



Ribeira Sacra  
Waterscape



Nomination of  
**Ribeira Sacra**  
**Waterscape**  
for inscription on  
the World Heritage List

Management Plan

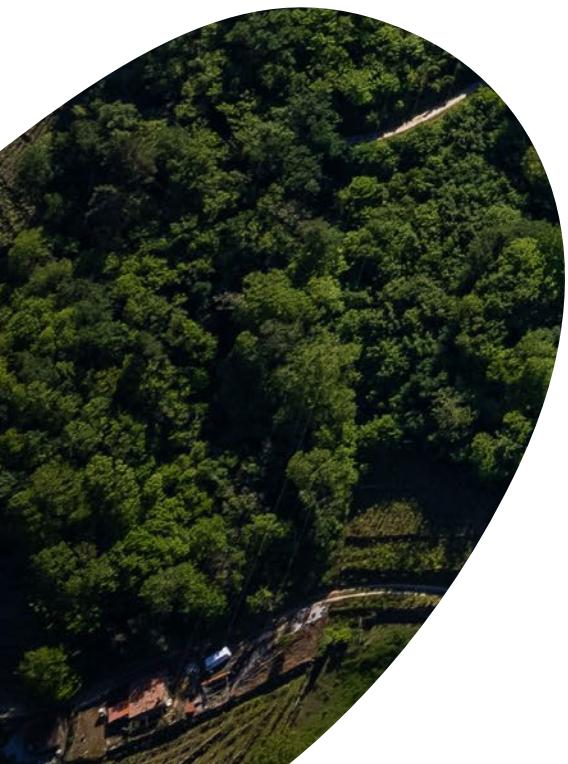


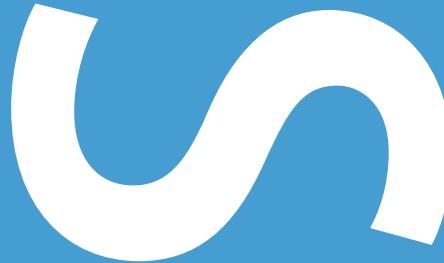
XUNTA  
DE GALICIA



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO  
DE CULTURA





## Ribeira Sacra Waterscape

### ANNEX II

### MANAGEMENT PLAN

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### 1. Introduction

The nominated property has an effective Management System and Management Plan adapted to the characteristics and needs of the property and its social, cultural and natural context, which have been consolidated throughout the nomination process. Both establish the unitary and participatory management of all the elements and components of the property, with a view of the future and sufficient capacity to guarantee the preservation of its Outstanding Universal Value over time and to face eventual threats and vulnerabilities.

Under the leadership of the Directorate General for Cultural Heritage of the Xunta de Galicia, the management or governance system of the nominated property is based on the Interdepartmental Commission of the Ribeira Sacra, considered as a participatory body that coordinates the intervention of the different administrations, entities and stakeholders with competences and interests in the area, facilitating the development of the initiatives taken into account in the Management Plan.

The Management Plan for the Ribeira Sacra Water-scape is the instrument with which the nominated property is equipped in order to guarantee its appropriate management, as well as the preservation of its attributes and values and, consequently, the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value. It consists of strategic goals, divided into seven action programmes with their corresponding actions.

The Management Plan developed is also consistent with the policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee including the Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage (2023), the Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction at World Heritage Sites (2007), the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building (2011) and the Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into World Heritage Convention Processes (2015), The Future of our Past: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action (ICOMOS, 2019) IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2 (2023), Report World Heritage and tourism in a changing climate (UNESCO, 2016) and is consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations. It also takes into account the proposed Management Plan contained in the Spanish Government's National Plan for Cultural Landscapes (Ministry of Culture and Sport, Spanish Cultural Heritage Institute, 2012). This National Plan integrates the definitions of World Heritage Cultural Landscape and the European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe, 2000; ratified by Spain in 2007) and understands the management plan for this type of property as the “set of actions aimed, from a sustainable development perspective, at guaranteeing its maintenance, in order to guide and harmonise the transformations induced by processes of different kinds: social, cultural, economic and environmental”.

The Management Plan has been inspired by the experiences and lessons learned in other World Heritage

sites, in particular those cultural landscapes registered in river environments, and by the recommendations set out in the various supporting documents of the World Heritage Centre and its advisory bodies, such as the guidelines issued by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Water and Heritage (ISCWH) or the International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes (ISCCL-ICOMOS-IFLA), and also inspired by the recommendations of the Ribeira Sacra Declaration on Cultural Waterscapes (2023), sponsored by the aforementioned ICOMOS and IHP committees, among others (see digital annex to the file).

#### Delimitation and general characteristics of the nominated property

The boundary of the nominated property to which the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape Management Plan applies runs along the upper contours of the entrenched valleys that lie at the confluence of the Sil and Miño rivers. The limits are delineated on the ground by what are known locally as *bocarribeiras*, which is where the slope changes abruptly from gradients steeper than 30% (*ribeiras*) to below 10% (*chairas*). The demarcation therefore includes these two river canyons between Santa María de Pesqueiras to the west and San Clodio de Ribas de Sil to the east, covering an area of 16,471 ha, with a perimeter of 273 km.

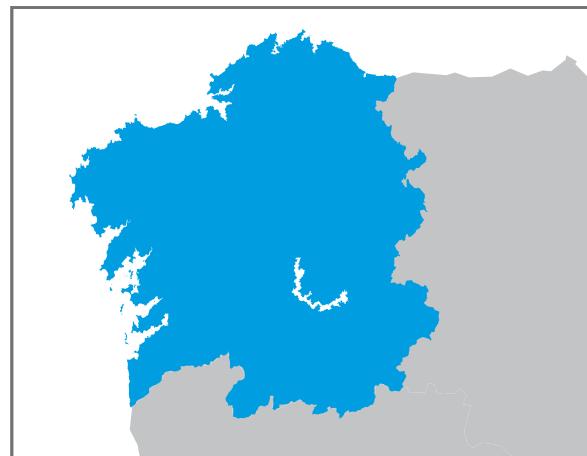
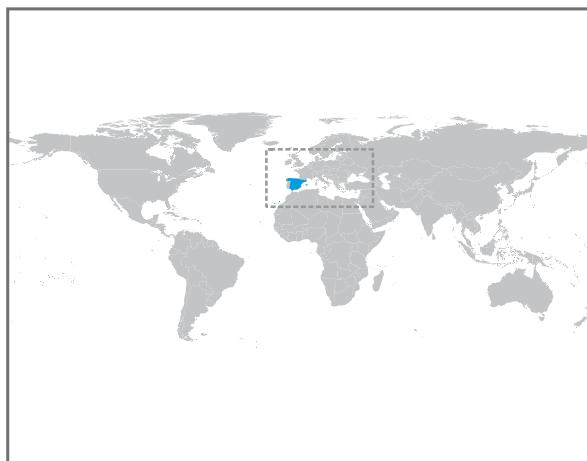
The buffer zone around the nominated property covers an area of 31,979 hectares and is delimited by the 72 parishes that were established in the Middle Ages and that still survive today as identifiable territorial units.

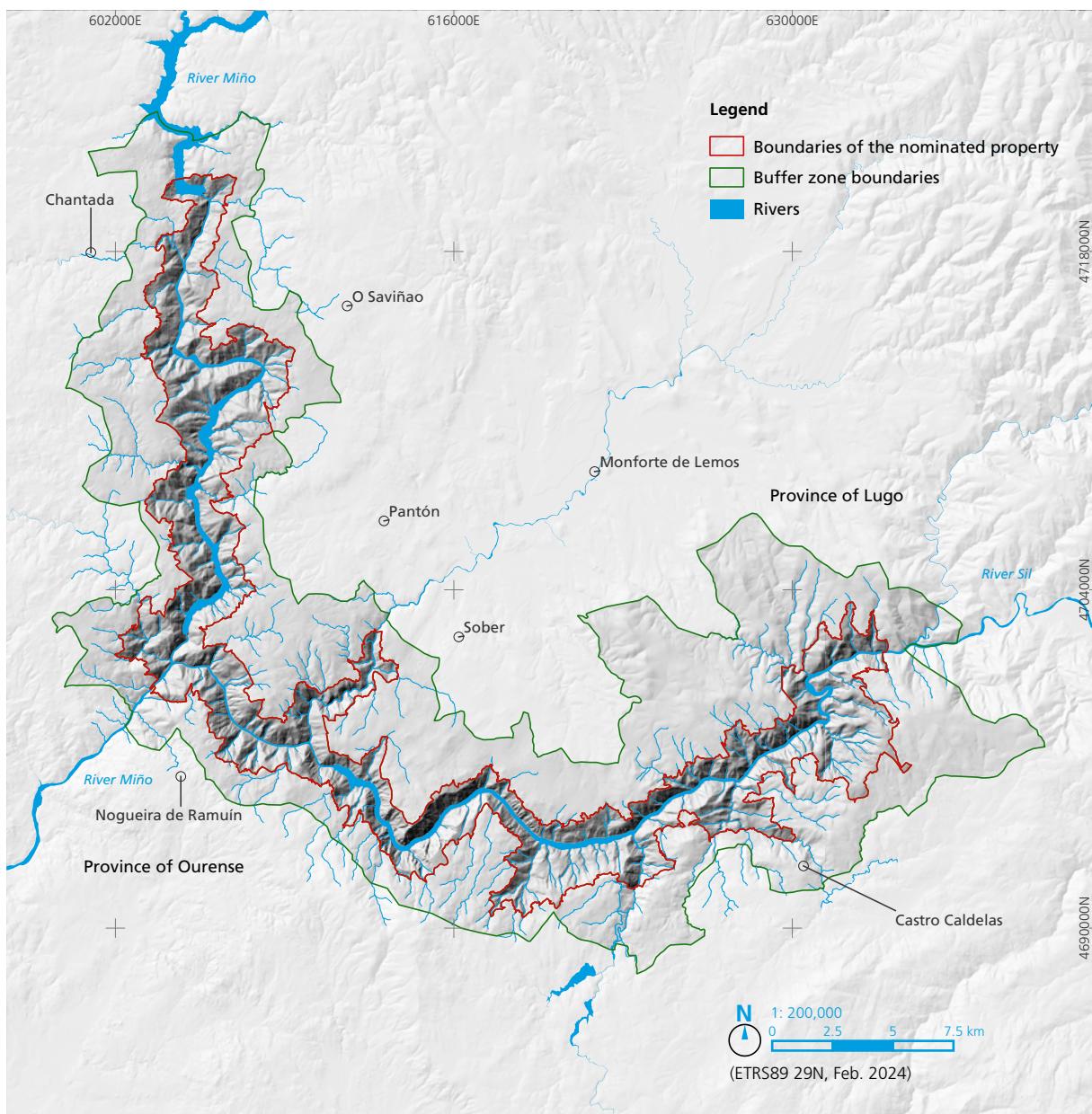
## 1. Introduction

**Table 1. Summary data on the nominated property and its buffer zone**

Nominated property	Surface area	16,471 ha
	Delimited perimeter	273 km
	Town councils included	13
	Parishes included	72
	Population centres	167
	Plots	96,125
	Average plot size	394 m <sup>2</sup>
	Population (INE, 2022)	1,177 inhabitants
Buffer Zone	Surface area	31,979 ha
	Perimeter	204 km
	Town councils included	15
	Parishes included	72
	Population centres	473
	Population (INE, 2022)	4,909 inhabitants

**WGS 84) N 42° 27' 14" / W 7° 43' 50"  
(ETRS 89) UTM zone 29N: 604352 / 4700981**





Location and topographical map showing the boundaries of the nominated property and the buffer zone.

## 2. Brief description and values of the nominated property

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#### Summary of the OUV

The nominated property showcases an outstanding cultural waterscape, traditionally and popularly known as Ribeira Sacra, which is bounded by spectacular river canyons at the confluence of the Sil and Miño rivers (Galicia, Spain), located in the cool, damp climes of Northwest of the Iberian Peninsula.

It is an epic landscape shaped by the culture of water, the memory of which is perpetuated through the successive solutions that have breathed life into and moulded the identity of this place through the ages. It traces the origins and evolution of a territory sculpted by water and is paradigmatic of a culture of water: one can clearly discern the marks of its construction over more than 1,500 years of continuous occupation. It is the result of constant interaction between its inhabitants and a river environment that has been deeply transformed by human activity over the course of time. It is, in short, an exceptional testimony to a living landscape that has been shaped by water over many generations to become an open book on the heritage and culture of water, its pages written on its soaring slopes and its countless rivers and streams.

This landscape was initially forged in the unique eremitic tradition that emerged in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, as hermits sought out secluded, inaccessible spots to commune with nature, their settlements bearing an unmistakable relationship with water. The influence of asceticism continued with the establishment of monastic communities, which laid the foundations for a unique water culture that led to the cultivation of crops on steep terraces and the introduction of the first watermills. The monastic influence can still be seen today in a panoply of churches, including cave sanctuaries, estates, abbeys and monasteries, perched like holy vantage points overlooking the watercourses, in remarkable numbers and diversity. In addition to this, there are the distinctive patterns inherited from traditional settlements. All this well-preserved heritage is testament to the presence and spirit of those communities that transformed rivers and canyons to turn inhospitable and inaccessible places into a means of material and spiritual subsistence. They laid the foundations for a unique landscape that speaks the language of water and, over generations, gave form to a secluded, distinctive territory, shaped by the memory of water and its living presence.

It is a space hemmed in by steep slopes which, despite centuries of isolation, has been the scene of a remarkable feat of human settlement in a rugged and inaccessible territory, where every available metre of land has been adapted to the demands of survival. Living proof of this odyssey is provided by the monumental, centuries-old crop terraces that carpet the slopes of the river canyons

with chestnut trees, grapevines and other crops, which have spread from the riverside to the upper reaches of the valley. Further proof is furnished by the enduring presence of highly fragmented landholdings, with over ninety thousand plots in the nominated property, divided according to the unique vernacular land-management system into tiny patches of land – *cavaduras* – adapted to the topography of these steep slopes. These places also bear the stamp of a system of spatial planning that dates back to the early Middle Ages, which still groups local communities into distinct units known as parishes, the boundaries of which are demarcated by watercourses.

The culture of water in these places is revealed through an exceptional water heritage that includes archaeological sites, the unique drainage systems of the *socalcos* (terraces), waterworks from all periods of history, including a significant water industry heritage, and many other vernacular features in the form of consecrated fountains and mines, canals, weirs, crossings and bridges, river routes and other exceptional works associated with water.

In the area of the nominated property there is a remarkable catalogue of water-use heritage features that bear witness to the energy self-sufficiency of each period. These range from traditional watermills from different centuries, which can still be seen throughout the property in exceptional numbers and density, to the mini-power stations or factories of light that emerged at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to the hydroelectric dams of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The present-day dams, also associated with the ideal of self-sufficiency since their inception, are exponents of a construction undertaking that was monumental in its day and are outstanding examples of hydraulic engineering from a specific period, featuring a wide range of construction styles and solutions. The associated hydroelectric power plants, of different sizes and scales, continue to provide sustainable energy, underscoring the particular contribution of this site to climate change mitigation.

The distinctive intangible values of this living cultural landscape are discernible in the local water culture, in the traditions of self-sufficient governance, in the time-honoured customs and the beauty of the countless streams and waterfalls, in the dialects, myths and legends, and even in the toponymy, which includes an extraordinary repertoire of hydronyms, many of them found nowhere else. All these elements, together with the distinctive eremitic and monastic practices that set the entire process in motion, underpin the outstanding values and features of this exceptional microcosm of culture and landscape, shaped by water, isolation and self-sufficiency.

In short, it is a cultural waterscape in which we can piece together the history of the wondrous relationship between water, humans and ingenuity, not only in ensuring their survival and wellbeing, but also in harnessing to the full all possible uses of water.

### Attributes and values

The main attributes and values that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property are listed below, together with a list of their constituent elements.

#### Attribute

The spectacular river canyons and valleys sculpted by water that are the exceptional physical features that inform and distinguish the cultural waterscape.

— Outstanding features: The canyons and steeply entrenched valleys of the Miño and Sil rivers that plunge down from the high surrounding plains; the abrupt relief; the deep and spectacular entrenched meanders; the extremely dense and hierarchical drainage system; the innumerable watercourses, springs, streams, brooks, waterfalls and fountains; the extensive and diverse mosaic of humanised vegetation; and the scenic beauty of the landscape.

#### Attribute

The exceptional, dense and diverse water heritage of the cultural landscape, which includes an extensive catalogue of energy harnessing solutions from the Middle Ages to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, exponents of the mediaeval technological revolution and the birth of hydroelectricity that form part of a representative compendium of the history of waterpower.

— Outstanding features: The hundreds of traditional watermills built since the 11<sup>th</sup> century, which endured and evolved until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and ensured energy self-sufficiency for the area, including complex water distribution and management systems; the construction of the first mini-power stations marking the emergence of hydroelectricity, following on from the traditional mills, between the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; the excellent representation of the various types of hydroelectric dams that illustrate the exploits of hydroelectric engineering in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; and the immense repertoire of small-scale waterworks that are scattered throughout the cultural landscape.

#### Attribute

The enduring legacy of traditional farming systems on the steep slopes of the river canyons of the Ribeira Sacra, grounded in age-old techniques.

— Outstanding features: The terraces or *socalcos* as water-management systems that regulate drainage and the flow of water; the evolving design and inseparable association of the *socalcos* with the watercourses; the breathtaking agricultural terraces on exceptionally steep slopes as epic feats of human settlement.

#### Attribute

The eremitic and monastic heritage that shaped the distinctive and functional features of the cultural waterscape.

— Outstanding features: Traces left by the monasteries in the development of a water culture in the area, related to the land and watermill *aforamientos* (monastic property rights) throughout history, including the management of river resources, fishing and transport; the hermitages and the considerable number of churches and monasteries that shed light on an essential stage in the evolution of the cultural waterscape; and the distinctive orientations of the monastic landmarks in relation to the watercourses.

#### Attribute

The unique land-use and land-tenure systems marked by the presence of water.

— Outstanding features: The continued existence of historical forms of occupying the river space and the settlement patterns; the organisation of the territory into parishes, identifying units delimited by watercourses dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century; and the thousands of tiny plots set out by ancestral practices of land and property management adapted to this rugged landscape.

#### Attribute

The remarkable biocultural capital of a living cultural landscape and the intangible heritage associated with water culture.

— Outstanding features: The survival of traditional knowledge on how to build *socalcos*; the river harvest; the many festivals and traditions associated with rivers and streams; the consecration of fountains, mines and other elements of water heritage; the extraordinary toponymic heritage and the continued use of numerous unique hydronyms; the myths and legends featuring water as the central theme.

### Criteria under which inscription is proposed

#### Criterion (v)

*To be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;*

The nominated property bears outstanding testimony to a living cultural waterscape that has evolved over more than 1,500 years, and boasts an extraordinary repertoire of water works, knowledge and uses that have enabled communities to live there.

It is an exceptional example of the evolution of a traditional way of life associated with watercourses that has its roots in local eremitic and monastic traditions, reflecting the constant development of a complex human settlement in the rugged, sheer terrain of river canyons.

## 2. Brief description and values of the nominated property

The nominated property contains outstanding examples of an epic agriculture that has profoundly shaped the riverside landscape for centuries in the form of terraces or *socalcos* that carpet the slopes of the river canyons, with unique and ingenious transport, channelling and drainage systems, on sharply sloping terrain.

Ribeira Sacra contains unique and remarkably complete examples of hydraulic techniques that were developed for energy self-sufficiency over hundreds of years: the remains of countless old watermills from different periods and with different functions, evidence of the emergence of "white coal" (hydroelectricity) with power stations from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and contemporary hydroelectric dams from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. It thus comprises a rich heritage catalogue of works that bear witness to the human adventure of harnessing the power of water, recognised as a clean and sustainable source of energy.

The patterns of occupation and settlement in Ribeira Sacra, which still persist in the distinctive landholding system and in its ancient territorial organisation into parishes, demarcated by watercourses, are a significant example of the human capacity for organisation and adaptation to difficult environmental conditions.

The nominated property attests to the profound interdependence between the cultural and natural heritage associated with the cultural waterscape, which can be clearly identified in intangible elements such as traditions, myths and legends, toponymy and the consecration of the many works associated with the management and use of water.

It is a relatively isolated, fragile and vulnerable cultural landscape, occasionally beset by developments and events in its environment but which, at the same time, has shown a tremendous capacity for adaptation and resilience in these new times.

### Statement of Integrity

The nominated property fulfils the conditions of integrity set out in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Ribeira Sacra Waterscape contains all the interrelated elements necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property.

The boundaries of the nominated property have been strategically drawn in terms of integrity. As such, they cover an area of sufficient scale to allow for a full representation of the features and processes that lend significance to the nominated property, from the spectacular steep river valleys to the sharply sloping terraced hillsides rising from the riverbanks. Moreover, the history of this cultural waterscape and its compositional elements is clearly visible in today's landscape, reflected in particular in an exceptional catalogue of waterworks and water-related heritage features, in the rows of crop terraces (*socalcos*), in the eremitic and monastic landmarks that reflect how the land was settled and that shaped

the culture of water, and in the enduring presence of the ancestral micro-plots of land.

The cultural landscape contains more than enough elements to ensure full representation of the values and attributes that convey the significance of the nominated property, both in terms of diversity and density. Of particular note are the many vestiges and waterworks associated with the use of water as a source of energy over the course of time. These structures attest to the time-honoured and enduring management of water-power to ensure energy self-sufficiency. Each element is a representative fragment of the whole, displaying the best examples of each type of landscape and of the works that illustrate the most important milestones in the centuries-old history of a land powered by water, revealing, step by step, the gradual unfolding of the narrative of the property.

It is important to note the sheer density and quantity of features that convey the overall value of the property. In quantitative terms, 486 watercourses and slopes of up to 85% have been recorded in the area of the nominated property alone. Also within the property, 2,494 ha of *socalcos* have been identified, comprising a large sample of this unique terraced agro-ecosystem, in a landscape divided up into traditional smallholdings of 96,125 micro-plots, equivalent to an average plot surface area of 394 m<sup>2</sup>.

The compositional integrity is also evident in the built heritage, which bears witness to the most important stages of the long evolutionary process of this water-related cultural landscape over more than 1,500 years. Of particular note in this regard are the more than six hundred traditional watermills from different periods, vestiges of the symbiotic relationship of its inhabitants with the watercourses. Given the magnitude of this heritage, however, additional efforts are needed to conserve it. The manifestations associated with the advent of hydroelectric power are also abundant and span a wide spectrum of typologies and modifications, providing the final touches to a continuous and comprehensive account of the power of water in this landscape. The overall picture is rounded off by the 83 well-preserved monasteries from different periods and a multitude of archaeological traces of the hermit presence and of the early occupation of the area.

In short, the cultural landscape has maintained its constituent elements intact, revealing an outstanding symbiotic relationship between its inhabitants and the river courses throughout history, the main features of which are still preserved today. Viewed as a whole, it is a space sculpted by water, where the interaction with a unique water environment is clearly identifiable, including in its settlement patterns, cultural heritage and the different uses of water.

The boundaries of the buffer zone have been established not only to actively contribute to the direct protection of the nominated property, but also to ensure the preservation of the viewsheds and the continuity and integrity of the river landscape of Ribeira Sacra. It

is a zone that enriches the cultural heritage related to the nominated property through complementary values and provides a space for manifestations connected to the cultural landscape, including the parishes as an identifying element of the ancestral territorial organisation of local communities. The nominated property is free from major threats and is of sufficient size to demonstrate how multiple systems – agricultural, hydraulic, ecological, territorial, social and spiritual – have interacted and adapted to different situations over time.

### Statement of authenticity

In accordance with the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the Venice Charter and the Nara Document on Authenticity, the nominated property meets the conditions of authenticity required for inscription on the World Heritage List.

