

**SIXTEENTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**  
*Landscape and transfrontier cooperation*  
*The landscape knows no boundary*

Andorra la Vella, Andorra, 1-2 October 2015

# **THE LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY OF TAGUS RIVER: RELEVANCE OF TRANSFRONTIER COOPERATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.**

**Rosário Oliveira and Rafael Mata Olmo**





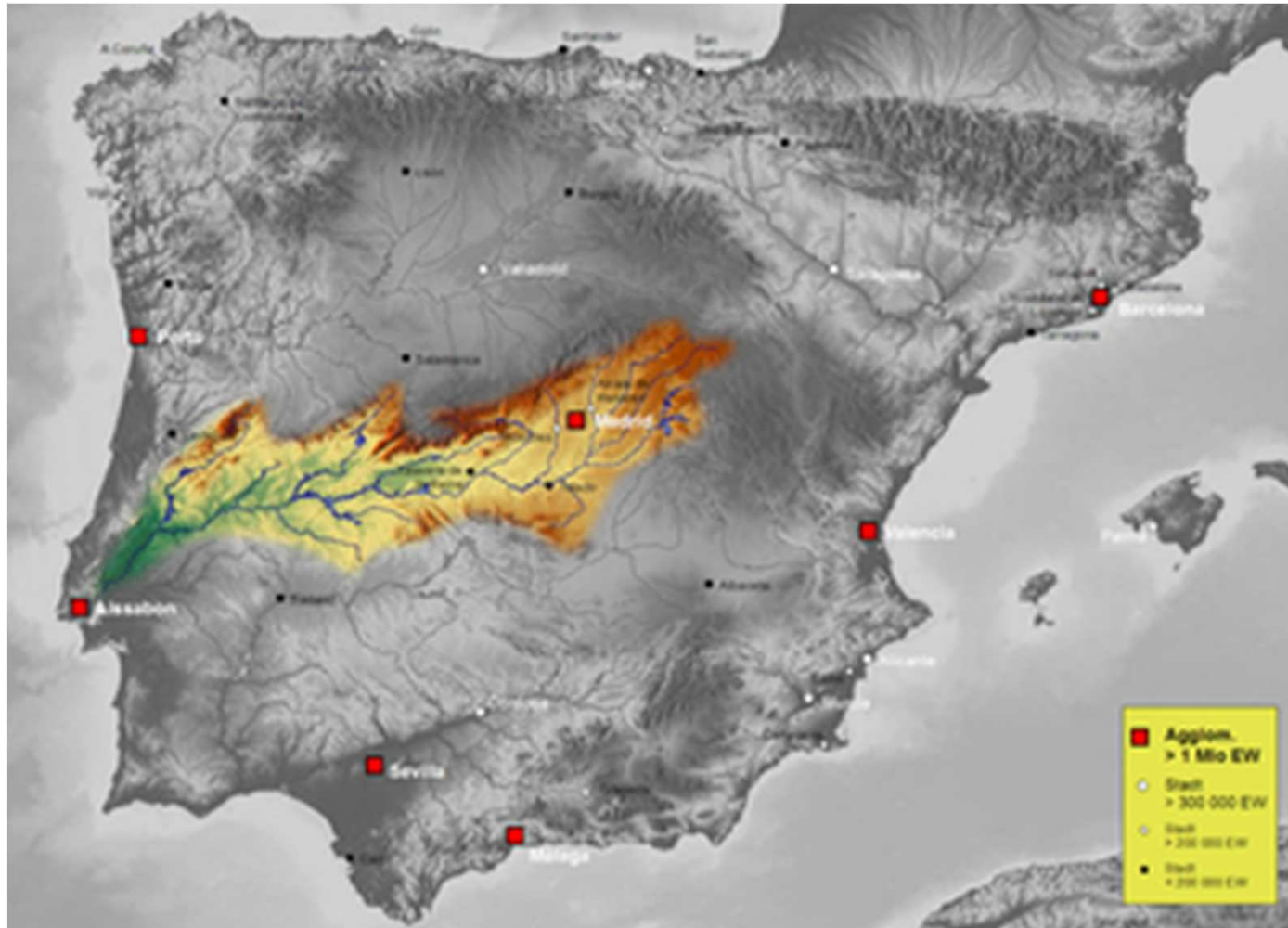
The ELC implementation on the Tagus River

**1.** What we already have **2.** What we are doing **3.** What are we looking forward



The Tagus cultural landscape embraces the idea of a natural corridor that crosses most of the Iberian peninsula where man inhabited over history transforming this valley into something remarkable and beautiful.

