

Do you want to get involved in the Project and the platform, do you have ideas for collective actions, comments on the Information Portal, or would you 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 the UK organization WRAP in collaboration with the Dutch initiative IDH-SIFAV, began in 2021 and today has the support of 26 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, with a long-term vision. The Programme has begun its activity in two priority areas: The area of influence of Doñana and the Mar Menor/Murcia.

These are the pillars of the programme's Action Plan to 2030



Analyze and understand water risks



Improvement of certification standards



Support local initiatives



Advocating for sustainable resource management

## Context of the project in Huelva/Doñana area of influence

The main element defining the geographical scope of this project is the Doñana National and Natural Park and its area of influence. In this area, and in the rest of the province of Huelva there is a large number of soft fruit producers who supply European markets.

This project seeks to channel the interest of international value chains in getting involved in initiatives to improve the water and environmental situation of the area, and to promote sustainable production considering the interests of the different actors to manage shared water challenges.

## Understanding the context

The Project seeks to analyze the hydrological context, the state of the water sources and the actors involved in their use, management or impact on the environment.

The hydrological conditions of the producing area are conditioned by the influence of two basins; Guadalquivir,

which in this area supplies water for irrigation from groundwater bodies, and Tinto, Odiel, Piedras-Guadiana, which supplies water from surface water bodies. These are two realities with different elements of water governance but with common elements related to land use and territorial planning.



Berries represent a key socio-economic sector in Huelva, generating around 98% of the Spanish production. An important part of this comes from the Doñana influence area, which is home to a natural space of international importance.

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

Groundwater bodies in productive areas have a poor chemical status and some of them have been declared as overexploited, being subject to strict regulations. Moreover, in recent years there have been situations of scarcity causing irrigation restrictions for surface water users.

Added to this are climate change forecasts, which estimate a reduction in water provisions of between -8 and -18% by 2040 in this system. These factors pose a threat to the area's ecosystems, which has led to the development of public policies by the regional and national administration for sustainable development in this area, such as the Framework of Actions for Doñana.

## Objectives of the Water Stewardship and Collective Actions Plan

These risks and challenges are shared among different actors, and therefore cannot be solved with individual actions, but instead require collective efforts.

In collaboration with different stakeholders, and with the overall goal of contributing to improving the health of the basin and its ecosystems, a series of objectives and collective actions have been identified. In order to coordinate their development, a local platform has been set up to articulate these actions, which are structured around 4 objectives defined.



### Drive water stewardship practice

- Establish a platform to articulate collective actions and around the common vision of improving the water context.
- Generate and share knowledge, foster transparency and spaces for dialogue.
- Facilitate collaboration between actors: producers, companies, initiatives, NGOs and administrations



### Decrease water scarcity & quality risks

- Stimulate larger-scale implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)
- Promote creation of working groups, knowledge exchange and capacity building in GAPs
- Develop co-financing mechanisms with markets to upscale implementation of measures on farms.



### Ensure legality of water and land use

- Promote a common framework to verify legality in the use of water and land use, collaborate with administrations for greater coordination and accessibility.
- Use and development of tools to facilitate verification processes
- Promote trainings and strengthening of agricultural certification systems and standards.



### Improve status of water bodies & ecosystems

- Identify and collaborate with initiatives for restoration, recovery of ecological corridors or promotion of biodiversity.
- Align interventions with official programmes and public-led priority actions frameworks.
- Support initiatives aimed at improving groundwater quantity/quality monitoring systems.

Visit the Information Portal through this QR code to learn more about the local situation, challenges and opportunities for collective action in the area:  
<https://arcg.is/0DSnim>