All the components and their constituent elements are credible and genuine demonstrations of the different manifestations and configurations of the waterscapes they represent, and of the architecture, ensembles, waterworks, ethnological elements and, in general, the tangible and intangible heritage associated with them. Their authenticity is evident in the degree to which the qualities pertaining to the attributes conveying Outstanding Universal Value may be clearly identified and understood, particularly through their form, design, functionality, typology, materials, period and location. This is reflected in the features of its landscape components, such as in the functionality and structure of the unique farming systems, in the different types of waterworks from different periods, their function and historical continuity, and in the water-related settlement patterns and plots of land.

The authenticity of the different cultural waterscapes and heritage elements in the nominated property is supported by the cited documentary sources, historical maps and waterworks from different periods, and by religious architecture and settlements that organise and contextualise the cultural landscape. The perceived link between the waterscapes and the works that make up their built water heritage, including the artefacts and movable heritage associated with the management of water and the use of rivers, is shown to be an inseparable bond that reinforces the authenticity of the landscapes and the heritage of the present. The authenticity of the heritage elements is also borne out by the large number of studies, inventories, catalogues and research undertaken on various aspects of the nominated property.

The topographical, geological and hydrological conditions and characteristics of the site are clearly identifiable. Studies of the spatial dimensions of the authenticity of the property have been enhanced by new spatial analysis methods and tools, supported by new cartographic models and spatial databases that have been cross-referenced with historical maps, including land use, vegetation and soil properties.

Similar tools have been used to analyse the authenticity of different manifestations such as *socalcos* (cultivation terraces), the distribution of forest uses and the settlement patterns that have survived over time. In particular, the antiquity and unique water-management functions of the *socalcos* have been confirmed by various surveys and studies, such as the one carried out by CSIC (Spanish National Research Council).

The nominated property features buildings, structures and archaeological remains that credibly and truthfully convey the dimension of Outstanding Universal Value as a site where an exceptional catalogue of water-power technologies has been developed over the course of history in one and the same context. In the case of the old watermills, the authenticity of these features is unquestionable and is underpinned by an analysis of their construction materials and the design of the different water collection systems, the remnants of the waterworks and historical sources that attest to their use. Similar criteria have been used to identify many other heritage elements associated with water, such as fountains, stepping stones and *pontellas*, *hórreos* and chestnut drying sheds (*sequeiros*). Finally, it should be noted that in the case of working mini-power and hydroelectric power stations, the turbine and pumping systems are not considered heritage elements, since they are constantly changing and undergoing maintenance.

The authenticity of the water-related archaeological, eremitic, monastic and religious heritage is fully endorsed by the enormous number of studies, inventories, excavations and research carried out in the area of the property, including on such notable aspects as the orientation of the churches and monasteries in relation to the watercourses. The only detected aspect that has a bearing on authenticity in terms of site location is the relocation of two churches in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Ribeira Sacra has retained a high degree of authenticity as a whole, notably in its water-related heritage, in the farming systems, and in the perdurance of uses and materials, strengthened by the many conservation efforts that today maintain the active social role of this cultural landscape in perpetuating a sustainable economy.

Furthermore, the nominated property is the embodiment of a vibrant, age-old cultural tradition in which genuine knowledge, practices and customs still persist. They are powerful reminders of the character and spirit of an area criss-crossed by endless ribbons of water, where local communities uphold their traditions, illustrating the unbroken sense of culture and identity associated with this territory.

### 3. Status of conservation and protection instruments

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The diagnosis of the state of conservation and the framework established by the protection instruments constitute two key aspects on which the Management Plan is based. In the first case, because it constitutes the starting point for defining the actions necessary to maintain and enhance the nominated property by ensuring the good condition of the attributes and values conveyed by the OUV, and the conditions of integrity and authenticity. In the second case, because the protection framework establishes the legal and regulatory determinations to which the programmes and actions foreseen in the Management Plan must be subject.

##### Summary of the state of conservation

The Ribeira Sacra cultural waterscape, as a landscape ensemble, and each of the attributes that convey its Outstanding Universal Value are, in general, in a good state of conservation.

The positive conservation balance of the nominated property at the present time responds to the state and characteristics of an organic, evolving and living landscape, which accumulates sediments of secular human action in an exceptional landscape historically built around water, over deep valleys that the water itself has modelled. The good preservation of its main features and attributes, and the outstanding conditions of panoramic visibility and proximity, with hardly any disturbance, make it possible to understand and enjoy this exceptional waterscape between canyons and valleys.

As a landscape sculpted by water on the scale of geological time, a first fact to highlight is the excellent state of conservation of the natural forms of the relief, both on the steepest, almost vertical slopes of the canyoned sections, and on those others which, even with steep or moderate slopes, generally on less resistant rocks, have been carefully terraced by the peasant communities. In the Sil canyons on granite, the evolution of the walls is mainly due to natural geomorphological processes. The massiveness and resistance of the rock, the presence of natural vegetation in the crevices that scratch the escarpments, and a human intervention that is less perceptible at first sight, but which includes paths, hidden vineyards and agricultural uses, generate configurations of great natural strength and notable formal purity. In this lithic context of the canyons, covered by a discontinuous vegetation that allows the rocky outcrops to emerge, the monumental Santo Estevo cut, an expression of the contemporary nature of the waterscape, already aged by the patina of time, is integrated into the nature and stony image of the cultural landscape.

Outside the canyons, the steep slopes are also in a very good state of conservation. On the colder, shadier north-facing slopes, a dense forest cover, traditionally humanised and used by peasant communities, stabilises

the slopes, protecting them from erosion and enabling the conservation of the underlying natural geoforms. On part of the south-facing slopes, the good state of conservation of their topographic profiles and the effective control of potential soil erosion is the result of a very long and wise human intervention of terracing for agricultural cultivation. The *socalcos*, finely adapted to the topography and the characteristics of the surface lithology, thus enhance the landscape, which never loses the vertiginous nature of these valleys. The good physical and edaphic state of conservation of the slopes, particularly the terraced slopes, is also helped by the maintenance of important pieces of natural wooded vegetation that control erosion and prevent possible landslides both in the upper part of the terraced slopes, close to the *bocarribeiras*, and in the middle and lower areas where the slope becomes steeper, as shown in the two attached images.

The very dense hydrographic network that sculpts and brings together the landscape is also in a good state of conservation. Although the whole network functions as a system, it is useful to refer, on the one hand, to the state of the more than 400 small brooks that flow down the slopes and, on the other hand, to the conservation of the rivers Miño and Sil and the lower course of their most important tributaries within the nominated property.

The hundreds of small rivers and streams that flow into the larger watercourses, many of them of a temporary nature, especially the shorter ones, have their sources in the *bocarribeiras* or on the adjacent high plains. They are highly natural, with hardly any hydromorphological alterations, even those that have traditionally been used for energy production. They have abundant natural rapids and cascades, given the steep gradient they have to overcome, and, although there are no precise measurements for most of them, their waters are of high quality, as they flow through traditional forestry or agricultural areas, with low presence of polluting uses. Their water supply is therefore very important for the good environmental condition of the larger rivers.

The Miño and the Sil in a large part of their course within Ribeira Sacra and the lower course of their main tributaries up to the confluence constitute bodies of water modified by the presence of the reservoirs referred to in the description of the hydroelectric industrial heritage. In accordance with Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (Water Framework Directive, WFD) and its transposition into Spanish water legislation and hydrological planning, these dammed river waters must, in accordance with current legislation, aspire to what is known as "good ecological potential".

Royal Decree 817/2015, of 11 September, which establishes, in accordance with the aforementioned directive, the renewed and stricter criteria for monitoring and assessment of the condition of surface waters and the environmental quality standards, attributes the assessment and monitoring of the environmental status of bodies of water, both natural and modified, to the Hydrographic

Confederations and to hydrological planning. Well, the 2022-2027 Hydrological Plan of the Miño-Sil Demarcation and its Strategic Environmental Study include precise information and cartography on the “overall good condition” or “superior” condition in the case of some indicators of the modified courses of the rivers Miño and Sil and their main tributaries within the limits of the nominated property. In terms of biological indicators according to phytoplankton, the standardised EQR (Ecological Quality Ratio) for the biological quality element complies with the limits established for good ecological potential in RD 817/2015. In 2020 the EQR of the Miño in Santo Estevo was valued at 0.913 (out of 1.0) and 0.77 in the case of the Miño in Belesar, clearly positive indices. The physico-chemical indicators (presence of organic matter; oxygenation conditions; salinity-conductivity; nutrient conditions; state of acidification and priority and preferential substances) also present good or very good conditions, complying with the limits established by European and national regulations, and by the Hydrological Plan itself (Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. Hydrological Plan for the 2022-2027 cycle, Annex 2.1., pp. 63 et seq. and Strategic Environmental Study of the Hydrological Plan for the 2022-2027 cycle of the Miño-Sil Geographical Demarcation, pp. 115 et seq.) Of the remaining rivers and small natural watercourses for which the Hydrological Plan provides information, the environmental state is very good (Búbal, Souto Varela, Fondós, Aguianza, Mao and Lor) or good (Cabe and Edo) and only moderate in the case of the river Asma.

A large part of this waterscape of canyons and deep valleys is covered by a diverse plant mosaic of agricultural, herbaceous and forest species and communities, adapted to the variety of geo-ecological situations of the territory and to a long human intervention that has shaped a plant landscape with a high cultural content. The good general state of conservation of the non-agricultural plant cover is due both to the characteristics and territorial layout of the mosaic and to the floral and ecological diversity it contains. The soutos or chestnut forests, whether private or collective, which are essential to the historic farming system and very present in the landscape, are still in good condition in terms of structure and distribution, as are the oak forests, the enclaves of holm oak and cork oak groves, examples of the Mediterranean bioclimatic influence in the eastern sector of the Ribeira, and the large areas of scrubland, also important in traditional farming.

In general, there has been a positive evolution of the native hardwood and scrub woodland cover, typical of a living and evolving waterscape, the result of the environmental recovery of certain marginal lands, ploughed up and put under cultivation at the time of the greatest contemporary demographic pressure at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The forest plantations carried out within the property and its buffer zone, on private and collective estates and mostly with the local pine (*Pinus pinaster*), have in many cases

reached their maturity and possibilities for timber exploitation, within the multifunctional economic strategy of certain peasant farms and some common forests. The presence of non-native species within the perimeter of the nominated property is very rare. The Ribeira Sacra Landscape Action Plan, approved by Order of the Galician Government on 15 July 2021, in accordance with the Autonomous Community's Landscape Protection Law, has environmental and landscape restoration as one of its axes, with a programme for the eradication of species with an impact on landscape values, revegetation with native species and the recovery of characteristic polyculture or fruit trees.

Special mention should be made of the good state of conservation of the riverside vegetation associated with the river courses, particularly the free courses, which are of great botanical and ecological interest. Next to them are preserved groves of alders and willows, with the presence of the *Salix salviifolia* species, an endemism from the west of the Iberian Peninsula, which are often joined by maples, oaks and chestnut trees.

Most of these natural plant formations are the basis of habitats of Community interest according to Directive 92/43/EEC. Its high floral, ecological, cultural and landscape interest justifies the fact that the area with the greatest presence of these plant communities in Ribeira Sacra has been included as a Special Area of Conservation, with the name Cañón del Sil, in the Galician Natura 2000 Network, which has its corresponding conservation and environmental regulation regime.

The good condition of the features and attributes mentioned so far is inseparable, within the cultural landscape as a holistic and integrating fact, from the adequate conservation of certain values and attributes referring to the historical patterns of territorial organisation and agricultural use in this exceptional waterscape of canyons and deep valleys.

In this sense, what is striking is the secular stability and the validity, in a social and economic context obviously different from the original one, of the structure and territorial limits of the parishes and of the inherited settlement system. The rural parishes, territorial entities with a monastic function in origin, but capable of integrating a variable number of entities of dispersed population and providing them with cohesion and community identity bonds, are still alive in the Ribeira Sacra area. They are fully recognised in the Statute of Autonomy, which recognises them as “Galicia’s own local entities,” with specific legal personality. The dense parish structure of Ribeira Sacra, already fully consolidated in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, as we have seen in section 2.a, has a special significance in the waterscape of the Ribeira. The 76 parish districts of the property and their buffer zone, and the villages they encompass, are closely linked to water.

The rural parish structure integrates and cohesively links a large number of villages and smaller places within the nominated property and its buffer zone. This historical settlement system, of very small peasant settlements,

### 3. Status of conservation and protection instruments

with organic forms, many of them originally linked to the medieval manors of the monastic territories, conserves two of its major features and attributes in the cultural landscape of Ribeira Sacra in very good condition.

The first of these is the very structure of the settlement system and its configuration. The passing of the centuries and socio-demographic changes have not erased the constellation of small villages, which have retained their small size, their traditional relationship with the surrounding land through a dense network of paths and their clean boundaries with the agricultural environment, with hardly any new buildings scattered over the fields. The good conservation of the inherited settlement structure is contributed to by urban planning, which, as stated in section 5b, defines, in accordance with the Galician Land Law of 2016, the category of "traditional or common rural settlements". For these settlements, the planning establishes precise and very small limits, which in Ribeira Sacra barely represent 1.6% of the total surface area, where new buildings can be accommodated, when justified. These must be identified with "typological, aesthetic and constructive characteristics and materials, colours and finishes in keeping with the rural landscape and the traditional buildings of the settlement" (art. 24.7).

In addition to its morphological and territorial structure, the village system also preserves in very good condition the patterns of settlement location in relation to the landforms modelled by the water. As in the past, many villages are located overlooking the *bocarribeiras*, with a full view and control of the river and the river canyon. Others maintain their location on steep slopes or terraced hills between streams and the main river (the Miño or the Sil) with remarkable purity, whose courses border and delimit the agricultural lands of the village; some, finally, retain their historic locations on large steps or terraces modelled by the successive enclaves of the river network, particularly in the eastern part of the nominated property.

The cultural landscape of Ribeira Sacra has also kept alive the traces of a centuries-old smallholding plot system, currently made up of more than 90,000 plots of land with an average surface area of barely 400m<sup>2</sup>. This figure roughly corresponds to an ancestral unit of measurement, the *cavadura*, equivalent to the area that a person was able to cultivate in a day using traditional methods. This plot system of very small farms is the legacy and testimony today of a long history of land exploitation through the *foro* system, whereby the large monastic landowners and some nobles, and the new large *foro* owners after the disentailment of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, ceded the use of the land in very small production units for long periods of time (three voices or three kings) to the peasants. The conversion of peasants into full owners after 1926, following the law on the liberation of the *foros*, has perpetuated the family and smallholding structure of the farm, which has been fully preserved and functional up to the present day.

The tiny cadastral plot system are the basis of the monumental terracing of the steep slopes of the Ribeira Sacra. The peasantry preserves and maintains it in perfect condition with tireless work, fully respecting, unlike what is observed in other contemporary terraced landscapes, the metrics and technique of the traditional *socalcos*. Each terrace was and still is a delicate work of vernacular engineering that builds up the slope to make soil and regulate water run-off, but without altering its abrupt profile. This conservation of the *socalcos*, almost as worthy as their construction itself, is due to the fact that they are used for economically viable agriculture for family farms, which currently revolves around their use in the wine sector, but which in the past and still today has known other fruit crops, such as cherry trees, or vegetable gardens.

This exceptional landscape retains excellent panoramic visibility and close-ups of its configuration and attributes, in particular the water that shapes and articulates it. The deep valleys of the rivers Miño and Sil and the frequent presence of villages, parish churches and monasteries on the *bocarribeiras* and steep slopes, linked by historical paths, offer numerous itineraries and points of observation of the landscape from these authentic heritage balconies with the water of the rivers Miño and Sil, and some of their major tributaries, always as a reference point. It is worth highlighting the good or very good state of conservation of the exterior surroundings of those religious buildings, heritages of cultural interest, with a high potential for views over the waterscape, which qualifies the perceptive experience.

The calm courses of the Miño and the Sil upstream of the dams strengthen the perceptive force of the narrow watercourses in the landscape. The water acts both as a mirror of the steep slopes and as a visual reference point from the edges of the entrenched valleys, without ever losing the image of the deep river canyons.

Ribeira Sacra, especially the Sil Canyon, has been provided with a dense network of institutionalised viewpoints, with locations and designs that are fully integrated into the landscape, offering spectacular views of great formal purity, without interference that would disturb the interpretation and public enjoyment of the waterscape. Navigation on the two main rivers also allows for the contemplation of the steep slopes and the landscape features above them.

In relation to the state of conservation of the hydraulic heritage of the nominated property related to the domestication of water power, different typologies of works and expressions can be distinguished: the historical water mills, the small power stations that mark the emergence of hydroelectricity from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the hydroelectric dams of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, all of them marking a story of continuous evolution over time. To all this must be added the myriad of small works associated with the presence of water, such as canals, small bridges or *pontellas*, *sequeiros* (chestnut drying places), fountains and mines, without forgetting

that the *socalcos* are in themselves a kind of ingenious hydraulic system, as mentioned above.

As regards the old water mills, it should be noted that this is a scattered heritage of which innumerable remains are preserved, which, according to some estimates, may number up to a seven hundred taking into account the nominated property and the buffer zone. The first difficulty of the analysis is that a detailed inventory of all these elements is not yet available. Given the current situation and under these circumstances, we find different categories in the state of conservation of watermills. On the one hand, there are the remains of very old mills, even dating back to before the 18<sup>th</sup> century, of which only the remains of the millwork and some elements of the catchment system are preserved. On the other hand, there are the later or renovated mills that have been in operation since this time. The state of conservation of these elements varies greatly. The best conserved ones obviously correspond to numerous watermills that have been restored by various public and private initiatives. This is the case, for example, of the group of 28 mills and two fulling mills of the Xabrega stream, or some of the elements located on the banks of the Asma. There are also many other mills that survive in an acceptable state of conservation. Such is the case of the Pesqueiras mill or the Gaio mill in Chantada with three *rodeznos* (mill wheels), which has been put back into operation for the service of those who wish to grind grain in the traditional style.

Another aspect to take into account is that a mill is not only the building and the mechanical devices for grinding or other tasks. In reality, these are larger spatial systems that include works such as weirs, diversion dams and conveyance and drainage canals. Therefore, apart from considering the state of conservation of the mills themselves, it can be affirmed that in the Ribera Sacra area, these milling ecosystems are important and enjoy an acceptable state of conservation that needs to be reinforced, both in terms of the quality of the identified environments and of the additional constituent elements themselves, most of which are recognisable.

As a general reflection, it should be emphasised that guaranteeing an acceptable state of conservation for the large number of recoverable historic mills that survive is certainly a titanic task. For this reason, the Management Plan is committed to focusing efforts on the most representative areas with the best conserved elements, with a view to expanding the scope of conservation in the future, depending on the resources.

In terms of harnessing the power of water, the second group to be analysed are the small power plants that mark the emergence of hydroelectricity from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In this case, mention should be made of a whole series of pioneering works such as Eléctrica de Belesar, Electra do Mato, the Ribeiraos electricity factory and Electra Popular de Chantada, all of which were replaced over time or are now abandoned. A very different situation is "A Fábrica da Luz," (Factory of Light) fed by the river Mao and which was one of the first hydroelectric infrastructures

built in Galicia, in operation until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 2011, at the initiative of the Parada del Sil Town Council, this industrial heritage was recovered and converted into a place for leisure and training. Although the turbines have not been preserved, the canals and weirs are still there, as well as the masonry of the power station building. A better fate has befallen six other mini-power stations that are still in operation today and were built at this early stage in the history of hydroelectricity. These are the Bubal I, Tarrío, Pesqueira, Regueiro, Regueiro, Castro Caldelas and Villar mini-power stations, with a nominal capacity of between 4 and 13 MW, which capture water from streams that flow into the rivers Miño or Sil via dams.

With regard to the hydroelectric dams, considered as macro-sculptures entrenched in the riverbeds of the cultural landscape and as emblematic works of hydraulic engineering of the time, it should be noted that their state of conservation is optimal, taking into account the exhaustive controls that make it necessary to maintain the original structural and functional parameters, including the strict technical and safety standards and the emergency plans required for this type of infrastructure in all phases of its long useful life. These works also feature constructive and architectural elements related to the Modern Movement that enrich them, such as the office building and the control gate of the Belesar power station, duly preserved and protected for its uniqueness.

In addition to the devices associated with the energy management of water over time, mention should be made of the ethnographic heritage connected with the presence of water. First and foremost, there are the innumerable passes and small bridges or *pontellas* (small stone bridges) that dot the cultural landscape in order to ford the dense tangle of streams and brooks. In general, these small works are in a good state of conservation and are usually maintained by the local people or by the local administrations acting in the area of the property. Also the historical infrastructures of the recently restored railway line, which crosses the centre of the property between Os Peares station and Areas halt.

Another important heritage is made up of the presence of a multitude of fountains (many are sacred), washing places and mines that contribute another of the features of identity to the way of living and inhabiting this area. Their state of conservation is highly variable, depending on the degree of both public and private maintenance, and is also mentioned in the following section that deals with sacralised expressions of this type. Also related to water, or rather to the drying of products, are the interesting *sequeiros* (chestnut dryers). The gradual abandonment of this traditional activity logically conditions the maintenance of these buildings, whose conservation will depend on other factors such as educational and tourist use.

The nominated property contains many vestiges of early hermit occupations and a veritable forest of churches, monasteries and other religious buildings that bear witness to the omnipresence of the monastic or-

### 3. Status of conservation and protection instruments

ders. In general, the heritage elements analysed currently enjoy a state of conservation between optimum and very good, the majority of which are not at risk. However, it should be noted that the population and social changes that have affected the area have meant that many of the religious buildings have lost their use, which affects their capacity for conservation and maintenance. In this case it is the various administrations that act in the area, which are largely responsible for the rehabilitation and maintenance of a heritage that was once looked after by the neighbours and religious communities. Another dimension associated with the state of conservation, is that most of these works are in fact exceptional sacred balconies overlooking rivers and major watercourses. The excellent state of conservation of the surroundings of most of these enclaves and the conditions of panoramic visibility are a factor worth highlighting.

In addition to monasteries and churches, other lesser expressions of sacred heritage, generally associated with water, have been recognised, such as: hermitages, baptismal fonts, *cruceiros* and *petos de ánimas* (altars dedicated to the souls of the deceased), *hórreos* with crosses and fountains, washing places and mines with crosses. If we were to analyse them separately, their state of conservation varies in relation to the above-mentioned landmarks, although it can be considered generally acceptable.

As a living landscape, the conservation of the intangible heritage of water features prominently in the strategy for the future of the nominated property. One of the most unique aspects of this heritage is the excellent state of conservation of the knowledge inherited and accumulated over generations in the art of building *socalcos* with their characteristic dry-stone enclosures. The extraordinary toponymic heritage is another cornerstone of the water memory of the nominated property, and to these is added the recovery and recognition of

the oral tradition and the myths and legends related to water and rivers, fountains and springs or harvest festivals, maintaining and reinforcing traditions of high ethnographic interest associated with the presence of the river such as those of “*papeiros*” and “*rabudos*”, an ancestral mode of communication between river banks.

