

Presentation

Welcome to the fourth newsletter of the LIFE Insular project.

The project develops an integrated transnational strategy for the sustainable management of insular habitats on Natura 2000 islands in the Atlantic Ocean, located in the Atlantic region of Ireland and Spain and in the Spanish Macaronesian region.

The general objective of this strategy and the integrated restoration of insular habitats (2130*, 4030) on islands in the Atlantic Ocean promoting their favorable conservation status and increasing their resilience as the main measure of adaptation to current global changes.

LIFE INSULAR chose 8 Spanish and Irish Natura 2000 SACs located on 5 different islands of both Member States, where the best practices of proven effectiveness on island habitats will be applied to address common conservation problems and threats from a transnational approach.



lifeinsular

LIFE20 NAT/ES/001007



LIFE INSULAR (LIFE20 NAT/ES/001007)

Integrated strategy for sustainable management of insular habitats in Natura
2000 islands of the Atlantic Ocean



Irish Atlantic region:

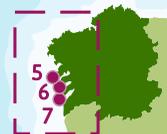
- 1 - Sheephaven SAC
- 2 - Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC
- 3 - Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC
- 4 - Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC



Atlantic coast of Galicia

Spanish Atlantic region:

- 5 - ZEC Complejo húmido de Corrubedo
- 6 - ZEC Complejo Ons - O Grove
- 7 - ZEC Illas Cíes



Spanish Macaronesian region:

- 8 - ZEC Archipiélago Chinijo



Canary Islands



Conservation actions



Coordination of the project



Diffusion of the project



life insular

newsletter of the project 2025

LIFE INSULAR project presents the results of the genetic analysis of island species

2025/01/15

On January 15, 16 and 17, the XXIV Seminar on Population Genetics and Evolution was held at the Parador de Mazagón (Huelva), organized by the SEG (Spanish Society of Genetics) and the Pablo Olavide University of Seville. This event served to share the most recent results of the different lines of research developed in the field of genetics at the Iberian level.

LIFE INSULAR presented the results of the genetic diversity and kinship relationships of the island species analyzed by the project in the Iberian Peninsula. The audience was able to learn firsthand the most notable conclusions of the project, and the proposed management and conservation measures for these species.



Partners

Coordinated by the IBADER (University of Santiago de Compostela), the project includes five more partners



Networking event with CABALGA project to promote inclusion and integration in environmental restoration

2025/01/23

LIFE INSULAR has carried out a networking activity with the CABALGA project, which is an initiative that brings together scientific, fishing and social work to promote the protection and restoration of organisms that live on the seabed, through the reintroduction of

fundamental species for the balance of these habitats. AMICOS participates in this initiative, which involves people with intellectual disabilities who play a vital role in these recovery actions, as an example of active citizenship and the importance of an inclusive

and integrating society.

The synergy between both projects is very high, since they share restoration objectives in coastal and halophytic environments, which are of high interest for the conservation of biodiversity.



Transfer of results from the genetic analysis of LIFE INSULAR to Generalitat Valencian

2025/02/11

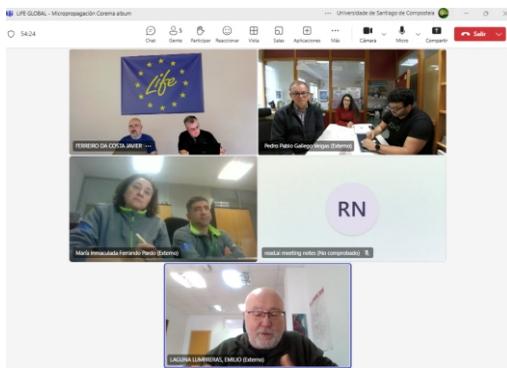
On January 30, IBADER from Campus Terra organized an online seminar to promote the transfer of the results of the genetic analyses carried out by the LIFE INSULAR project, of which it is the coordinator.

The workshop served to transfer the results obtained on the genetic diversity and kinship relationships of the white crowberry (*Corema album*) population in Serra Gelada (Alicante), compared to the rest of the Iberian populations, to the staff of Generalitat Valenciana in charge of its conservation.

The results of the project conclude the need to develop in situ and ex situ conservation measures

for this species, to ensure its long-term maintenance and the future viability of its populations. The workshop ended with a series of recommendations and short- and long-term management measures that would contribute to this purpose.

The participation of competent personnel from the Generalitat Valenciana is an asset for LIFE INSULAR, as it allows the lessons learned from the project to be replicated in other areas and territories, even increasing the scale of the results by implementing conservation measures using their own resources within the territorial scope of their competence, promoting the catalytic potential of LIFE INSULAR.



Transfer of results to Generalitat Valenciana on the micropropagation of the white crowberry in LIFE INSULAR

The results of the project highlight the possibility of using this species for population reinforcement actions, creation of germplasm banks, guaranteeing its long-term maintenance and the future viability of its populations

2025/02/24

On February 18, the IBADER of Campus Terra organized an online seminar to promote the transfer of the results of the plant production actions for restoration developed by the LIFE INSULAR project, of which it is the coordinator.

The event served to transfer the results obtained on the micropropagation of the white crowberry (*Corema album*) in Galicia to the Generalitat Valenciana staff in charge of this species conservation in their only population present in Serra Gelada (Alicante).



The seminar was attended by the management staff of the Atlantic Islands National Park, and members of the Agrobiotech for Health research group of the University of Vigo as the specialist team that carried out the micropropagation works.

The results of the project highlight the possibility of using this species for population reinforcement actions, creation of germplasm banks, guaranteeing its long-term maintenance and the future viability of its populations. The event ended with a series of recommendations and management measures, as well as the establishment of future lines of collaboration between Galician and Valencian managers.



The participation of competent personnel from the Generalitat Valenciana is an asset for LIFE INSULAR, as it allows the lessons learned from the project to be replicated in other areas and territories, even increasing the scale of the results by implementing conservation measures using their own resources within the territorial scope of their competence, promoting the catalytic potential of LIFE INSULAR.

LIFE INSULAR's conservation strategy is replicated by LIFE GLOBAL

2025/02/28

On February 25, 2025, the first meeting of the LIFE GLOBAL project steering committee was held, which also includes IBADER-USC and DXPN, beneficiaries of LIFE INSULAR in Galicia. At this meeting, it was decided that the strategy developed by LIFE INSULAR with respect to the control and elimination of IAS should be replicated in the coastal areas of LIFE GLOBAL in Galicia, thus contributing to the catalytic potential of the project, as well as to the transferability and replicability of its results.



The general objective of LIFE GLOBAL is to implement a transnational restoration strategy in 31 Natura 2000 areas of high conservation value in northern Spain and Portugal, distributed among the 3 scenarios most vulnerable to global change and with the highest biodiversity conservation value: coastal zone, continental wetlands and mountain areas. As the main measure of adaptation to current global changes, the project aims to improve the conservation status and resilience to global change of 10 priority habitats and 3 priority species. The restoration actions will be complemented by a comprehensive strategy to inform and raise awareness among the general public, as well as to transfer the measures developed and the results obtained for their replicability at European level. The project has a great demonstrative and pilot value and will have a great complementarity with the results and methodologies used in LIFE INSULAR.



