

LIFE Fluvial: Results after three years of alluvial forest restoration in the Eo River (NW of Iberian Peninsula)

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Alien and invasive plants are one of the mayor threats for the alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) (priority habitat 91E0*) of NW of the Iberian Peninsula river corridors. A correct management is required to improve the actual conservation status of this riparian habitat. The aim of LIFE Fluvial project is to increase the quality of this habitat in several Atlantic river corridors, included in the Natura 2000 Network sites from Spain and Portugal. To achieve this objective the project LIFE Fluvial proposes a sustainable management of habitat 91E0* by restoring its composition, structure and functionality, improving connectivity and reducing fragmentation. During these first three years of LIFE Fluvial project; we have conducted different actions oriented to improve the riparian habitat (51.1 ha), such as a detailed study of the vegetation of each action area, the detection of fragmented areas, the plantation of native tree species and the control of alien and invasive plants. Across the 28 ha of action areas in the Eo River, we detected around 50 alien species growing in natural, semi-natural or degraded habitat conditions. In this work, we explain the methods used for the detection and control of alien plant species that grow in the Eo river corridor and our preliminary results. No herbicides were used for the control of alien species, but only manual or mechanical methods. We also conducted experiments about alternative methods for the control of alien species.