

Biesca: Protecting the value of Asturian forests

The project is located in the Ponga River sub-basin, part of the Sella River basin, one of the main basins in Asturias with a surface area of over 1.200 km². This particular basin has a high degree of deforestation, mainly caused by forest fires, both intentional and accidental or caused by negligence; therefore, the Public Utility Forest that are part of this project have a great relevance regulating the water cycle, reducing the effects of erosion and the chance of flood events from happening.

These forests are mainly populated by autochthonous deciduous species, such as beech, ash tree, maple, oak and chestnut and they have been used as proving grounds for the implementation of a Low-Impact Forestry (LIF) silvicultural model.

Verified Ecosystem Services



Restoration of species diversity



Conservation of forest carbon stocks



Maintenance of the capacity of watersheds to purify and regulate water flows

Highlights of this project

1. 184 tons of carbon dioxide stored per managed hectare of forest
2. Restored habitats for important species like the Brown Bear
3. Protection of the quality of the Ponga River sub-basin

Project details

Watershed Protection

The forest occupies a high surface of the sub-basin and is in one of the biggest basins in the region of Asturias.

Low-impact forestry silvicultural model to avoid damaging its capacity to regulate the water cycle. The area where the project is located has suffered from deforestation caused by forest fires over the years, so the preservation of the remaining forests is vital for the ecosystem.



Biodiversity Conservation

The Cantabrian brown bear – one of the last native bear species in western Europe – is in danger of extinction. In its home region of Asturias in north-west Spain, the Asturian Wildlife Protection Fund (abbreviated as ‘FAPAS’ in Spanish) is improving the bear’s habitat to preserve the species, while highlighting the value of its home forests.

Would you like to integrate this project into your climate strategy?

Contact us at valueforest@fsc.org to learn more.

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