An information meeting was held on the restoration of the Murvagh Dunes

2025/03/12

Teams from Coillte and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), partners in the LIFE INSULAR project, participated in an information session on the Murvagh Dunes restoration project, part of the LIFE INSULAR project's restoration actions. A public meeting was held at the St. Brigid's Community Centre in Ballintra and at the Murvagh site.

There was a large turnout for this information event on the 11-hectare Murvagh Dunes restoration project, which includes the clearing of

approximately seven hectares of senescent forest plantations.

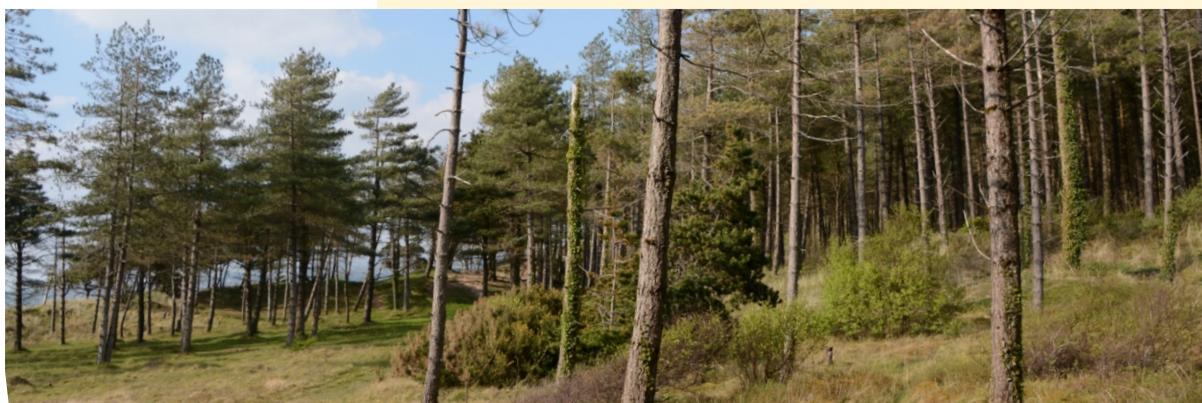
Experts from Coillte and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) were present at the event, held at the St. Brigid's Community Centre in Ballintra and at the Murvagh site on Saturday, March 8. They were on hand to present the latest plans and answer questions.

Among those in attendance were members of Friends of Murvagh Beach, as well as a group of concerned individuals who gathered to highlight and challenge aspects of the project

and to submit a formal appeal.

They were joined by many people for whom Murvagh Beach and the forest hold a special place in their lives, whether for general recreation or for their physical and emotional well-being; and others with a particular interest in the biodiversity of the site.

Those present were informed that the Life Insular project will result in a 6% loss of senescent forest plantations and a 30% increase in dunes. The purpose is to preserve the dune habitat to help mitigate the effects of climate change and significantly increase its ecological value.



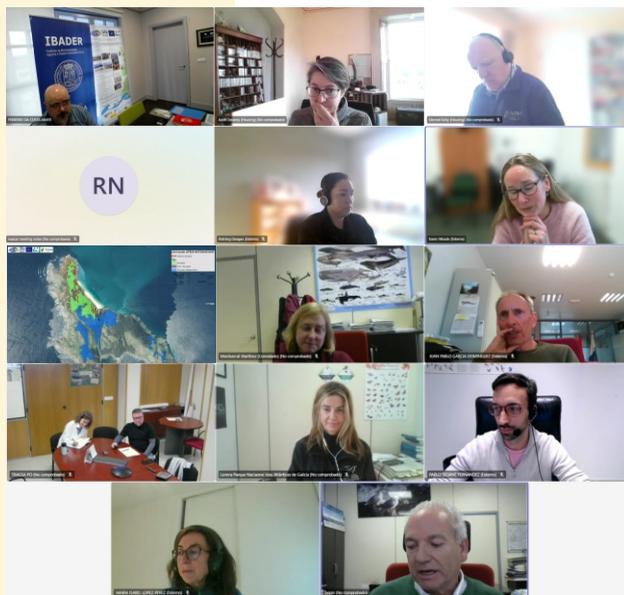
LIFE INSULAR held seventh coordination meeting

2025/03/20

The meeting was held by video call, and allowed to report on the progress of conservation, monitoring and dissemination actions in the Irish and Spanish locations of the project.

On March 7 and 18, the seventh round of LIFE INSULAR coordination meetings took place via video call between the coordinator (IBADER-USC), the Spanish (DXPN, OAPN, TRAGSA) and Irish (NPWS, COILLTE) partners of the project.

The meetings allowed for an account of the progress of conservation actions in the Irish and Spanish locations of the project, the implementation of the socioeconomic monitoring actions and ecosystem services of the project, and the foreseen activities for 2025 of the dissemination actions.



LIFE INSULAR organizes a day of theatrical activities in natural spaces

2025/03/22



On March 22 and 23, the LIFE INSULAR project held a series of workshops for the design of theatrical activities in natural spaces at the facilities of the Atlantic Islands National Park of Galicia (Vigo, Galicia).

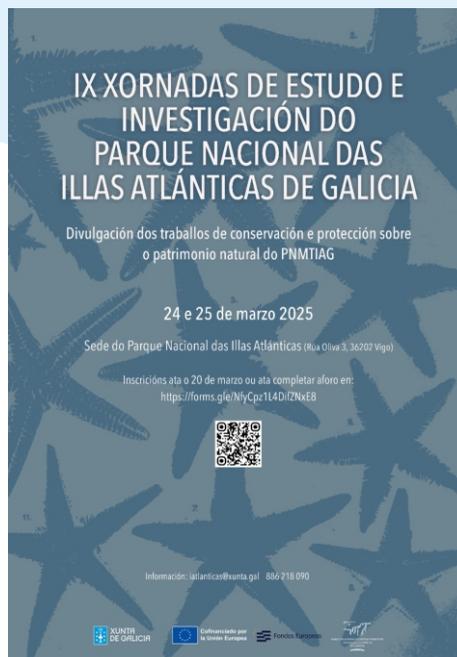
The event served to train attendees in the most appropriate tools, skills and techniques for the development of this type of activity in coastal spaces of great fragility due to their high conservation value.



LIFE INSULAR presentation at PNMTIAG Conference

2025/03/25

The LIFE INSULAR project was presented at the 9th Study and Research Conference of the Atlantic Islands National Park of Galicia, which took place on March 24 and 25 in Vigo (Galicia). This presentation served as an update on the progress of the project's actions in Galicia to the local public.



Replication of the LIFE INSULAR methodology in the ring barking of eucalyptus in Cortegada island (Galicia)

2025/03/30



The replication of the methodology for the elimination of senescent plantations carried out by LIFE INSULAR was carried out on the Island of Cortegada by the Atlantic Islands National Park, through the ring barking of eucalyptus in this island territory. This allows to increase the impact of the action carried out by the project, and to promote its catalytic potential through the application of its methods in other territories or contexts.

[LINK](#)



Replication of LIFE INSULAR methodology for banding and elimination of invasive species in Cíes (Galicia)

2025/04/07

The replication of the methodology carried out by LIFE INSULAR for the elimination of invasive species through banding was carried out in Campa de Carracido (Cíes, Galicia). This allows to increase the impact of the action carried out by the project, and to promote its catalytic potential through the application of its methods in other territories or contexts.