#### Protection of the nominated property

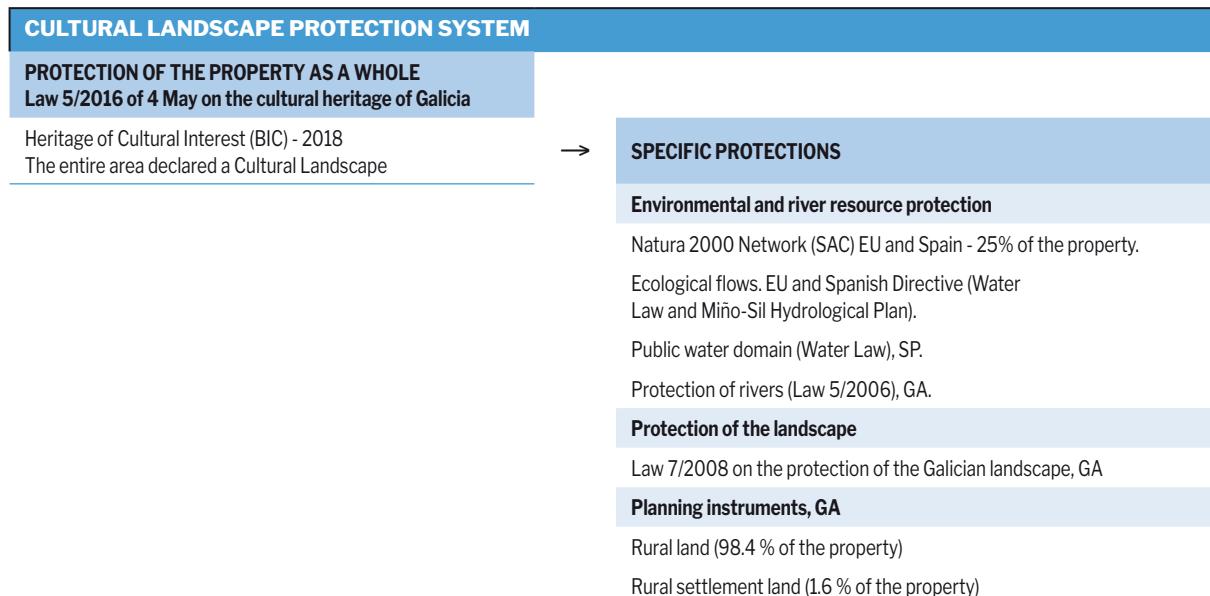
The protection of the nominated property and its different elements is fully covered by the different, regional, national and European protection categories, laws and provisions that include the different realities and expressions that make up the cultural landscape.

#### Protection of the property as a whole

The Ribeira Sacra Waterscape has a robust basic protection system based on the declaration of the entire area as a Heritage of Cultural Interest (BIC) in the category of cultural landscape, by Decree 166/2018, of 27 December of the Consellería de Cultura y Turismo (Regional Ministry of Culture and Tourism) of the Xunta de Galicia. Such a designation is at the apex of the protection system specifically established for the nominated property and is fully in keeping with the essential nature of the property as a cultural landscape.

The Heritage of Cultural Interest (BIC) is constituted as the legal figure that the current autonomic and state legislation advocates to recognise and protect cultural manifestations, configured as the highest legal category in the protection and guardianship of cultural heritage assets at autonomous community level and in the Spanish State.

The text of the declaration as BIC expressly mentions the 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,

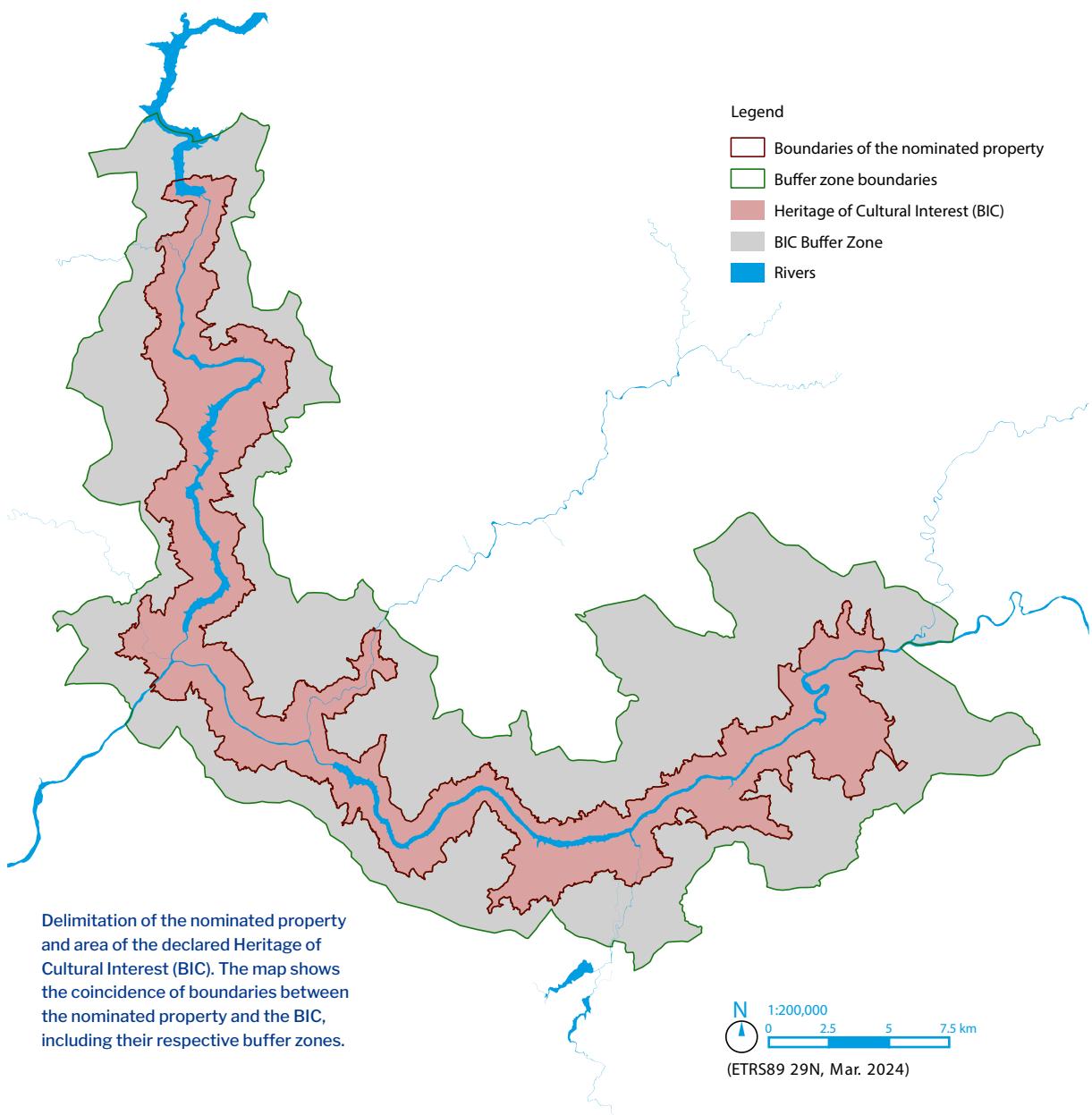


which was ratified by Spain on 4 May 1982. Its wording is inspired by the concepts developed in the Practical Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention by defining the area as: "A living, organically continuing landscape, that retains an active social role in contemporary society, closely associated with the traditional way of life, and in which the evolutionary process is still in progress. At the same time, it exhibits significant material evidence of its evolution over time". Among the inspiring principles, reference is also made to the European Landscape Convention, signed by Spain in 2000 and ratified in 2007.

The declaration is based on Law 5/2016, on the cultural heritage of Galicia (LPCG), which includes cultural landscape among the categories of cultural heritage. Cultural landscape in article 10.1.h) of the LPCG is the "place identifiable by a set of singular tangible and intangible cultural qualities, combined works of nature

and humankind, which is the result of the interaction and interpretation process that a community makes of the natural environment that sustains it and that constitutes the tangible support of its identity." It should also be specified in relation to this provision that, by virtue of the provisions of Article 148.1 of the Spanish Constitution (CE, 1978) and Articles 27.18 and 32 of the Statute of Autonomy of Galicia (EAG, 1981), the Autonomous Community of Galicia has exclusive competence in matters of historical, artistic, architectural and archaeological heritage of interest to Galicia and the defence and promotion of the cultural values of the Galician people.

On this basis, a protection procedure was developed that is novel and incomparable with any other that has been carried out before, both in Galicia and in the rest of Spain, achieving the nominated property the recognition of the highest cultural value in its entirety, with its specific protection regime.



### 3. Status of conservation and protection instruments

The annexes to the declaration include an extensive list of movable and immovable assets and manifestations of intangible cultural heritage specifically listed in the field of cultural landscape, taking into account that the established protection regime is based on the need to combine the comprehensive protection of those relevant manifestations of built cultural heritage with measures to safeguard the most relevant manifestations of intangible cultural heritage, and the conservation and maintenance of the characteristics of a built landscape whose functionality must be preserved.

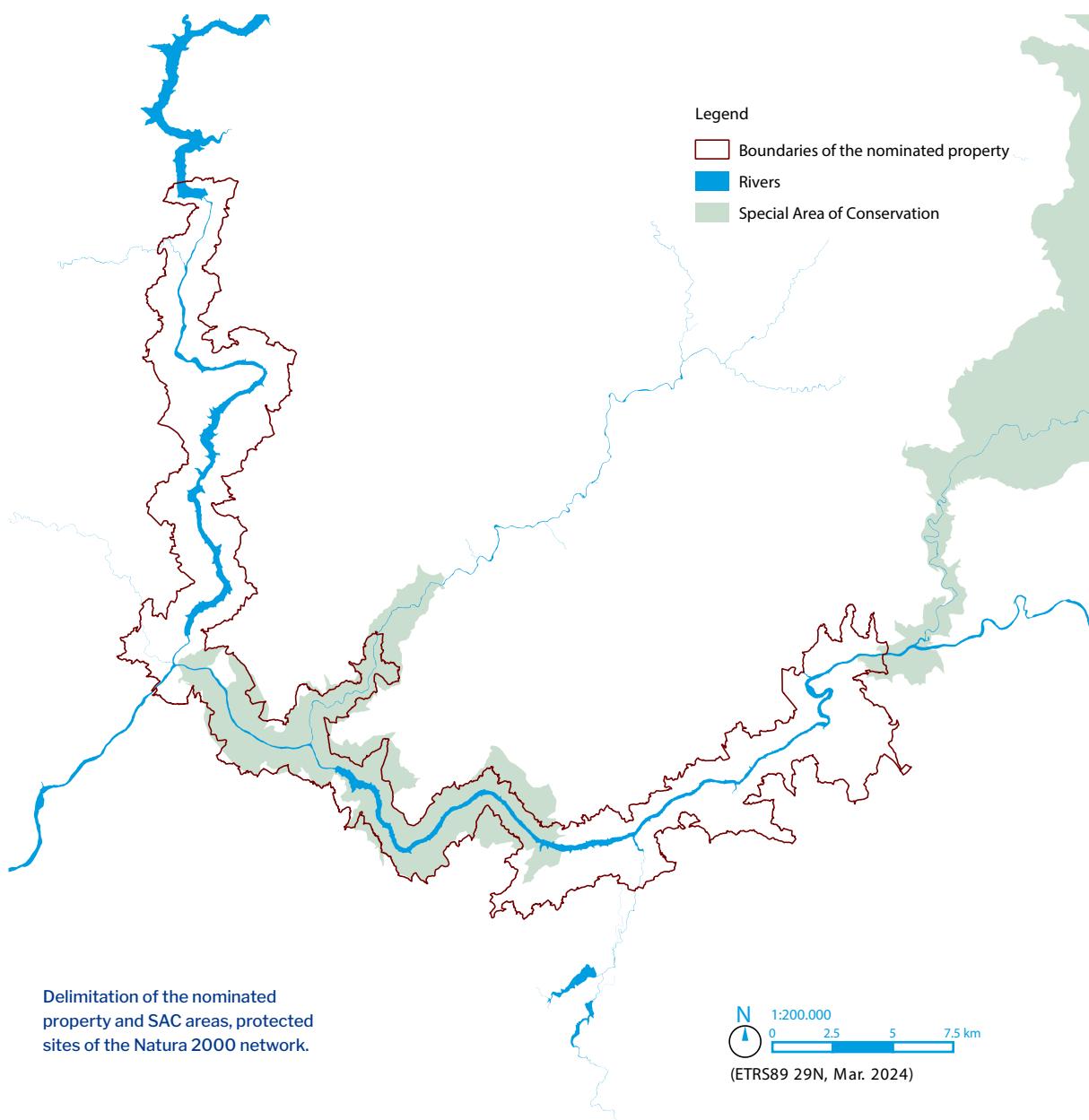
It should be noted that the protection system established for the area as a Heritage of Cultural Interest (BIC), including the buffer zone, maintains its prevalence with regard to the conditions of territorial implantation, as it responds to the provisions of the legislation in force both in terms of land and territorial planning and in terms of the protection of cultural heritage.

#### Environmental protection and protection of river resources

##### *The protected areas of the Natura 2000 Network*

There are two sites included in the Natura 2000 Network within the scope of the cultural landscape, created by Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). This includes almost the entire SAC of the Cañón del Sil (Sil Canyon), comprising the municipalities of Nogueira de Ramuín, Pantón, Parada de Sil and Sober, and part of the SAC of Os Ancares-O Corel at the eastern end of the nominated property, which includes land in the municipality of Ribas de Sil in Ribeira Sacra.

The two areas together cover an area of 4,312 ha within the nominated property, representing 25% of its surface area. These protected areas are concentrated in



the last kilometres that the river Sil runs through until it meets the river Miño. They constitute one of the greatest geological wonders of Galicia, where the climatic singularities of the area favour the coexistence of autochthonous forests with Mediterranean species such as strawberry trees and cork oaks, where crops are grown on steeply sloping terraces.

Nineteen types of Habitats in Annex I to Directive 92/43/EEC have been identified in the SAC of the Cañón del Sil, of which four are priority habitats. The largest group is that of Forests, which includes 7 habitats (maximum value in the group of Wetlands and River Corridors of the Natura 2000 network in Galicia) and among which the presence of Holm oak woods (only included in this natural area), riverside woods of *Salix alba* and *Populus alba* (only present in 2 areas of this group) and the Cork oak and Chestnut trees (very restricted distribution in the group of Wetlands and River Corridors of the Natura 2000 network in Galicia) should be highlighted. Other groups also important in terms of habitats included are the natural and semi-natural grass formations, and the rocky habitats and caves, each with 4 types.

A total of 19 taxa from Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and 27 from Annex IV are listed in the Cañón del Sil, including the odonates *Macromia splendens*, *Gomphus graslinii* and *Oxygastra curtisii*, as invertebrate species of conservation concern. Present in the ichthyofauna group are: *Chondrostoma duriense* and *Chondrostoma arcasii* and a total of 14 species of Annex I to Community Directive 2009/147/EEC can be counted among the birds as a whole.

Furthermore, the nominated property is included in the Biosphere Reserve of Ribeira Sacra and Serras of Oribio and Courel, declared in 2021 and which is structured on the middle stretches of the Miño and Sil river basins, together with the different mountain overflows in which they embark, covering a total surface area of 306,535 hectares.

### Protection of river areas and water use

#### — Protection of rivers:

Law 5/2006, of 30 June, for the protection, conservation and improvement of Galician rivers, which declared the conservation of the natural river heritage as a priority of general interest of the Autonomous Community of Galicia, including the biodiversity of the flora and fauna of the Galician rivers, as well as the related ethnographic and historical-cultural heritage. This law determines the obligation of the Galician public administrations to guarantee their protection, conservation and improvement.

#### — The public water domain:

According to the revised text of the Spanish Water Law, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/2001, of 20 July, the public water domain includes, among other assets, the courses of natural streams, whether continuous or discontinuous, and the beds of lakes and lagoons and those of surface reservoirs in public water-

courses. The public water domain and the use of water are regulated and protected through this legislation and its specific regulations. The river basin is the management unit, and in the case of Ribeira Sacra this task is entrusted to the Miño-Sil Hydrographic Confederation, a state-owned and state-competent body. The Hydrographic Confederations or basin organisations were created in 1926 by Royal Decree Law, and are defined in the Water Law as public law entities with their own legal personality and distinct from the State, attached for administrative purposes to the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, through the Directorate General for Water, as an autonomous body with full functional autonomy.

The protection system for the public water domain, which includes watercourses, riverbanks and banks, is complemented by the establishment of police and easement areas. The police area is a one-hundred-metre-wide lateral strip, counted from the line that delimits the riverbed, in which the use of the land and the activities that take place there are conditioned, which represents about 30% of the surface area of the nominated cultural landscape. In turn, the easement area is the strip of land bordering the public water domain, within the police area, with a width of five metres, which is reserved for surveillance, fishing and rescue uses, and is subject to a more severe protection regime.

#### — Ecological flows:

In accordance with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and in accordance with the provisions of Articles 42 and 59 of the revised text of the current Water Law, the ecological flows of the rivers Miño and Sil in the area of the property are regulated by the Hydrological Plan of the Miño-Sil River Basin District (Chapter III of the regulations). The ecological flows set are for ordinary hydrological situations and for situations of prolonged drought.

### The Galician Landscape Protection Law

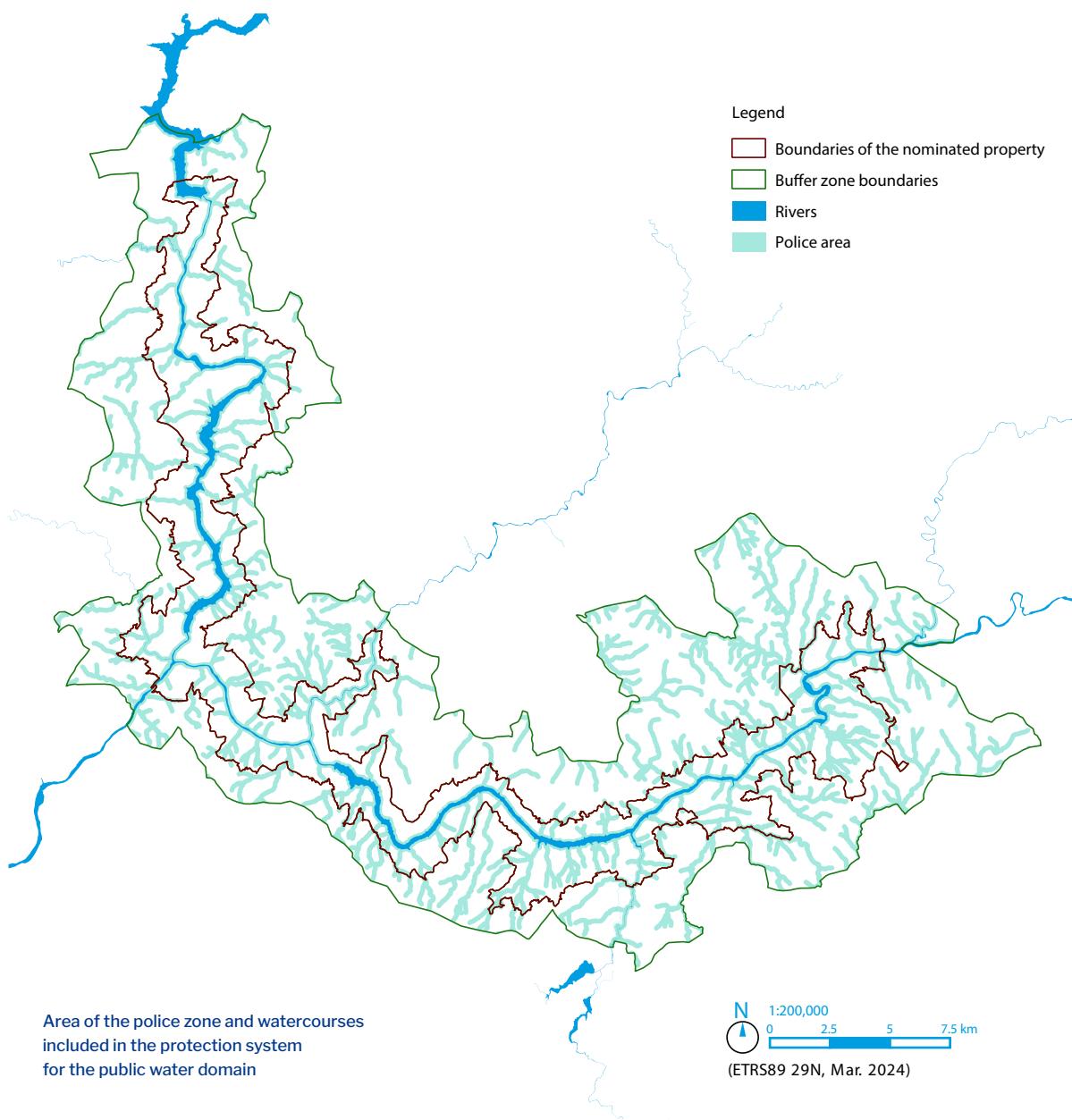
Finally, it is important to note that Galicia has its own landscape protection law (Law 7/2008, of 7 July, on the protection of the Galician landscape), approved by the Parliament of the Autonomous Community, and the corresponding Regulation, approved by Decree 96/2020, of 29 May. Galicia is therefore one of the five Spanish autonomous communities with a specific landscape law, and an exceptional case from the regulatory point of view. This legal framework should be considered as an overlay or reinforcement of the protection system for the nominated property based on its declaration as a Heritage of Cultural Interest (BIC) in the category of cultural landscape. It allows for the development of specific instruments for its preservation, combining the competences of the different administrations in line with the Management Plan for the nominated property.

The autonomous community law, which adopts the definition and goals of the European Landscape Con-

### 3. Status of conservation and protection instruments

vention of the Council of Europe (Florence, 2000), ratified by Spain in November 2007, aims at the legal recognition, protection, management and planning of the Galician landscape, in order to preserve and organise the elements that make it up “within the framework of sustainable development”, understanding that the landscape has a global dimension of general interest for the Galician community, as it transcends the environmental, cultural, social and economic fields. With that in mind, the law promotes the integration of the landscape in all sectoral policies that have an impact on it. For this, the Xunta de Galicia promotes coordination and cooperation between those regional ministries with competence in territorial and urban planning, environmental and cultural matters and the town councils as those responsible for the application of planning policies in their territories.

The law establishes the instruments for its development and application in order to ensure, as appropriate, the protection, management and planning of Galician landscapes. These instruments are (i) the Galician Landscape Catalogues; (ii) the Landscape Guidelines; (iii) the Landscape Impact and Integration Studies and (iv) the Landscape Action Plans. At the moment, there is a characterisation and valuation study of the “large landscape area” of the “Ribeiras encaixadas do Miño e do Sil (River banks wedged between the Miño and the Sil)”, of which the nominated property forms part, and of the Landscape Action Plan of Ribeira Sacra approved by Order of the Regional Ministry of the Environment, Territory and Housing on 15 July 2021.



### Protection arising from land-use and town planning instruments

Law 2/2016, of 10 February, on Galician land establishes that the general management plans and the basic municipal plans must classify the municipal territory in all or some of the following categories: urban, rural settlement, land for development and rustic. In this context, it is significant and consistent with the values to be preserved in the cultural landscape that most of the land within the nominated property is classified as rural land (98.4 % of the surface area) and a small portion of it has been classified as rural settlement land (1.6 % of the surface area) by urban planning instruments. Therefore, in terms of the protection associated with planning, it should be noted that no land is classified as urban land or land for development. In the buffer zone we find a similar situation, with the exception of the urban land of the town of Castro Caldelas.

In the case of rural land, the aforementioned law establishes, among other precepts, that interventions in this area are restricted, and always in a justified manner, to possible buildings destined for residential uses linked to agricultural or livestock exploitation, and to those of an artisanal nature or of a reduced dimension that house complementary activities of first transformation, storage and packaging of products for the primary sector, provided that they are directly related to the nature, extension and destination of the farm or exploitation of the natural resource.

In the scarce rural settlement land delimited by urban planning in the nominated property, the Law foresees that it be destined for characteristic uses, complementary or compatible with residential building in the rural environment and with the needs of the population residing there. Any new building must be identified with the characteristics of the place, being aimed at consolidating the existing rural fabric. The typological, aesthetic and building characteristics and the materials, colours and finishes will be in keeping with the rural landscape and the traditional buildings of the settlement and, in any case, the necessary corrective measures will have to be adopted to guarantee the minimum visual impact on the landscape and the minimum alteration of the natural relief of the land.

### 4. Management plan

The governance system adopted ensures that all stakeholders involved in one way or another with the nominated property consider themselves participants and protagonists in its management and, particularly, in the development and implementation of the Management Plan. The management structure, specifically established as a governance system for the property, is therefore based on a participatory approach involving all stakeholders and actors involved in this multifaceted cultural waterscape, under the coordination and direction of the body responsible for its direct management, the Xunta de Galicia, which has exclusive powers over the heritage in question and, more specifically, the Consellería de Cultura, Lengua y Juventud (Regional Ministry of Culture, Language and Youth).