1. What we already have

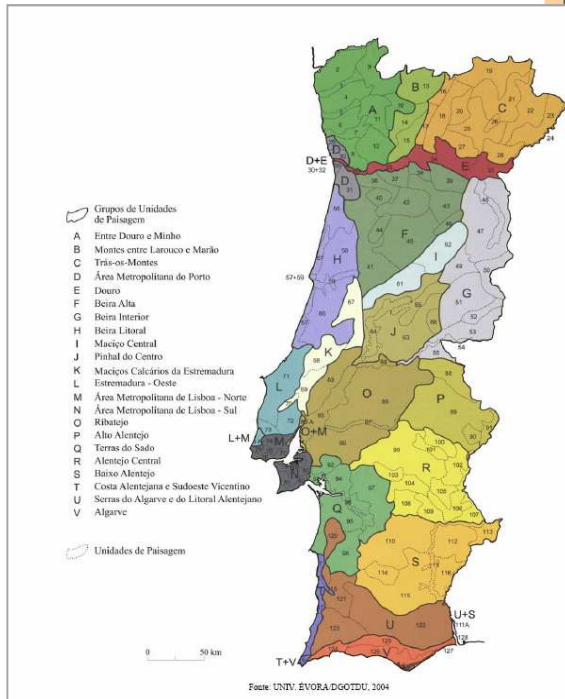


The Tagus river is the most notable and longest Iberian water shad. It empties into the Atlantic Ocean in Lisbon after crossing around 1000 kilometres of a very diverse and impressive Portuguese and Spanish landscape. Such a landscape includes outstanding biophysical, historic, cultural and aesthetic values, where some hotspots are designated as national protected area or biosphere reserve by UNESCO, along with ordinary landscapes.