Visit of the Minister of the Environment to the Island of Cortegada (Galicia) to visit the island environments

2025/04/11



On April 11, 2025, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change (Xunta de Galicia) visited the Island of Cortegada, to learn first-hand about the replication work of the LIFE INSULAR strategy in this archipelago, and to positively assess the restoration of island ecosystems as a strategy for the conservation of biodiversity and the fight against climate change.

LIFE INSULAR Volunteer Day in Cortegada (Galicia)

2025/04/13

The LIFE INSULAR methodology for the removal of invasive species was replicated during a volunteer day on Cortegada Island on April 13, 2025. This event helped to increase the impact of the project's actions and to promote its catalytic potential through the application of its methods in other territories or contexts.



Restoration and Conservation Efforts Underway at Ards Forest Park (Donegal, Ireland)

2025/04/16

LIFE INSULAR’S comprehensive restoration project between Coillte Nature and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) which is set to transform Ards Forest Park, Sheephaven, located in one of Ireland's most ecologically significant Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), commenced in February 2025.

This initiative aims to safeguard and restore one of the critical habitats in this environmentally rich region, focusing on the renowned fixed dune ecosystems under the EU LIFE INSULAR project. This project is an integrated strategy for sustainable management of Insular habitats in Natura 2000 Atlantic islands, specifically Ireland and Spain.



Birdwatching environmental awareness event at Cabo Udra (Galicia)

2025/04/20

On April 20, a birdwatching event was held in the natural area of Cabo Udra, located opposite the islands targeted by LIFE INSULAR, to raise environmental awareness of coastal and island biodiversity. The day was very useful for the audience, and allowed them to gain specialized knowledge about the conservation of natural heritage.



Visit of RAMSAR Committee Experts to LIFE INSULAR sites in Galicia

2025/04/20



A group of members of the Spanish Ramsar Committee recently visited the LIFE INSULAR sites in the Atlantic Islands of Galicia National Park, included in the list of wetlands of international importance. The Ramsar Committee is a body created to coordinate conservation and management actions for wetlands in Spain, in accordance with the Ramsar Convention. The visit served to highlight the importance and need to conserve our natural heritage with restoration projects such as those carried out by LIFE INSULAR.

The Galician Regional Government offers environmental outreach activities in relation to the LIFE INSULAR project

2025/04/29

This May, the Galician Regional Government (Xunta de Galicia) is offering nearly a dozen environmental outreach activities as part of the transnational LIFE INSULAR project, which seeks to improve the conservation of Atlantic island ecosystems by strengthening their resilience to climate change and various types of human pressure.

The objective of these events is to foster greater visitor awareness of natural heritage conservation through knowledge of its environmental and landscape values, and the promotion of responsible practices.

Seven of these activities will take place in the Atlantic Islands of Galicia Maritime-Terrestrial National Park. The island of Cortegada will host five activities. The first of these is taking place this weekend and consists of planting native tree species around the chapel and an interpretive route about the island's flora to raise awareness of recent conservation efforts in Cortegada's ecosystems. This island, in addition to hosting a butterfly-watching activity on the 11th, will also host two workshops: on May 17, one will be held on tracks and footprints to learn about the fauna that inhabits Cortegada, and on May 24, another will be held on the construction of musical

instruments with natural elements. In addition, during these three days, a waste collection effort will also be carried out along the island's coastal area.

On the Cíes Islands, on May 10, a butterfly-watching route will be organized, continuing the research study on lepidoptera that the National Park has been conducting for ten years.

The following day, on May 11, a flora outreach day is planned around Cape Udra, in the municipality of Bueu. In addition, on the 18th, an interpretive route will be held on Ons Island to learn about its ecosystemic richness through the observation of marine and land birds.

In addition, an outreach event will be held on May 21st at a Natura de Galicia site, showcasing some of the animals present—birds, mammals, reptiles, etc.—which will include information on their habitats, behavior, and importance in this protected natural area.

Furthermore, within the Corrubedo Wetland Complex Special Conservation Area, which includes Sálvora Island, two environmental outreach events will be held, focusing on observing the flora (on May 18th) and the birds (on May 25th) found on the beaches surrounding Corrubedo.



Work resumes in San Martiño (Galicia)

2025/04/30

On April 30, the work teams landed again on the island of San Martiño to continue the restoration work of LIFE INSULAR during the year 2025. The weather conditions of the spring of 2025 prevented their arrival earlier. In addition, the lack of a docking port on this island is a great challenge that requires the use of a special vessel to anchor on the beach and carry mechanized means, personnel and supplies for the correct development of the work.



Monitoring mission of LIFE INSULAR by the European Commission to the Galician sites of the project

2025/05/06

On May 6 and 7, the European Commission conducted a monitoring mission to the Galician sites of the LIFE INSULAR project, led by ELMEN EEIG technicians. This visit, prior to the submission of the interim project report, allowed for an assessment of the progress of the project's activities in the Galician islands through separate visits to the islands of San Martiño and Sálvora, as well as to the rest of the project sites through a mixed in-person and virtual meeting with the rest of the beneficiaries.



Awareness-raising activity successfully held on the Cíes Islands

2025/05/10

As part of the outreach activities included in the LIFE INSULAR project, the PNMTIAG held an environmental awareness activity on May 10th. This consisted of a wildlife observation route, focusing on the butterflies of the National Park and their habitats.

The activity took place between 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. During the visit, four species were identified: *Euphydryas aurinia*, *Pararge aegeria*, *Lycaena alciphron* and *Colias crocea*.



Students from the USC Faculty of Biology visited the Cíes Islands to check on the progress of the LIFE INSULAR project

2025/05/10

On May 10th, a group of students from the Faculty of Biology at the University of Santiago de Compostela visited the Cíes Islands, part of the Galician Atlantic Islands Maritime-Terrestrial National Park, to see the progress of the LIFE INSULAR project firsthand. They were accompanied by environmental agents from the National Park.



Butterfly watching event held successfully on Cortegada Island

2025/05/10

As part of the outreach activities included in the LIFE INSULAR project, the PNMTIAG organized an environmental awareness activity on May 11th, which consisted of butterfly watching on Cortegada Island.

The completely free activity included a boat ride to Cortegada Island and took place between 12:00 and 2:30 pm, departing from the port of Carril (Vilagarcía de Arousa).



The Irish Government (DHLGH) and Coillte published two posters for use at networking events

2025/05/13



As part of the LIFE INSULAR project, the Irish Government's Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) published two information panels for use at networking events. The panels address the issues surrounding durable habitats, one of the most threatened habitats on the islands of the Atlantic Ocean, whose conservation is included among the objectives of the LIFE INSULAR project.

Each panel showcases the dune restoration activities being carried out in the towns of Ards and Raven Point, sites included in the LIFE INSULAR project's action areas.



