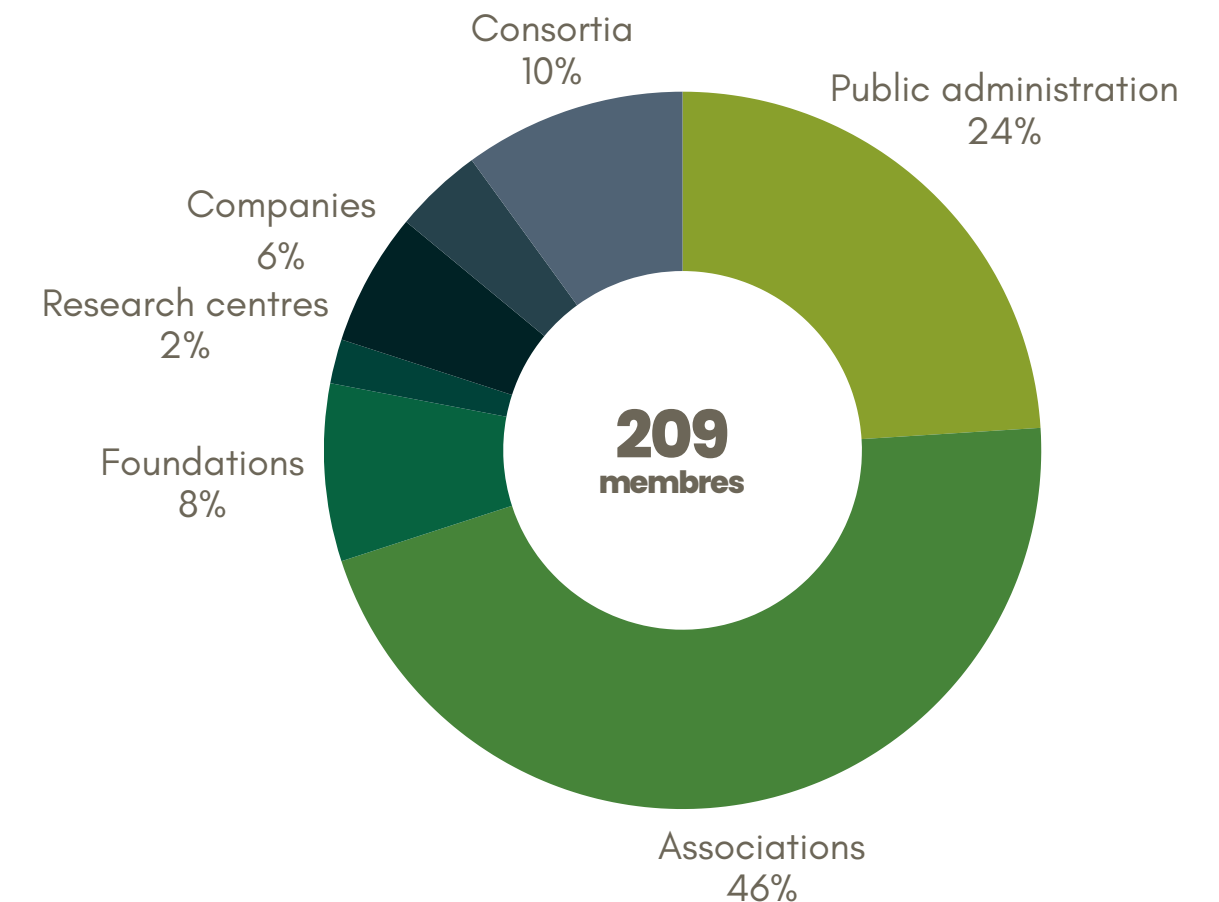
Laura Recoder Ollé – XCN (Spain)



Xarxa per a la Conservació de la Natura (XCN)

What does XCN do?

- Promote the conservation and sustainable management of nature, its social participation and its cultural and landscape values.
- Support the third environmental sector and institutions, especially in implementing **land stewardship** and **environmental volunteering** in Catalonia.
- Participation in European and International networks.