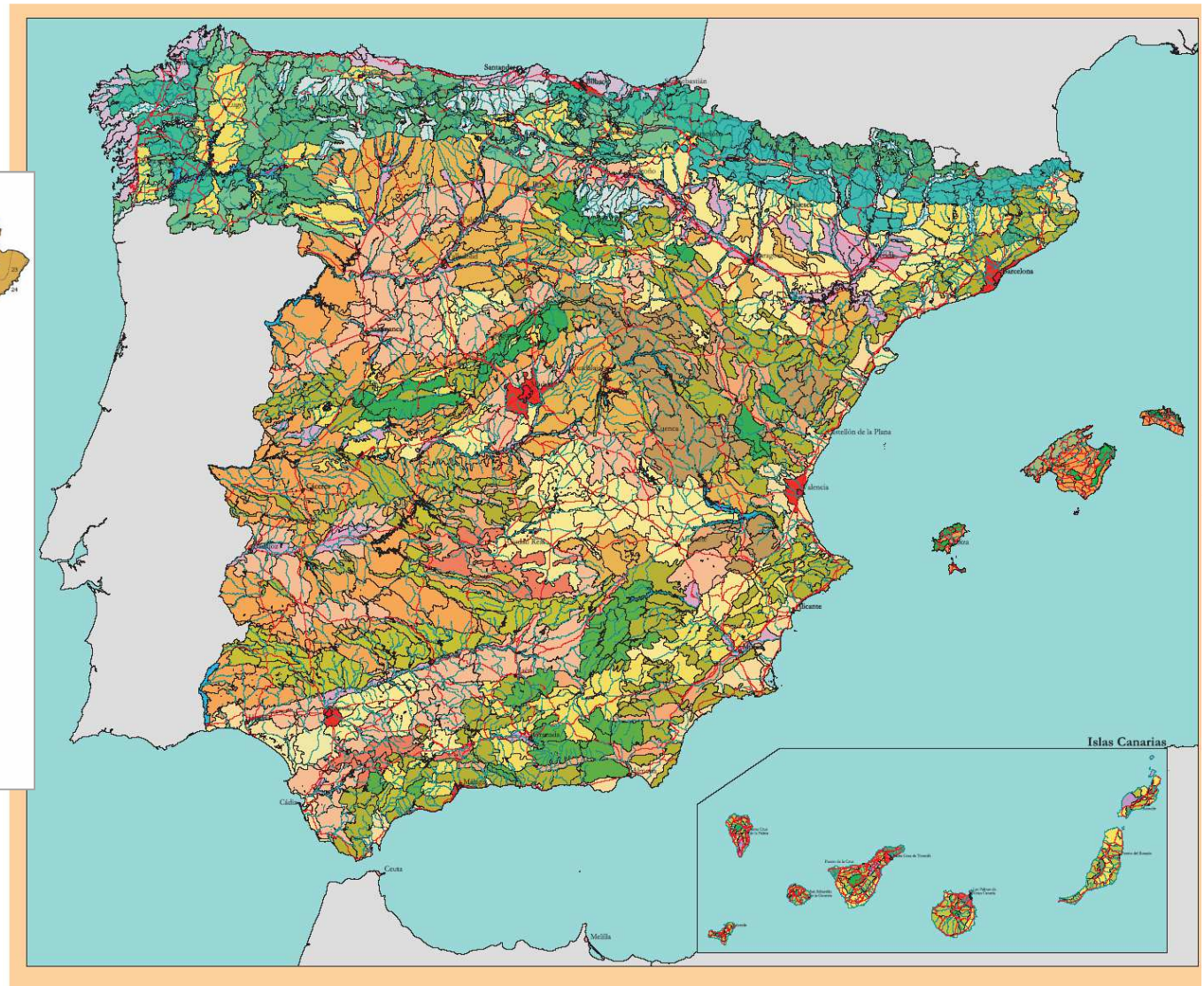
1. What we already have



# Iberian Landscape Character Assessment



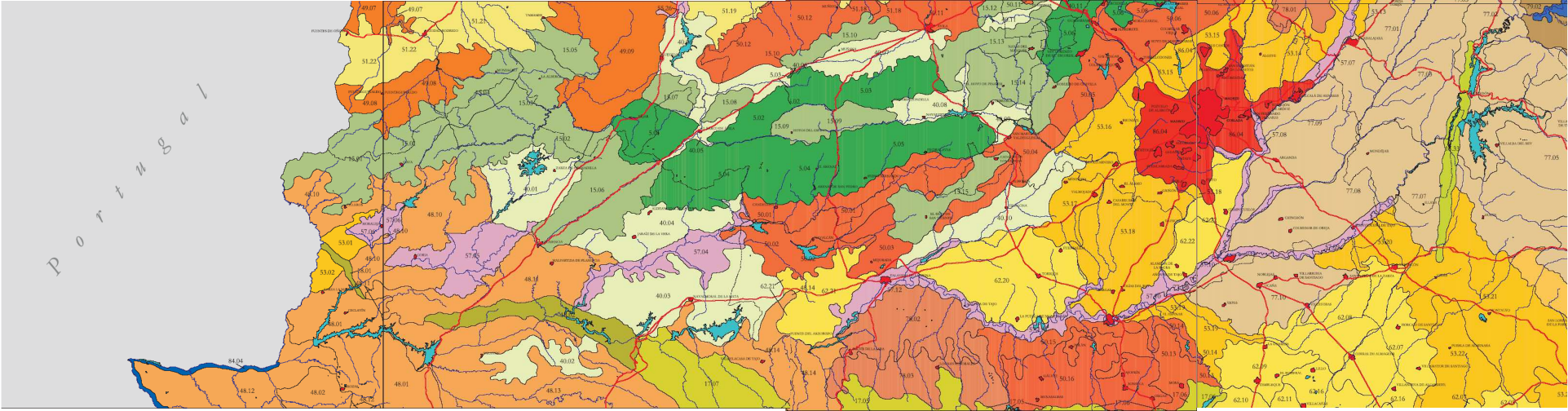
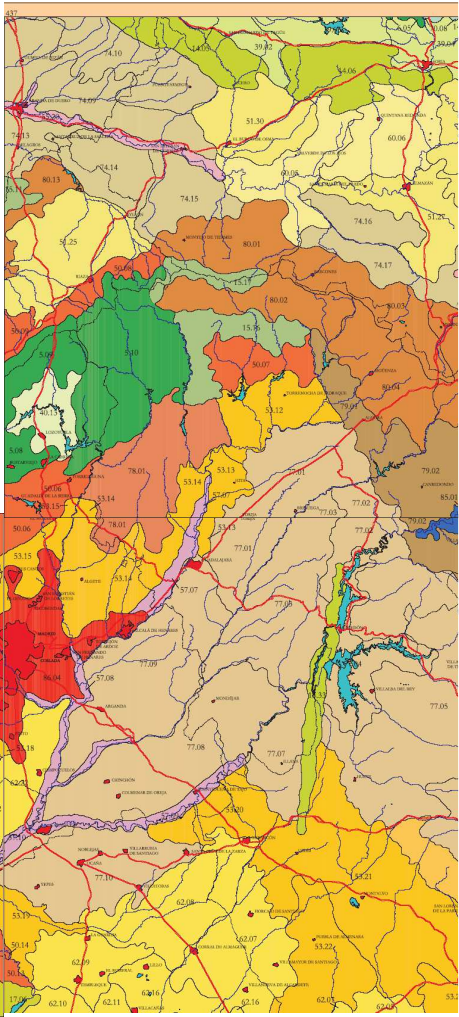
LCA in Portugal  
 Scale 1:250 000  
 128 LU and 22 GLU  
 (DGOTDU, 2004)