PNMTIAG Volunteering Days in May

ACTIVIDADE GRATUITA

Xornada voluntariado ambiental

+ ruta de observación de flora en Cabo Udra (Bueu)

11 DE MAIO | 10:00 - 13:00

Lugar: Aparcamento praia Aconradouro. Cabo Udra, Prazas: 25 (todos os públicos)
Inscripción: info@corticata.com
 *Actividade suxeita ás condicións meteorolóxicas

ACTIVIDADE GRATUITA (barco + obradoiro) CORTEGADA

Xornada de voluntariado ambiental

+ observación de fauna na illa de Cortegada: Obradoiro de rastros e pegadas

17 DE MAIO | 11:00 - 14:00

Lugar: Illa de Cortegada
 Saída: Porto de Carril
 Prazas: 25 (todos os públicos)
Inscripción: info@corticata.com
 *Actividade suxeita ás condicións meteorolóxicas

ACTIVIDADE GRATUITA (barco + ruta) ONS

Actividade de sensibilización ambiental

ruta interpretativa para a observación de aves mariñas e terrestres nas illas de Ons

18 DE MAIO | 10:30 - 17:30

Lugar: Illa de Ons
 Saída: Bueu
 Prazas: 20 (todos os públicos)
Inscripción: info@corticata.com
 *Actividade suxeita ás condicións meteorolóxicas

As part of the outreach activities included in the LIFE INSULAR project, the Atlantic Islands of Galicia Maritime-Terrestrial National Park carried out several volunteer and environmental awareness days throughout May.

During these days, participants were able to take part in flora and seabird and landbird observation activities, as well as in various workshops.

ACTIVIDADE GRATUITA CORRUBEDO

Xornada de voluntariado ambiental

+ ruta interpretativa para a observación da flora en Corrubedo e lagoas de Carregal e Vixán

18 DE MAIO | 10:00 - 13:00

Lugar: Corrubedo (Ribeira)
 Saída: Centro de recepción de visitantes Casa da Costa
 Prazas: 25 (todos os públicos)
Inscripción: info@corticata.com
 *Actividade suxeita ás condicións meteorolóxicas

ACTIVIDADE GRATUITA CORTEGADA

Xornada de voluntariado ambiental

- obadoiro "Música da natureza": construción de instrumentos musicais con elementos naturais

24 DE MAIO | 16:00 - 19:00

Lugar: Illa de Cortegada
 Saída: Porto de Carril
 Prazas: 25 (público familiar)
Inscripción: info@corticata.com
 *Actividade suxeita ás condicións meteorolóxicas

ACTIVIDADE GRATUITA CORRUBEDO

Xornada de voluntariado ambiental

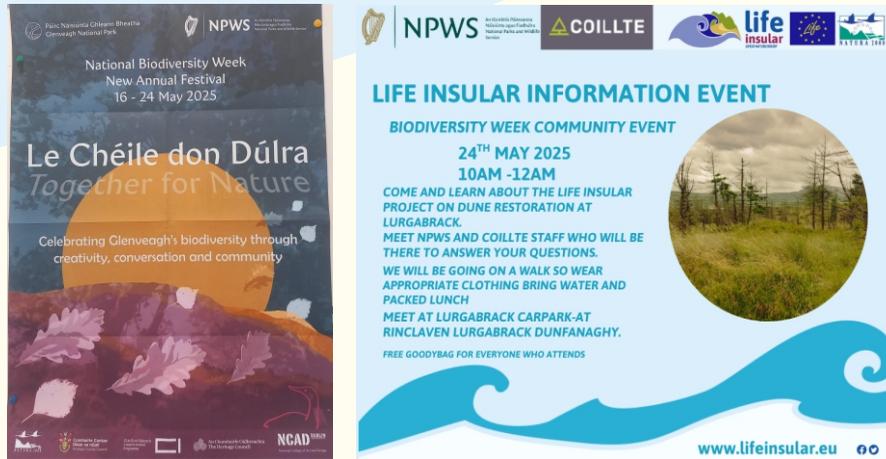
+ ruta interpretativa para a observación de aves no complexo dunar de Corrubedo e lagoas de Carregal e Vixán

25 DE MAIO | 10:00 - 13:00

Lugar: Centro de recepción de visitantes "Casa da costa"
 Prazas: 25 (todos os públicos)
Inscripción: info@corticata.com
 *Actividade suxeita ás condicións meteorolóxicas

NPWS-COILLTE Outreach Days in May

Within the framework of the LIFE INSULAR project, an outreach panel was held during Biodiversity Week at Glenveagh National Park, and an informative talk took place in Rinclavan to present plans for the forestry area, with the participation of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Coillte, strengthening institutional collaboration and the involvement of the local community.



OAPN Outreach Days in May

On the occasion of European Environment Day and European Natura 2000 Day, the Autonomous Body of National Parks (OAPN) organized several outreach days in Lanzarote and La Graciosa: an interpretive coastal walk along Famara was held to showcase the coastal flora; an educational activity for children titled “Living with the Coast” was developed to promote respect for and conservation of protected areas; and the initiative “Between Seagrasses and Corals” focused on raising awareness of seagrass meadow values through talks, screenings, and 3D experiences.



Life Insular Collaborates with Life on Machair for National Networking Event in Galway (Ireland)

2025/05/17

Life Insular recently teamed up with Life on Machair to deliver a series of impactful presentations as part of a national networking event, joined by members of the Sand Dune Network. The event brought together environmental professionals and community groups from across Ireland to share best practices in managing and protecting our coastal habitats.



LIFE INSULAR celebrates European Natura 2000 Day in the PNMT das Illas Atlánticas de Galicia

2025/05/21

In connection with the LIFE INSULAR project, the European Natura 2000 Network Day was celebrated on May 21st in the PNMT das Illas Atlánticas de Galicia. This celebration aims to showcase to all citizens the richness of this network of more than 27,000 protected areas of high ecological value throughout Europe, where nature and human activity coexist and which hold a significant ecological, social, and economic heritage. The European Natura 2000 Network Day is celebrated every May 21st to commemorate the date of the adoption of the Habitats Directive in 1992.



LIFE INSULAR participated in a networking event during Biodiversity Week in Glenveagh National Park

2025/05/17

Biodiversity Brunch & Networking
Natura 2000 Day 21st May 2025

Art Exhibition By Roisin Doherty
Bringing people, organisations and businesses together to exchange knowledge and share insights for nature conservation.

Your Day At A Glance...

9am Gather at the Festival Marquee and enjoy a lite bite to see you through to brunch time!
9.30am Welcome with Emmett Johnston, Park Manager, What is Natura 2000?
9.45am Biodiversity in Donegal – Julie Corry, Donegal County Council Biodiversity Officer

9.50am Bitesize Biodiversity: 10 minute inspiring stories, projects and discussions:

- Telling Glenveagh's Story: Interpreting a Natura 2000 Site, Clare Bromley, NPWS
- Countryside & Conservation Skills, Donna McDade, FTB
- 100 years of the Irish Naturalist Journal, Emer Magee, NPWS
- Slow but Mighty: How Ireland's Blanket Bogs Capture Carbon Through the Ages, Cathal Ryan Maynooth University

11.30am Biodiversity Brunch in Nellies Restaurant Supported By Donegal County Council

12.30-1.50pm Bitesize Biodiversity:

- Biodiversity, Tourism & Visitor Impacts: Conversations with Conor McTeirnan, ATU & Maura Kelly, Leave No Trace Ireland
- Triple Bottom Line: Regenerating Our Uplands, John Duffy, Wild & Co
- Ecology & Art, Seoidin O'Sullivan, NCAD
- The Real Barriers to Nature Restoration: Culture, Trust & Belief, Ray Ó Foghlú, Hometree

1.50pm Reflections with Sue Callaghan, Divisional Manager, NPWS

Le Chéile don Dúlra
Together for Nature

Celebrating Glenveagh's biodiversity through creativity, conversation and community

Páirc Náisiúnta Gheann Bheatha
Glenveagh National Park

LIFE INSULAR participated through the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in a networking event held at Glenveagh National Park in County Donegal, the venue for Biodiversity Week. The event included a networking session on Natura 2000 and a brunch. LIFE INSULAR brochures and promotional items were distributed to delegates. Speakers and delegates from across Donegal attended, including staff from LIFE INSULAR, LIFE on Machair, LIFE Wild Atlantic Nature, CORNCRAKE LIFE, and other environmental, educational, and artistic initiatives. A total of 60 people participated in the event.