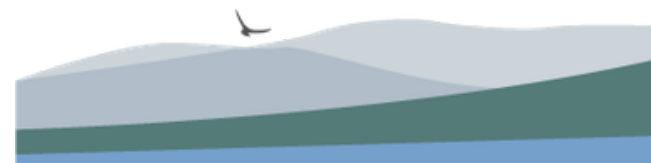
FRECT

FORO DE REDES Y ENTIDADES DE
CUSTODIA DEL TERRITORIO



ACCESSTOLAND

A European network of grassroots organisations securing land for agroecological farming

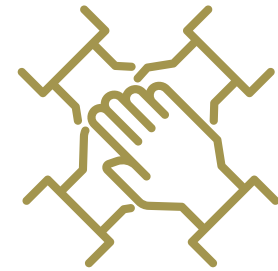
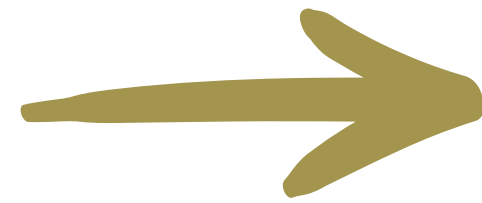


INTERNATIONAL
LAND CONSERVATION
NETWORK



Land Stewardship: a Tool for Nature Conservation

Community engagement



Engaging landowners and/or land managers, as well as land users

Conservation purpose



To manage the land in a way that preserves the natural, cultural and landscape values of the natural area

Available legal instruments



Using different legal instruments and collaboration mechanisms between landowners, NGOs and other public and private stakeholders to formalize the agreements

Land Stewardship: a Tool for Nature Conservation



Source: xct

Land stewardship as a guarantee for private investment

Legal Security & Social Acceptance

Land stewardship **agreements** increase **legal security** of conservation initiatives:

- Contracts formalize commitments between parties
- Define rights and obligations - recognized by law
- Set monitoring mechanisms to assess conservation impact



Agreement

Land stewardship promotes **social acceptance**:

- Commitments are voluntary
- Conservation actions are agreed with landowners
- Social interests are integrated
- Conflicts from top-down conservation approaches are reduced



HOW CAN COLLABORATION WITH LAND STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES SUPPORT THE PRIVATE SECTOR?

Current context

- Consumers, investors and regulators demand real sustainability in businesses
- Big companies prioritize sustainable suppliers
- Climatic risks have direct impacts on businesses and economy

Consequences

- Lose of commercial opportunities and access to consumers
- Less attractive businesses for investors
- Greater exposure to environmental risks and regulatory pressure

Solutions from the Land Stewardship movement

- Real and measurable environmental impact with social participation
- Reputational benefits
- Support in ESG and certification requirements
- Increase in business resilience

Examples of Land Stewardship and Private Finance Initiatives: Conservation of Old-Growth Forests by SÈLVANS

Sèlvans Foundation: Land stewardship organization focusing in the conservation of Old-Growth forests in Catalonia (Spain).

Signs **Land Stewardship contracts:**

- Forest landowners who commit to no forest management actions for a minimum of 25 years, equivalent to one felling cycle.
- Can be included in the land registry (subject to real rights).
- Include economic compensation for felling costs.



Collaborates with private sector - The Compensa Natura 2.0 project:

- Individuals and organizations offset the land occupied by their infrastructure by conserving an equivalent area of forests.
- Donations are held in a separate bank account until a land stewardship agreement is signed with a forest property.
- Companies receive verifiable data for sustainability and corporate reports, while directly contributing to land conservation.



Examples of Land Stewardship and Private Finance Initiatives: Forest Climate Credits (PROMACC)

Forest Climate Credits: new exchange units designed to facilitate private investment in the ecosystem services provided by forests.

- 1 credit = 1ha of managed forest. Min. area of 50 hectares
- To generate climate credits, forest management with a positive impact on 3 ecosystem services:
 - C sequestration, including wildfire risk reduction;
 - blue water provision;
 - biodiversity carrying capacity.
- Scientifically based methodology to measure the expected impact of planned management actions.
- When stewardship organizations promote the project, a **contract is signed with the landowner** to ensure appropriate forest management and secure long-term impact.



Involvement of the private sector:

- Companies purchase a number of credits covering in advance the costs of forest management actions linked to the project in a given area.
- Based on the certificates issued by the accredited certification body, the Catalan Government issues a certificate to the funding organization stating: no. of credits generated, impact achieved, and carbon removals.

Examples of Land Stewardship and Private Finance Initiatives: a project started from the private sector

The aim

Every 1 m² built is offsetted by restoring 1 m² of high ecological value nearby.

