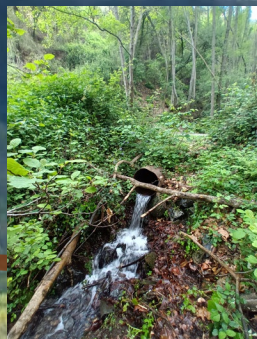
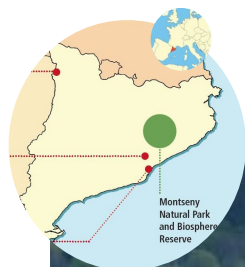


LIFE Tritó Montseny (LIFE15 NAT/ES/000757)

Conservation of the endemic Montseny brook newt, management of its riparian habitat and involvement of society

Daniel Guinart, Sonia Solorzano, Jordina Grau, Joana Barber





Goal: To conserve the Montseny brook newt & To improve the riparian habitat
(endemical and critically endangered) (in regression with anthropogenic threats)



Method: 49 Actions grouped into 5 strategic lines

Conservation

Expanding the geographic distribution using newts bred in captivity



Habitat Management

Eliminating or minimizing threats



Protection

Establishing legal coverage and defining strategic planning



Research & Monitoring

Increasing the scientific and technical knowledge



Dissemination & Education

Involving and engaging stakeholders, especially local community.





Conservation

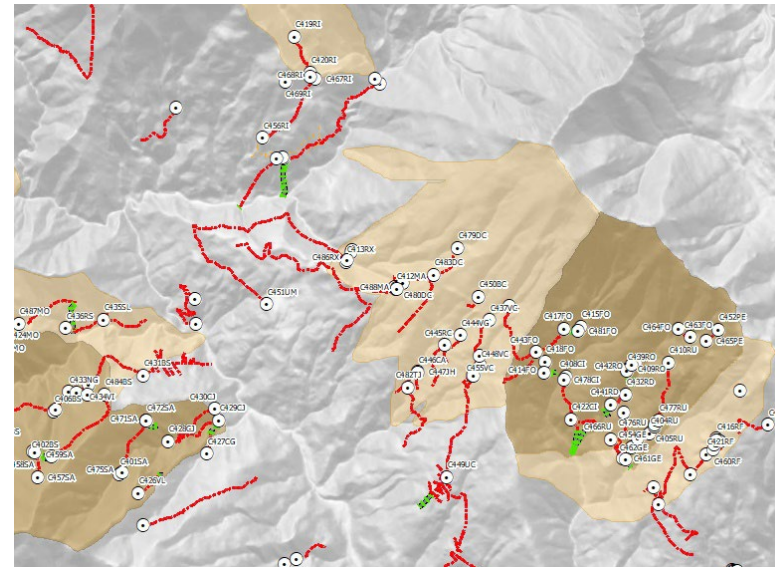
- The **genetic** conservation and expansion of **distribution** have been **ensured** by the breeding and reintroduction program





Research & Monitoring

- **Knowledge** of the biology and the ecology has been improved
- **3 scientific committees** has been created (related to breeding centres, new populations and hydrological dynamics)
- Information has been integrated in a **Geographic Information System**.





Dissemination & Education

- The importance of **preserving** a **unique amphibian** in the world has been disseminated.
- LIFE project has **inculcated** that the Montseny newt is critically **endangered**, and its riparian habitat has been damaged





Habitat management

- **Sustainable use** of stream **water** and improved fluvial **connectivity** has been **encouraged**.
- The restoration of the riparian habitat by introducing **good forestry practices** and protecting the forest floor has been **promoted**





Protection

- **Local population** of Montseny has been **involved** in the conservation of the riparian habitat through land stewardship agreements
- Application of **biosafety measures** has been **forced**
- **Legal protection** of the Montseny brook newt has been **improved**, and it's creating protected areas where the newt lives



Pla de gestió de l'Hàbitat del Tritó del Montseny
Parc Natural i Reserva de la Biosfera del Montseny

PLA DE GESTIÓ DE L'HÀBITAT DEL TRITÓ DEL MONTSENY (*Calotriton arnoldi*)

