

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The overall objective of our project is the development of a management model for the urban SPAs which ensures the conservation of the lesser kestrel in the long-term and that can be applied to any urban area supporting colonies of this species.

Objective 1: Improve the conservation and management of breeding colonies of lesser kestrel in the urban SPAs, improving the quality of breeding sites. Avoid the destruction of or disturbance to the colonies caused by restoration work on the buildings which host them. Design and produce artificial nest boxes that are more secure, longer-lasting and more economical.

Objective 2: Safeguard the conservation of the feeding habitats on which the urban populations of lesser kestrels depend. Analyse the preferences of habitat use and prey species of the urban lesser kestrels in order to develop a pilot project based on agreements of collaboration, actively involving landowners.

Objective 3: Increase awareness in the local population of the conservation problems of the species and achieve their participation in solving them, especially focusing on the owners or managers of buildings, as well as associations of architects, builders etc.

Objective 4: Develop tourism experiences based around lesser kestrels, as a model of a local sustainable economic activity.

Objective 5: Develop a replication strategy to enable the results of the project to be disseminated beyond the immediate project itself.



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Management of Urban SPAs in Extremadura

Management of Urban SPAs in Extremadura for the conservation of Lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*)

LIFE15 NAT/ES/001016

2016-2020



Life ZEPA URBAN

With the contribution of
LIFE Program of the European Union



Coordinating Partner:

JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

Consejería para la Transición Ecológica
y Sostenibilidad

Beneficiary Partners:

JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

Consejería de Cultura, Turismo y Deportes



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FOTEX

Con la contribución del
Programa LIFE de la Unión Europea



Coordinating Partner:

JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

Consejería para la Transición Ecológica
y Sostenibilidad

THE PROJECT

General information

Title: Management of Urban SPAs in Extremadura for the conservation of lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*).

Reference: LIFE15 NAT/ES/001016

Total budget: 2,779,810 €

LIFE Funding: 2,054,120 € (73,89%)

Project duration: 01-09-2016 to 31-12-2020 (52 months)

LIFE Programme

The LIFE Programme is the only financial instrument of the European Union that is exclusively dedicated to the environment. Its overall objective for the period 2004 – 2020 is to contribute to sustainable development and achieve the objectives and goals of the Europe 2020 strategy and the EU's strategies and plans related to the environment and climate.

Natura 2000

Natura 2000 is a network of areas of high ecological value and is the main instrument for the development of European Union policies focused on guaranteeing biodiversity conservation, placing special attention on the most threatened habitats and species of plants and animals. In Extremadura, there are 89 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and 71 Special Protection Areas for birds (SPA), covering 30.2% of the region. The Natura 2000 network in Extremadura is regulated by the Decree 110/2015, of 19th May.

Scope of the project

Extremadura is the only region in Europe in which 19 Special Protection Areas for birds (SPAs) in urban sites have been declared because of the presence of lesser kestrels (*Falco naumanni*), supporting more than 50% of the population in Extremadura of this endangered small raptor. These 19 urban SPAs, 9 situated in Cáceres province and 10 are in Badajoz province, constitute the scope of the LIFE ZEPa-URBAN project. All have in common the fact they are in towns and cities with an undoubtable heritage value. At least 30 buildings that support lesser kestrel colonies within urban SPAs have been listed as of cultural interest (Bien de Interés Cultural BIC).

URBAN SPAS DECLARED BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF LESSER KESTREL COLONIES



ACTIONS

CONSERVATION AND PLANS (A)

- A1 / Initial census of the lesser kestrel population in urban SPAs and roosts in Extremadura
- A2 / Study and characterisation of feeding habitats in the urban SPAs and roosts in Extremadura
- A3 / Development and approval of the lesser kestrel habitat conservation plan in Extremadura
- A4 / Support to town halls for the development of urban norms
- A5 / Revision of the boundaries, declaration and zonation of new SPAs
- A6 / Industrial manufacture of mortar-cork nest boxes
- A7 / Valuation of the census methods in urban zones

COMPENSATORY (B)

- B1 / Compensation payments for farmers

CONSERVATION (C)

- C1 / Improvement of nesting sites in buildings of cultural heritage in urban SPAs in Extremadura.
- C2 / Improvement of nesting sites in buildings managed by the General Directorate of Libraries, Museums and Cultural Heritage
- C3 / Captive breeding and strengthening colonies
- C4 / Pilot project: improve the quality of the foraging habitat close to urban SPAs and roosts

FOLLOW-UP (D)

- D1 / Monitoring impact of conservation actions of the project in urban SPAs in Extremadura
- D2 / Monitoring socio-economic impact of the project
- D3 / Indicators of the project's progress
- D4 / Impact of the project on ecosystem functioning

AWARENESS (E)

- E1 / Training workshops for construction businesses on building restoration with regard to lesser kestrels.
- E2 / International congress
- E3 / Recording and editing video material
- E4 / Project image and communication
- E5 / Promotional material about the project
- E6 / Development of an application (App) for mobile phones on tourism about lesser kestrels
- E7 / Awareness campaign and information for local public
- E8 / Installation of webcams in lesser kestrel nests
- E9 / Creation of a tourist product based on lesser kestrels
- E10 / Promotion and communication of a tourist product based on lesser kestrels
- E11 / Replication and networking of the project

MANAGEMENT (F)

- F1 / Project coordination
- F2 / Scientific committee of Life project ZEPa-URBAN
- F3 / Post-Life conservation plan