Decree 146/2024, of 20 May, establishing the organic structure of the Consellería de Cultura, Lengua y Juventud (Regional Ministry of Culture, Language and Youth), stipulates in Article 1 that this regional ministry is the department of the Xunta de Galicia to which the issues related to the protection and promotion of the cultural heritage of Galicia correspond; and Article 14 attributes to the *Dirección Xeral de Patrimonio Cultural* (Directorate General of Cultural Heritage) the duties of management and coordination of the actions of the Regional Ministry in matters of cultural heritage. By virtue of these competences, and considering that this territory was declared a Heritage of Cultural Interest (BIC), as already described in section 5.b of the nomination dossier, the management and coordination of the issues related to the management of the nominated property falls to the *Dirección Xeral de Patrimonio Cultural* (Directorate General of Cultural Heritage) of the Xunta de Galicia.

In order to address the challenges related to the management of this area and the maintenance of its values in a participatory manner, the Comisión Interdepartamental de Ribeira Sacra (Interdepartmental Commission of Ribeira Sacra) was created in 2020, by virtue of Decree 105/2020 of the Consellería de Cultura y Turismo de la Xunta (Regional Ministry of Culture and Tourism) of the Xunta de Galicia, bringing together the main stakeholders of the nominated property. The aim of the Comisión Interdepartamental de Ribeira Sacra is to coordinate the implementation of integrated policies and actions that will improve the state of conservation and the conditions for the appraisal and dissemination of the values and attributes of the cultural landscape, as well as the well-being of the local communities that support it, and whose action is the true creative force of the landscape and its preservation.

The Comisión Interdepartamental de Ribeira Sacra thus becomes an essential part of the management system of the nominated property, fulfilling the functions of being the channel for the active participation of the local communities of the Ribeira Sacra territory and the representative associations of civil society and, at the same

#### 4. Management plan

time, acting as a collegiate body for the coordination of the sectorial actions of the different departments of the public administrations in the area, in all issues concerning the management of the values and attributes of the nominated property. In this way, the Interdepartmental Commission is the body for participation and coordination of the nominated property.

According to the decree of constitution, the functions assigned to the Comisión Interdepartamental de Ribeira Sacra are as follows:

- a) To present the initiatives of the different representative bodies and entities in the territory for an effective management with guarantees for the conservation of its values as a cultural waterscape.
- b) To follow the strategies, plans, policies and actions of the Xunta de Galicia and representative bodies and entities in the *Ribeira Sacra Territory* and to know their results.
- c) To coordinate and promote the actions of the Xunta de Galicia in this area, without prejudice to the exercise of the competences of each department.

- d) To support and promote the lines of action for the protection, conservation, research and dissemination of the values of the cultural landscape by the bodies and entities representing the Ribeira Sacra territory, and especially those promoted jointly by the municipal entities through the Tourism Consortium of Ribeira Sacra.
- e) To propose the necessary measures for the homogenisation, development and application of the regulations in force in relation to the area.
- f) To draw up proposals to be submitted to the different public administrations, public and private entities, as well as individuals in relation to the situation and potential of Ribeira Sacra as a cultural landscape.
- g) To adopt a periodic report on the status of the cultural landscape.

This body was set up in November 2020 and since then it has met three times, including the meetings of its Permanent Commission, the last one to define the measures of this Management Plan.

#### Outline of the governance system of the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape

##### RESPONSIBLE ENTITY

**Dirección General de Patrimonio Cultural (Directorate General for Cultural Heritage)**  
Consellería de Cultura, Lingua e Xuventude (Regional Ministry of Culture, Language and Youth)  
Xunta de Galicia

##### PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT BODY

Comisión Interdepartamental de la Ribeira Sacra (Interdepartmental Commission of Ribeira Sacra)



## 5. Strategic diagnosis

This section reflects the most significant aspects derived from the territorial diagnosis of the nominated property entitled Ribeira Sacra, which serve to establish the needs and goals of this Management Plan.

A “SWOT” analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) has been used to identify the key issues to be prioritised and the management actions to be undertaken.

	<b>Negative aspects</b>	<b>Positive aspects</b>
Internal origin	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Different ownership of the assets underpinning the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property</li> <li>2. Coexistence of different administrations with powers over the territory.</li> <li>3. Existence of 3 municipalities without specific urban planning.</li> <li>4. Lack of transmission of information from the academic community to the local population.</li> <li>5. Lack of detailed historical documentation to complement what is already known about water-related practices and traditions.</li> <li>6. Difficulty of access to marketing channels for certain agri-food products.</li> <li>7. Low level of ICT use in agri-food farms.</li> <li>8. Dispersion of the population in the territory.</li> <li>9. Complex mobility in the territory, due to the orography and the weakness of public transport services.</li> </ol>	<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commitment of institutions and local communities to the candidacy.</li> <li>2. Declaration of the Ribeira Sacra as a Heritage of Cultural Interest (BIC) in the category of Cultural Landscape in 2018, and good results of the specific protection regime implemented.</li> <li>3. Existence of other declarations and figures of protection that contribute to the valuation and conservation of the cultural landscape: 18 individual BIC, Natura 2000 Network, Biosphere Reserve.</li> <li>4. Spatial planning instruments such as model villages or integral rehabilitation areas.</li> <li>5. Positive experience of the implementation of the 2020-2023 Management Plan</li> <li>6. Existence of bodies to structure local community participation (Council of Parishes) and coordination between administrations (Interdepartmental Commission) operational from 2019.</li> <li>7. High degree of associations, both in the primary sector and in the cultural fabric.</li> <li>8. Intensification of the study of the landscape and the assets it contains in recent years for their proper protection.</li> <li>9. Special Drought Plan and fire self-protection plans and emergency plans for dams.</li> </ol>
External origin	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Global climate change that could lead to fires, floods and droughts in the future, negatively affecting water structures as well as crops.</li> <li>2. Ageing of the population, with the consequent loss of the generational relay in economic activities and of the chains of transmission of knowledge related to the intangible heritage of water.</li> <li>3. Pressure for economic development, which could lead to decisions that are detrimental to the preservation of water heritage and to the displacement of cultural practices linked to water use in communities.</li> <li>4. Low visibility of agri-food products and crafts outside its territory.</li> <li>5. Emergence or proliferation of new diseases and pests in crops.</li> <li>6. Increase in tourism that could trigger massification processes in certain points of high interest.</li> <li>7. Presence of infrastructures that could cause emergencies, in the absence of defined protocols for action.</li> </ol>	<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Singular Projects Moves Programme under development, which will contribute to the improvement of mobility in the territory.</li> <li>2. Positive balance of the Tourism Sustainability Plan implemented in the territory in 2021-2023 and launch of a new 2024-2024 Tourism Sustainability Plan, specifically focused on mobility.</li> <li>3. Works to improve the railway infrastructure, taking advantage of the existing line.</li> <li>4. Development of basic municipal plans for municipalities with less than 5000 inhabitants that do not have a planning instrument (Pantón, A Pobra do Brollón and San Xoán de Río).</li> <li>5. The Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium as an example of sustainable tourism management for two decades.</li> <li>6. The Regulatory Council for Organic Agriculture and the Ribeira Sacra Designation of Origin and the importance of the wine sector, in a process of national and international revaluation (Heroic Viticulture).</li> <li>7. Cultural synergies that contribute to the enrichment of the waterscape, highlighting the presence of the Winter Pilgrim's Route, one of the main pilgrimage routes to Santiago recognised in the Galician Cultural Heritage Law.</li> <li>8. Growing demand for high quality products and consequent emergence of new entrepreneurs committed to sustainable production.</li> </ol>

## 6. Vision of the management plan for the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape

### 6. Vision of the management plan for the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape

Ribeira Sacra has taken countless steps in terms of recognition and awareness of its identity and the value of its unique characteristics for humanity over the last 30 years since the beginning of the first pilot plans in the early 1990s.

“The strategic vision for the next 30 years is to conserve and manage the natural, cultural and landscape values (or simply the OUV) of the Ribeira Sacra cultural waterscape in order to increase the well-being of the local community, based on a model of sustainable management of the territory's resources, especially its identifying feature, water, which gives it an extraordinary opportunity to offer unique solutions to the challenges posed by the growing climate crisis.

The vision of the final results of the implementation of the management measures is focused on:

- An extraordinary natural environment, physical matrix of an exceptional hydraulic heritage.
- A local population with sufficient social and economic opportunities to inhabit the territory to which they belong.
- Professionals with training and resources adapted to different areas of specialisation and interests, based on the exceptional universal value of the property, on the results of up-to-date research and with a global scope in its dissemination.
- A suitable infrastructure for visitors, with well-integrated landscape facilities, sufficient and well-maintained resources for interpretation and universal access, without harming or interfering with the way of life of local communities.

To achieve this vision, the Plan sets out the goals, programmes and actions to be carried out in the short, medium and long term. This temporal planning will allow for effective monitoring, periodic reviews and, if necessary, the implementation of corrective measures to ensure compliance with the goals, always guaranteeing social participation. The timeframe of the Management Plan covers the 2024-2030 period based on the following guiding principles:

#### Sustainability

The protection of the Ribeira Sacra Cultural Landscape and the planning of the measures for the management plan are based on its sustainability since the concepts of Cultural Landscape and sustainable development are closely associated both in their origin and in their philosophy.

The inclusion of a property on the World Heritage List (WHL) can consolidate responsible tourism activity, a sector that is currently one of the main economic engines of the planet and which in the Ribeira Sacra has untapped opportunities based on the cultural heritage associated with water. When properly planned and man-

aged, this sector can contribute to heritage conservation and the sustainable development of local communities. However, uncontrolled growth can cause irreparable damage to the environment and cultural heritage, even destroying the resources that make it attractive.

Therefore, combining conservation and tourism development requires planning inspired by the principles of Sustainable Tourism, which the World Tourism Organisation defines as “*tourism that takes full account of current and future economic, social and environmental impacts to meet the needs of visitors, industry, environment and host communities.*”

Sustainability in tourism will be in line with the principles of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, whose certification is one of the measures that Ribeira Sacra aims to develop in the short term, as well as with the principles set out in the recent Charter for Cultural Heritage Tourism (ICOMOS, 2022), which reinforces the protection of cultural heritage and the resilience of communities through more responsible and sustainable tourism management.

#### Community

Any strategy guided by the principle of sustainability must involve all stakeholders, as they are of key importance in the planning and management process. Even more so in cultural landscapes, which are the result of human and natural action, as the experience of other World Heritage sites that encourage community participation also shows, where better results are obtained in the conservation and enhancement of the site.

The drafting of the Management Plan is the result of participation, understanding the multi-sectoral debate on the objectives to be implemented as such and the instruments to be developed. In the same way, in its development and coordination, a process of constant participation is maintained.

The Plan is the result of the pooling of the interests of all agents which represent the community, from the work of the provincial councils of Lugo and Ourense, the town councils and Regional Ministries involved, the universities, and companies that work on territory, to the groups representing the inhabitants and caretakers of this Cultural waterscape.

Prior to the drafting of the Management Plan, several participatory processes have been carried out in the territory to develop various plans and strategies. The Management Plan benefits from the extensive information obtained from these processes, as well as from the numerous participatory meetings held with the local communities and the different public and private stakeholders, both individually and as a whole.

The high participation of public and private agents in these previous experiences demonstrates the involvement of the local population and their willingness to draw up a shared project. The Management Plan is based on these initiatives and establishes measures for their



continuity in the future, promoting awareness, capacity building and training, both for technicians and the local population. In addition, communication, a key factor in involving the community in the conservation of the site, is strengthened.

The participation process does not stop once the Plan has been approved; on the contrary, the continuity of the *Interdepartmental Commission* of the Ribeira Sacra and the *Council of Parishes* is foreseen as mechanisms to ensure adequate participation in the implementation of the Plan.

### Governance

The maintenance of the Interdepartmental Commission of Ribeira Sacra involving all the agents and communities of the territory is a key measure for the development of the Management Plan. Its functions of presentation, debate, proposal, analysis and assessment with the assistance, advice and continuous and active report of the competent administration on the protection of cultural heritage, will ensure that all initiatives deployed on the territory are compatible with the preservation of the outstanding universal value of the property and its component attributes.

The Council of Parishes is maintained along the same lines, although at a different level, as part of the measures to ensure citizen participation in the implementation of the Management Plan. This council acts as a channel of communication between the community and the authorities responsible for heritage management and local development. Its purpose is to provide a space to discuss and address concerns related to the economic, social and tourism development of the area, as well as other issues arising from the implementation of the measures and actions contemplated in the Management Plan.

The development of the contents of the Management Plan will be carried out following criteria of transparency and will be periodically adapted according to performance indicators.

### 7. Strategic goals

The fundamental aim of the Management Plan is to establish the necessary mechanisms to ensure the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property as a whole, its conditions of authenticity and integrity and its state of conservation, as well as to strengthen the relationship of this heritage with the community. The plan is based on the principle of understanding that the management of the values and attributes of the cultural landscape must be conducted in a comprehensive, sustainable, effective and socially relevant manner. The following strategic goals are set for this purpose to:

- Conserve and maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the Ribeira Sacra Cultural Waterscape related to the richness of its hydraulic heritage and landscape values, so that it is the basis for the well-being and sustainable development of the various communities it affects.
- Ensure the effective protection and safeguarding of the attributes and components of the cultural landscape.
- Provide a comprehensive management system for the cultural landscape and its associated heritage that enables the unification of policies and actions, the rationalisation of financial resources and increases the effectiveness and efficiency of the human and financial resources available.
- Coordinate the activities of management and promotion of the territory among the different agents involved: public administrations, private entities and inhabitants.
- Establish common guidelines and criteria for action in the conservation, restoration and maintenance of heritage and landscape, prioritising prevention and ensuring the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.
- Consolidate and improve participation and social awareness, especially of its inhabitants, to preserve the cultural values and landscapes of the Ribeira Sacra.
- Promote the socio-economic revitalisation of the Ribeira Sacra while balancing the conservation of the activities that have shaped the cultural landscape throughout history, with a focus on sustainability.
- Keep alive the traditions, techniques and useful knowledge that have contributed to forging the identity of this territory, as an expression of a harmonious model based on the culture of water that inspires present and future generations.
- Promote sustainable tourism based on the existing heritage, as well as the development of responsible tourism products anchored in the uniqueness of the attributes and values present in the cultural landscape, enhancing the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and the sustainable use of resources.
- Promote research, dissemination and knowledge of the nominated property.

These goals transversally contribute to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

## 8. Programmes and actions

### 8. Programmes and actions

This management plan consists of seven programmes that include different actions for the planning, development and protection of the territory that make it possible to achieve the proposed strategic goals in a transversal way. The following is a list of the programmes whose actions are described in detail.

The set of programmes includes a battery of 32 actions for the management and interpretation of the territory that allow the proposed strategic goals to be transversally reached and that complement the measures of protection already established in the declaration of the Heritage of Cultural Interest (BIC) by the Xunta de Galicia.

Each of the data sheets contains a description justifying it, indicating the entity responsible and, where appropriate, the collaborating entities, the estimated investment and its distribution by annual instalments, the implementation period, the measures and the monitoring indicators. Each of the actions is classified according to its state of development, that is to say:

- In planning: pending proposals to be formalized technically and administratively.
- In development: actions already formalised pending execution or convening.
- In progress: actions already confirmed or calls already published.

The following table shows the programmes, actions and the budget allocated to each action and programme, which amounts to a total of €34902821 for the time-frame of the plan.



**Cultural landscape and territory**



**Water heritage**



**Intangible water heritage**



**Conservation of natural values and the environment**



**Sustainable economic development**



**Management of sustainable tourism**



**Awareness raising, communication and social participation**

Programmes that define the Management Plan of the Ribeira Sacra Cultural Landscape.

CODE	ACTION	REGIONAL MINISTRY AND/OR ENTITY	DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE
<b>CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND TERRITORY PROGRAMME</b>			
PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory (waterways)	Regional Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure Planning / Ribeira Sacra Tourist Consortium	Galician Infrastructure Agency / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium
PPC- 02	Encouraging residential rehabilitation through the supra-municipal Integral Rehabilitation Area of the Ribeira Sacra.	Regional Ministry for Housing and Infrastructure Planning	Galician Institute for Housing and Land
PPC- 03	Plan for the improvement of the centres of heritage interest around the monuments related to the cultural waterscape of Ribeira Sacra	Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium	Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium
PPC- 04	Restoration and improvement of the conservation of heritage elements of Ribeira Sacra	Regional Ministry for Culture, Language and Youth	Directorate General for Cultural Heritage
PPC- 05	Conservation and promotion of the Winter Pilgrim's Route through Ribeira Sacra.	Presidency	Galician Tourism Agency
PPC-06	Maintenance of accessibility conditions and appreciation of places of cultural, natural and landscape interest in Ribeira Sacra Waterscape	Presidency / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium	Galician Tourism Agency / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium
<b>TOTAL BUDGET FOR CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND TERRITORY PROGRAMME</b>			
<b>PRESERVATION OF THE WATER HERITAGE PROGRAMME</b>			
PPH-01	Drawing up an inventory of the water heritage elements	Regional Ministry for Culture, Language and Youth	Directorate General for Cultural Heritage
PPH-02	Research on the elements of water heritage and their cultural significance	Regional Ministry for Culture, Language and Youth	Directorate General for Cultural Heritage
PPH-03	Integral plan for the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the water heritage	Regional Ministry for Culture, Language and Youth	Directorate General for Cultural Heritage
<b>TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE WATER HERITAGE PROGRAMME</b>			
<b>PRESERVATION OF THE INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF WATER PROGRAMME</b>			
PPA-01	Identification of intangible water heritage	Regional Ministry for Culture, Language and Youth	Directorate General for Cultural Heritage
PPA-02	Promotion and dissemination of the intangible heritage linked to water	Regional Ministry for Culture, Language and Youth	Directorate General for Cultural Heritage
<b>TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF WATER PROGRAMME</b>			
<b>CONSERVATION OF NATURAL VALUES AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME</b>			
MAN- 01	Maintenance and conservation of biodiversity elements	Regional Ministry for the Environment and Climate Change	Directorate General for Natural Heritage
MAN- 02	Improving ecological connectivity and green infrastructures	Regional Ministry for the Environment and Climate Change	Directorate-General for Natural Heritage/ IET
MAN-03	Surveillance and control of invasive alien species	Regional Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium	Directorate General for Natural Heritage / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium.
MAN-04	Ribeira Sacra, a model of energy sustainability	Regional Ministry of Economy and Industry / Tourism Consortium Ribeira Sacra	INEGA/ Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium
<b>TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL VALUES AND THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME</b>			

## 8. Programmes and actions

<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>
8,599,277	1,351,014	4,480,000	2,768,263				
2,911,844	361,844	425,000	425,000	425,000	425,000	425,000	425,000
90,000	30,000	30,000	30,000				
3,260,000	260,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
2,100,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
725,000	115,000	110,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
<b>17,686,121</b>	<b>2,417,858</b>	<b>5,845,000</b>	<b>4,123,263</b>	<b>1,325,000</b>	<b>1,325,000</b>	<b>1,325,000</b>	<b>1,325,000</b>
180,000		15,000	45,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
87,000	27,000	30,000	15,000	15,000			
800,000		50,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
<b>1,067,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>95,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>195,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>
60,000	30,000	15,000	15,000				
90,000		15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
<b>150,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
70,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
70,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
160,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
6,090,000	1,530,000	1,530,000	1,530,000	1,500,000			
<b>6,390,000</b>	<b>1,590,000</b>	<b>1,590,000</b>	<b>1,590,000</b>	<b>1,530,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>

CODE	ACTION	REGIONAL MINISTRY AND/OR ENTITY	DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE
<b>SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME</b>			
DS- 01	Development of model villages and agroforestry estates to promote agricultural and livestock activity, the urban recovery of villages and the maintenance of unique elements of the landscape (socalcos, walls, albarizas, network of paths, ...).	Regional Ministry for Rural Affairs	AGADER
DS- 02	Land mobility programme for the recovery of abandoned vineyard areas and the promotion of generational renewal in viticulture.	Regional Ministry for Rural Affairs	AGADER
DS- 03	Recovery plan for traditional chestnut forests (soutos) to enhance chestnut production and conserve the landscape	Regional Ministry for Rural Affairs	Directorate General for Forest Planning and Management
DS- 04	Development of forest planning and management instruments and promotion of forest certification of Montes Vecinales en Mano Común (MVMC) for their recovery and enhancement.	Regional Ministry for Rural Affairs	Directorate General for Forest Planning and Management
DS- 05	Promotion of active forest management in consolidated masses of autochthonous hardwoods.	Regional Ministry for Rural Affairs	Directorate General for Forest Planning and Management
DS- 06	Promotion of local productions and local craftsmanship	Regional Ministry of Employment, Trade and Emigration	Directorate General for Trade
<b>TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME</b>			
<b>SUSTAINABLE TOURISM MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME</b>			
GT- 01	Public Use Plan for Ribeira Sacra	Presidency / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium	Galician Tourism Agency / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium
GT- 02	Improving tourism infrastructure and facilities	Presidency	Galician Tourism Agency
GT- 03	Development of new tourism products related to the waterscape	Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium	Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium
GT- 04	Programme for training, professionalisation and improvement of professional skills in the tourism sector in Ribeira Sacra.	Presidency	Galician Tourism Agency
GT- 05	Promotion of the Ribeira Sacra destination brand as a Cultural Waterscape.	Presidency / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium	Galician Tourism Agency / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium
<b>TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME</b>			
<b>AWARENESS, COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME</b>			
SPC-01	Centre for the interpretation and dissemination of the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape	Regional Ministry for Culture, Language and Youth	Directorate General for Cultural Heritage
SCP- 02	Organisation of conferences, seminars and training activities in the areas of culture, nature, cultural and water heritage and sustainable tourism.	Regional Ministry for Culture, Language and Youth	Directorate General for Cultural Heritage
SCP- 03	Campaign to raise awareness among the local population of the outstanding universal value of the cultural landscape of Ribeira Sacra	Regional Ministry for Culture, Language and Youth	Directorate General for Cultural Heritage
SCP- 04	Communication campaign on the management of the protection and dissemination of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Ribeira Sacra cultural landscape.	Regional Ministry for Culture, Language and Youth	Directorate General for Cultural Heritage
SCP- 05	Coordination of the Ribeira Sacra Interdepartmental Commission	Regional Ministry for Culture, Language and Youth	Directorate General for Cultural Heritage
SCP- 06	Promotion and monitoring of the Council of Parishes	Regional Ministry for Culture, Language and Youth	Directorate General for Cultural Heritage
<b>TOTAL BUDGET FOR AWARENESS, COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME</b>			
<b>TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>			

## 8. Programmes and actions

<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>
132,200	24,200	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
30,000		10,000	10,000	10,000			
1,500,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	
480,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	
2,100,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	
1,295,000	185,000	185,000	185,000	185,000	185,000	185,000	185,000
<b>5,537,200</b>	<b>889,200</b>	<b>893,000</b>	<b>893,000</b>	<b>893,000</b>	<b>883,000</b>	<b>883,000</b>	<b>203,000</b>
500,000	110,000	110,000	80,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
2,025,000	75,000	1,075,000	475,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
230,000	40,000	110,000	80,000				
350,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
370,000	70,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
<b>3,475,000</b>	<b>345,000</b>	<b>1,395,000</b>	<b>735,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>
179,000	59,000	30,000	30,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
136,500	16,500	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
57,000	12,000	15,000	15,000	15,000			
155,000	65,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
70,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>597,500</b>	<b>162,500</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>34,902,821</b>	<b>5,461,558</b>	<b>9,938,000</b>	<b>7,671,263</b>	<b>4,283,000</b>	<b>2,743,000</b>	<b>2,743,000</b>	<b>2,063,000</b>



### 8.1. Cultural landscape and territory programme

This programme pursues the integrated management of the landscape and territory of Ribeira Sacra as an interrelated set of natural, cultural, landscape and human elements. This holistic approach seeks to preserve the authenticity and exceptional universal value that characterise the waterscape. Important steps have already been taken for this, such as the declaration of Ribeira Sacra as a Heritage of Cultural Interest (BIC) in the Cultural Landscape category and the cataloguing of the Areas of Special Landscape Interest of the canyons of the rivers Miño and Sil, with the aim of coordinating actions to ensure the harmonious and sustainable management of the territory.