The little temple of the Island of San Martiño (Galicia) sees the light of day again thanks to LIFE INSULAR

2025/05/23

The hunters' little temple, whose altar was blessed in 1930 on the Island of San Martiño (Galicia), has seen the light again thanks to the work of eliminating senescent eucalyptus plantations. In this way, a unique element of the island's cultural heritage, which had been buried for almost a century under the dense canopy formed by invasive eucalyptus formations that reached more than 30 meters height, has benefited from the action of LIFE INSULAR to improve the conservation status of island habitats.



First positive results on the conservation status of island habitats in San Martiño (Galicia)

2025/05/23



In the areas where work has been completed to remove senescent forest stands of invasive alien species (mainly eucalyptus) on the island of San Martiño (Galicia), LIFE INSULAR is monitoring the conservation status of the target habitats. Initial results have shown an improvement in their surface area, composition, and structure, as well as in their future prospects. This translates into an improvement in their conservation status, which benefits the natural heritage and biodiversity of the island territories.

LIFE INSULAR carries out IAS removal on the Ons Island (Galicia)

2025/05/23

During the month of May, the LIFE INSULAR team carried out invasive removal actions on the island of Ons (Galicia). The action allowed the elimination of formations of *Crassula multicaeva* and *Senecio angulatus*. LIFE INSULAR's restoration strategy allows improving the conservation status of natural habitats, and moving towards greater naturalness of the island territories.



Dissemination event to the local Dunfanaghy community for Biodiversity week (Dunfanaghy, Ireland)

2025/05/23

The Life insular Irish Team Dr Aoife Delaney, Karen Woods and Fidelma Maher organised an event for biodiversity week to the local community in Dunfanaghy on the Rinclaven project site. We had a gazebo set up on site with tables with Life Insular merchandise and goody bags to give away. There were Life insular information booklets and Sand Dune and Biodiversity leaflets also to educate the public on the importance of sand dune restoration. Dr Aoife Delaney NPWS and Karen Woods from Coillte walked around the proposed works site and gave talks on the various aspects of the proposed manual removal of dead and dying trees at the site and Aoife delaney talked about the sadn dunes and their importance in the Irish context. Key memebers of the community were present ans were happy to spread positive messages about the project locally in Dunfanaghy. The Life insular Hats were particularly popular.



Knowledge transfer workshop for environmental rangers in Cíes (Galicia)

2025/06/05

As part of the strategy for replication and transferability of the project's results, a knowledge transfer workshop was held on June 5 for environmental rangers of the Natural Park and Galician Natural Parks. Accompanied by the Conselleira de Medio Ambiente e Cambio Climático, the environmental stakeholders were able to learn firsthand about the difficulties of eliminating senescent forest plantations with exotic species, the elimination of invasive species to improve the conservation status of natural habitats, and the need to produce native plants for use in restoration from locally compatible reproductive material to prevent the introduction of foreign ecotypes and, consequently, genetic contamination. These workshops are essential for promoting two-way learning and replicating best practices in other locations within the National Park and in Galician Natural Parks.



A school workshop was held on the Cíes Islands (Galicia)

2025/06/05

On June 5, LIFE INSULAR held a school workshop on the Cíes Islands (Galicia), with a total of 120 students between the ages of 3 and 12, from various locations far from the interior of Galicia. These types of events aim to introduce schoolchildren to Galician parks, so they can appreciate the natural heritage and learn how to care for them. The day included guided tours along the trails, workshops on marine and terrestrial biodiversity, and talks about the importance of LIFE INSULAR in the arduous task of restoring fragile ecosystems such as island systems. The experience, designed to foster respect for the environment, aimed to leave a lasting impression on the schoolchildren, many of whom were visiting the park for the first time.



Community Event Marks Reopening of Raven Point Nature Reserve, Southern Point (Wexford, Ireland)

