TERRES DE L'EBRE

Coordinating structure / Administrative authorities
The Terres de l'Ebre Consortium Environmental Policies (COPATE)

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Main features and specificities

The Ebro River is the main icon of the Biosphere Reserve and the aquatic ecosystems are plentiful, whose conservation depends on the integral management of the basin. The Ebro River is the largest river in Spain.
The Ebro's Delta, included in the Ramsar Convention, is one of the most well-known and greenest wetlands in the Western Mediterranean, where more than 360 species of birds and 50 fish have been counted. The most important are the Greater Flamingos, Adouin's gull, Spanish toothcarp, Ebro barbell...Moreover, the final part of the Ebro crosses different ecosystems and natural habitats, from mountains of 1,500 meters altitude relief to sea level with sandy and wetlands of the delta plain s, passing through tectonic buckets , and the valley and alluvial deposits of the Ebro.

Main problems and concerns

- hydropower impacts: the lack of sediments cause the regression of the Ebro's Delta
- delta dynamics such as subsidence plus the rise of sea level (climate change)
- invasive species
- pollution of water (eutrophication, toxic substances)
- salinization of the final part of the river
- biodiversity loss
- loss of flooding areas
- conflicts in water and land use

Cultural and social particularities linked to rivers

The river and its wetlands not only give a great variety of landscapes and exceptional richness, but also give it a strong sense of belonging and personality to the local population, so much so that in 2000's a powerful social movement in defence of Ebro emerged as a reaction in response to the political proposal of Ebro water capture.
The richness provided by the river is transferred in a leader agriculture sector settle in extended agrarian matrix (composed by rice paddies, citrus and olive groves, vineyards, almond trees...) so with fishing, shell fishing, aquaculture and tourism are the main economic activities in the area.

Main know-how, skills and specialties of your Biosphere Reserve

Branding. The Terres de l'Ebre Brand.
Governance and participatory process
Adaptation and mitigation climate change effects

Current topics and actions concerning the scientific research

Green economy and biofuels
Energy Efficiency and Smart grids
Sediment dynamics

Feedback

One major concern of TEBR is the effects of climate change, for this reason, TEBR have been participating in a LIFE called CLINOMICS with other territories of Catalonia since 2016. This project tries to improve the resilience in local economies, particularly in the primary sector.
The goals achieved in the project have been the creation of a local participatory governance structures for adaptation to climate change, and action plan to adapt to climate change in a consensus way, and the selection of two pilot actions by territory will be carried out, in our case: a dryness observatory and an autochthonous oyster hatchery.

More information

www.ebrebiosfera.cat
https://www.copate.cat
http://lifeclinomics.eu

LIFE CLINOMICS