LCA in Spain  
 Scale 1:200 000  
 1.263 Landscapes, 116 Landscape types, 33 groups  
 (MMA, 2003)

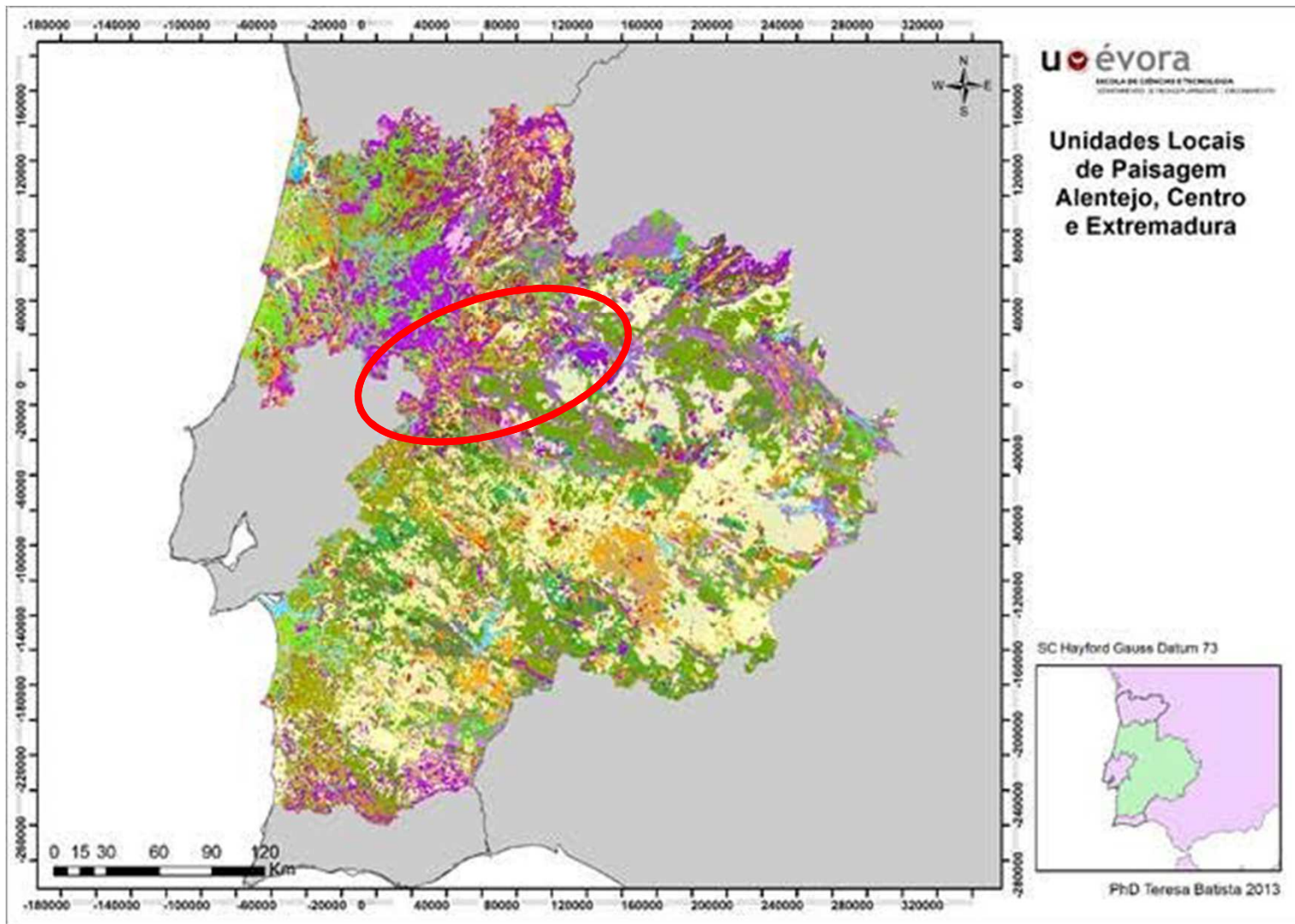
1. What we already have

An application of the Spanish landscape Atlas to the water basin of the Tagus river (Molina Holgado et al., 2010).



1. What we already have





An application of the Portuguese and Spanish landscape character assessment to the transborder area (Batista, 2014).

1. What we already have

(2011)



(2015)



1. What we already have





The cultural landscape of the Tagus in all its diversity and excellence was the basis for various initiatives since the a **landscape observatory** was set up. It is seen as an essential framework for the collection and exchange of information and the establishment of protocols and partnerships between public institutions and local communities in a territorial governance perspective.

## 2. What we are doing

**Landscape observatories can provide important contributions to the ELC implementation** as essential structures for the collection and exchange of information and the establishment of protocols and partnerships between public institutions and local communities.



2. What we are doing



