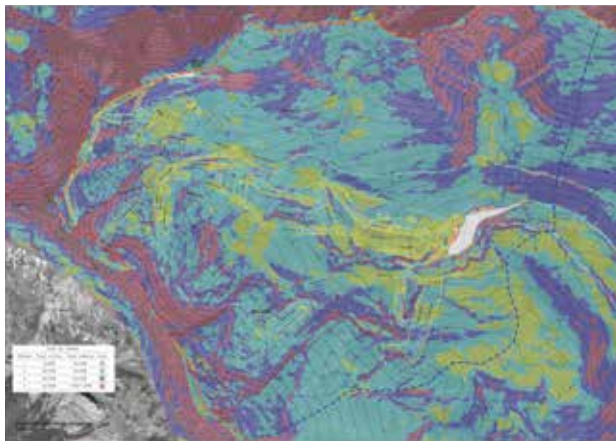


Studies, plans and evaluation



Hydrological studies and land characterisation

Precise knowledge of how the river basin functions was decisive in locating critical points and implementing effective erosion control measures, an essential preliminary step for subsequently tackling the restoration of soils and degraded habitats. No less important was the detailed characterisation of the 'reference habitats', i.e., the potential natural habitats in the action area, whose structure and composition should mimic the vegetation restoration work.



Hydrological study of the surface runoff. Preferred Action Zones.

Technical Project

This tool has enabled the rigorous execution of the action proposed to respond to the problems detected. It was structured around a series of standard measures applicable to each possible situation, so that these could be executed in the same way regardless of the time or people responsible for carrying them out.

Management Plans

As part of the LIFE+Econnect project, two management plans have been developed: **The Management Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Alto Campoo Ski Resort;** and the **Concerted Grazing Management Plan.** These documents analyse the zone, the threats represented by each activity as well as the opportunities they offer, and propose a management model aimed at preserving natural values without compromising economic viability.

Assessment of ecosystem services

The main objective was to qualitatively explore the trends in territorial dynamics prior to the execution of the project and detect those actions that benefit both local economic activities and ecological improvement and conservation of biodiversity. A secondary objective of the assessment was an economic estimate of ecosystem services, and an indication of the potential beneficiaries. To analyse the impact of the project on ecosystem services, the TESSA (Toolkit for Ecosystem Services Site-based Assessment) method was followed. This is a working document drafted by BirdLife International in collaboration with other leading scientific centres.

Ecology of the hen harrier

One of the most important milestones was the radio transmitter tagging of a female hen harrier in the Sierra del Hajar SPA. This is the first time it has been done in the Cantabrian mountains and it allowed us to discover, in greater detail, the ecology of the species during its reproductive period. The results of this invaluable monitoring were presented at the XXIII Spanish Conference on Ornithology.