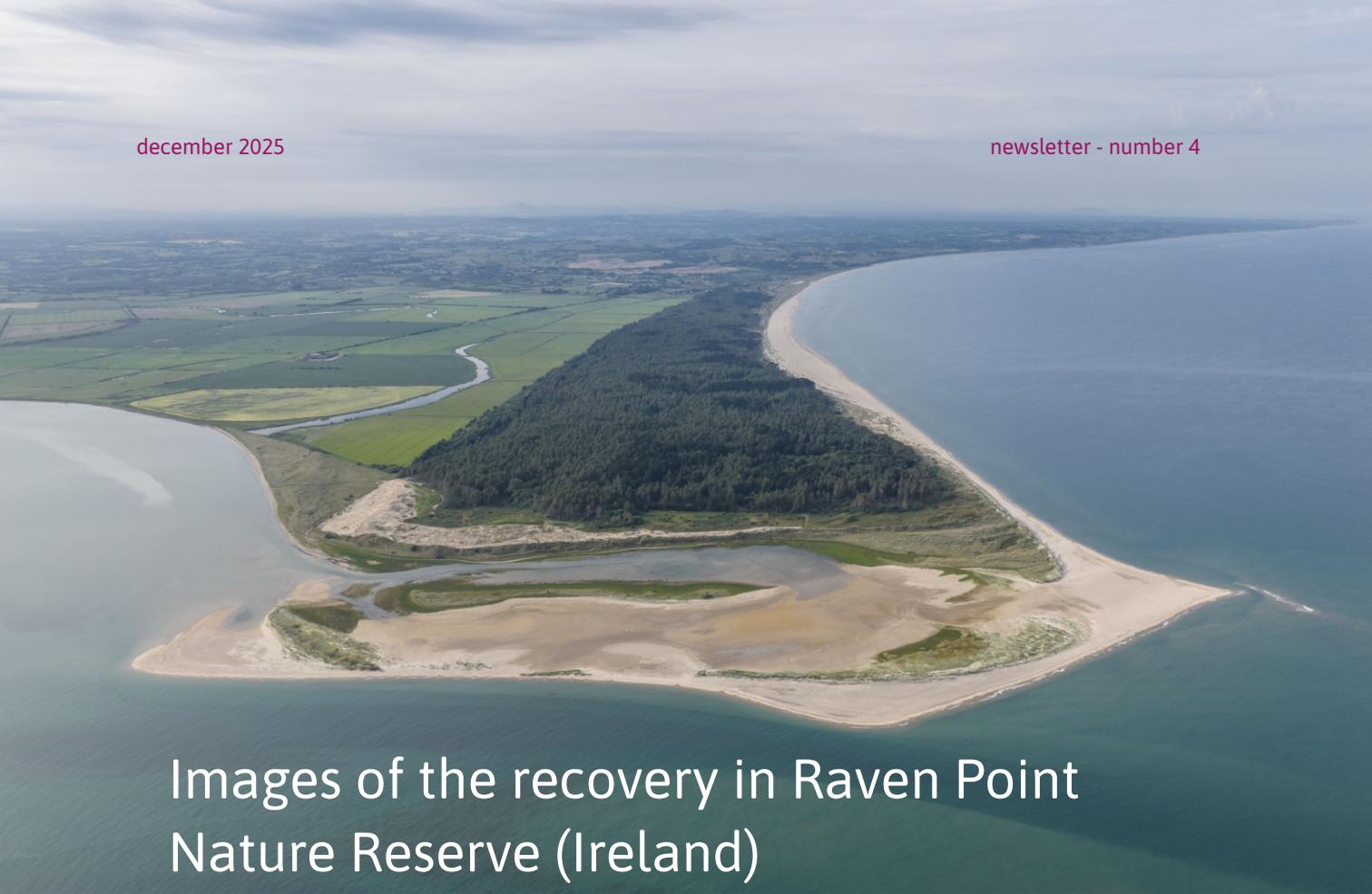
2025/06/08

On Sunday, 8th June 2025, staff from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (NPWS) hosted a community event at Raven Point Nature Reserve. The event celebrated the reopening of the southern tip of the reserve following extensive restoration work carried out under the LIFE Insular project.



The area had been closed to the public for several months to allow for the removal of pine trees and organic soil, aimed at restoring the natural dune habitat. The event allowed the local community to view the transformed landscape and learn about ongoing conservation efforts.

The site is also involved in the ground nesting birds protection project, and the Raven Point Nature Reserve coastal area is Little Terns and the ringed plover, which rely on the dune system for nesting. Staff highlighted the significance of continued protection for these habitats and species.



Images of the recovery in Raven Point Nature Reserve (Ireland)

2025/05/23

Coillte Nature and NPWS, as beneficiaries of the LIFE INSULAR project, are monitoring the target habitats in the Raven Point Nature Reserve, County Wexford (Ireland). For this monitoring, several drone flights were carried out that allow us to appreciate the recovery and increase in the area covered by the grey dunes in the southern end of this space, where senescent forest plantations were eliminated in favor of these habitats. Consequently, the importance of implementing best practices to achieve the restoration of natural heritage and biodiversity, and the need for appropriate monitoring to verify the positive impacts of these measures, is highlighted.



The LIFE Programme in Ireland highlights the results of LIFE INSULAR

2025/06/18

The LIFE Programme is the EU’s funding instrument for environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 6 000 projects across the EU and in neighbouring countries. LIFE has contributed almost €8 billion to these projects, amounting to around two-thirds of the projects’ overall budget of €12 billion. The LIFE Programme contributes directly to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.

The Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme aims to protect and restore Europe’s nature and to halt

and reverse biodiversity loss. The subprogramme contributes to the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats directives, the development and management of the Natura 2000 network, the Invasive Alien Species Regulation, and supports the achievement of the objectives of the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 and the newly adopted EU Nature Restoration Regulation.

Irish partners are also participating in 3 ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects in 3 other EU Member States, including LIFE INSULAR.



Work to eliminate senescent forest plantations continues on the Island of San Martiño (Galicia) to promote island habitats

2025/06/18



The work to eliminate senescent forest plantations on the Island of San Martiño (Galicia), to restore natural habitats and improve their conservation status, is continuing at a good pace, meeting the schedule established in the project. The preliminary results of the monitoring of these actions are showing an improvement in the surface area, composition, structure, and future prospects of the target habitats. This translates into an improvement in their conservation status, which benefits the natural heritage and biodiversity of the island territories.



Technical visit for the replication of results in the Amsterdam Dunes (Netherlands)

2025/06/24

On 20, 21 and 22 June, LIFE INSULAR (LIFE20 NAT/ES/001007) received a technical visit for the replication of the main results developed in the ecological system of the Amsterdam Dunes (Netherlands), which were the subject of the LIFE Amsterdam Dune Project (LIFE11 NAT/NL/000776). The visit was carried out by members of IBADER (on behalf of LIFE INSULAR), and Waternet (on behalf of LIFE Amsterdam Dune Project), both coordinators of their respective LIFE projects.

Waternet is a Dutch public company responsible for water-related services. Among its main responsibilities is the management of the Amsterdam Dunes, a 3,400 ha natural area, which is part of the Natura 2000 Network in the Netherlands, and which is the main source of drinking water supply for the city of Amsterdam and its surroundings.

The visit allowed the solutions adopted and the lessons learned by the LIFE INSULAR project to be conveyed, as well as comparing the strategies developed by both projects and reaching a common point of agreement: the firm and determined fight against invasive species, and the rejection of the use of herbicides in the fight against invasive species in areas with high fragility due to the vulnerability of the natural values hosted, especially when it comes to types of natural or semi-natural wetland habitats.



Networking visit from Natura Sicula (Italy) to LIFE INSULAR in Galicia

2025/06/28



For three days, representatives of the conservation group Natura Sicula, from the island of Sicily (Italy), conducted a networking visit to the Cíes, Ons, and Sálvora archipelagos, as they were very interested on the removal of senescent forest plantations, the elimination of invasive species in natural habitats, guided tours, and other aspects of daily management.

Natura Sicula is a regional nature and culture association, whose objectives include the understanding, protection, conservation, and enhancement of biodiversity, natural habitats, ecosystems, and their ethno-anthropological heritage, seeking to raise awareness and promote sustainable behavior.

The visit provided a firsthand account of the challenges and difficulties of LIFE INSULAR during removing aging forest plantations, eliminating invasive plant species, and restoring natural habitats through the use of locally sourced and compatible plant propagation material, for replication on other island areas such as the Italian island of Sicily.

Replication of the LIFE INSULAR methodology in the elimination of invasive species in the Atlantic Islands National Park of Galicia