Parc Natural i Reserva de la Biosfera del Montseny



Pla de creació de noves poblacions
del Tritó del Montseny (*Calotriton arnoldi*).
2021-2030



Manual de Bones Pràctiques Forestals en espais fluvials
Parc Natural i Reserva de la Biosfera del Montseny

MANUAL DE BONES PRÀCTIQUES FORESTALS EN ESPAIS FLUVIALS



Working group IV: *EU and national policies, financing amphibian and reptile conservation*



Round 1 - Index

- Establishing suitable legal protection at national and European level
- Challenges involved in drafting and getting approval for a conservation plan and implementation of the action program
- Governance lessons learned to improve the conservation status of an endemic specie and its habitat

IV. Policy and Finance for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation in Europe

Establishing suitable legal protection at national and European level

Starting situation and actions adopted

Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), Annex IV : *Euproctus asper* (pyrenean newt)

- *Calotriton arnoldi* (Montseny brook newt) is not mentioned (sister species described in 2005)
- European Commission does not contemplate modifying Annex IV for his incorporation
- **BUT**, *C.Arnoldi* is a split of *E.asper* , therefore, EU can't eliminate a species due to taxonomic changes

WHAT COULD WE DO?

OBJECTIVE ACHIEVED

LIFE TM requested the inclusion of *C.arnoldi* in the sexennial evaluation report (Art. 17 of D.Habitats)

The EU Commission and Spanish Government accepted, and now, *C.arnoldi* is considered included in the Annex IV, because it's included in the sexennial Report

IV. Policy and Finance for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation in Europe



Establishing suitable legal protection at national and European level

CAN WE DO SOMETHING ELSE?

Regional legislation of Government of Catalonia

- *C. arnoldi*, its habitat and associated biological elements are strictly protected (D 127/2021 , art.4.12b)
- *C.arnoldi* is listed in the catalogue of endangered native wildlife and its protection (D.172/2022, Annex 1)

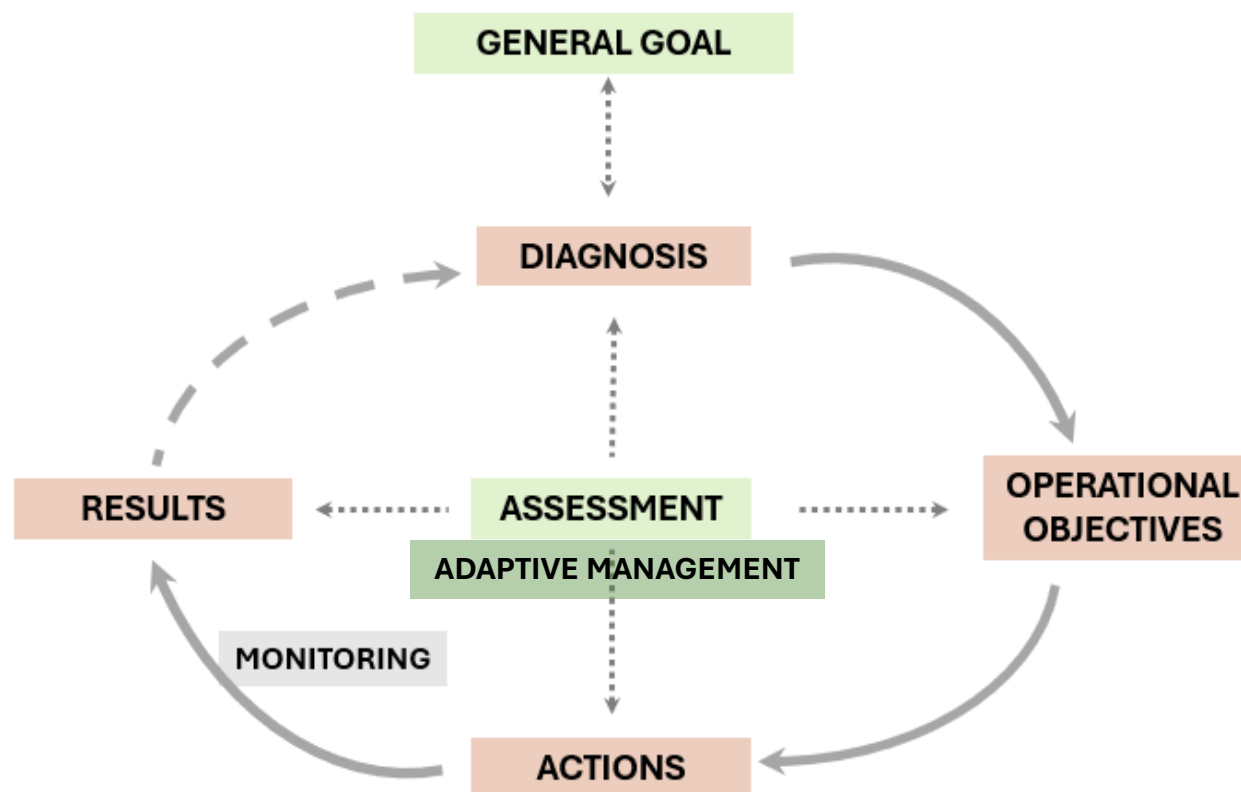
HOW CAN WE APPLY THE LAW ?