This cultural landscape and territory programme includes actions aimed at safeguarding the cultural and natural heritage of the Ribeira Sacra, as well as

promoting its sustainable development. Mobility is a key aspect due to its strong link to the river area, given the complexity of the orography and the attraction generated by the waterscape. In this sense, work is already underway to convert the current recreational routes into a genuine low-impact transport system that meets the needs of the local population and visitors. The Singular Projects Moves Programme II "The Last Frontier," currently underway and based on the prior development of a Sustainable Mobility Plan for the territory, focuses on intermodality and the electrification of river and land transport. All these measures are included in this management plan with the aim of reducing the use of private motorised vehicles and favouring intermodal, collective, sustainable and safe forms of transport.

Integral Rehabilitation Areas are planned for the regeneration of the built heritage in order to conserve this legacy and improve the quality of life of the inhabitants. Specific projects are being carried out in this line, to restore and improve heritage elements, as well as actions to conserve and promote the Winter Pilgrims' Route through the Ribeira Sacra.

In short, all the actions included in this programme complement and reinforce the regulations for the protection of the property established in Decree 166/2018 declaring the Ribeira Sacra Cultural Landscape a Heritage of Cultural Interest.

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## 8.1. Cultural landscape and territory programme

### Improving sustainable mobility in the territory (waterways)

#### ■ **Code:** PPC-01

■ Sustainable mobility has become a concern shared by the majority of the population, which is committed to the quality of public transport, the promotion of non-motorised modes (walking and cycling) or zero or low emissions, sensitivity towards the environment, a more rational use of public space and, in short, policies that have a direct impact on the quality of life of its citizens and visitors.

The Ribeira Sacra orography turns into narrow and winding roads, conditioned by numerous rivers, which make it difficult to access certain monuments or jetties located on the riverbanks. This factor, together with limited parking spaces and the increase in visitors at certain times of the year, can generate mobility and safety problems for people, while at the same time increasing the pressure on the most sensitive areas of the waterscapes.

In response to this situation, the Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium, within the framework of the Tourism Sustainability Plan for Destinations, developed a Sustainable Mobility Plan aimed at reducing the number of private motorised vehicles in Ribeira Sacra and promoting a more sustainable, comfortable and safe use of public space. This plan gave rise to the Singular Projects Moves Programme II "The Last Frontier," which is currently under development and whose central action is the electrification of river routes and their connection with other forms of transport. It thus moves from a model designed for tourism to one planned for the local population, overcoming the previous design of boat routes as circular routes without stops and generating an authentic intermodal transport system.

This commitment to improving the conditions of river routes is also being addressed by the Miño-Sil Hydrographic Confederation which, in coordination with the Directorate General for Natural Heritage, the Directorate General for Cultural Heritage and the Galician Tourism Agency, is developing the Ribeira Sacra Navigation and Mooring Management Plan. This is a pioneering instrument in terms of its nature and goals, which aims to define a framework for the enjoyment of river waters under a non-invasive and sustainable navigation model.

To this end, and in line with all the initiatives underway, the plan takes into account programmes such as the recovery of the quality of citizenship by promoting pedestrian and cycling routes, the promotion of collective transport and public transport, mobility management, improved mobility for people with reduced mobility, traffic control and planning, parking management and limitation, improved mobility of goods, and transport in tourist areas and visitor attraction centres.

In addition, the Galician Infrastructure Agency plans to carry out works to reinforce the road surface of the LU-533 regional road between 1+760 and 6+175 in the area of mobility, which will continue the improvements already carried out in 2021. It also plans to build a new roundabout at the intersection of the LU-903 regional road and the LU-P-5903 provincial road in Doade, a very important point that provides access to several wineries, hotels, viewpoints and one of the main jetties. The project was submitted for public information on 31 January 2024 and was approved by the Consello da Xunta de Galicia on 17 June 2024. The project will improve road safety at this point and the planned investment amounts to €408,263.00, including the execution of the work, affected services and expropriations. In addition, actions will be carried out to improve accessibility in the municipal road around the Os Peares bridge with a planned investment of €230,000.

#### ■ **Party Responsible:**

Ribeira Sacra Tourist Consortium / Galician Infrastructure Agency

#### ■ **Associated partners:**

Town councils, RENFE and Provincial Councils of Lugo and Ourense, Institute for the Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDAE), Regional Ministry of Economy and Industry and Regional Minister of Presidency, Justice and Sports

#### ■ **Status:** Under development

#### ■ **Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2026

#### ■ **Execution measures:**

- Promote river transport for everyday use, using the eight jetties to establish sustainable passenger transport lines, incorporating their electrification.
- Improve the integration of interurban and river transport.
- Establish and improve interchanges or transport hubs, set up park-and-ride and reception car parks, promote intermodality between modes of transport and create a shuttle service from the park-and-ride car parks to reduce the number of vehicles parked around the piers.
- Improve the maintenance and condition of national, regional and provincial roads, especially those roads of high scenic and landscape value that rely on the river orography as a natural transit route, such as the N-120 from Ourense to Monforte, the N-540 from Lugo to Ourense, the LU-533 between Chantada and Monforte and the LU-903 and OU-903 from Castro Caldelas to Monforte de Lemos.

- Create pedestrian and cycle routes connecting points of heritage, cultural, landscape and tourist interest (monuments, viewpoints, piers, boat crossings,...).
- Create a network of bicycle parking facilities, systems for the loan of electric bicycles and to establish charging points.
- Improve public transport connections with the Ribeira Sacra (especially with Ourense, as it is the arrival point of the high-speed train).
- Reorganise the circulation of private vehicles and order access to the main points of scenic interest.
- Recover the boat crossings to connect the riverbanks (Ribeiras do Miño - Sernande, San Vitorio - Chanteiro, A Cubela - Ribeiras do Sil, and Santo Estevo - Chancís) and enable four new pontoons with charging points and the adaptation of existing pontoons.
- Improve the signposting of the access routes to the car parks, the adaptation and improvement of these, the delimitation of parking spaces on public roads and access control and, above all, reinforce the control of parking indiscipline.
- Develop a sustainable mobility platform for visitors that brings together all the information on all the means of transport available between the different points of the destination, their frequencies, stops and connections.
- Improve pedestrian accessibility on the roads in Os Peares, in the area surrounding the new bridge.

**■ Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of road maintenance and conservation actions carried out.
- Km of pedestrian and cycle routes.
- Number of bicycle parking areas built.
- Number of bicycles on loan.
- Number of charging points for electric bicycles.
- Number of users (public transport, river).
- Number of boat crossings recovered / number of users.
- Number of park and ride facilities.
- Creation of a shuttle service at the jetties.
- Number of road maintenance and conservation actions carried out.
- Number of traffic reorganisation and access management actions at points of interest carried out.
- Number of actions to improve the signposting of access routes to car parks.
- Sustainable mobility platform created.
- Work to improve pedestrian accessibility on the roads in the centre of Os Peares, in the area around the new bridge, carried out.

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**■ Estimated total investment: €8,599,277**

(€1,525,000 Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium / €1,074,277 Galician Infrastructure Agency /€ 6,000,000 Moves Programme), with the following detail: the State (IDAE) contributes € 1,456,000, the Regional Ministry of Economy and Industry contributes € 1,456,000, the Regional Minister of Presidency, Justice and Sports contributes €1,000,000 , the Provincial Council of Lugo contributes €1,000,000, the Provincial Council of Ourense contributes €1,000,000 and the Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium contributes € 88,000)

**■ Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
415,000	730,000	380,000	-	-	-	-	1,525,000
436,014	250,000	388,263	-	-	-	-	1,074,277
500,000	3,500,000	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	6,000,000
<b>1,351,014</b>	<b>4,480,000</b>	<b>2,768,263</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>8,599,277</b>

## 8.1. Cultural landscape and territory programme

### Encouraging residential rehabilitation through the supra-municipal Integral Rehabilitation Area of the Ribeira Sacra.

#### ■ **Code:** PPC-02

■ The Integral Rehabilitation Areas (ARI in Spanish) are spaces declared by the *Instituto Galego da Vivenda e Solo (Galician Institute for Housing and Land)* (IGVS in Galician) of the Xunta de Galicia with the purpose of favouring the regeneration and restoration of the built heritage. In these areas, both the owners of buildings that can be rehabilitated, as well as town councils with urban spaces subject to urbanisation, can access financial aid to carry out these improvements.

Thus, with the aim of recovering the built heritage and the quality of buildings and urban space, in February 2020 the Supra-municipal Integral Rehabilitation Area of Ribeira Sacra was declared, comprising 25 municipalities in the provinces of Ourense and Lugo and their 433 parishes, totalling an area of 3,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The purpose of this ARI is the rehabilitation of around 2,000 homes in the first ten years, in addition to the implementation of various urban redevelopment and urbanisation works with the aim of improving the quality of urban space and the lives of citizens.

In addition, in the Ribeira Sacra area, there is another ARI, that of the rural town council of Sober, declared in November 2011 and which affects the entire town council and 2,328 dwellings in the rural environment.

Consequently, the aim of this measure is to promote urban revitalisation, improve the quality of construction and the integration of buildings and enhance the Ribeira Sacra landscape, including the provision of basic services such as municipal supply. To this end, grants will be provided to a large number of owners to ensure a positive impact on the territory and on the well-being of citizens.

#### ■ **Party Responsible:**

*Instituto Galego de Vivenda e Solo (Galician Institute for Housing and Land)* (IGVS).

#### ■ **Associated partners:**

Town Councils, Provincial Council of Lugo, Provincial Council of Ourense and the Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium.

#### ■ **Status:** Under execution

#### ■ **Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2030

#### ■ **Execution measures:**

— Call for annual grants for the Ribeira Sacra ARI.

#### ■ **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of calls for applications for grants carried out.
- Total amount of grants provided.
- Number of rehabilitated houses.

#### ■ **Estimated total investment: €2,911,844**

#### ■ **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
361,844	425,000	425,000	425,000	425,000	425,000	425,000	2,911,844

**Plan for the improvement of the heritage interest centres around the monuments related to the Ribeira Sacra cultural waterscape**

**Code:** PPC-03

The HURBE Plan is a collaboration programme between the Xunta de Galicia and the town councils, to support the execution of projects and actions that contribute to create, improve or humanise spaces for public and common use. Within the framework of this Plan, specific actions will be carried out to conserve and improve the landscape integration of the surroundings of the monuments of high heritage interest of Ribeira Sacra, and of the population centres associated with these places. The aim was to preserve and enhance the cultural heritage, improving the experience of the visit, contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of the inhabitants.

The following actions were carried out in 2021 and 2022:

- Humanisation of the accesses to the Augas Santas spa and fountain (Pantón).
- Beautification of the surroundings of Luíntra by creating a space at the access to the municipal tourist promotion office (Nogueira de Ramuín).
- Provision of public facilities in rural areas in the municipality of Montederramo.
- Urbanisation and improvement of public space (Parada de Sil)
- Urbanisation and humanisation of the municipal tourist camp site (roads, lighting, furniture and green areas). (Ribas de Sil)
- Improvement of the main road in Novoais on the Winter Pilgrim's Route to Compostela (Quiroga).

In addition to these actions, within the framework of the Tourism Sustainability Plan for Destinations currently being implemented, actions are envisaged aimed at burying electricity and telephone lines at points of interest where these elements are particularly important and unifying the image of the terraces. To this end, continuity will be given to the initiative already undertaken to promote the homogenisation of the regulations governing terraces and the occupation of public space by local councils, with the aim of achieving an aesthetically pleasing appearance for the local population and visitors.

**Party Responsible:**

Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium

**Associated partners:**

Town Councils, General Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Provincial Council of Lugo, Provincial Council of Ourense, Lugo Bishopric and Ourense Bishopric.

**Status:** Under development

**Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2026

**Execution measures:**

- Actions to bury electricity and telephone lines in sensitive areas.
- Standardisation of the regulations governing the regulation of terraces and occupation of public space.

**Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of interventions carried out to bury electricity and telephone lines.
- Standardised regulations for the regulation of terraces and occupation of public space.

**Estimated total investment: € 90,000.**

**Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
30,000	30,000	30,000	-	-	-	-	90,000

## 8.1. Cultural landscape and territory programme

### Restoration and improvement of the conservation of heritage elements of Ribeira Sacra

#### Code: PPC- 04

The designation of the Ribeira Sacra as a heritage of Cultural Interest marks a milestone in the recognition of the cultural value of this landscape and its abundant associated cultural heritage. This underlines the importance of preserving and enhancing these unique elements to ensure their continuity in the best possible conditions, maintaining their integrity and authenticity.

The main aim of this measure is to address the conservation problems of the unique architectural elements declared BIC or catalogued, with the category of monument, and of other cultural assets associated with them, such as wall paintings, sculptural elements and altarpieces, by addressing the reasons for deterioration in order to conserve them in the appropriate manner and restoring them where necessary. In some cases, this implies punctual or limited intervention to avoid further damage or loss and to make preventive conservation viable, while in others, comprehensive or partial conservation and restoration interventions can be carried out to correct the damage, to guarantee adequate conservation and transmission for future generations and to promote sustainable use compatible with the cultural values of the intervened cultural assets.

In short, a programme of actions is envisaged aimed at promoting and encouraging the appropriate enhancement of these assets, thus contributing to revitalising the area in the short term and maintaining an important part of the cultural values of the World Heritage property.

#### Party Responsible:

Direktorate General for Cultural Heritage

#### Associated partners:

Town Councils, Bishoprics of Lugo and Ourense, Provincial Council of Lugo, Provincial Council of Ourense.

#### Status: Under execution

#### Anticipated execution date: 2024-2030

#### Execution measures:

- Draw up assessment and diagnosis reports on the general state of conservation of the assets declared BIC in Ribeira Sacra and estimating their conservation needs and measures to improve their conditions of use and appreciation.
- Develop master plans or projects for the conservation and restoration of monuments and the immovable cultural heritage associated with them.
- Carry out restoration and rehabilitation actions in monuments and archaeological sites listed or declared of cultural interest, such as: accessibility to the monumental complex of San Vicenzo de Pombeiro, improvements for cultural use of the Fábrica de la Luz in Parada de Sil, intervention in the archaeological sites of Cotillón, Proendos, Castillós, ...

#### Monitoring indicators:

- Number of studies, master plans and restoration projects carried out.
- Number and amount of restoration and rehabilitation actions.

#### Estimated total investment: €3,260,000

#### Breakdown by annual instalments:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
260,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	3,260,000

## Conservation and promotion of the Winter Pilgrims' Route through Ribeira Sacra.

### **Code:** PPC- 05

The Winter Pilgrims' Route is a well catalogued cultural heritage of Galicia recognised by the Cultural Heritage Law of 2016. It is a territorial property whose provisional delimitation was first included in the Basic Autonomous Plan in 2018. It is a historically documented route that crosses the territory of Ribeira Sacra, an alternative to the French Pilgrims' Route that had its special importance during the small glaciations of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century. The route moves away from the higher areas and follows the course of the rivers, which reach a lower level, thus generating a route in which the waterscape takes on a singular relevance.

It is a little-known route, but it has a relevant cultural and natural heritage and uses one of the main historical communication routes of this territory, along the river Sil up to the traditional boat crossings. In 2023, 2,022 pilgrims undertook this route, which represents 0.45% of the total number of pilgrims who arrived in Santiago. However, despite the low weight of this route in terms of visitors, over the total number of pilgrims, this route, since 2016 - date of its cataloguing - multiplied by seven the number of visitors, from 287 pilgrims to the 2,022 who made it in 2023.

In Ribeira Sacra, the Winter Pilgrims' Route is a cultural resource that contributes to the recognition of the values of the landscape as a structuring element of the territory, and given the international relevance of the roads to Santiago, this is configured as an element of vital importance to bring visitors to the cultural landscape of the Ribeira Sacra, contributing significantly to the socio-economic development of the territory.

For this reason, in addition to the conservation, signposting and improvement of the associated facilities, maintenance and recovery of public spaces and ethnographic elements, as well as unique buildings that could be used for tourism or community purposes, are planned for the area around the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago de Compostela.

### **Party Responsible:**

Galician Tourism Agency.

### **Associated partners:**

Association of Caminos to Santiago through Ribeira Sacra, Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium, Town Councils, Rural Development Groups.

### **Status:** Under execution

### **Anticipated execution date:** 2024 – 2030

### **Execution measures:**

- Carry out cleaning, maintenance, signposting and refurbishment work on the Winter Pilgrims Route.
- Establish grants for the improvement of the landscape along the Pilgrims' Routes to Santiago de Compostela and to encourage the recovery of unique buildings along the route to create accommodation or catering establishments.
- Carry out campaigns to promote the Winter Pilgrims' Route oriented towards the specificity of the Cultural Landscape of the Ribeira Sacra linked to this route.

### **Monitoring indicators:**

- Number of pilgrims on the Winter Pilgrims' Route to Santiago de Compostela.
- Number of beneficiaries of grants for the landscape improvement of the Pilgrims' Routes to Santiago de Compostela along the Winter Pilgrims' Route.
- Number of unique buildings recovered to create tourist establishments along the Pilgrims' Winter Route.
- Promotional campaigns of the Winter Pilgrim's Route carried out.

### **Estimated total investment: €2,100,000**

### **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
300,0000	300,0000	300,0000	300,0000	300,0000	300,0000	300,0000	2,100,000

## 8.1. Cultural landscape and territory programme

### Maintenance of accessibility conditions and appreciation of places of cultural, natural and landscape interest in Ribeira Sacra Waterscape

#### Code: PPC-06

The Ribeira Sacra is a Cultural Landscape noted for its magnificent river panoramas, accessible from specially conditioned points, such as static viewpoints or through dynamic routes that also allow its most noteworthy areas to be explored. Given its unique characteristics, continuous maintenance is required to guarantee access to and appreciation of the landscape and the cultural and monumental properties that make it up, especially those located in natural or isolated environments. In this sense, it is necessary to work on the accessibility of these sites from the river channels, with an adequate transport system that can improve the tourist experience and revitalise its impact on the environment, in close relation with the Sustainable Mobility Plan, the Moves Programme and the Ribeira Sacra Navigation and Docking Management Plan.

At the same time, collaboration with the municipal and provincial conservation and maintenance brigades is essential. Strengthening their resources and training them in the preservation of the cultural and natural values of the Cultural Landscape will improve the conditions of access and appreciation, especially in viewpoints and monumental environments, as well as the availability of signposting and information.

In addition, it is essential to address the state of conservation and landscape improvement in railway stations, such as Os Peares, Santo Estevo, as well as in the halt of Areas. These initiatives include the conservation and restoration of high-quality architectural elements, the integration of natural elements that enhance the beauty of the environment together with the implementation of measures for the integration of the railway infrastructure into the natural landscape.

#### Party Responsible:

Galician Tourism Agency / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium.

#### Associated partners:

Town Councils, Provincial Council of Lugo, Provincial Council of Ourense, Railway Infrastructure Administrator (Administrador de Infraestructuras Ferroviarias - ADIF).

#### Status: In planning

#### Anticipated execution date: 2024-2030

#### Execution measures:

- Establish a collaboration agreement between town councils and provincial councils through the Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium for the coordination and support of conservation and maintenance brigades.
- Develop a Work Plan for the intervention brigades aimed at carrying out continuous maintenance work to ensure access to the cultural and monumental assets of the Ribeira Sacra and to allow for the appreciation of the natural and landscape values.
- Promote a collaboration agreement with the Railway Infrastructure Administrator (Administrador de Infraestructuras Ferroviarias - ADIF) to improve the state of conservation and landscape integration of the Os Peares, Canaval and Santo Estevo railway stations and the Areas halt.

#### Indicators for monitoring the action:

- Formalisation of the collaboration procedure between the Regional Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium.
- Number of viewpoints and monuments whose surroundings and accesses are maintained in relation to the agreement.
- Metres of trails and routes maintained in relation to the agreement.
- Collaboration agreement signed with ADIF.
- Number of interventions carried out in railway stations and halts.

#### Estimated total investment: €725,000

(€700,000 Galician Tourism Agency / €25,000 Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium.

#### Breakdown by annual instalments:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	<b>TOTAL</b>
100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	<b>700,000</b>
15,000	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	<b>25,000</b>
115,000	110,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	<b>725,000</b>



## 8.2. The preservation of the water heritage

The aim of this programme is to improve knowledge of a resource that shapes, structures and determines the character of the landscape of the Ribeira Sacra around the rivers Miño and Sil. To this end, actions are taken into account aimed at carrying out a detailed inventory of the elements of the water heritage present in the territory that will make it possible to fill in the gaps existing in previous inventories, as well as to carry out complementary assessments of their state of conservation, historical importance and current functionality. On the basis of the inventories, updated historical research will be carried out on these elements, their cultural significance and the implementation of a comprehensive plan for the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the most significant elements.

These actions are essential for their preservation, management and valuation, as well as to promote the participation and awareness of the community towards their cultural water heritage, contributing at the same time to the socio-economic development of the Ribeira Sacra.

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## 8.2. The preservation of the water heritage

### Drawing up an inventory of the elements of the water heritage.

#### ■ **Code:** PPH-01

■ The expansion of the detailed inventory of the elements of hydraulic heritage in the Ribeira Sacra becomes an essential activity to identify the immense wealth, in many cases hidden, of these landscape-shaping elements. The proper documentation of these elements, assessing their state of conservation, their historical importance and current functionality, serves to provide a solid basis for research and the planning of conservation actions. The new inventory will address the main elements that make up the hydraulic heritage, including the hundreds of water mills and their associated systems and landscapes, the small hydroelectric power stations, as well as the great profusion of heritage elements linked to the culture of water such as bridges, pontoons, fountains, washing places and traditional hydraulic systems.

This action will enable proper planning for the management, conservation and enhancement of these elements and will help local authorities and responsible administrations or entities to make informed decisions on conservation policies, resource allocation and the development of long-term sustainable development strategies aimed at preserving these assets for future generations.

#### ■ **Party Responsible:**

Directorate General for Cultural Heritage.

#### ■ **Associated partners:**

Miño Sil Hydrographic Confederation and Town Councils.

#### ■ **Status:** In planning

■ **Anticipated execution date:** 2025-2030

#### ■ **Execution measures:**

- Compile available information on the elements of hydraulic heritage, including historical maps, municipal records, archive documents, previous research, old photographs and local testimonies, among other resources.
- Design and draft a plan for prospecting, recording and inventory of hydraulic heritage elements in the Ribeira Sacra cultural landscape.
- Reconnoitre in the field to continue the identification, recording and physical documentation of all relevant elements such as waterfalls, dams, canals, mills, traditional agricultural irrigation systems, fountains, riverbeds and streams, hydroelectric power stations, telleiras, blacksmiths, washing places, mallets and fulling mills and other ethnographic elements. Topography and LIDAR mapping techniques, photogrammetry, GPS and photography will be used for this purpose.
- Prepare data sheets for the registration of each element, with their geographical location (GPS coordinates), detailed description, dimensions, construction materials, state of conservation, functionality, historical context and any other relevant data. This will serve to classify and categorise them according to their function, historical importance, state of conservation and cultural value.
- Draw up a Geographic Information System (GIS) that allows the data to be visualised and managed in a spatially referenced manner. This will facilitate the visualisation, analysis of the distribution, the interconnection between them and the state of the identified elements.
- Draw up a report indicating, where appropriate, the risks identified, the state of conservation and the recommendations for their preservation, management and sustainable use.

#### ■ **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Plan for prospecting, registration and inventory of hydraulic heritage elements carried out.
- Number of elements of hydraulic heritage catalogued.
- Geographic Information System (GIS) conducted.
- Report on state of conservation, risks and recommendations for preservation, management and sustainable use.

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#### ■ **Estimated total investment: €180,000**

#### ■ **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
-	15,000	45,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	180,000

## Research on the elements of water heritage and their cultural significance

### **Code:** PPH-02

The aim of this action is to reinforce the historical research of the elements of the hydraulic heritage and their cultural significance, in order to obtain a better and more complete understanding of these elements, and thus contribute to their preservation, enhancement and management.

