



CS number: 13 – Sorraia

Case study cluster: small streams and basins

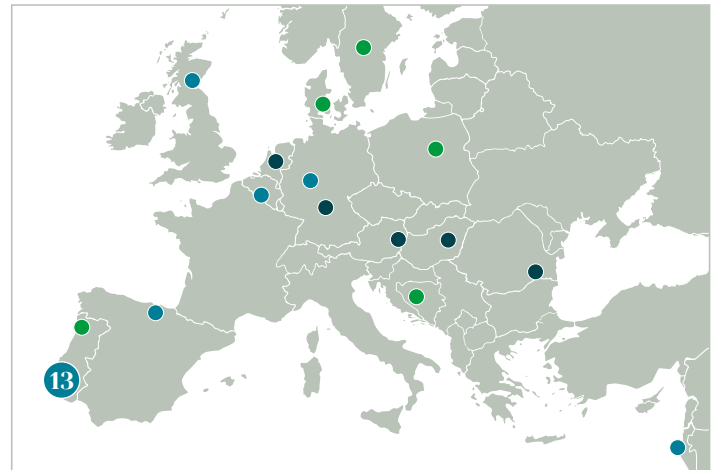
Country: Portugal

Scientific partner: Instituto Superior de Agronomia,  
Universidade de Lisboa

Implementation partner: National Irrigation Authority  
(coordinator); Farmer's Association

Twinning case study: Ervidel Lowlands:  
similar approaches on riparian restoration;  
EDIA – Alentejo Irrigation Company; [www.edia.pt/pt](http://www.edia.pt/pt)

Website: [www.arbvs.pt](http://www.arbvs.pt); [optimusprime.pt/pt](http://optimusprime.pt/pt)



### Demonstration

- **Type of restoration:** Sorraia
- **Size:** floodplain 20,000 km<sup>2</sup>;  
catchment scale (12,759.36 km<sup>2</sup>)
- **Location(s):** Sorraia Valley
- **Value of the case:** riparian rehabilitation (clearing of sedges and woody debris, bank stabilisation and removal of exotic woody vegetation); removal of exotic invasive plants (water hyacinth, Brazilian milfoil) in river and canals; creation and maintenance of ecological set-aside areas; fish passes in weirs and river crossings
- **Stakeholders involved:** farmers of the irrigation valley
- **Sectors involved:** agriculture: farmers and land owners
- **Innovations being applied:** –

### Implementation plans

- **Type of restoration:** optimal BGI configuration as a function of ecological indicators; riparian rehabilitation (planting, weed control and width increase); habitat enhancement with nature-based solution structures for pollinators and key-species predators (amphibia, bats, birds, spiders, carabids); construction of a small pond landscape network; improvement of river crossings and development of a crossing prototype in Mediterranean rivers
- **Size:** approx. 100 km<sup>2</sup>
- **Scope:** to develop a prototype of ecoscheme contract for irrigation farmland, a monitoring protocol to evaluate restoration efficacy and to propose indicators for agro-environmental certification
- **Vicinity:** rural (Mediterranean floodplain valleys dominated by intensive agriculture)
- **Stakeholders to involve:** agricultural sector (farmers and land owners)
- **Innovations to be applied:** –