Establishing protective measures in C.arnoldi distribution area

- Supervised management zone (based on 2000/60/CE, D.1/2017) -→ Land stewardship contract
- Natural Reserve , based on Protection Plan of Natural Park of (D.127/2021, art 5)

IV. Policy and Finance for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation in Europe

Challenges involved in drafting and getting approval for a conservation plan and implementation of the action program



Quality standard in management for conservation in protected natural areas (*Adapted from Europarc-Spain, 2010*).

IV. Policy and Finance for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation in Europe

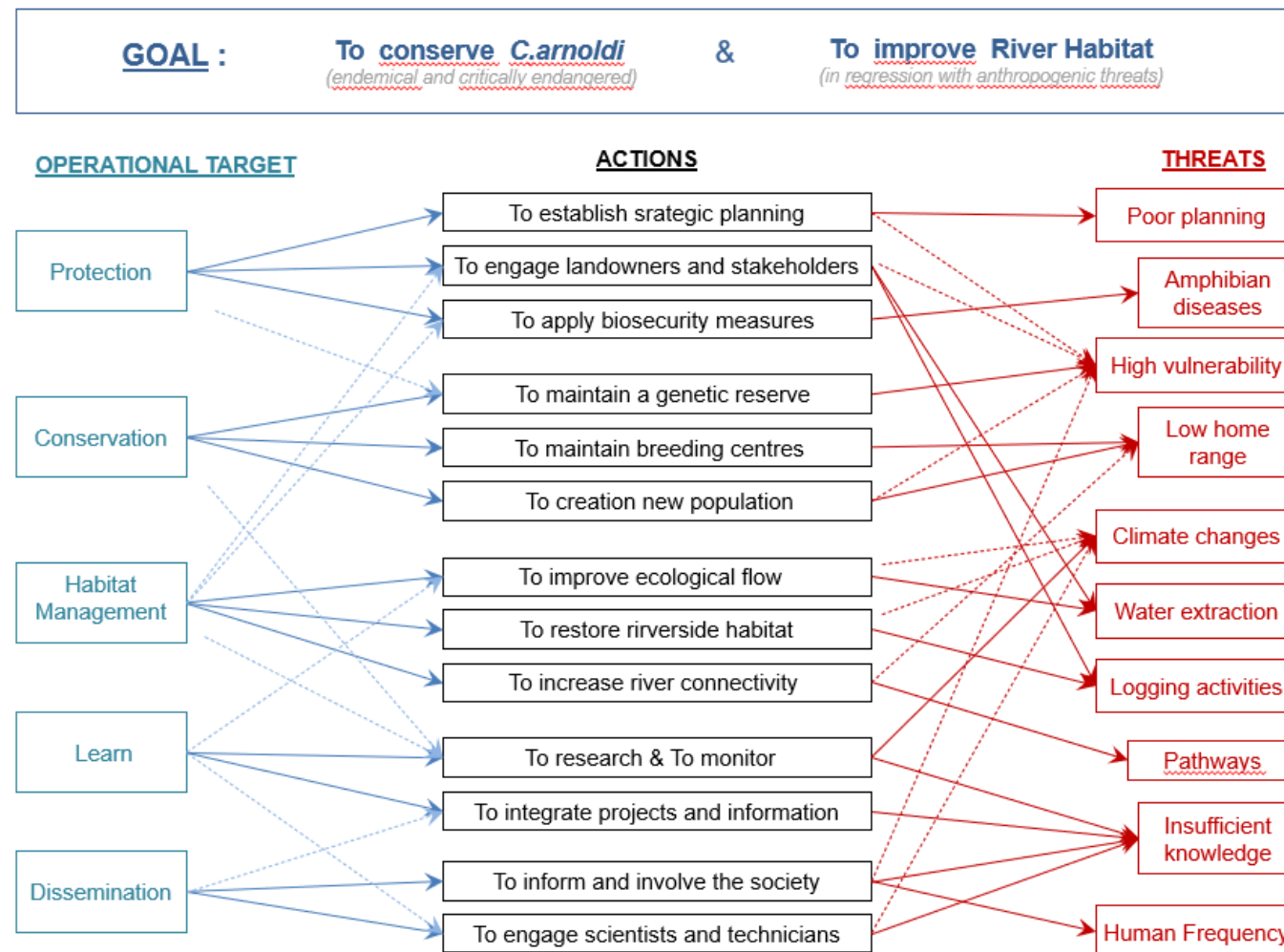
Challenges involved in drafting and getting approval for a conservation plan and implementation of the action program