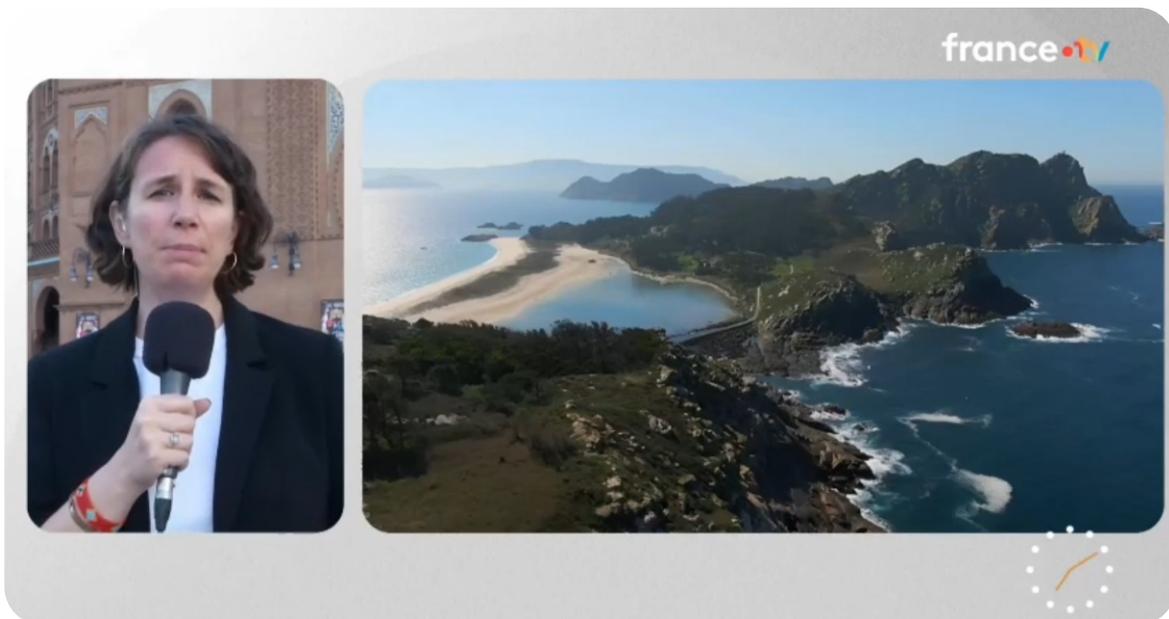
2025/07/01

The Atlantic Islands National Park of Galicia is replicating the methodology carried out by LIFE INSULAR in relation to the elimination of invasive species of flora that cause a significant decrease in the state of conservation of natural habitats. In this way, through a project funded by the National Parks Network, the elimination of *Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora*, a species that recently appeared in the National Park, is being carried out from natural ecosystems by manual elimination with small portable tools, without using herbicides, taking into account the fragility of the island environments that discourage their use. With this project, the complementarity of the LIFE program with other funds at a national level is being promoted, as well as increasing the impact of the elimination of invasive species carried out by LIFE INSULAR by promoting its catalytic potential through the application of its methods in other territories or contexts. [LINK](#)



France TV highlights the Cíes islands and the LIFE INSULAR actions for restoring natural habitats

2025/07/08



The French television channel France TV, offered in its morning magazine *Télématin*, an important report on the natural values of the Cíes Islands (Galicia). The audience was able to see the relevance of the conservation of this natural paradise through the actions carried out by LIFE INSULAR for the elimination of invasive species, without using herbicides due to the vulnerability of coastal environments and their high conservation value for biodiversity.

[LINK](#)



LIFE INSULAR organizes the Summer Course “Nature Restoration: Challenges, Strategies and Action Proposals”

2025/07/11

The LIFE INSULAR project, together with the LIFE GLOBAL project, organized the Summer Course “Nature Restoration: Challenges, Strategies and Action Proposals”, held from July 7th to 10th, 2025, at the Visitor Reception Center “Casa da Costa” in the Corrubedo Dune Complex and Carregal and Vixán Lagoons Natural Park (Ribeira, A Coruña, Galicia).

The course brought together 15 students with environmental technical degrees, professionals from relevant nature conservation authorities, and technicians from local administrations, who attended a series of insightful presentations aligned with the European Biodiversity Strategy, the European Green Infrastructure Strategy, and the EU Regulation on Nature Restoration. All these frameworks are consistent with the restoration strategy implemented by LIFE INSULAR.

During the course, participants had the opportunity to visit LIFE INSULAR’s project sites on the island of Sálvora, within the Corrubedo Wetland Complex SAC (ES1110006), and to discuss on-site the challenges and strategic aspects of improving the conservation status of island habitats within the Natura 2000 Network.



Volunteer Day with Coillte at Ards Forest Park

2025/07/14

Volunteer and Engagement Event with local community to remove remaining woody material from the Insular site at Ards and share information about the project.

On Monday 14th July 2025, Coillte held a volunteer event at Ards Forest Park to engage with the local community so they could feel part of and learn more about the LIFE INSULAR project. As one volunteer said, 'it is lovely to be able to give something back, to a place they visit most days and enjoy so much'.



Invites were sent out asking people to join a volunteer day to help gather up small woody material still on site following the tree felling and removal earlier this year.

The elimination of invasive plants continues on the Ons island (Galicia) by LIFE INSULAR

2025/07/19

During the month of July, the LIFE INSULAR team continues with the actions to eliminate invasive plants on the island of Ons (Galicia). In this case, the action allowed the elimination of formations of *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, *Senecio angulatus*, as well as the elimination of the regrowth of *Eucalyptus globulus* and *Acacia melanoxylon*, in the area known as Cova da Loba. The ring barking of eucalyptus trees was also carried out in the area around the dune of Melide beach, complemented by the placement of bat roost boxes. LIFE INSULAR's restoration strategy allows improving the state of conservation of natural habitats, and moving towards a greater naturalness of the island territories.



Transfer of the LIFE INSULAR plant to the Cíes Islands (Galicia) with AMICOS

2025/07/21

The Atlantic Islands National Park of Galicia is carrying out the transfer of the plant produced by LIFE INSULAR at the Cíes Islands (Galicia), for its acclimatization before being used in island habitat restoration actions. This task is being carried out with the help of AMICOS, which involves people with intellectual disabilities who play a vital role in these recovery actions, as an example of active citizenship and the importance of an inclusive and integrative society. The synergy between LIFE INSULAR and AMICOS is very high, since they share the objectives of conserving natural heritage and biodiversity, as well as the inclusion and integration of citizens in restoration actions.



Life Projects at the Clonmany Agricultural Show (Donegal, Ireland)

2025/08/19

Life Insular joined forces with Life on Machair (Machair Beo), Wild Atlantic Nature, and Corncrake Life at this year's Clonmany Agricultural Show. Over the two-day event (6th and 7th August 2025), the team welcomed visitors to a shared stand, providing information, resources, and answering questions from the public.

The collaboration proved a great success, with strong interest in the work of all four projects. Staff in attendance included Lee McDaid and Victoria McArthur (Wild Atlantic Nature), Debora Ricklin and Máire Nic Fhearraigh (Life on Machair), Joss Glen (Corncrake Life), and Fidelma Maher (Life Insular).



LIFE INSULAR presented the progress of the results on the Island of San Martiño (Galicia) before the Conference of the Sand Dune and Shingle Network

2025/09/19

Between the 16th and 18th September, IBADER attended the Conference of the Sand Dune and Shingle Network, organized by Liverpool Hope University, to present the preliminary results and the first lessons learned in the elimination of senescent forest plantations to favor the restoration of island habitats, on the Island of San Martiño (Galicia). This enclave serves as an ideal case study for demonstrating the application of good practices in the elimination of invasive tree species in areas of great fragility. The audience recognized the great work that the LIFE INSULAR team is developing in the Galician archipelagos.

The conference was complemented by a field visit to the North coast of the Wirral Peninsula. During this visit, different aspects of coastal management and the conservation of natural ecosystems were discussed in light of climate change forecasts and the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.



Forest plantation removal work is nearing completion in the western part of the island of San Martiño (Galicia)

2025/10/02

The progress in the removal of senescent forest formations with invasive species (mainly eucalyptus) during the year 2025 has seen its pace increase significantly on the occasion of LIFE INSULAR. In this way, almost the entire western part of the island of San Martiño is free of these formations, and is prepared for the restoration work of natural habitats through the use of native species produced from genetic material of local and compatible origin.