Home

## Landscape Observatory Documentation

“Landscape observatories, centres and institutes” (LO) are one of the recommended instruments for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (ELC).

Their mission is to study and monitor the dynamics of the landscapes, and to facilitate the collection, production and exchange of information and study protocols between states and local communities.

(See the Recommendation on the Guidelines for the implementation of the ELC, CM/Rec (2008)3 Appendix 1, 10; II.3.3)

The existing situation presents centres for landscape observation, at various territorial levels, established by institutional bodies, as much as by civil society. The LOD Project promotes the scientific cooperation among the existing LO, aiming

Search

Cerca...

### NEWS

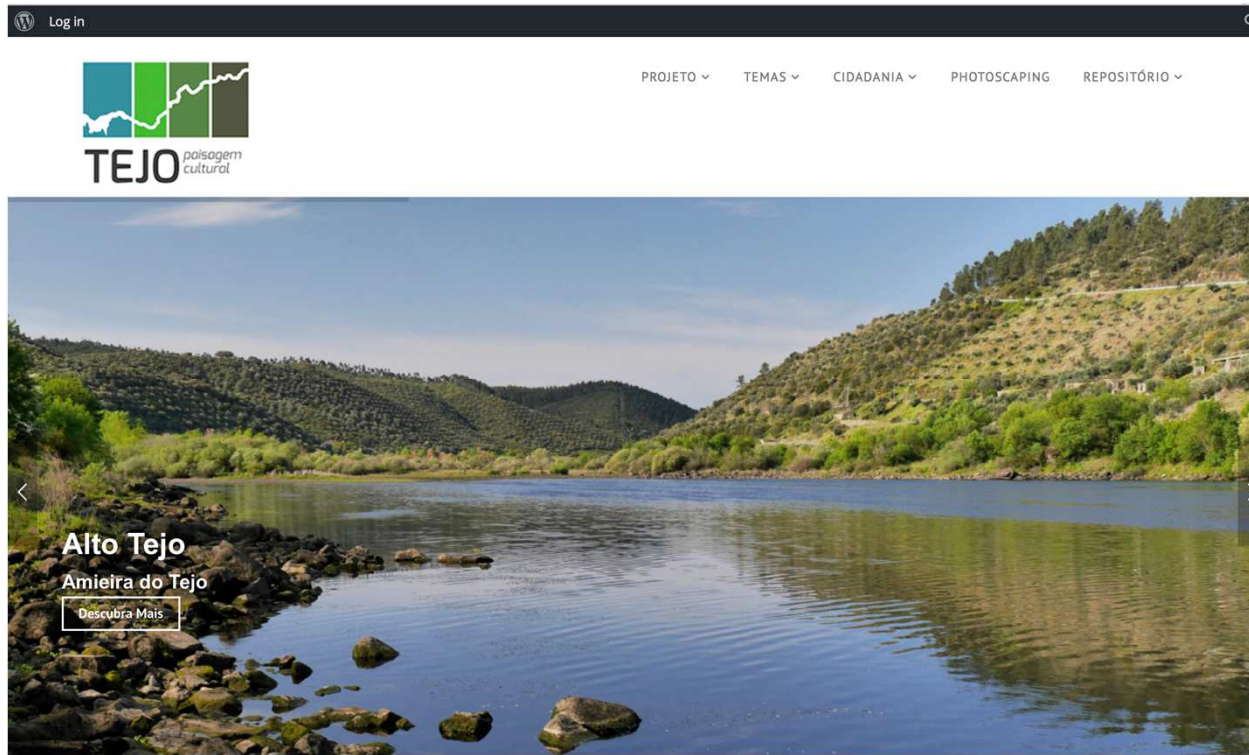
- [Main on-going activities](#)
- [Main projects realized](#)
- [The survey: some results](#)