The action

Habitat restoration for amphibians

The collaboration

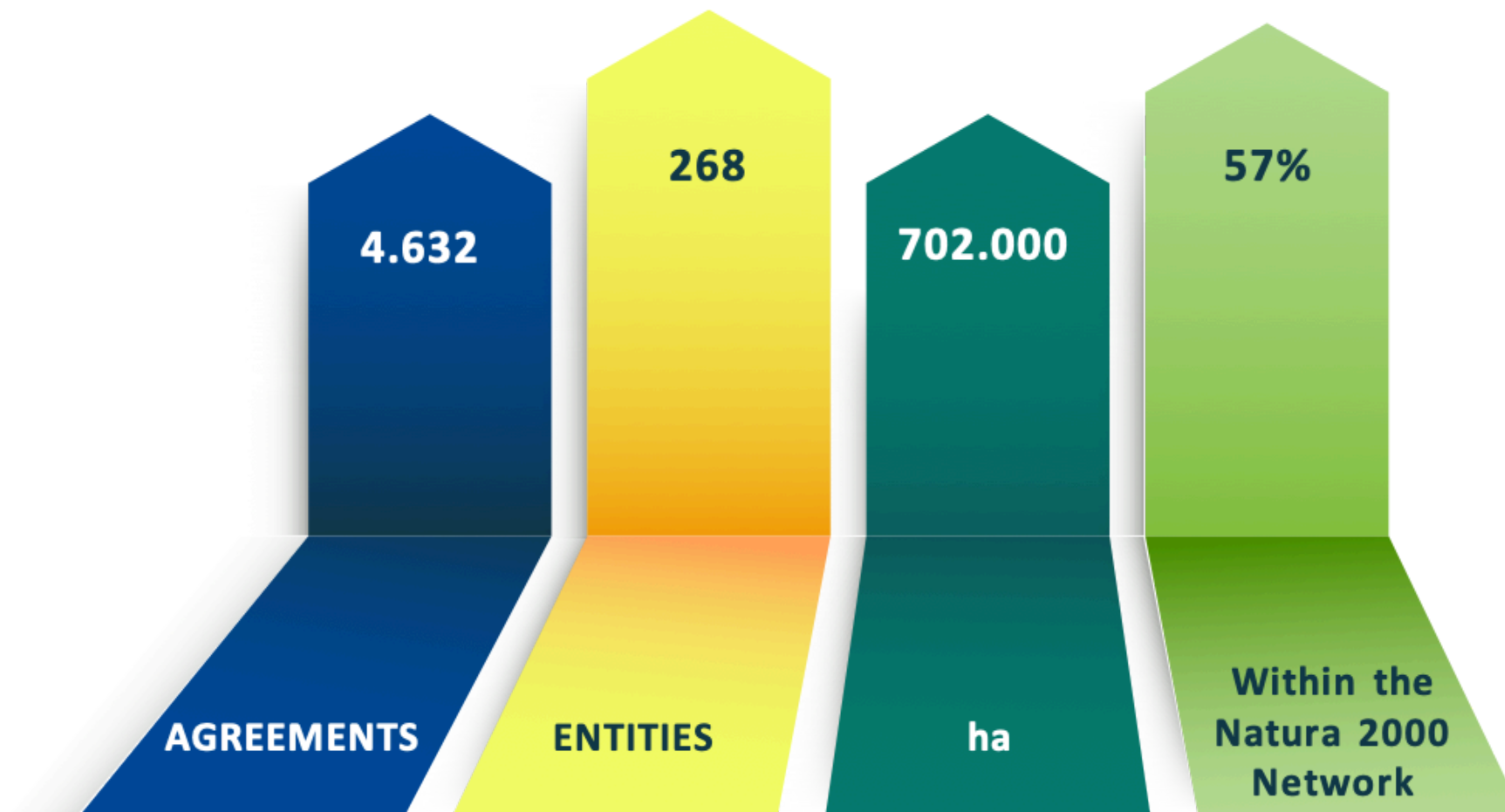
Through a partnership with XCN, the company collaborates with different land stewardship organizations to restore nature near its housing projects.