Monitoring of habitats in the insular territories of Galicia (Cíes, Ons, Sálvora) continues

2025/10/16

During 2025 LIFE INSULAR is monitoring the conservation status of the target habitats in the insular territories of Galicia where restoration work was carried out as part of the project, including the elimination of senescent forest formations of invasive exotic species (mainly eucalyptus) on the island of San Martiño, or the elimination of invasive exotic species on the natural habitats of the Cíes, Ons and Sálvora Islands. The monitoring is showing an improvement in the surface, composition and structure of the target habitat types of the project, as well as in their future prospects through the elimination of their main threats, which translates into an improvement in their conservation status, resulting in an improvement in the biodiversity and natural heritage of the natural island ecosystems.

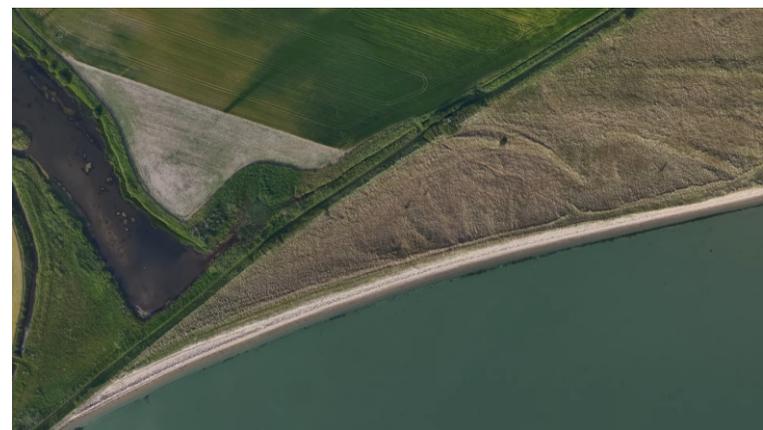
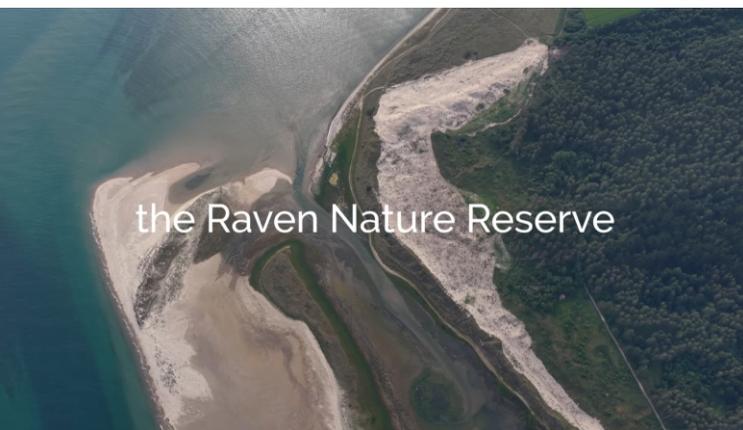


Drone Footage of the Raven Life Insular 2025 post works

2025/10/18

Life Insular Irish project team organised drone filming at the Raven Point nature Reserve in Co Wexford in 2025. The Drone film highlights the completion of the felling and scraping of the dunes at the Southern tip of the Raven Point Nature Reserve. The team will continue to monitor the area for vegetation throughout the next few years of the project.

[LINK](#)



The Galician Atlantic Islands National Park publishes a new educational video for children about marine ecosystems

2025/10/24

The Galician Atlantic Islands National Park has published an educational video, aimed at children, about the importance of our marine ecosystems for conservation. In this way, the children's audience will be able to learn first-hand about the important role that the marine environment plays in the nature conservation, and the relevance of island ecosystems as reservoirs of our biodiversity. [LINK](#)



Replication of the LIFE INSULAR methodology in the elimination of forest invasive formations in the Galician Atlantic Islands National Park

2025/11/17

The Galician Atlantic Islands National Park is replicating the LIFE INSULAR methodology for the removal of senescent stands of large, invasive tree species that significantly impact the conservation status of natural habitats.

In this way, eucalyptus stands are being removed on the North Island (Monteagudo) of the Cíes archipelago by manual removal, without the use of herbicides, given the fragility of island environments, which makes their use inadvisable.

This action improves the conservation status of natural habitats, promotes the complementarity of the LIFE program with other funds, and increases the impact of the elimination of invasive species carried out by LIFE INSULAR by promoting its catalytic potential through the application of its methods in other territories or contexts.



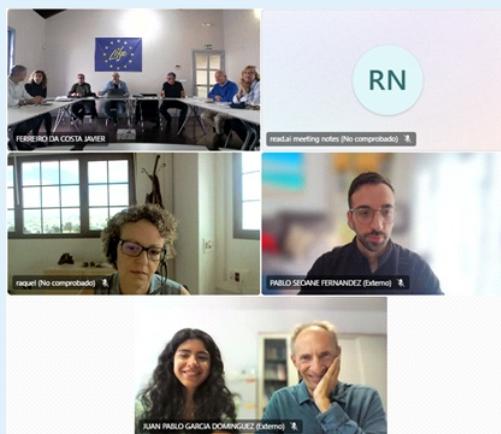
LIFE INSULAR held eighth coordination meeting

2025/11/28

The meeting was held by video call, and allowed to report on the progress of conservation, monitoring and dissemination actions in the Irish and Spanish locations of the project.

On September 24 and November 27, the eighth round of LIFE INSULAR coordination meetings took place via video call between the coordinator (IBADER-USC), the Spanish (DXPN, OAPN, TRAGSA) and Irish (NPWS, COILLTE) partners of the project.

The meetings allowed for an account of the progress of conservation actions in the Irish and Spanish locations of the project, the implementation of the monitoring actions of the project, and the foreseen activities for 2026 of the replication strategy.



La Provincia, the newspaper of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, publishes a promotional supplement today about LIFE INSULAR project

2025/12/10



La Provincia, the newspaper of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, publishes a special promotional supplement today, which includes the content and actions of LIFE INSULAR project on La Graciosa island. The digital supplement can be downloaded from this new.

[LINK](#)

Europa protege a La Graciosa

El proyecto LIFE INSULAR promueve soluciones sostenibles ante los desafíos ecológicos actuales en Canarias, Galicia e Irlanda

LIFE INSULAR wishes you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year 2026

2025/12/19

A lot has been achieved this year, the project will continue during the year 2026 working in the improvement of island habitats conservation status in Natura 2000 islands of the Atlantic Ocean.





Eire

Irish Atlantic region:

- 1 - Sheephaven SAC
- 2 - Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC
- 3 - Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC
- 4 - Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC

Atlantic coast
of Galicia

Spanish Atlantic region:

- 5 - ZEC Complejo húmido de Corrubedo
- 6 - ZEC Complejo Ons - O Grove
- 7 - ZEC Illas Cíes

Spanish Macaronesian region:

- 8 - ZEC Archipiélago Chinijo

Canary Islands



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UNIVERSIDADE DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
Instituto de Biodiversidade Agraria e e Desenvolvemento Rural

 **XUNTA DE GALICIA** | DIRECCIÓN XERAL DE PATRIMONIO NATURAL

 **An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

 **MINISTERIO PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO**

ORGANISMO AUTÓNOMO PARQUES NACIONALES

 **Tragsa**
GrupoTragsa

 **COILLTE**