DIAGNOSIS

Montseny brow newt
Situation - 2016

Calotriton arnoldi (CR by UICN) is an endemic amphibian inhabiting Montseny

- Distribution Area: 40 km² , fragmented distributed in < 6 km, present in 44/1.377 hydrographic basins
- 2 Populations separated 120.000 years ago., <3.000 total individuals
- Many threats (Climate change, Logging activities, Water extraction, Diseases, Habitat loss....)



IV. Policy and Finance for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation in Europe



Challenges involved in drafting and getting approval for a conservation plan and implementation of the action program

WHAT COULD WE DO?

2016: LIFE Trito Montseny made a commitment to elaborate a Conservation Plan for *C.arnoldi*

2022: LIFE Trito Montseny wrote the Conservation Plan for *C.arnoldi*

May 2024: The Government of Catalonia has NOT yet approved the Plan. WHEN ???

WHAT CAN WE LEARN ?

LIFE projects can and should promote better legislation and planning for the conservation of natural heritage

IV. Policy and Finance for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation in Europe

Challenges involved in drafting and getting approval for a conservation plan and implementation of the action program

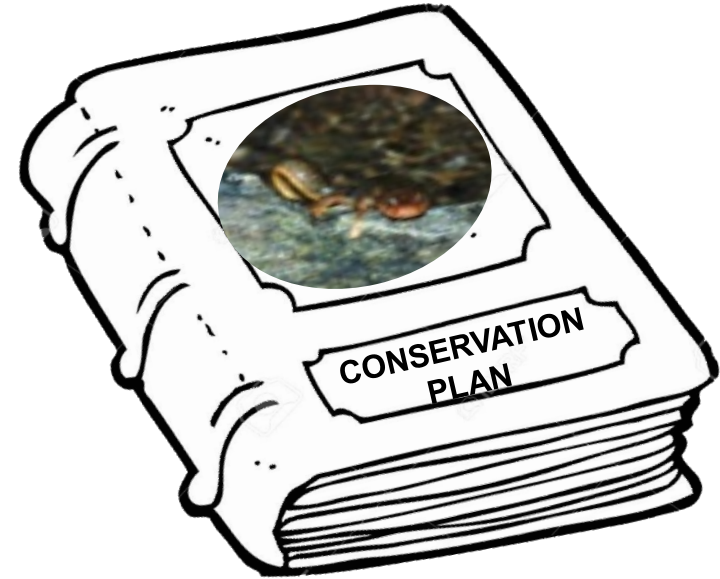
CONSERVATION PLAN OF MONTSENY BROOK NEWT