To this end, historians and local agents, who have an in-depth knowledge of the history, traditions and culture of the Ribeira Sacra, will collaborate with the project. Their participation will be essential to contextualise the hydraulic heritage in its historical and cultural environment.

Furthermore, the collaboration between these local historians and researchers from the scientific and university spheres will strengthen the capacity of the research teams to interpret and analyse the historical information. This will make it possible to identify and assess the heritage values of the hydraulic elements, taking into account their historical, landscape, architectural, environmental, social and economic importance. This experience could be the basis for the future creation of a Ribeira Sacra working group, made up of local experts and cultural associations, to contribute to the knowledge of the territory and its dissemination through research studies, publications, conferences, meetings and other analogous activities.

This programme, together with the inventory of the elements proposed in previous actions, will provide key information for the planning and management of hydraulic heritage and will help to make informed decisions on their conservation, restoration, promotion and sustainable use.

### **Party Responsible:**

Direktorate General for Cultural Heritage.

### **Associated partners:**

Universities, Higher Council for Scientific Research, local historians and agents, cultural associations.

### **Status:** In planning

**Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2027

### **Execution measures:**

- Create a multidisciplinary team including local historians, heritage experts, archaeologists, geographers and other researchers from the three Galician universities and the Spanish National Research Council, to undertake, based on the inventory previously carried out, the historical and cultural research of the hydraulic heritage present in the Ribeira Sacra territory.
- Conduct interviews with key people in the territory to collect oral information, historical accounts and testimonies on the use and cultural importance of the elements of hydraulic heritage, in order to facilitate the interpretation of the data obtained from historical sources and existing literature.
- Document the results of the research in the form of books or informative or scientific publications, in which the findings of the research, the description of the elements, the relationships between them and the cultural practices associated with their use are reported.
- Disseminate the results of the research in scientific journals of impact, among local communities and in the media and other interested agents and experts, in order to promote awareness, foster its conservation and enhance its value as a territorial resource.
- Develop collaborative work with other cultural waterscape sites, including World Heritage sites and other relevant sites such as GIAHS systems.
- Participate in international/global initiatives and strategies that can increase knowledge about traditional water use systems and offer solutions to current challenges.
- Liaise and cooperate with the Water Museums network, and lead a network / association of water heritage sites.

### **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Multidisciplinary research team/ Ribeira Sacra working group created.
- Number of research papers published.
- Number of dissemination activities carried out.
- Number of cooperation actions carried out.

### **Estimated total investment: €87,000**

### **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
27,000	30,000	15,000	15,000	-	-	-	87,000

## 8.2. The preservation of the water heritage

### Integral plan for the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the water heritage.

#### Code: PPH-03

The Ribeira Sacra is home to an exceptional collection of hydraulic heritage elements, which serve as witnesses to the history and civil engineering that was developed in the territory for various purposes and uses (craft, industrial, agricultural or domestic, among others). Preserving these elements is essential to keep alive the history and cultural identity of the site as a waterscape.

Consequently, it is proposed to implement a comprehensive plan for the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of these elements, in order to enhance the Ribeira Sacra landscape through the heritage of water as an element that shapes its exceptional landscape. The restoration and enhancement of water-related elements not only contributes to improving the local population's knowledge of this heritage identity, but is also an attraction for visitors, boosting the socio-economic development of the territory, while promoting cultural and green tourism based on environmental conservation, the reduction of the ecological footprint and the promotion of sustainable practices.

These water-related elements are integrated into the natural environment, and their conservation plays a crucial role in the protection of local ecosystems and water resources, which is particularly relevant in the current context of climate change.

In addition, as mentioned above, the implementation of the actions included in the plan will boost the socio-economic development of the territory. Firstly, it will generate direct and indirect employment related to the activities of conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the hydraulic heritage elements. Secondly, it will provide new opportunities in sectors such as tourism, agriculture and the management of the cultural heritage.

#### Party Responsible:

Directorate General for Cultural Heritage.

#### Associated partners:

Miño-Sil Hydrographic Confederation, Regional Ministry for the Environment and Climate Change, AGADER and Town Councils.

#### Status: In planning

#### Anticipated execution date: 2025-2030

#### Execution measures:

- Draw up a comprehensive plan for the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of all relevant hydraulic heritage.
- Carry out physical restoration work aimed at repairing and conserving elements of hydraulic heritage, using appropriate techniques and materials and the environment, respecting their authenticity and the historical value of the restored elements. Special attention will be paid to the restoration and conservation of traditional water mills and their associated hydraulic systems, as well as other heritage elements linked to water culture such as bridges, pontellas (pontoons), fountains, washing places and traditional irrigation systems.
- Rehabilitate, where possible, those hydraulic elements in order to return them to their original functions or to adapt them to new uses compatible with their heritage value and the environment. In this section, special attention will be given to the recovery, restoration and maintenance of historic mini-hydroelectric power plants.
- Carry out regular maintenance to ensure the long-term conservation of restored or rehabilitated elements, including periodic inspections, cleaning, minor repairs and vegetation control.
- Improve the accessibility and safety of water heritage sites for visitors by installing appropriate signage, walkways, railings and other protective measures.

#### Indicators for monitoring the action:

- Number of restored and/or rehabilitated elements.
- Number of accessibility and safety improvement actions carried out.
- Financial resources earmarked for these actions.

#### Estimated total investment: €800,000

#### Breakdown by annual instalments:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
-	50,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	800,000



### 8.3. Preservation of intangible water heritage

Water is a vital resource that has played a central role in the culture and identity of communities throughout history, especially in this living cultural landscape. Indeed, practices, beliefs, rituals and other knowledge associated with water are part of the intangible heritage of societies and are essential to understand their history, culture and way of life.

The accumulated knowledge of local communities in water management and use, including ceremonies and rituals, must be preserved to ensure its transmission to future generations. In addition, practices and techniques related to water management, from ag-

ricultural use to domestic supply and energy supply, have been adapted to the territory and historically based on sustainable management models. Knowledge of these techniques and practices can offer innovative solutions in the current context of climate change, thus ensuring that local communities value them and are more willing to participate in their conservation and sustainable management.

Consequently, this programme aims to preserve intangible water heritage in order to protect culture, identity and traditional knowledge, fostering inter-generational dialogue to ensure the transmission of knowledge to future generations about this vital resource.

To this end, actions aimed at the study, identification and compilation of stories, legends, beliefs, songs and cultural practices related to the use of water, the creation of audiovisual records, such as videos, documentaries or interviews documenting these practices and specific dissemination actions of this intangible heritage to ensure the maintenance of traditional knowledge and know-how associated with the management of water and the territory are envisaged.

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### 8.3. Preservation of intangible water heritage

#### Identification of intangible water heritage.

##### Code: PPA-01

Intangible water heritage includes traditions, knowledge and practices rooted in the use and management of water over time, as well as the wealth of toponyms and hydronyms linked to water, due to the valuable information it provides on the history, culture and geography of the place. Identifying and documenting these cultural expressions is crucial to preserve and transmit them to future generations, thus strengthening the safeguarding of the community's cultural identity. It is therefore essential to explore the rich intangible heritage linked to water, as this allows us to appreciate and understand how communities have interacted with this resource throughout history, including their cultural practices, beliefs, rituals, stories, legends, songs, traditional expressions, festivals, artistic manifestations and associated narratives.

##### Party Responsible:

Directorate General for Cultural Heritage.

##### Associated partners:

Galician universities and the Spanish National Research Council.

##### Status: In planning

##### Anticipated execution date: 2025-2027

#### Execution measures:

- Conduct bibliographic and documentary research, including an exhaustive review of existing literature on the subject (books, academic articles, historical archives, local records, old newspapers and other relevant documents that may contain information on cultural traditions and practices linked to water in the territory).
- Conduct interviews with elders, community leaders, local experts and other key informants who can provide first-hand information on the toponyms and hydronyms of the territory and on traditions, stories, legends, songs, festivals, artistic manifestations, and other cultural practices related to water.
- Organise focus groups and participatory workshops with members of the local community to discuss and share knowledge, experiences and memories related to water heritage. These meetings serve to identify and document lesser-known or endangered cultural practices, being especially relevant in the case of toponymy and hydronyms.
- Research and collection of audiovisual materials such as song recordings, videos and old photographs that can illustrate and enrich the study of hydraulic heritage and its cultural context.
- Produce a document in book or other format with the results of the study carried out to preserve all the knowledge found on intangible water heritage.
- Create a web platform that houses and serves for the general dissemination and consultation by researchers of all the information compiled in the research process, including audiovisual records (videos, documentaries and interviews) through which all the knowledge of the intangible heritage linked to water in Ribeira Sacra can be accessed.

#### Indicators for monitoring the action:

- Number of persons interviewed
- Number of focus groups and workshops conducted with local communities.
- Supporting document for the research carried out.
- Web platform created.

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##### Estimated total investment: €60,000

##### Breakdown by annual instalments:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
-	30,000	15,000	15,000	-	-	-	60,000

## Promotion and dissemination of the intangible heritage linked to water.

### **Code:** PPA-02

The dissemination and diffusion of local knowledge on intangible water heritage is an essential activity for the preservation and safeguarding of traditions, stories, legends, songs, festivals, artistic manifestations, toponymy and hydronomy, and other cultural practices related to the management, enjoyment and use of this resource. This helps to keep the cultural identity and intangible heritage of the local community alive, preventing its loss over time.

In addition, outreach and dissemination activities increase awareness and appreciation of the importance of water in the culture and history of the Ribeira Sacra. This contributes to a better understanding of the relationship between people and water over time, as well as its influence on everyday life, beliefs and associated traditions.

The dissemination of this knowledge provides an opportunity to educate present and future generations about the importance of water in culture and enables the transmission of traditional knowledge and skills related to the sustainable use of this resource that is vital for life. Furthermore, the dissemination of intangible water heritage adds an additional tourist attraction to the Ribeira Sacra territory, which will attract new visitors interested in learning about and experiencing the rich cultural heritage around water in the Ribeira Sacra.

#### **Party Responsible:**

Direktorate General for Cultural Heritage.

#### **Associated partners:**

Galician universities and the Spanish National Research Council.

#### **Status:** In planning

#### **Anticipated execution date:** 2025-2030

### **Execution measures:**

- Organise workshops and educational talks aimed at different age groups on topics related to intangible water heritage, such as local legends, songs and traditional knowledge derived from the various cultural practices related to water, favouring intergenerational dialogue and the recovery and maintenance of this knowledge.
- Design thematic routes on foot, by bicycle or by boat, highlighting sites and elements of the Ribeira Sacra's hydraulic heritage, incorporating stops where stories, legends and traditions linked to the site are narrated, either through local guides, printed guides, mobile applications or through QR codes available on panels located in prominent places.
- Organise exhibitions and displays featuring water-related items, photographs, historical documents and other materials related to intangible water heritage. These exhibitions will be displayed in local museums or interpretation centres and will be accompanied by talks or informative videos for visitors.
- Recover traditional festivals or cultural practices linked to the use of water, including the organisation of painting competitions and other related artistic manifestations.

### **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of workshops and educational talks held.
- Number of people attending workshops and talks.
- Number of routes designed.
- Number of organised exhibitions.
- Number of traditional festivals or competitions organised.

#### **Estimated total investment: €90,000**

#### **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
-	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	90,000

### **8.3. Preservation of intangible water heritage**



#### **8.4. Conservation of natural values and the environment**

This programme takes on special relevance in a territory that forms part of the Ribeira Sacra and Serras of Oribio and Courel Biosphere Reserve, which was approved by UNESCO in 2021 and which has the river Miño and Sil canyons as one of its major units. This designation recognises the importance of this territory in terms of biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and the promotion of land management practices that harmonise conservation with the socio-economic development of the Ribeira Sacra.

This programme therefore establishes measures for the preservation and restoration of the natural heritage associated with water, which makes it a defining element of Outstanding Universal Value. It aims to conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem services and natural beauty, mitigate climate change, protect natural resources and promote the sustainable development of the territory.



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## 8.4. Conservation of natural values and the environment

### Maintenance and conservation of biodiversity elements.

#### **Code:** MAN- 01

The preservation of biodiversity in the Ribeira Sacra area aims to protect natural ecosystems in order to conserve the variety of species, plants, animals and micro-organisms, which is essential for maintaining the ecological balance of the territory and guaranteeing the healthy functioning of ecosystems. This is intended to protect life in all its forms and to promote a sustainable balance in the interaction of people or humans with nature, ensuring the well-being of both present and future generations.

Along these lines, the *Management Plan for the Ribeira Sacra and Serras of Oribio and Courel* takes into account various actions aimed at maintaining or improving the conservation status of natural or semi-natural habitats, including freshwater habitats, which are very present and significant in the Ribeira Sacra area.

#### **Party Responsible:**

Directorate General for Natural Heritage.

#### **Associated partners:** —

#### **Status:** Under execution

**Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2030

#### **Execution measures:**

- Monitor and assess the state of conservation of the components of biodiversity and natural heritage present in the territory, especially in the area of the BIC and its buffer zone.
- Maintain and improve the conservation status of natural-semi-natural habitats, in particular those included in Annex I of the Community Directive 92/43/EEC, better known as the Habitats Directive.
- Recover degraded or damaged ecosystems through the implementation of restoration measures, such as the recovery of chestnut forests and reforestation with native species with new plantations or the restoration of wetlands. The aim is to improve habitat quality and restore vital ecological processes.
- Identify reservoirs of biodiversity of local fauna and flora and establish preservation and conservation actions with the aim of maintaining biodiversity, linked to the maintenance of ecological corridors, in line with the actions foreseen in the measure to improve ecological connectivity and green infrastructures.
- Create an entomological catalogue, with the identification of the species of pollen-carrying insects, in order to protect, inventory and design the construction of shelters for these animals.
- Guarantee the sustainability of hunting and fishing activities.
- Promote the implementation of adaptation measures to global climate change.

#### **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Monitor and assess the state of conservation of biodiversity and natural heritage carried out.
- Number of habitat maintenance and improvement actions carried out and, where appropriate, area affected.
- Number and area of degraded ecosystems restored.
- Number of biodiversity reservoirs identified and number of conservation actions carried out.
- Entomological catalogue carried out and shelter houses built.
- Number of actions or interventions carried out to ensure the sustainability of hunting and fish farming.
- Number of measures or actions developed to address climate change.

#### **Estimación de la inversión total: 70.000 €**

#### **Reparto por anualidades:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	70.000

## Improving ecological connectivity and green infrastructures.

### Code: MAN- 02

The European Union has launched the Green Infrastructures Strategy with the aim of transforming urban and rural environments into more sustainable, resilient and liveable places by integrating natural elements into infrastructure planning and design. Wetlands and in particular watercourses are key elements in the design and management of green infrastructures at all scales. Ribeira Sacra, as a Cultural Waterscape, is an excellent territory to promote the Green Infrastructures Strategy, synergistically integrating the natural and cultural values linked to the river courses. This not only benefits the environment, but also improves the quality of life of citizens and strengthens the capacity of communities to face future challenges.

In turn, the National Strategy for Green Infrastructures and Ecological Connectivity and Restoration, approved by the Spanish Government in July 2021, understands Green Infrastructures as an ecologically coherent and strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas, as well as other environmental elements, designed and managed for the conservation of ecosystems and the maintenance of the services they provide.

Following the approval of the National Strategy, the Autonomous Communities must approve their respective strategies and, in the specific case of Galicia, this is expected to be published in the coming months.

Consequently, under these strategies and applying their principles and criteria, it is proposed for the Ribeira Sacra area to improve ecological connectivity and green infrastructures in order to guarantee the conservation of natural values and the environment, which are inseparable from cultural values. Their implementation will allow plant and animal populations to move between different habitats, ensuring the maintenance of biodiversity, which is crucial for the conservation of ecosystems, especially aquatic ecosystems, and wildlife. It will also contribute to the health and well-being of the population of the Ribeira Sacra by improving its capacity to provide vital ecosystem services.

### Party Responsible:

Directorate General for Natural Heritage.

### Associated partners:

Institute of Territorial Studies, Provincial Council of Lugo, Provincial Council of Ourense and town councils.

### Status: Under execution

**Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2030

### Execution measures:

- Assess the needs for improving ecological connectivity in the area of the BIC and its buffer zone and design a green infrastructure strategy for this area.
- Carry out restoration work linked to green infrastructures, such as the recovery of river continuities, maintenance of riverside vegetation, favouring the creation of biodiversity islands, restoring and conserving plant hedges in agricultural environments and promoting the recovery and maintenance of small ponds, fountains, ponds and canals, due to their importance as habitats for protected amphibian and invertebrate populations.
- Inventory and assess the ethnobiological resources that form part of the traditional rural landscape and agricultural systems, incorporating them into the open catalogue of the intangible heritage of the Spanish Biosphere Reserves.

### Indicators for monitoring the action:

- Needs assessment study on the improvement of ecological connectivity carried out.
- Number of restoration actions linked to green infrastructures carried out and, where applicable, surface area or linear metres affected.
- Inventory of ethnobiological resources carried out and incorporation into the catalogue carried out.

### Estimated total investment: €70,000

### Breakdown by annual instalments:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	70,000

## 8.4. Conservation of natural values and the environment

### Surveillance and control of invasive alien species.

#### ■ **Code:** MAN- 03

■ There is a general consensus that invasive alien species represent one of the main threats to biodiversity globally. Therefore, the implementation of a monitoring and control system for these species is essential for the preservation of biodiversity, protection of ecosystems, mitigation of economic and health impacts, as well as for the enforcement of regulations and policies aimed at preventing their spread.

Invasive alien species compete with native species for resources such as food, water and space, which can lead to their decline or extinction. Moreover, their presence can unpredictably alter the structure and functioning of natural habitats. Consequently, monitoring and control are key tools to identify and address these threats and thus preserve the health and balance of ecosystems.

In order to prevent the adverse effects of these species, Spain has specific regulations, notably Royal Decree 630/2013, which establishes the legal framework for regulating invasive alien species through the Spanish Catalogue of Invasive Alien Species, classifying them according to their impact on biodiversity and facilitating the adoption of measures such as the prohibition of their possession and trade.

For its part in Galicia, Law 5/2019, of 2 August, on the natural heritage and biodiversity of Galicia establishes that the Xunta de Galicia, within its sphere of competence, may draw up plans containing guidelines for the management, control and possible eradication of the species in the Spanish Catalogue, giving priority to those species that pose a greater risk to the conservation of endangered native fauna, flora or habitats. It also provides for the establishment of an Invasive Alien Species Alert Network to collect and record data on the impact of invasive alien species on the environment.

On the other hand, within the framework of the Tourism Sustainability Plan for Destinations 2024-2026, actions aimed at the conservation of biodiversity and the elimination of invasive exotic species are taken into account with the aim of improving the tourist use of the unique natural resources present in the Ribeira Sacra.

#### ■ **Party Responsible:**

Directorate General for Natural Heritage / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium.

#### ■ **Associated partners:**

Rural Development Groups.

#### ■ **Status:** Under execution

#### ■ **Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2030

#### ■ **Execution measures:**

- Monitor and assess invasive alien species, especially those that show invasive behaviour in the territory, such as acacias, mimosas and American crayfish, and which are susceptible to control within the nominated property.
- Carry out prevention, mitigation, eradication and restoration actions in areas affected by invasive alien species, implementing ecological restoration practices and replanting native species in order to re-establish biodiversity and ecosystem functionality.

#### ■ **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Monitoring of exotic species carried out.
- Number of eradication and restoration actions of affected areas carried out and surface area.

#### ■ **Estimated total investment: €160,000**

(€70,000 Directorate General for Natural Heritage / €90,000 Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium).

#### ■ **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	70,000
30,000	30,000	30,000	-	-	-	-	90,000
40,000	40,000	40,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	160,000

## Ribeira Sacra, a model of energy sustainability.

### **Code:** MAN-04

Energy plays a fundamental role in the development of all productive sectors, the use of which should be carried out with high efficiency, low environmental impact and at the lowest possible cost. Historically, economic development has been closely correlated with increased energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas emissions, with consequent environmental impacts and heavy dependence on fossil fuels. Therefore, the promotion of energy saving and efficiency together with a greater use of the different renewable energy sources of local origin can help to break this correlation, contributing to sustainable development. Promoting the use of clean energy is a priority in the context of the 21st century. This requires optimising the use of renewable energies, as well as promoting new cooperation models, such as energy communities, to contribute to their development.

The Ribeira Sacra is a net generator of hydroelectricity, providing renewable energy sources that enable the reduction of emissions and the mitigation of climate change. In this context, it aspires to become a model territory for energy sustainability. This, at the same time, implies strengthening the culture of saving and efficient use of energy, as well as exploring the use of other sources such as forest and agricultural biomass.

### **Party Responsible:**

INEGA / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium / Town Councils of Sober and A Pobra do Brollón.

### **Associated partners:**

Town councils in the area and business and self-employed associations.

### **Status:** Under execution

**Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2027

### **Execution measures:**

- The town councils of the property join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the global alliance of local governments voluntarily committed to the fight against climate change in the EU.
- Call for grants for the development of projects for renewable thermal energy facilities in non-residential buildings, premises and public sector infrastructures.
- Call for grants for the development of renewable thermal energy facility projects in the agricultural sector and public administrations.
- Call for grants for the development of energy improvement projects aimed at the self-employed and SMEs in the services sector - SME energy voucher.
- Call for grants for the development of projects for the use of renewable electrical energy facilities and energy efficiency savings in primary agricultural production companies.
- Call for grants for the development of renewable energy storage projects.
- Call for grants for the contracting of legal and technical services for the development of energy planning projects in town councils and energy communities.
- Develop two energy communities, one in the town council of A Pobra de Brollón and the other in the town council of Sober.
- Promote intelligent lighting, opting for low-consumption and non-polluting lighting systems that take into account the quality of the sky as a component of the cultural landscape, replacing those systems that require renewing, due to their polluting nature, age or state of conservation.

### **Monitoring indicators:**

- Number of town councils in the area of the property that are members of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.
- Number of beneficiaries in the Ribeira Sacra area of the different types of grants provided and the amount received by the beneficiaries.
- Energy communities put into operation.
- Number of actions for the renovation or installation of non-polluting lighting systems.

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### **Estimated total investment: €6,090,000**

(€ 6,000,000 INEGA/ €90,000 Ribeira Sacra)

### **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	-	-	6,000,000
30,000	30,000	30,000	-	-	-	-	90,000
1,530,000	1,530,000	1,530,000	1,500,000	-	-	-	6,090,000

#### **8.4. Conservation of natural values and the environment**



### 8.5. Sustainable economic development

This programme aims to revitalise the Ribeira Sacra through the development of sustainable farming and forestry activities in order to preserve its cultural and natural heritage. To this end, model villages and agro-forestry estates will be promoted to boost profitable economic activities, protecting the environment against forest fires and generating economic reactivation and the conservation of the traditional landscape of the Ribeira Sacra. In addition, support will be given to generational renewal in agriculture and the recovery of abandoned crop terraces, also strengthening the local wine sector.

Priority will be given to the conservation and valuation of forest resources, such as chestnut forests, through the implementation of sustainable forest management measures and the promotion of forest certification. This will contribute to the preservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services and active management in masses of native hardwoods.

Finally, local crafts and trade will be promoted through the preservation of traditional trades and support programmes for the sector, diversifying the local economy and highlighting the rich cultural tradition of the waterscape. This integrated approach will be key to the sustainable socio-economic development of the Ribeira Sacra.

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## 8.5. Sustainable economic development

**Development of model villages and agroforestry estates to promote agricultural and livestock activity, the urban recovery of villages and the maintenance of unique elements of the landscape (soccalcos, walls, albarizas, network of paths, ...).**

■ **Code:** DS- 01

■ The model villages and agroforestry estates are instruments taken into account in the Galician Law for the recovery of agricultural land, the purpose of which is to recover land in a state of abandonment through the development of economically profitable agricultural, livestock and forestry activities. In the specific case of the model villages, the aim is not only the urban and landscape improvement of the village, but also boosting the agricultural and livestock activity in the peripheral areas with good productive capacity, but currently abandoned. This instrument has a dual aim: to revive the dynamism and vitality of villages affected by depopulation, and to protect people and property from the threat of forest fires. During the production process, traditional crops and uses are promoted in order to restore the agroforestry economic activity, as well as to conserve the unique constructive elements of the traditional agrosystems and distinctive features of the cultural landscape, such as the *soccalcos*, walls and *albarizas*, among others.

