

Would you like to get involved in the project, do you have ideas for collective actions, comments on the repository, or would you just like to stay informed about this initiative?

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Water Stewardship in Southern Spain

The Project "Water Stewardship in Southern Spain: Design of Collective Actions" promoted by WRAP in collaboration with IDH-SIFAV, began in 2021 and today has the support of 25 UK and European companies in the food sector.

The aim is to promote sustainable water management in priority food production areas for international supply chains by 2030. The Programme has selected five priority areas and has started in two: Doñana and the Mar Menor/Segura basin.

These are the pillars of the program's Action Plan:



Analyze and
understand
water risks



Improvement
of certification
standards



Support local
initiatives



Advocating for
sustainable
resource
management

Context of the Project: the Mar Menor and surrounding agricultural areas

The geographical scope of the project is mainly the Mar Menor catchment basin, but it also takes into account surrounding areas such as the Vega Media del Segura and the Guadalentín Valley. This is due to the importance of agricultural production in these areas for the value chains of the participating companies,

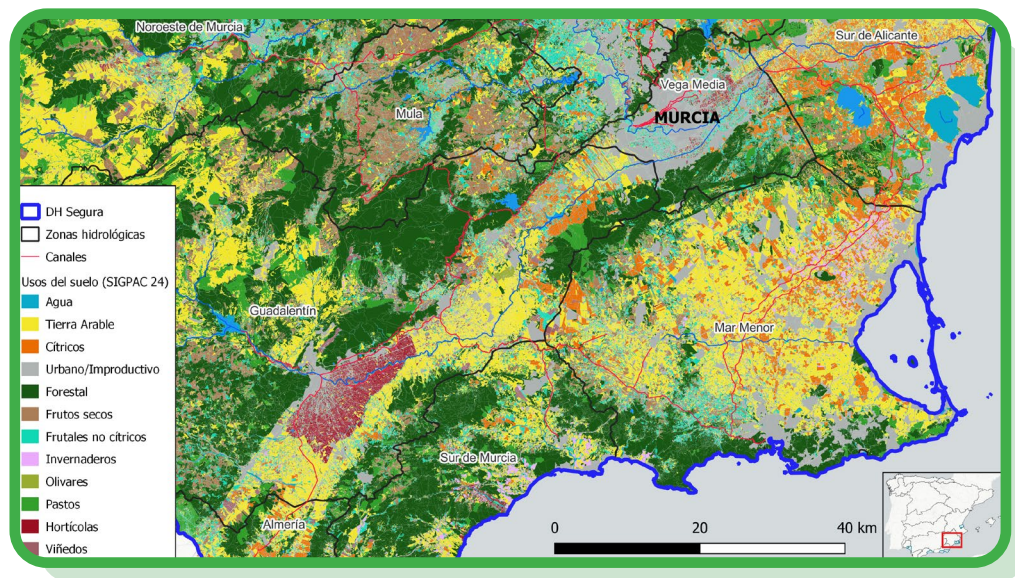
together with the environmental relevance of the area and factors related to water sustainability.

The project **channels the interest of international value chains** in getting involved in initiatives that improve the water and environmental situation of the area.

Relevance of the area

The project's focus area is one of Europe's largest outdoor vegetable production. In the region of Murcia, fruit and vegetable production accounted for an export value of more than 3,300 million euros in 2023. The main exported products are lettuce, cabbage, broccoli,

lemon, peach, watermelons and melons, exported mainly to Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom among others. Hence the relevance of involving the international value chain in the region's Water Stewardship.



The challenges: water scarcity, pollution, climate change and improved ecosystems

In the Segura River Basin, three areas with high agricultural activity on the surface of groundwater bodies stand out: the Vega Media del Segura, the Guadalestín Valley and the Mar Menor, which have been declared vulnerable to nitrate pollution. In addition, some of these aquifers are not expected to reach

good status until 2039. At the same time, the Albuñón watercourse and the Mar Menor are also in poor status. The area is also affected by irrigation restrictions this winter, mainly for those irrigators dependent on the resources of the Segura basin.

What can this project do? Water Stewardship and Collective Actions

These risks and challenges are shared among different actors, and therefore cannot be solved with individual actions, but require collective efforts. The collective actions that are sought to be implemented within the framework of this program are structured around the 4 objectives defined until 2026:



Promote the practice of Water Stewardship

- Collaborate and create synergies with **public policies and local initiatives such as the Framework for Priority Actions**
- Generate and share knowledge, and increase transparency.
- Facilitate collaboration between actors: producers, companies, initiatives, NGOs and administrations



Managing Scarcity and Quality Risks

- Inventory and **promotion of Good Agricultural Practices and Nature-based Solutions**
- Identification of options and business models for implementation
- Promote working groups and knowledge



Ensuring the legal use of water and land

- Creating a **legality package** with existing resources and tools for verification of legality
- Workshops and training on legality
- Support for value chain mapping



Improving the state of water bodies and ecosystems

- **Identify and collaborate with initiatives for restoration**, recovery of ecological corridors or promotion of biodiversity.
- Aligning actions with official action and recovery plans.

Visit the Information Repository through this QR code to learn more about the local situation, challenges and opportunities for collective action in the area: <https://arcg.is/1ia90i>

