



Coordinating beneficiary



Associated beneficiaries



With the support of



Project LIFE Bears with Future

What do we want to achieve?

To improve the adaptability of the brown bear to climate change in the Cantabrian Mountains.

How is it going to be achieved?

Facilitating future access to food resources planting native species.

Promoting best practices and measures to face the foreseeable increase in interactions between bears and humans as a consequence of the reduction in the hibernation.

Duration

2020



2025



Contents



Cantabrian bears and climate change

Climate change **threatens the recovery** of the endangered Cantabrian brown bears

There is already less food for bears

One of the main bear foods in the late summer is the **blueberry**. Because of the increase in temperatures, blueberries **anticipate its flowering** and are exposed to **late frosts**, reducing fruit production. Its importance in the bear's diet has decreased in recent years.

Bear hibernation shortens

Global warming encourages bears to reduce or even avoid hibernation. **More bears** are expected **to be active in winter**, so it is advisable to inform and raise awareness to people who practice sports or leisure activities **in the mountains**.

Climate change



in the high mountains

can mean
in winter

+ 2 °C



in 2040

The **sweet chestnut** can be a **key food for the bear** due to its **very constant harvests** and the **possibility** that in some places of the Cantabrian Mountains climate change **may favour their growth or fruiting**.



Objectives



Survival

To improve **food availability** for the bears.



Coexistence

To **inform** and **raise awareness** among people involved in potential conflicts with bears.



Cooperation

To disseminate **best practices** generated in the project, contributing to the **adaptation of the bear management** to the expected impacts of climate and social change.



Conservation



Land purchase for the development of activities to improve chestnut orchards and forest plantations.

Plantation of fruit trees and **autochthonous chestnuts** varieties to increase bear trophic availability.

Restoration and treatment of **chestnut** orchards and **oak** forests **to increase fruit production** and **climatic resilience**.

Monitoring tree plantations and chestnut **restoration** treatments.

Plantations

150.000
fleshy fruit native
trees and shrubs



155
hectares

25.000
chestnuts grafted
with local varieties



55
hectares



Research



Scientific studies

Climate change vulnerability assessment of the most sensitive areas for the brown bear conservation.

Habitat suitability for tree species that produce key fruits for the Cantabrian brown bear under climate change scenarios.



Scientific basis

Participation of researchers from universities of Oviedo, Valladolid, Cantabria and Extremadura.



Awareness, social participation and rural development

Advice and collaboration for the development of **winter activities** in bear areas.

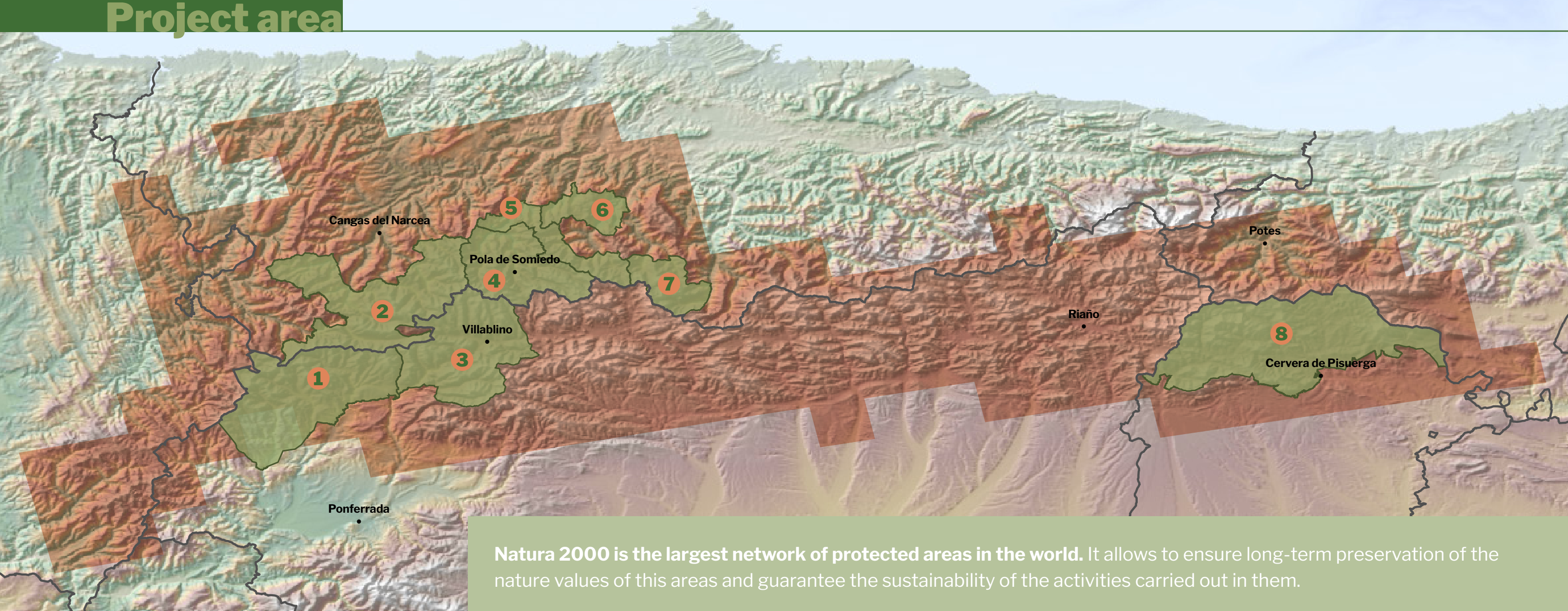
Informative campaign with **more than 100** hunters and winter sports **associations** to explain the **new climate change scenarios** and raise awareness of the implications on the **activity of bears**.

Dissemination activities, transfer of **results** and **lessons learned** in the project.

Promotion of **rural development** and **creation of jobs** linked to nature **conservation** and **adaptation** to climate change.



Project area



 Geographic distribution
of the brown bear



- ① Sierra de Ancares
- ② Fuentes del Narcea, Degaña e Ibias
- ③ Alto Sil
- ④ Somiedo

- ⑤ Montovo-La Mesa
- ⑥ Caldoveira
- ⑦ Peña Ubiña
- ⑧ Montaña Palentina

Get to know the project in depth

Find out about the project **LIFE Bears with Future** “Improving key food resources and preventing winter conflicts for Cantabrian brown bears under climate change scenarios” – **LIFE19 NAT/ES/000913**



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