Within the scope of the nominated property, at present, the Regional Ministry of Rural Affairs has approved the development of model villages in the town councils of Sober and A Pobra do Brollón and they involve bringing land located around the villages back into production with the aim of increasing the resilience of the territory to forest fires. In the model villages, sustainable agro-livestock and forestry activities based on traditional crops will be promoted, which contribute to the conservation of the landscape and cultural heritage of small villages and to the recovery of these traditional crops.

In turn, the Regional Ministry for the Rural Affairs is promoting public initiative agroforestry estates (Carballido, Chantada, O Saviñao and San Xoan de Río) in the town councils that contribute territory to the nominated property. The aim is to promote the management of the territory, to generate opportunities for local economic development linked to agricultural, livestock and forestry activity and to recover and conserve the characteristic landscape of the Ribeira Sacra in an agroforestry mosaic, improving the landscape quality of the area.

■ **Party Responsible:**

Galician Agency for Rural Development (Agencia Gallega de Desarrollo Rural - AGADER).

■ **Associated partners:**

Town Councils  
Galician Food Quality Agency (Agencia Gallega de Calidad Alimentaria - AGACAL), SEAGA, companies in the agroforestry and livestock sector.

■ **Status:** Under execution

■ **Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2030

■ **Measurements for execution of the action:**

- Incorporate the plots surrounding the villages into the Land Bank for a minimum period of 10 years.
- Develop at least four agroforestry estates and search for production agents interested in the different crops or agroforestry activities proposed.
- Sign lease contracts through the Galician Land Bank for the exploitation of land on the perimeter of the villages in accordance with the productive management plan and assignment contract for a minimum of 5 years.

■ **Monitoring indicators:**

- Number of model villages created.
- Number of agroforestry estates implemented.
- Number of hectares mobilised through the model villages and agroforestry estate instruments.
- Number of productive agents managing model villages and agroforestry estates.

■ **Estimated total investment: €132,200**

■ **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
24,200	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	132,200

**Land mobility programme for the recovery of abandoned vineyard areas and the promotion of generational renewal in viticulture.**

■ **Code:** DS-02

■ One of the agricultural activities that make up the Ribeira Sacra Cultural Waterscape is viticulture, linked fundamentally to the *socalcos* created on the steep slopes of the rivers Miño and Sil, and classified as heroic viticulture by CERVIM.

The Ribeira Sacra Denomination of Origin was created in 1996 to guarantee the origin and quality of production through its Regulatory Council. Its production area includes regions with a long wine-making tradition, including parishes and places of 19 town councils, which are divided into five distinct sub-zones: Amandi, Chantada, Quiroga-Bibei, Ribeiras del Miño and Ribeiras del Sil.

The Xunta de Galicia created the Enoturismo de Galicia brand and in 2020 drew up the Strategy for the economic, territorial and tourism revitalisation of the wine-growing regions linked to the five PDOs of Galician wine (the general area of Ribeira Sacra is the third largest). The strategy establishes various actions to be carried out in the Ribeira Sacra PDO territory, taking the wine sector as a dynamic and shaping element of the territory, strengthening its relationship with the tourism sector.

The actions envisaged in the strategy include the development of a specific land mobility programme for the recovery of vineyard areas, which will make it possible to increase the size of the PDOs, encourage generational replacement and incorporate new winegrowers. The aim is to promote the sustainable growth of the Galician wine sector in general, and in particular that of the Ribeira Sacra PDO, by recovering old vineyard plots on the slopes of the rivers Miño and Sil that are currently abandoned. During the process of mobilising and reclaiming vineyard land, distinctive landscape features such as traditional walls, *socalcos* and paths will be preserved, thus reinforcing the character of the Ribeira Sacra landscape.

■ **Party Responsible:**

Galician Agency for Rural Development (Agencia Gallega de Desarrollo Rural - AGADER).

■ **Associated partners:**

Regional Ministry of Rural Affairs, Galician Food Quality Agency, Regulatory Council of the Ribeira Sacra PDO.

■ **Status:** Under execution

■ **Anticipated execution date:** 2025-2027

■ **Execution measures:**

- Establish contacts with the Regulatory Council of the Ribeira Sacra PDO and with wine entrepreneurs to find out the surface area needs in order to tackle a process of sustainable growth of the vineyard surface area.
- Identify lands in a state of abandonment on the slopes of the rivers Miño and Sil, formerly dedicated to vine cultivation and contact with owners to delimit areas susceptible to mobilisation through the instruments of the Law for the recovery of agricultural land in Galicia.
- Implement the instruments of the Law for the recovery of agricultural land for the effective mobilisation of land and its production, and promote other forms such as land restructuring or exchanges of special agricultural interest.
- Establish a grants programme for the wine sector aimed at the conservation of *socalcos* and their preservation.
- Conduct dissemination actions among the local population, especially aimed at people under 45 years of age, on grants for the incorporation of young farmers and support for investments in farms.

■ **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of entrepreneurs and winegrowers interested in or requesting vineyard surface area in Ribeira Sacra Miñota and Silense.
- Number of hectares of vineyard area to be recovered requested.
- Number of young people involved in viticulture.

■ **Estimated total investment: €30,000**

■ **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
-	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	30,000

## 8.5. Sustainable economic development

### Recovery plan for traditional chestnut forests (*soutos*) to enhance chestnut production and conserve the landscape.

#### ■ **Code:** DS-03

The Ribeira Sacra has an important forestry heritage related to the chestnut forests (*soutos*), which in the past played an important role in the local subsistence economy. Since the middle of the last century, based on the high organoleptic value of the product, a sector dedicated to the marketing of fresh chestnuts has developed in Galicia, which has been losing strength as a number of Galician companies dedicated to the production and processing of chestnuts have opted to develop products with greater added value - marron glacé, chestnuts in syrup, chestnut flour, etc. - which are also protected by the Protected Geographical Indication "Galician Chestnut".

The commitment to the commercial exploitation of this product of extraordinary quality has not prevented many hundred-year-old chestnut forests in this area from being partially abandoned. For this reason, it is necessary to promote its recovery as a landscape resource and also as a driving force for the local economy of the Ribeira Sacra, contributing to the diversification of agroforestry activity and the conservation of the ancestral polyculture.

#### ■ **Party Responsible:**

Direktorate General for Forest Planning and Management.

#### ■ **Associated partners:**

AGADER, Protected Geographical Indication "Galician Chestnut," owners of *soutos* Proagrosilga, Amarelante, Miguel Arean e Hijos, Cuevas and Alibós.

#### ■ **Status:** Under execution

#### ■ **Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2029

#### ■ **Execution measures:**

- Identify and characterise the existing chestnut *soutos* in the Ribeira Sacra.
- Recover the *soutos*: cleaning of access roads, skinning, sanitary pruning and putting into production of the coppices.
- Monitoring, control and improvement of the phytosanitary status of the coppices.

#### ■ **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of hectares of *soutos* recovered in production.
- Treatments against pests and diseases carried out. (ha).

#### ■ **Estimated total investment: €1,500,000**

#### ■ **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	-	1,500,000

### **Development of forest planning and management instruments and promotion of forest certification of Montes Vecinales en Mano Común (MVMC) for their recovery and enhancement.**

#### **Code: DS-04**

In order to contribute to sustainable forest management in this river area, the aim is to promote Forest Development and Management Instruments that incorporate forestry models and actions that result in:

- Actions that increase the environmental, landscape, economic and social values based on the declaration of the Ribeira Sacra BIC Cultural Heritage, such as:
  1. Changes from allochthonous species to autochthonous species, advocating the substitution of species such as pine, acacia and eucalyptus.
  2. Recovery of unproductive areas with traditional crops, especially those linked to chestnut trees, vines and fruit trees. These areas will address the need for the removal and control of invasive species that require effective management to prevent their proliferation.
  3. Encouraging the registration of hardwood masses in the area.

Therefore, in order to conserve the Cultural Landscape of the Ribeira Sacra, and to promote the recovery of traditional and autochthonous species that contribute to the sustainability and balance of the landscape, the current protection system includes the prohibition of allochthonous forestry plantations and the study of these for the *Eucalyptus* genus in the area of the nominated property. These measures are directly linked and can be enhanced through the Certification of Forest Ecosystem Services.

- The conservation of mature forests and specimens, paying attention to their adaptation to climate change and assessing the needs and challenges that climate change may pose to forest masses.

- Forestry that favours mixed forests with native species and pine forests and the structural diversity of forest areas.
- The promotion of native species for commercial purposes (chestnut, oak, cherry, etc.) and conifers, taking into account the potential uses of the forest and seeking the establishment of masses that provide resources of commercial interest and high value for the promotion of quality economies.
- The aim will be to promote new joint production plans for the area, incorporating different woodlands with potential and interest in exploiting these resources and facilitating joint management tools, as set out in the Law for the Recovery of Agricultural Land.
- The strategic implementation of firebreak landscapes that mitigate the effects of forest fires, taking into account the different landscapes of the Ribeira Sacra and their contribution to the consolidation of a Green Infrastructure, such as:
  1. Silvopastoral systems with grazing under trees.
  2. Hardwood masses creating a green firebreak.
  3. Recovery of pastures and landscape in mosaic according to traditional uses in the area.
- The incorporation of Forest Management criteria that meet the requirements of Forest Certification seals such as FSC or PEFC.
- In addition to forest management, certification will be promoted from the perspective of Forest Ecosystem Services which, in addition to the social, environmental and landscape value, can generate economic value in the forest through payments for ecosystem services, such as:
  1. Biodiversity conservation
  2. Soil conservation.
  3. Carbon sequestration and storage.
  4. Drainage basin services.
  5. Recreational services.

## 8.5. Sustainable economic development

### ■ Party Responsible:

Directorate General for Forest Planning and Management.

### ■ Associated partners:

Montes Vecinales en mano común.

### ■ Status:

Under development

### ■ Anticipated execution date:

2024-2029

### ■ Execution measures:

- Promote governance in the MVMCs, addressing the difficulties regarding the lack of constituted management bodies and conflicts over the delimitation of forests. The status of governance arrangements will also be discussed.
- Prepare Forest Development and Management Instruments that address sustainability in a comprehensive manner, favouring the multi-functionality of the forest and diversification of forest products (timber harvesting, livestock, beekeeping, mycology, etc.) and other ecosystem services (landscape improvement, recreational activities, conservation of cultural heritage, use and enhancement of water resources, fire protection, soil conservation, etc.).
- Value forest resources through tools such as PEFC or FSC Forest Certification of these MVMC.

### ■ Indicators for monitoring the action:

- Number of MVMCs with an established management body.
- Number of MVMCs with revised governance arrangements.
- Number of Montes Vecinales en Mano Común with Forest Management and Planning Instrument.
- Number of firebreak landscapes implemented.
- Number of Montes Vecinales en Mano Común with Forest Management Certification.
- Number of MVMCs with Forest Ecosystem Services Certification.

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### ■ Estimated total investment: €480,000

### ■ Breakdown by annual instalments:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	-	480,000

## Promotion of active forest management in consolidated masses of autochthonous hardwoods.

### **Code:** DS- 05

Some of the chestnut and oak forests in the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape lack sustainable forest management that would allow an economic return to be obtained while maintaining the landscape values of these forests associated with the river canyons. While some of the indigenous forests have traditional forest management, based on their use for domestic fruit and firewood, others are included in orderly forests and under sustainable forest management.

In 2020, the Xunta de Galicia published a decree by means of which it created the register of consolidated masses of native hardwoods with the aim of encouraging active forest management of these forests in order to improve their management, taking into account criteria of sustainability and landscape conservation.

To become part of this register, consolidated hardwood masses must have a minimum of 15 hectares and an average age of 20 years, and there may not be more than 20% larger feet of other species. It is also requested that the stratum of covered space be greater than 50%, either in single species masses, of one species, or of several, among them oaks, chestnut trees, Pyrenean oaks or birches.

Owners who are registered in the register will have priority access to public subsidies, especially for planning instruments, and enjoy tax advantages. It is also planned to encourage the management of consolidated hardwood masses by means of joint management arrangements, such as joint forest management groups.

It is therefore necessary to continue to promote the registration in this register of the Ribeira Sacra's forests that meet the conditions for it, thus encouraging active forest management as a way of conserving and enhancing their value.

### **Party Responsible:**

Directorate General for Forest Planning and Management.

### **Associated partners:**

Communities of montes vecinales en mano común and associations of owners.

### **Status:** Under development

### **Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2029

### **Execution measures:**

- Disseminate the Register among private landowners and forest communities.
- Call for grants for the development of forest management instruments linked to these masses.

### **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of registered forests of the Ribeira Sacra territory.
- Number of forests registered with approved forest management instrument.
- Number of beneficiaries of the grants provided and the area covered by the grant dossiers (ha).

### **Estimated total investment: €2,100,000**

### **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	-	2,100,000

## 8.5. Sustainable economic development

### Promotion of local production and local craftsmanship.

#### Code: DS- 06

The development of crafts and craft trade in the Ribeira Sacra, as in many other areas, was always linked to the needs of the local population's daily tasks, such as, in the case of the Ribeira Sacra, the harvesting of grapes, the storage of wine and the production of aguardiente (fire-water). These activities gave rise to the establishment of a tradition, now on the verge of extinction, linked to brass and copper work, which was highly appreciated in the town councils such as Monforte de Lemos and Sober.

The same is true of other trades and traditions, such as the weavers in Chantada, the zoqueiros and those related to basketry, which gave rise to the Bergaza jugs, taking advantage of the wicker plants, from which the raw material for the vines was also extracted.

Another of the traditional trades of special relevance and recognition in the Ribeira Sacra is that of pottery, both for the quality of its products and because it has been able to adapt to the new functions and uses demanded by today's society, creating an image of quality that is recognised outside these regions. The centres of Gundivós (Sober) and Niñodaguia (Xunqueira de Espadanedo) are places of highly appreciated production. Although Xunqueira de Espadanedo is outside the scope of the nominated property, its craftsmanship is common in the cultural landscape.

All these trades, as a consequence of social changes in some cases and health regulations in others, initially led to their loss or decline. However, recently there has been a notable recovery in some of these trades, which have been able to innovate in order to reinvent themselves and place tradition at the service of new uses and social demands, achieving, as in the case of ceramics, a commercial success that extends beyond our borders.

Therefore, the socio-economic development of the Ribeira Sacra territory depends on the promotion of craftsmanship and local production as a mechanism for the preservation of traditional trades, which contributes to the diversification of the local economy and enhances the value of tradition in foreign markets.

The same applies to local trade. Its promotion in a territory is key to stimulating the economy and strengthening communities. In this sense, the Galician Government takes into account different lines of aid and support for local commerce and crafts, such as, for example, the circular trade programme, which promotes initiatives for the defence and sustainability of the environment in the field of local trade. The same applies to other programmes, such as subsidies for digital transformation, innovation and modernisation of the commercial and craft sector, the Programme to stimulate and encourage consumption in Galicia's retail businesses through the *Activa comercio* vouchers, or other grants aimed at implementing new technologies for online marketing, adapting the physical sales space or technological solutions to improve the energy efficiency and sustainability of small businesses.

#### Party Responsible:

Direktorate General for Trade

#### Associated partners:

Associations of craftsmen, traders, the self-employed and SMEs in the field of commercial distribution, Artesanía de Galicia.

#### Status: Under execution

#### Anticipated execution date: 2024-2030

#### Execution measures:

- Promote and disseminate the Artesanía de Galicia brand among craftspeople and traders' associations in the Ribeira Sacra area.
- Conduct training actions in the field of traditional crafts related to handicrafts and other courses related to marketing issues and competitive positioning.
- Call for grants for the promotion and modernisation of local trade and crafts through the lines indicated above.

#### Monitoring indicators:

- Number of craftsmen and craftswomen adhering to the Artesanía de Galicia brand.
- Number of courses held.
- Number of course attendees.
- Number of businesses and crafts people benefiting from the different lines of grants announced.

#### Estimated total investment: €1,295,000

#### Breakdown by annual instalments:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
185,000	185,000	185,000	185,000	185,000	185,000	185,000	1,295,000



## 8.6. Management of sustainable tourism

The management of tourism in Ribeira Sacra began in 2005 with the creation of the Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium, created to bring together the necessary cooperation between all public and private agents for the development of a Tourism Revitalisation Plan. That first plan already defined Ribeira Sacra as a territory located “on two sides of the river” and allowed for the development of various actions that have been continued to date. It also served to consolidate a governance system that has emerged as the guarantor of a joint vision of the territory.

This programme now focuses on the attributes and values of the nominated property, addressing the qualification and diversification of the responsible tourism offer, as well as the public use of the space.

Firstly, it is proposed that a Public Use Plan be drawn up and approved by consensus, coordinated between the different administrations and agents with powers in the territory. In addition, the improvement and integration of interpretation infrastructures for visitors to learn about the waterscape is also envisaged.

New tourism products are designed to highlight the value of the water resource in its many forms, as well as training, professionalisation and improvement of the sector's skills specifically aimed at learning about the values of the place, its hydraulic heritage and the singularities of the river landscape.

As a complement to the above and in order to increase competitiveness, the promotion of the destination brand “Ribeira Sacra, cultural waterscape” is planned to be strengthened at national and international level, including the development of campaigns aimed at various sectors, the publication of new materials and the establishment of strategic alliances.

The aim is to advance in the sustainable management of the destination, taking advantage of synergies with other plans and programmes under development and extending the good results achieved since the launch of the 2020-2023 Management Plan, in order to consolidate Ribeira Sacra as an example of good practice in the sustainable management of tourism in this type of area.

## Public Use Plan for Ribeira Sacra

### **Code:** GT-01

The Public Use Plan is designed as the tool that defines the management framework and the necessary measures for the use and enjoyment of the Ribeira Sacra Cultural Waterscape from the perspective of sustainability and in coherence with its values. The ultimate aim is to bring the values of the cultural landscape to the visitor in an orderly, safe manner, guaranteeing conservation and facilitating understanding and appreciation through information, education and interpretation of the heritage.

It will be designed in a participatory manner through an advisory committee that brings together all stakeholders and will be coordinated with the managers of other protected areas that converge in the area, ensuring the conservation of the values that determined its declaration and minimising the possible impacts on the components of the natural and cultural heritage.

The Public Use Plan will analyse and propose a set of programmes and actions, including the following:

- Study on the carrying capacity and zoning based on the activities conducted in the area and on the fragility of the environment, adapted to different scenarios of public use and taking into account the setting of maximum capacities for certain points of interest.
- Forecast of impacts resulting from public use and establishment of corrective measures, taking into account variables such as the duration of the visit, the typology of the user or their behaviour; as well as the characteristics of the environment itself, the corrective measures implemented or the season and climate at the time of the visit. The incidence of housing for tourist use will be studied.
- Establishment of a system of visits to cultural heritage and other places of tourist interest, based on a collaboration agreement between the bishopricks of Lugo and Ourense and companies in the tourism sector, for the establishment of a regular schedule of visits to monuments.
- Coordination of the opening hours of tourist offices and monuments with the frequency of the river routes and tourist trains, as well as the days when they are closed for rest; and analysis of the possibility of charging admission to certain places of interest.
- Analysis of the possibility of creating “Gateways to the Ribeira Sacra” as welcome / interpretation centres in the main population centres around the destination, such as Monforte de Lemos, Chandia and Castro Caldelas, connected to the mobility nodes foreseen in the Sustainable Mobility Plan already drawn up.

## 8.6. Management of sustainable tourism

- A tourism intelligence system that allows the collection of visitor data in real time to understand their behaviour, improve their experience and make the information available to the public and private tourism sector to facilitate decision-making.
- Creation of the Ribeira Sacra Tourist Card (R.S.) CARD\_Combined ticket), in accordance with the philosophy of the “European Citizens Travel Card” project, proposed by the European Committee of the Regions and supported by the Network of European Regions for Competitive and Sustainable Tourism (NECSTouR), to which Galicia belongs.
- Design of a unique signage system, adapted to the Tourism Agency’s tourism signage regulations, and incorporating the Waterscape brand. This signage will be installed in strategic places, especially linked to hydraulic heritage. The brand image will also be incorporated into pre-existing information panels and supports at points of singular interest for the appreciation of the values of Ribeira Sacra, such as the viewpoints. The aim is to offer clear, accessible tourist information in different media and languages, which allows visitors to get to know the different attractions of Ribeira Sacra, facilitates their movement through the territory in an easy, safe way, and allows a proper understanding of the values of the landscape.
- Campaign to replace and/or remove obsolete, outdated or deteriorated signage and establish measures for its reuse or recycling.
- Information on the effects of intensive public use, restrictions and recommendations, extending and disseminating the contents of the Manual of good practices for visitors to Ribeira Sacra, selected as a case study in the Ministry of Culture’s Green Book for the sustainable management of cultural heritage.

**■ Party Responsible:**

Galician Tourism Agency / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium.

**■ Associated partners:**

Provincial Council of Lugo, Provincial Council of Ourense, Town Councils, Regional Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure Planning, Miño-Sil Hydrographic Confederation, Railway Infrastructure Administrator (Administrador de Infraestructuras Ferroviarias), Ribeira Sacra tourism sector companies, Bishoprics.

**■ Status:** In planning

**■ Anticipated execution date:** 2024 – 2030

**■ Execution measures:**

- Create an advisory committee, as a platform for stakeholder participation, to discuss solutions and approve the management measures of the Public Use Plan.
- Approve the Public Use Plan.
- Determine the reception capacity to manage the accessibility of the most visited areas.
- Sign a collaboration agreement between the Galician Tourism Agency and the Tourism Consortium for the financing of the activities for access and interpretation of the Cultural Landscape.
- Sign collaboration agreements with other agents for the financing of the activities of access and interpretation of the Cultural Landscape.
- Develop a tourism intelligence system using big data for the collection of statistical data on visitors and the analysis of real-time information on users, their movements and preferences.

**■ Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Tourism advisory committee created.
- Approval of the Public Use Plan.
- Collaboration agreements with the Galician Tourism Agency and other entities.
- Tourism intelligence system created.

**■ Estimated total investment: €500,000**

(€350,000 Galician Tourism Agency / €150,000 Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium).

**■ Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	350,000
60,000	60,000	30,000	-	-	-	-	150,000
110,000	110,000	80,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	500,000

## Improving tourism infrastructure and facilities.

**Code:** GT-02

Improvement and integration of tourist infrastructures and facilities aimed at the knowledge of the property and its values, focusing on the culture of water. This action is inspired by sustainability, the use of eco-friendly materials and technologies, the efficient management of natural resources and the minimisation of the environmental footprint.

Humanisation and landscape restoration actions will also be promoted, especially in the surroundings of the pontoons, such as the one planned for the Belésar jetty (O Saviñao), which is expected to be extended to the other five publicly owned jetties, and which are included in the Tourism Sustainability Plan for Destinations approved in the extraordinary call for 2023. All of this is maximised by the synergies with the actions being developed in the field of mobility, such as the Moves programme and the Ribeira Sacra Navigation and Docking Management Plan (PPC-01).

The ultimate goal is to create a more convenient, safe and pleasant experience for tourists visiting the Ribeira Sacra, which contributes to the understanding of the values of the nominated property and has a positive impact on local economic development.

**Party Responsible:**

Galician Tourism Agency / Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium

**Associated partners:**

Town councils and companies in the tourism sector.

