

Company: ERIMSA

Location: Site “Villalba I”, Lugo, Galicia, Spain

Objective

The exploitation is designed to create and recover more lagoons, in such a way that it increases the floodplain of the ZEC Ladra-Támoga-Parga, favoring the settlement of new birds and riparian forests. In the design of the farm since the beginning is thought of this future use, leaving island areas for the nesting of birds and soft rounded perimeters that facilitate landscape integration and the settlement of tree species.

Context

The union of the Miño with its affluents the Támoga and the Ladra make up the "Humid Complex of A Terra Chá", a protected fluvial space (LIC Ladra-Támoga-Parga) and are part of the first Biosphere Reserve of Galicia. It highlights the Lagoa de Cospeito, which hosts a large number of waterfowl and species of flora and fauna of priority interest. This natural space, which covers an area of more than 5,000 hectares, is located in the upper basin of the Miño river, between the towns of Xustás and Lugo. Declared a Site of Community Interest (SCI) by the Xunta de Galicia in 2004, and in March 2014 declared a Special Conservation Zone (SPA).

The Parga-Ladra-Támoga SCI hosts very diverse habitats of community interest: sandy plains, natural eutrophic lakes, lakes and natural dystrophic ponds, temporary Mediterranean ponds, heaths, peat bogs, alluvial forests of *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fraxinus excelsior* and Galician-Portuguese oak forests with *Quercus robur* and *Quercus pyrenaica*.

In this environment, ERIMSA operates an alluvial quartz deposit, in a way that makes its work compatible with the protection of this lagoon environment.

Actions

A number of environmental practices are included in the entire productive cycle of the site, from the selection of the exploitation areas, incorporating the future use to be made to the design of the mining cuttings created. In a case with the design of both the perimeter and the islands necessary for the creation of new lagoons, such as the study of the balance of land for the subsequent filling and grading of certain plots that would be finally destined for agricultural and livestock use. Even with the creation of intermediate zones, with shallow flood plains that allow the generation of tree species and riparian flora. All this inside the area of special protection without the habitat of it is altered. The extractive activity focuses on the months of lowest rainfall, collecting the material of the quartzite levels in the environment of the treatment plant, in order to guarantee the work of the same throughout almost the entire year. The own installation of the benefit establishment located inside the concession and in the SPA zone,



carries out its activity in total equilibrium with the environment, paying special attention to the purification of its waters, which are processed in closed circuit with a process of Decanting and purification by holding tanks and filter press. Finally, the restoration work is aimed at maintaining the landscape balance in the surroundings, creating the lagoon zones in the area south of the concession, where formerly they were concentrated on the riverbank of the Ladra River, while in the North and East, transitions are made to areas of shallow flood for the generation of riparian flora and the creation of grassland areas for use as livestock and agricultural use.

Result

The extractive work developed by ERIMSA in Begonte is not only perfectly compatible with the environment to be protected, but also its presence allows to increase the environmental value of the area, with the creation and recovery of lagoon spaces and the generation of large meadows for the livestock exploitation, main economic activity of the interior of Galicia and more specifically of the province of Lugo.