Accesso Utenti

There have been **various landscape observatories in Europe** with significant intervention in the areas of knowledge, identification and characterization of the landscape in what concerns awareness, education, training and participation and for the establishment of cooperation between observatories in close connection with spatial planning policy and landscape management.

## 2. What we are doing





The **Landscape Observatory of Tagus river** is based in a platform as an interface with the general public through a website that features the following structure:

<http://ff7800.eu/observatorio/>



2. What we are doing



- An **institutional field** which presents the concept, the process and the project team,
- A **repository of information** on the Tagus, which includes theses, articles and other relevant documentation to the increase of knowledge of the territory and its resources,
- A **photo observatory** (Photoscaping), with three different fields, the publication of proof photographs that are relevant to gather different views of the Tagus, the use of photography as a methodology for landscape monitoring and publication of photographs suggested by the public to show various aspects of recognized interest, either positive or negatively.
- A field dedicated to **public participation** which introduce relevant news about aspects and issues related to the Tagus, a calendar of events and a forum for debate in a blog.

## 2. What we are doing





The landscape observatory will also produce and make available information on specific topics, according to a more technical and scientific approach, particularly in terms of **landscape and territorial dynamics**, with input for its assessment and monitoring, the **cultural identity** and factors that may be a priority for landscape management in their natural and cultural dimensions. **Education and training** deserve a particular highlight, both on working with schools and with local organization that are located in the area who live, work and visit the landscape.

## 2. What we are doing



it is important to define and implement projects capable of combining the **protection of the essential resources to ensure the landscape quality and the promotion of socio-economic activities** for local development.