Essence:

- what is known about the species,
- situation of populations and threats
- actions to be taken to reverse its current critical state
- Evaluation of the plan (with check indicators)

ANNEX (HOW the management should be)

- New population creation program
- Breeding program
- Habitat management program
- Monitoring program of *C.arnoldi* populations
- Biosafety protocol



It has been written thanks to:

- ✓ *strong commitment of > 100 experts*
- ✓ *much willingness to agree*
- ✓ *efficient leadership*
- ✓ *calendar established by LIFE project*

IV. Policy and Finance for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation in Europe



Challenges involved in drafting and getting approval for a conservation plan and implementation of the action program

HOW ARE WE IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN ?

Competition of Government of Catalonia and LIC Montseny Natural Park

- Annual Action Plan of each of the partners (Internal Budget)
- After LIFE Plan: Commitment of project partners
- New projects with new objectives, new planification and external funding

Some Questions should be answered

- ✓ Who coordinates ?
- ✓ What responsibilities ?
- ✓ What economic and humans means ?
- ✓ What calendar ?
- ✓ Who evaluates ?

-



IV. Policy and Finance for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation in Europe



Governance lessons learned to improve the conservation status of a endemic specie and its habitat

CAN WE LEARN MORE FROM FAILURES THAN FROM SUCCESSES ?

Failures of LIFE Trito Montseny

- ✓ Wrong time schedule in administrative management (permits & contracts)
- ✓ Absence of a contingency plan to resolve unexpected events and problems
- ✓ Absence of personnel exclusively in the project

Dissemination, Is it + or - ?

LIFE Trito Montseny has been a powerful dissemination program

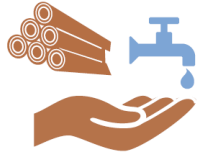
BUT, What bad consequences does the “Call Effect” have ?

- ✓ high frequency of naturalists and visitors
- ✓ appearance of collectors and poachers
- ✓ spread of deadly infections

Options:

- ✓ reinforce the message that it's counterproductive to visit the habitat
- ✓ open públic space in breeding centers
- ✓ promote education activities

Key Messages



It's necessary to reach a consensus on a sustainable management of natural resources, as are water and wood, historically exploited in the Mediterranean area.

- ✓ The conservation of a critically endangered species depends on the conservation of its habitat
- ✓ It's essential to preserve or restore the riparian habitat, to eliminate plantations of exotic trees
- ✓ It's imperative to reduce water catchments, to ensure the ecological flow, to Improve the ecological connectivity



The commitment of a large multidisciplinary team is the engine of a projects. Synergies and coordination will be the energy to achieve the expected objectives.

- ✓ Large multidisciplinary team is the key to achieve objectives
- ✓ Synergies must be sought to find consensus among different interest groups
- ✓ Dissemination allows transparency in the public resources, promotion environmental policies and public investment.
- ✓ Education programs is the best investment to involve society in natural heritage conservation

Key Messages



Research & Monitoring (R&M) are essential.

Without R&M there is no learning and no improvement

- ✓ R&M allow to have truthful and objective information (requirements, problems, actions, ...)
- ✓ R&M empower adaptative and efficient management
- ✓ Financial and Human support is vital in maintaining R&M programs



Climate change is the challenge. Application of our environmental policies is the opportunity.

LIFE programme is a very valuable instrument to promote the resilience of native habitats and preserve our natural heritage

- ✓ Climate Change will affect critical species. We have to react with policies like:
Custody Agreements, Protection areas, Conservation and Contingency Plan, Adaptation, Sustainable exploitation, ...
- ✓ We must place the Natural Heritage ahead of the Natural Resource
- ✓ LIFE programme provides economics means and assures technical, scientific, administrative and financial rigor