

The Spanish-Portuguese cooperation for the conservation of Iberian biodiversity



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Scientific block Speakers

- **Enrique Alonso García**, Consejero de Estado
- **Francisco Pando**, GBIF España / CSIC
- **Nelson Lima**, coordinador del nodo portugués de MIRRI-ERIC
- **Javier Castroviejo Bolívar**, presidente de *Amigos de Doñana*
- **José Rodríguez**, vicerrector de la Universidad de Huelva
- **Nuno Negroes**, Universidad de Aveiro
- **Teresa de Rey**, Plan recuperación lince ibérico, Junta de Andalucía
- **Ester Serrao**, Universidad del Algarve.
- **Carlos Javier Navarro / Nuria Pistón**, Universidad de Granada, Smart Eco-Mountains

The case of iberian Linx

- Until 2002, the managers lacked reliable data on the Iberian Linx populations, so their policies were erratic and, in the best of cases, expensive and useless (such as imposing very costly environmental conditions on large infrastructure works to protect the lynx where there were no longer lynxes).
- In 2002, thanks to photo-trapping - a type of sensor - the researcher Nicolás Guzmán determined that there were less than 100 lynx left in all of Spain, in two isolated towns, Doñana and Sierra Morena Oriental, both in a critical situation. The data caused a radical change in public conservation management, a change that allowed, despite its deficiencies, to save the species *in extremis*.
- Now the iberian Lynx is again living in Portugal

General conclusions

The speakers have generally agreed on several fundamental issues regarding Portugal-Spain cooperation:

- The unquestionable **ecological unity of Iberia**. A unit that knows no borders, so that any coherent approach to conservation almost necessarily requires Spanish-Portuguese cooperation.
- The **singularity of the different shared biogeographical areas** , which deserve specific studies -and conservation actions-. Such as those constituted by Andalusia-Algarve- Alentejo, by Galicia-Northern Portugal, or the Atlantic arc, among others.
- The need to **focus efforts on the urgent need to conserve** Iberian biodiversity, a proposal perfectly aligned with the express purpose of LifeWatch ERIC.

LifeWatch ERIC conclusions

- Interdisciplinary cooperation / Scientific-technological cooperation
- Transnational cooperation
- Definition of priorities: actual diagnosis
- Focus on urgent and important issues
- Provide solutions to environmental managers
- Obtaining tangible conservation results