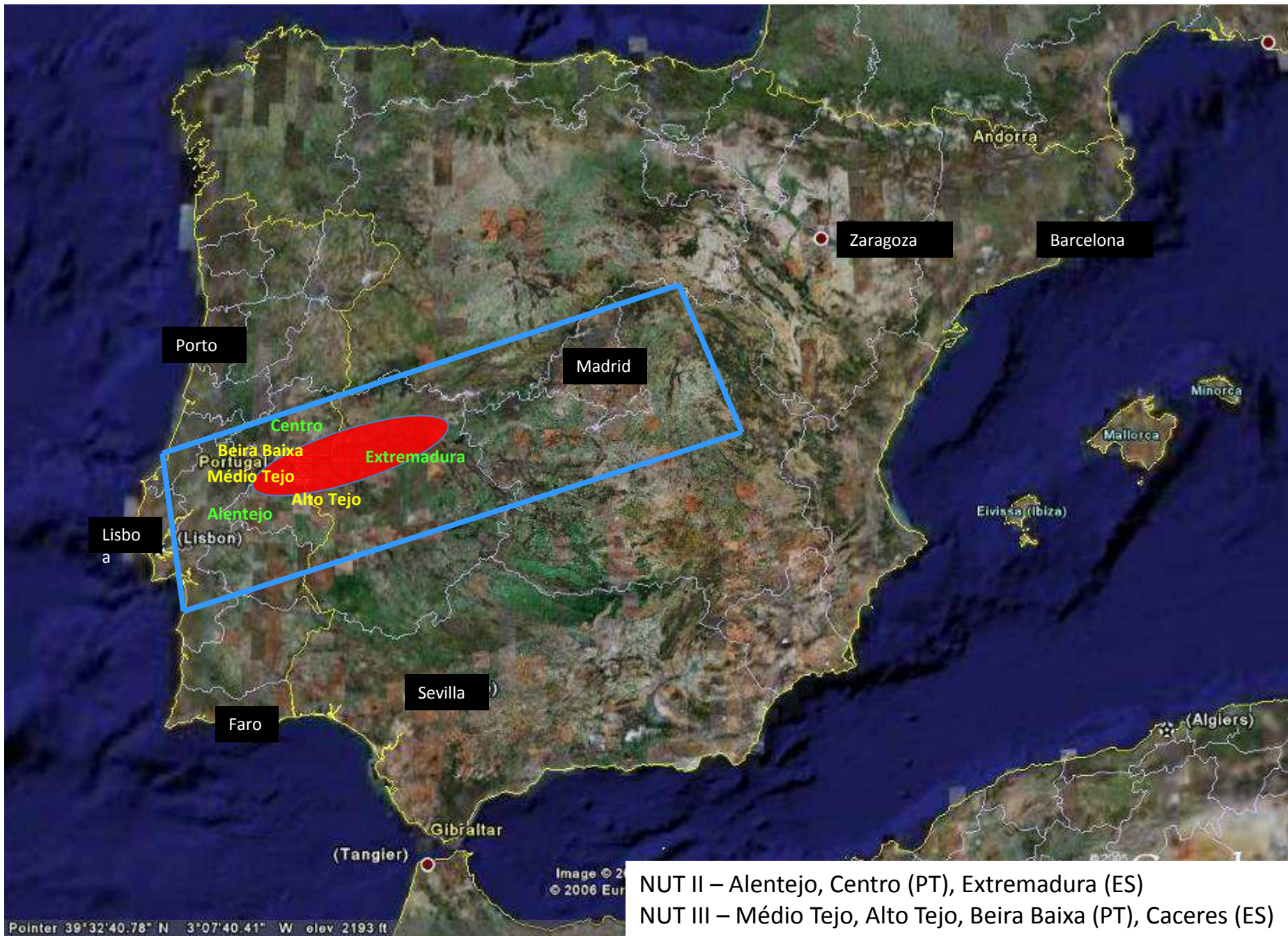




One of the possibilities to reach those goals, on the Tagus landscape is the definition and implementation of a **Green Infrastructure**. This project is now being prepared to be submitted to the **Transborder Cooperation Programme between Spain and Portugal (POCTEP, 2014-2020)**.

3. What are we looking forward





3. What are we looking forward





According to the definition given by the European Commission in 2013, "a **green infrastructure is a strategically planned natural and semi-natural areas network, designed and managed to provide a wide range of ecosystem services.** It incorporates green spaces, blue systems and other biophysical components, including coastal and marine areas."



Based on a huge diversity of territorial and ecological complexity, it is **important to identify, characterize and valuing ecosystem services in order to stimulate the green economy, ensuring the increase of territorial cohesion in the various socio-economic and environmental dimensions of the Tagus river.**

3. What are we looking forward





The goal is to establish a concept from a territorial basis for the **Tagus River as a structural and cohesion element** between the north and south, urban and rural areas, the coast and the inland, enhancing cross-border cooperation. Based on this concept, along with a set of methodologies of geographic analysis and landscape assessment, we intend **to define a green infrastructure** from a territorial cohesion and cooperation point of view towards a more coherent and dynamic development of the Tagus territory.



3. What are we looking forward



Despite **discontinuity** in terms of public policies, administrative organization, normative and regulations along the Portuguese and Spanish border, we believe that the **Tagus green infrastructure** may be seen as a step forward for the ELC implementation both in Spain and Portugal in a transfrontier perspective by **connecting** Tagus cultural landscape through fundamental resources such as water, land, people and biodiversity.





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