

Mediterranean Forest Restoration Certification Pilot

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project will pilot an innovative certification program to verify the quality of field-based restoration projects for Mediterranean forest restoration in Spain and, if successful, expand the certification program to other ecosystems (e.g., other types of forests, biodiverse grasslands) and geographies worldwide. We will develop and test a quality “seal of approval” for forest restoration, like, for example, organic produce certification. We will work with project funders and implementers to help design, implement, and audit projects in alignment with the Mediterranean forest restoration standard. The certification program will be compatible with other non-restoration forest management standards (e.g., Forest Stewardship Council). It will address the inherently dynamic, and too often underperforming, field of restoration by reducing uncertainty and increasing the effectiveness of restoration projects. Simply put, this project will provide guidance, structure, and an auditing process for how to design, implement, and fund high quality ecological restoration in Mediterranean forests to achieve the greatest possible ecological and social outcomes

The global objective of this project is to ensure high quality forest restoration projects by implementing a forest restoration certification program. This program will improve the effectiveness of forest restoration interventions, so they achieve their ecological, social, and economic potential, and increase comprehensive returns on restoration. The specific objective of this project is to pilot a Mediterranean forest ecosystem restoration certification program using a common and standardized methodology for generally accepted best restoration practices, building from work already underway in Spain.

PROJECT CONSORTIUM

- Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)
- SER-Europe
- WWF Spain

ROLE OF SERE

SER-Europe manages the tests sites for forest restoration in agreement with WWF Spain. It also works with SER in analysing the application of the restoration standards.

TIMELINE & FUNDING

- Duration: 3 years (2021-2023)
- Project Budget: 315.536,59 €
- SERE budget: 63.010,00 €
- Funding from Foundation Audemars- Watkins: 245.040,41 €