

Devesa da Rogeira Corazón Verde (Green Heart) of Spain – a forest of incredible biodiversity

Devesa de Rogeira is a small forest in the east of Galicia in northern Spain. It belongs to Enxeñería Forestal Asefor and the community from neighbouring mountains in Mano Común of Rogeira e Cabana.

More than 70 years ago, local people decided that the value of the forest lay not in the timber they could extract from it but in the fauna and flora it contained, and the ecosystem services it provided. It is a unique natural enclave in Galicia and is managed by the people who live there. The forest is located in the UNESCO World Heritage site and offers picturesque views.

The “comuneros” that lead the work in Devesa da Rogeira have implemented diverse activities to protect the biodiversity of this forest, such as forbidding the commercial exploitation of this forest, maintaining infrastructure against forest fires, among others. They need further support to continue safeguarding the true value of this rich forest for Galicia and Spain.

Verified Ecosystem Services



Conservation of natural
forest characteristics

Highlights of this project

1. Exceptional levels of biodiversity led to naming it ‘green heart of Spain’
2. Managed by ‘comuneros’ – the neighbouring communities who protect it from fires by grazing cattle
3. Thanks to active forest management the fire that hit the surrounding forests and villages in summer 2022 did not affect Devesa

Project details

Biodiversity conservation

Devesa de Rogueira – made up of 21 different types of woodland – hosts 900 species of plants, including 25 orchids and more than 400 species of fungi. Apart from the brown bears, there are roe deer, martens, weasels, polecats, wild cats, wolves, foxes and scores of birds, amphibians, and reptiles.



Payment for ecosystem services

These remote populations who look after Devesa da Rogeira need economic support to boost local economy, since their goal is to preserve these forests and share them with society and for future generations.

Agroamb, a waste and agricultural management company in nearby Lugo, is one company that sees supporting Devesa de Rogueira as an ideal way to demonstrate its commitment to a circular economy. They hope that other organisations will join them in valuing the work that goes into protecting this forest.

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

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

FSC Global Development GmbH · FSC® F000100

Adenauerallee 134 · 53113 Bonn · Germany

T +49 (0) 228 367 66 0 · F +49 (0) 228 367 66 65

Geschäftsführer | Director: Kim Bering Becker Carstensen

Handelsregister | Commercial Register: Bonn HRB15990

FSC International Center GmbH · FSC® F000100

Adenauerallee 134 · 53113 Bonn · Germany

T +49 (0) 228 367 66 0 · F +49 (0) 228 367 66 65

Geschäftsführer | Director: Dr. Hans-Joachim Droste und/and Stefan Salvador

Handelsregister | Commercial Register: Bonn HRB12589