Project in the Llobregat Delta

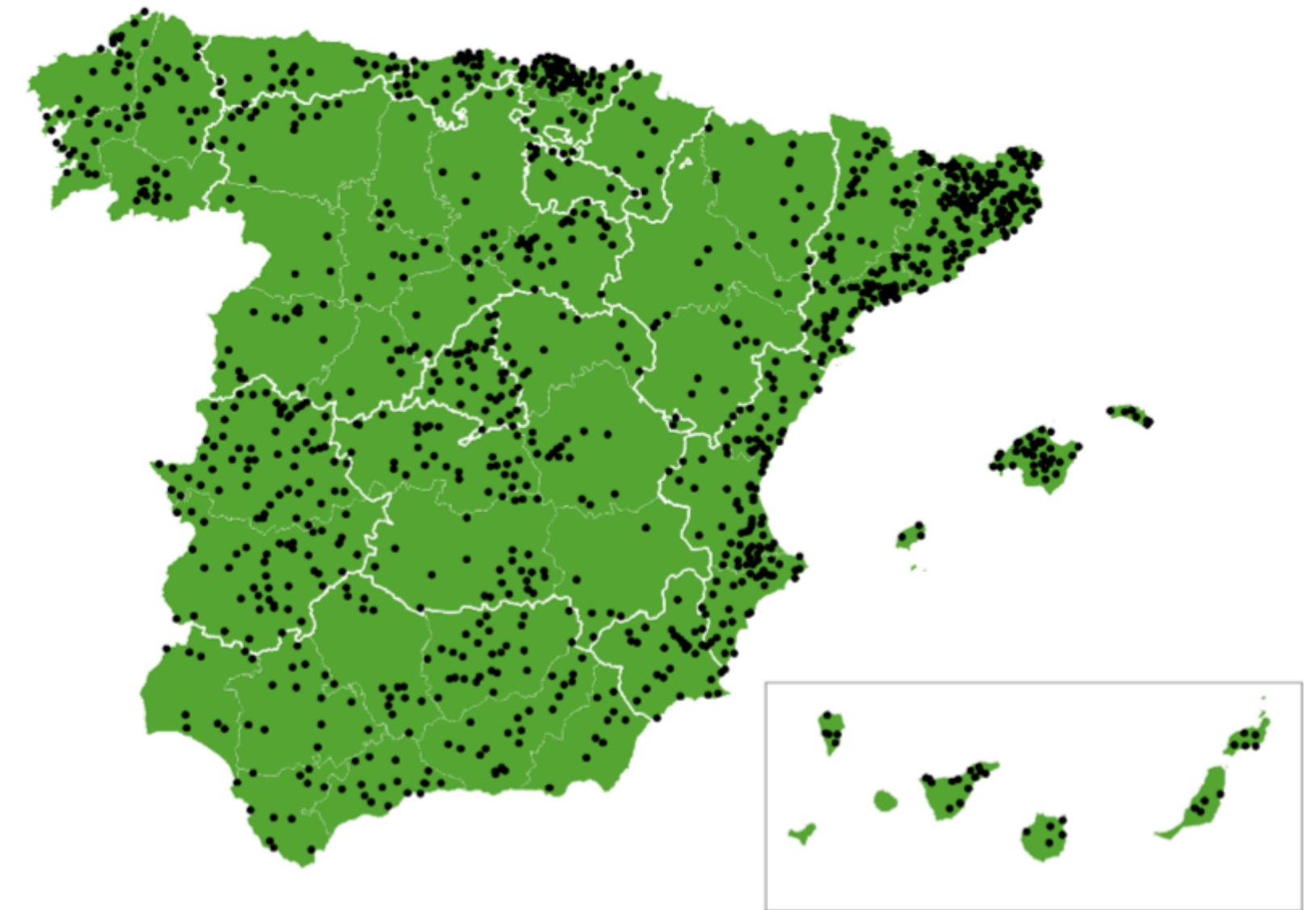
Build a temporary pond for amphibians in the Llobregat Delta and improve their refuge habitats by building stone piles



Land Stewardship in Spain



Report of the 7th Inventory of Land Stewardship Initiatives in Spain (2020–2023)



Municipalities where initiatives are being carried out according to the 7th inventory

LIFE Stewardship Project

Objective:

To promote land stewardship as a tool for nature conservation through innovation and collaboration between public administrations, landowners, companies, NGOs, and other organizations.

Coordinator:



Partners:



LIFE Stewardship Project – Actions



Innovation program □ new opportunities and mobilization of funding
Global Nature Foundation



Standardisation of the key processes involved in the agreements and improvement of the evaluation of their effectiveness
Forum of Land Stewardship Networks and Organizations (FRECT)



To boost **collaboration involving public and private** entities as well as civil society
SEO/BirdLife



To boost collaboration involving public and private entities as well as civil society
Xarxa per a la Conservació de la Natura and Eurosite



Plan to strengthen the **capacities** and resources of the land stewardship community
Fundación Fernando González Bernáldez / Europarc-Spain



Communication and dissemination of the project. Monitoring and evaluation of its actions
Biodiversity Foundation

LIFE Stewardship Project – Results up to date



Report on **Innovative instruments for nature financing** applied to land stewardship initiatives.
Creation of an **Interactive tool**.
Global Nature Foundation



Creation of a **Technical advisory office** and a virtual **Resource centre of Land Stewardship**,
FRECT and Biodiversity Foundation



Policy Plan to boost collaboration between public administrations and private LS organizations
SEO/BirdLife



Eurosite **Working Group in Nature Finances and Private Land Conservation**
Xarxa per a la Conservació de la Natura and Eurosite



Training strategy for the Land Stewardship community
Fundación Fernando González Bernáldez / Europarc-Spain



Communication and dissemination of the project. Monitoring and evaluation of its actions
Biodiversity Foundation

Thank you!
