



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government
of Catalonia



GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, PESQUERÍA Y FOSFOS



Barcelona Declaration: Land. Quality of Life

Whereas Europe is suffering a biodiversity and ecosystem services decline due increasing pressure on ecosystems produced by climate change, intensification of production systems, land abandonment, and urbanisation.

Whereas Land (commonly held), which is a limited, vulnerable and fragile resource, is being used in an unsustainable way becoming more restricted and less fertile;

Whereas it is necessary and urgent to find a balance and compatibility between economic development and environment which guarantees ecosystem services and contributes to reduce biodiversity loss and protect the natural and cultural heritage of our land;

Whereas public institutions have the responsibility of facilitating the necessary financial and legislative mechanisms to guarantee nature protection and that current public conservation measures and policies are essential but not sufficient for nature protection;

Whereas co-responsibility and reciprocity for natural heritage conservation have ancient historical roots since society has always joined forces and collectively organised the sustainable management of natural resources, water, pastures or forests;

Whereas Land Stewardship means - in its broadest sense - people taking care of land and it is a strategy that effectively and voluntarily involves landowners and users in the conservation of nature and landscape, Natura 2000 sites and encourages both individual and community co-responsibility for sustainable natural resource management and offers a means of extending conservation practices beyond the boundaries of conventional protected areas;

Whereas the LandLife project started as a partnership of five European organisations through a LIFE + Communication and Information project with the aim to boost land stewardship as a useful tool for nature and biodiversity conservation both at regional and European level;

We, therefore, proclaim

(1) the necessity to develop a **European Land Stewardship movement** which calls for solidarity and co-operation through land stewardship practices and activities all over Europe.

(2) that the **cooperation** between associations, public and private institutions, farmers, landowners and citizens through the use of land stewardship will seek to change the course of land use management and **guarantee the protection of habitats, species, natural resources and the integrity and beauty of European landscapes with a particular attention to the European Network of protected areas Natura 2000.**

(3) that this **European movement for land stewardship** would aim to promote land stewardship in **regional, national and European policies** and to define a **European Strategy for both private and public land management.**

LandLife partners:



Subcontractor:



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government
of Catalonia



and declare that

We, the signatories, endorse the principles of this Declaration and undertake to work towards the achievement of its objectives and actions;

We express the necessity to **promote land stewardship** through its integration in national and European policy and our commitment to promote and encourage its development and implementation in our regions and countries;

We express the necessity to **develop regional, national and European strategies and methods to promote co-responsibility** and to generate **commitment** of landowners and land users, public and private institutions, organisations and citizens;

We will keep this Declaration as a roadmap for the creation of a European Land Stewardship Network with the following aims:

- to continue the work started by the LandLife project;
- to become a reference point for land management and nature and biodiversity conservation in Europe;
- to create a platform for dialogue and projects increasing the exchange of experience and good examples of land stewardship;
- to promote and support the organisation of the LandLifeweek every two years and work to recognise this event as an official activity of the European Union;
- to organise future editions of the European Land Stewardship Congress;
- to promote and support the creation of a European inventory of land stewardship practices and to introduce monitoring mechanisms to strengthen the quality of these practices and agreements;
- to create a stewardship label to endorse products and services produced in areas under land stewardship agreements.

We express the necessity to work in partnership to obtain institutional and political recognition of the Land Stewardship movement and its actions and therefore to:

- develop measures at regional, national and European level to promote and recognise land stewardship as an effective tool for land management, nature conservation both on public and private land;
- facilitate the necessary conditions to guarantee its development and increasing its legal effectiveness;
- promote the explicit inclusion of land stewardship measures in the recommendations the European Commission addresses to the members States related to nature and biodiversity conservation and environmental policy.

We encourage other organisations to sign this declaration and involve stakeholders to expand the land stewardship network.

List of Signatories

LandLife partners:



Subcontractor: