

FROM AN IRRIGATED CROP TO A RIPARIAN FOREST: WATER FOOTPRINT REDUCTION AND HABITATS RESTORATION

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Fluviatilis (2022-2025) works along the lines of ecological restoration of the riparian ecosystem, for which ANSE has leased a 3.4 hectare farm of rainfed crops (plum trees), for its conversion to a gallery forest dominated by native species. This will contribute to the recovery of many ecosystem services, reduce water demand for irrigation, and create a carbon sink, favoring the extension of several habitats of community interest.

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For more information, please visit the project website: www.fluviatilis.net

PROJECT ACTIONS

Lease of a 3.5 hectare abandoned plum tree farm

Why?

Because it divides two masses in a very good state of conservation of native riparian forest.

It is located within the Natural Reserve of Sotos y Bosques de Ribera de Cañaverosa.

What will be done?

Removal of the plum trees and planting in their place of 13 species of riparian forest trees and shrubs, including species protected by national legislation and forming the 92A0 habitat of community interest.

6% Area of riparian forest currently occupying the banks of the Segura River.

Elimination of 100 linear meters of common cane (*Arundo donax*)

Why?

It is one of the 100 most harmful invasive alien species in the world according to the IUCN.

It consumes big amount of water, it is a pyrophytic species and reduces biodiversity.

What will be done?

Clearing of the common cane bed.

Solarization of the surface with high density polyethylene cover.

Removal of the cover after one year and planting of native vegetation.

Society involvement

- Establishment of stewardship agreements.
- Environmental education.
- Interpretive trails.
- Training workshops.
- Environmental volunteering.
- Bioblitz (1 per year) - 95 plant species were identified in 2023.