**Status:** Under execution

**Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2030

**Execution measures:**

- Call for grants to finance actions aimed at improving tourism infrastructures, among others, in the following areas:
  - > Actions aimed at improving accessibility conditions and removing architectural barriers.
  - > Works aimed at improving the facilities in order to obtain quality certifications, especially the Q for Tourism Quality.
  - > Actions aimed at adapting to changes in regulations and improving the classification of the establishment that lead to an increase in category.
  - > Renovation and modernisation of the facilities and beautification of the surroundings of the facility.
  - > Movable equipment necessary for the operation.
  - > Actions to improve air conditioning that favour sustainability with the implementation of energy saving measures, as well as the installation or improvement of air extraction and air renewal systems and the establishment of management systems that are beneficial to the environment and the climate.
  - > Digitalisation of the establishment's management and marketing systems.
- Call for grants aimed at wine tourism establishments for adaptation actions to enhance the value of wine and gastronomic products, the creation of wine and gastronomic experiences and the creation and expansion of the range of accommodation linked to the wine and gastronomic tourism sector.
- Develop actions to humanise and restore the landscape around the jetties and the sustainable rehabilitation of the pontoon buildings.

**Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of grant beneficiaries in the Ribeira Sacra area.
- Total investment made and percentage of co-financing with grants.
- Number of humanisation and landscape restoration actions carried out on the jetties
- Number of building refurbishments carried out on the pontoons.

**Estimated total investment: €2,025,000**

(€1,800,000 Galician Tourism Agency / €225,000 Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium)

**Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
-	1,000,000	400,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	1,800,000
75,000	75,000	75,000	-	-	-	-	225,000
75,000	1,075,000	475,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	2,025,000

## 8.6. Management of sustainable tourism

### Development of new tourism products related to the waterscape

#### Code: GT-03

The Ribeira Sacra territory, with its great diversity, has the potential to position itself as a multi-purpose and experiential destination that meets the demands of different types and profiles of visitors. The development of innovative tourism products that incorporate the story of water, its landscapes and associated cultural heritage is one of the great challenges for the future. This requires the establishment of effective alliances between local tourism-related businesses, tour operators, administrations, local populations and academia, with the understanding that knowledge is a major tourism resource.

For this purpose, the Tourism Sustainability Plan for the Destination under development envisages the implementation of various actions aimed at promoting this diversification with the aim of boosting the tourism offer on a local scale linked to the territory and based on the natural, cultural and gastronomic heritage. It envisages the creation of a "Laboratory of Experiences" for the generation of ideas for this, which will take the form of new innovative tourism products associated with the culture of water and its heritage.

In addition, the Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium, through the experience acquired, has identified different resources that have an important potential, such as the *socalcos*, the hydraulic heritage linked to water, including industrial heritage, archaeology, the network of museums, gold mining, gastronomy, the Winter Pilgrims' Route to Santiago, the observation of the sky or the native forests due to their special importance in the conservation of nature and biodiversity.

The development of new innovative tourism products is therefore a key strategy to improve the quality and competitiveness of the destination. In a dynamic and changing global environment, it is essential that destinations adapt and evolve to meet the expectations and demands of an increasingly diverse and demanding tourism.

#### Party Responsible:

Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium

#### Associated partners:

Town councils, tourism companies, entities linked to entrepreneurship, universities and research centres.

**Status:** Under development

**Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2026

#### Execution measures:

- Create a "Laboratory of experiences" where all kinds of public agents, private companies, experts, artists, students... come together to generate and organise new ideas to test with the aim of diversifying and consolidating the tourist offer of Ribeira Sacra as a cultural waterscape.
- Develop new tourism products linked to the use and enhancement of the tangible and intangible heritage of water, including traditional hydraulic and industrial heritage linked to water, using the actions foreseen in the Programme for the preservation of hydraulic heritage and in the Programme for the preservation of the intangible heritage of water in this management plan.
- Develop a new tourism product linked to sky-watching. For this, a study of the quality of the sky in Ribeira Sacra will first be commissioned in order to select the areas that meet acceptable astronomical parameters and to determine the ideal places for the installation of observation points. Subsequently, investments will be made for the use and reconversion of existing ones (e.g. existing viewpoints).
- Develop tourism products associated with knowledge of traditional water mills, their landscapes and other manifestations associated with historical hydraulic heritage.
- Give continuity to and diversify industrial tourism products, taking advantage of the opportunity provided by the great reception of the first visits to the Santo Estevo power plant organised under the 2021-2023 Sustainability Plan.
- Assess the possibility of certifying Ribeira Sacra as a Starlight Destination.

#### Indicators for monitoring the action:

- Laboratory of experiences created.
- Tourist product linked to the tangible and intangible water heritage created.
- Tourist product linked to astronomical observation created.
- Number of industrial tourism products created.
- Feasibility report on the Ribeira Sacra as a Starlight destination.

#### Estimated total investment: €230,000

#### Breakdown by annual instalments:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
40,000	110,000	80,000	-	-	-	-	230,000

**Programme for training, professionalisation and improvement of professional skills in the tourism sector in Ribeira Sacra.**

**Code:** GT-04

The aim of this programme is to attract, develop and retain talent within the tourism system of the territory, and to promote the qualification and better interpretation of the site by the sector, in particular in all issues associated with the attributes and values of the site as a cultural waterscape. Nowadays, professionalism and quality are fundamental factors for the tourism sector, being necessary for the differentiation and competitiveness of the destination. Measures are therefore proposed to encourage and promote professionalism in the sector through the recognition of good local practices, so that good examples of tourism quality consolidate the industry. In addition, new training programmes will be implemented to cover the most relevant shortcomings related to the need for innovation in the sector.

**Party Responsible:**

Galician Tourism Agency.

**Associated partners:**

Professional Association of Galician Tourist Guides, Tourist Companies, Belarmino Fernández School of Hotel and Tourism, Galician Tourism Cluster, Research Centres and Universities of Galicia, Institute for Spanish Tourist Quality, Galician Federation of Rural Tourism (FEGATUR), Exceltur.

**Status:** Under execution

**Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2030

**Execution measures:**

- Develop a Skills Improvement Programme, including the following issues:
- > Collaboration agreement between Universities, Galician Tourism Schools, Vocational Training Centres and companies in the tourism sector, so that students can carry out work experience and training stays in the territory.
- > Promotion of Spanish Tourist Quality Seal, to recognise good local practices, implementing the corresponding UNE standards, leading to the certification of as many establishments as possible, of the Q seal for Tourism Quality of the ICTE.

- > Environmental education programme to raise awareness and involve the tourism sector in innovation and sustainability criteria in their activities.
- Develop a Training Programme:
- > On-site training courses that include site interpretation content: Tourist Guides; Languages; Mountain and Scientific Tourism; Wellness Tourism; Hotel Management and Catering; Museology, Museography and Cultural Management.
- > Training programme for tourist guides specialising in the waterscape and the associated cultural heritage in the area.
- > Workshops and training sessions on internationalisation and improvement of knowledge and interpretation of the cultural landscape for current professionals in the tourism sector, especially for managers and team leaders.
- > International workshops with professionals of national and international prestige in the sector of cultural landscape and tourism.
- > Open days and tastings, with activities such as show-cooking or workshops, with guests such as sommeliers or chefs of high international recognition, to promote local cuisine through the Rosende catering school, reinforcing tourism with greater added value.
- Set up a Scholarship and Grants Programme:
- > Scholarships for specialised practical training in tourist offices, dependent on the Galician Tourist Agency.
- > Grants to town councils to hire staff in tourist offices and other services in the sector.
- > Grants to local bodies to support investments for actions to improve tourist infrastructures and tourist accommodation and catering establishments.

**Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of participants in the training actions
- Number of attendees at conferences, workshops and events.
- Number of entities certified in the Spanish Tourism Quality Seal.

**Estimate of the investment: €350,000**

**Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	350,000

### Promotion of the Ribeira Sacra destination brand as a Cultural Waterscape.

#### Code: GT-05

A new identity for the Ribeira Sacra tourism brand was launched in 2022, highlighting the characteristic, strategic and unique issues that define the cultural landscape of this territory. This new brand, which merges the concepts of water, nature, heritage, territory, union, tourism and sustainability in its design, has since been applied in various physical and digital media. This allows a solid, coherent image to be projected to the visitor, positioning Ribeira Sacra as a unique and exceptional destination. The updating of the brand added a differential value by reflecting the attributes and features of the Cultural Landscape, aligning it with the expectations of today's consumer and strengthening the Ribeira Sacra brand as a sustainable and responsible tourist destination.

Since its launch, a number of promotional activities have been developed and need to be reinforced for the future. The purpose of this reinforced promotion is to attract visitors by generating interest in the tourist destination and motivating travellers to get to know and enjoy the exceptional landscape of Ribeira Sacra. It also seeks to position the destination by highlighting its distinctive features and to increase its visibility both nationally and internationally, seeking to reach a wider and more diverse audience. This strategy also aims to generate a greater economic impact in the area, while promoting sustainable development.

#### Party Responsible:

Ribeira Sacra Tourist Consortium  
/ Galician Tourism Agency.

#### Associated partners:

Galician Tourism Cluster, Regulatory Council of the Denomination of Origin Ribeira Sacra, Association of Galician Spas, INORDE Institute of Economic Development of Ourense, Railway Infrastructure Administrator, Ribeira Sacra Rural Association, Galician Federation of Rural Tourism (FEGATUR) and the Associations Agatur, Agarimo and Pazos de Galicia, Rural Development Groups.

#### Status:

Under development

#### Anticipated execution date:

2024-2030

#### Execution measures:

- Develop communication campaigns for the new brand identity (social networks, travel portals, destination websites, travellers' blogs, etc.), and print and disseminate brochures, tourist maps and guides with the destination's identity and updated information.
- Develop audiovisual material in different languages (Galician, Spanish, English, French and/or German) for use on different platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok.
- Participate in national and international tourism fairs and events to promote the destination and establish contacts with travel agencies, media and potential visitors.
- Establish strategic alliances with tourist accommodation, restaurants and other local establishments and companies to promote the Ribeira Sacra destination brand in the following areas:

##### Gastronomic tourism and wine tourism:

- > Promote the inclusion of the Ribeira Sacra wine route in the Spanish Association of Wine Cities, a benchmark brand for wine tourism in Spain.
- > Support for wine tourism routes, oil tourism, chestnuts routes, cherries and other gastronomic resources, not only through tasting but also by creating experiences of participation in harvest and preparation of the product.
- > Campaign to promote local products and their link to the landscape, such as wines from the Protected Denomination of Origin (PDO) Ribeira Sacra, Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) Aguardientes de Galicia, IXP Ternera de Galicia, IXP Castaña de Galicia, IXP Miel de Galicia, oil, etc., through new tourist packages.

- > Creation of a guide to fairs and festivals, giving greater visibility and joint promotion of the calendar of fairs and gastronomic festivals of the different town councils of the Study Area. In order to achieve this, call for Subsidies will continue for Town Councils for the support, promotion and dissemination of the festivals declared to be of tourist interest in Galicia.

##### Cultural tourism:

- > Campaign to promote tourism based on water heritage and landscape, history and local culture (intangible heritage, spirituality, legends and traditions), through the exchange of experiences between visitors and local people.
- > Campaign to boost the use of railway lines, through the tourist train, and the enhancement of railway stations (INORDE's Living Stations Project), revaluing the industrial, cultural and natural heritage around this infrastructure.

- > Open days to visit the industrial heritage linked to water in order to revalue industrial tourism in the area.

Ecotourism:

- > Creation of a tourist map, with the selection of river viewpoints and paths of tourist interest from the Catalogue of the landscapes of Galicia, the Galician Catalogue of Singular Trees, the Places of Geological Interest and the catalogued cultural heritage.
- > Membership of the Spanish Ecotourism Product Club.
- > Ornithological days that promote Ribeira Sacra resources through the Galicia Birding Brand.
- > Astronomy conferences to promote astronomy tourism, supporting Ribeira Sacra to obtain the denomination of "Starlight Tourist Destination."
- > Application of the measures for Galicia Natural and Unique and tourism boost of the Network of Natural Parks and other natural spaces.
  - Membership of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism that EUROPARC promotes

**■ Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of promotional campaigns carried out.
- Number of brochures, tourist maps and guides printed.
- Number of attendances at national and international fairs carried out.
- Number of strategic alliances established.
- Membership of the Wine Routes of Spain.
- Membership of the Spanish Ecotourism Product Club carried out.
- Membership of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism Carried out.
- Number of visitors to tourist offices.

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**■ Estimated total investment: €370,000**

(€350,000 Galician Tourism Agency / €20,000 Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium.

**■ Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	350,000
20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000
70,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	370,000



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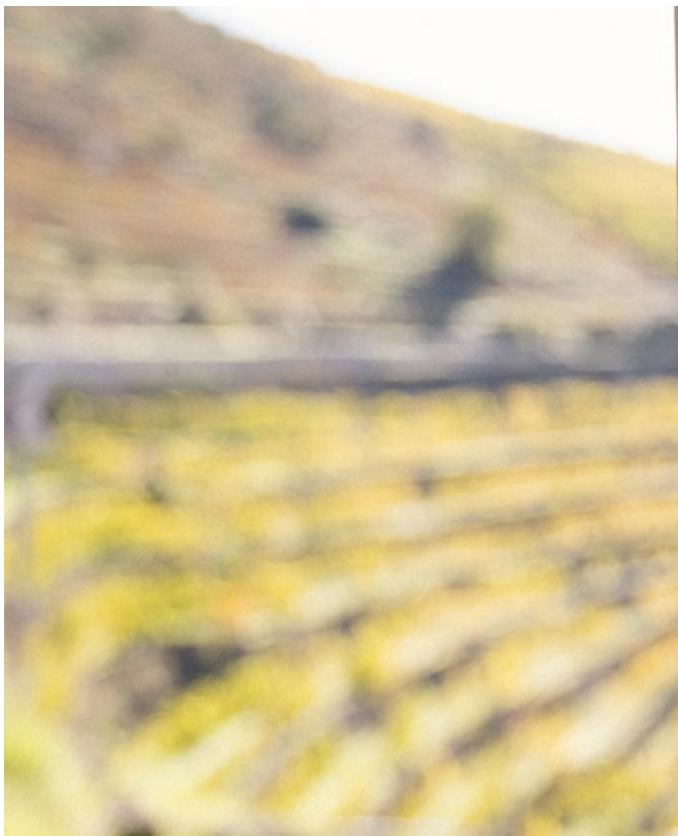
### 8.7. Awareness raising, communication and social participation

This programme includes measures aimed at generating knowledge and creating social awareness of the importance of sustainable management for the conservation of the values of the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape. For this, research, communication, dissemination, participation and promotion activities are envisaged for the cultural values of the Ribeira Sacra around the material and immaterial hydraulic heritage and its role in structuring and shaping the landscape of the Ribeira Sacra.

In order to do this, the programme proposes the creation of a Water Landscape Interpretation Centre as an interpretative space aimed at raising public awareness of the values of the waterscape and the role of water as a builder of the landscape.

In the field of dissemination, actions will be implemented to raise awareness among local people, experts and the general public about the values of the cultural landscape in order to promote sustainable management and strengthen community identity. In addition, an increase to the visibility of the Ribeira Sacra cultural landscape will be sought, both nationally and internationally through communication strategies. And, in order to ensure both institutional and citizen participation in decision-making related to the protection, management and planning of the landscape, following the principles of the World Heritage Convention and the European Landscape Convention, it is proposed to maintain and properly coordinate the Ribeira Sacra Interdepartmental Commission and to promote the Council of Parishes.

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## 8.7. Awareness raising, communication and social participation

### Centre for the interpretation and dissemination of the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape

#### ■ **Code:** SCP-01

■ Raising awareness of the values of the waterscape makes it necessary to provide interpretative spaces for water as a builder of the landscape.

The reformulation of pre-existing and functioning spaces is proposed, to prepare rooms that function as interpretative spaces directly linked to the dissemination, awareness and sensitisation of the values of the waterscape.

Likewise, the possibility of each of these spaces will be studied, addressing the specificities of the geographical reality in which they are inserted, dealing for example with the topographical and cultural particularities of the rivers Sil and Miño, as the case may be, as well as the role of water in each of them as a builder of the landscape.

At the same time, this action contributes to an efficient management of visitor flows in Ribeira Sacra, by presenting the landmarks of the landscape and their location on the territory.

#### ■ **Party Responsible:**

Directorate General for Cultural Heritage

#### ■ **Associated partners:** —

#### ■ **Status:** In planning

#### ■ **Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2030

#### ■ **Execution measures:**

- Fitting out rooms to serve as interpretive space(s) for the water landscape in pre-existing facilities

#### ■ **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Interpretative room(s) on the Waterscape created
- Number of visitors.
- Number of workshops / activities carried out.

#### ■ **Estimated total investment: €179,000**

#### ■ **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
59,000	30,000	30,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	179,000

**Organisation of conferences, seminars and training activities in the areas of culture, nature, cultural and water heritage and sustainable tourism.**

■ **Code:** SCP-02

■ The organisation of this type of training sessions aimed at the general public and experts helps the local population to understand and appreciate the importance of cultural heritage, nature and the hydraulic heritage that shapes the environment in which they live. This contributes to creating a sense of responsibility and pride in the community towards its local resources, reinforcing the sense of belonging and identity and the social cohesion of the territory.

It also involves the population in educational and awareness-raising activities in some way, encourages their participation in decision-making on the management, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, empowering local communities to protect and promote their own interests in the evolution of the dynamics of the socio-economic development of the territory.

To this end, various activities have been carried out in the Ribeira Sacra, including the following:

- Educational projects for schoolchildren and teachers that are also open to the local population, promoted by the Directorate General for Cultural Heritage and developed during the different academic years since 2016. Work is carried out in the field of heritage education in relation to the heritage values of the Ribeira Sacra, on ethnographic and sacred heritage and its study from the anthropological, historical, archaeological, architectural and linguistic point of view.
- Workshop held in 2018 “*A future for the land: cultural landscapes, rural management and geographical information systems*” and publishing of an information publication with the same name.
- Seminar on landscape, held in 2019 “*In the footsteps of the winter pilgrims' route in the landscapes of the Ribeira Sacra*”.
- Seminar “*The importance of the Romanesque in the Winter Pilgrims' Route*”, also held in 2019 and developed with the aim of promoting the integration of the Ribeira Sacra into the European Network of Cultural Routes.

— International meeting held in 2023 “Waterscapes: linking the past with the future”. Among its goals was to highlight and disseminate water culture as a reflection of an exceptional heritage that includes archaeological sites, hydraulic works from all periods, crops and ancestral irrigation systems, vernacular architecture, water use systems, river routes, hydraulic industrial heritage and other intangible cultural expressions, such as traditional water management practices, beliefs and related ritual uses, which are essential for the livelihood of the local population.

■ **Party Responsible:**

Directorate General for Cultural Heritage

■ **Associated partners:**

Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium  
and town councils

■ **Status:** Under development

■ **Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2030

■ **Execution measures:**

- Continue with the educational programmes of the General Directorate for Cultural Heritage in schools, to promote awareness of the importance of cultural heritage and the need to preserve and enhance it as part of the identity of the territory and the local communities that inhabit it.
- Organise informative talks and conferences with leading national and international experts in the conservation of cultural and natural heritage and tourism. These events will address specific topics such as the importance of water in local history, techniques for the conservation and enhancement of architectural and ethnographic heritage, and the development of strategies for the development of responsible tourism.
- Organise round tables, discussion forums or workshops with the participation of experts, community leaders and representatives of the regional or local administration, to address specific challenges in the conservation of natural and cultural heritage and sustainable tourism development.

■ **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of sessions and seminars held.
- Number of people attending training activities and dissemination sessions.

■ **Estimated total investment: €136,500**

■ **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
16,500	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	136,500

## 8.7. Awareness raising, communication and social participation

### Campaign to raise awareness among the local population of the outstanding universal value of the cultural landscape of Ribeira Sacra

#### **Code:** SCP-03

The purpose of this action is the design and implementation of an awareness campaign on the cultural and natural values of the cultural landscape of Ribeira Sacra among the local population, through activities adapted to different audiences to promote an awareness of the values of the territory and promote sustainable management of it.

In this way it is also intended to enrich the ordinary activity of the local communities, reinforcing the aspects of community and identity.

The dissemination of the values of the cultural landscape and the active position in its protection are in themselves a value that has already transcended that of the support for a candidacy to become a way of conceptualising a place of its own in the world that seeks to be an example of universal value for the commitment both in its maintenance and in the processes of its communication and interpretation.

At present, work is being done to expand the goals and framework of the activities carried out, according to the forecasts of the management planning of Ribeira Sacra as a property on the UNESCO World Heritage List, which are framed in the variety of its most unique attributes as well as in the ability for its understanding, interpretation and dissemination.

For this purpose, the planning contemplates the prior assessment of the target audiences according to the economic and demographic analyses already carried out for:

- Classification of the groups and profiles towards which the campaign is focused, in order to design the specific activities that can have a more effective impact on each one of them.
- Opening of new channels of debate to take into account a global vision that includes all the agents involved, taking into account factors such as the digital divide.

#### **Party Responsible:**

Direktorate General for Cultural Heritage

#### **Associated partners:**

Rural Development Groups.

#### **Status:** In planning

#### **Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2027

#### **Execution measures:**

- Prepare contents and informative material such as brochures, guides and books for the interpretation and dissemination among the local population of the cultural values of Ribeira Sacra related to the tangible, intangible and landscape heritage, specifically in the following areas:
  - > Existing water infrastructure in the territory, including canals, dams, dykes, waterfalls, agricultural hydraulics and associated cultural practices.
  - > Water-related cultural heritage, such as traditional water mills, historic bridges, washing places, fountains, boat crossings, jetties and irrigation systems, focusing on the historical and cultural relationship of local communities with these elements.
  - > Other ethnographic heritage present in the territory, including legends and traditions associated with these elements.
  - > Sacred heritage from the modest chapels or *cruzeiros* to the complex pictorial programmes of the churches or the monastic ensembles linked to the presence of water.
  - > Natural heritage and elements of landscape interest.
- Programme activities in local areas related to the heritage and cultural values of the Ribeira Sacra, directly involving local communities:
  - > Volunteer programmes in which the local population actively participates in cultural and natural heritage conservation projects, such as cleaning natural areas, eliminating invasive exotic species, cleaning rivers and watercourses, and conditioning the surroundings of historical monuments or elements of ethnographic heritage, among others.
  - > Guided visits and interpretative tours to sites of cultural, natural and heritage interest in the Ribeira Sacra, highlighting the historical importance of these places in order to make their values known to the local population.

#### **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Materials prepared on specific dissemination contents about Ribeira Sacra and its cultural heritage.
- Dissemination activities among the local population.
- Participants in awareness-raising activities.

#### **Estimated total investment: €57,000**

#### **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
12,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	-	-	-	57,000

**Communication campaign on the management of the protection and dissemination of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape.**

**Code:** SCP-04

The purpose of this action is the design and implementation of a communication campaign to achieve maximum social impact of the cultural landscape of the Ribeira Sacra and its declaration as a property of cultural interest and, where appropriate, international recognitions, informing citizens about the steps being taken in terms of protection and management, to involve the various groups in the conservation of cultural values of the property and signify the commitment to the guiding principles of legislation on cultural and natural heritage, intangible heritage and landscape, in accordance with international conventions ratified by the State.

In addition to the general communication campaign indicated in the previous section, specific communication actions are also envisaged at a more technical level, aimed at experts, specialists and managers of the territory: public administrations (provincial and local councils), bishoprics, winegrowers, farmers and stockbreeders, tourism technicians, rural development groups, etc. in order to raise awareness of the legal requirements in terms of protection and guarantees for environmental integration, the effects on the territory and the local economy, etc.

The communication campaign will be adapted to the recommendations set out in the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, reinforcing the dissemination of the criteria under which it is recognised and the most significant values of the candidacy.

**Party Responsible:**

Directorate General for Cultural Heritage

**Associated partners:**

Corporate networks of the Xunta de Galicia and media of character and general scope.

**Status:** In planning

**Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2030

**Execution measures:**

- Prepare a general dissemination campaign at national level with a sustained calendar of actions during the period of validity of the plan, with the definition of the goals to be achieved, including general media, specialists and social networks.
- Draw up graphic and audiovisual material for the communication actions to be carried out.
- Disseminate among public and private entities, especially mass media (press, radio and television).
- Carry out actions to disseminate the protection system among local managers of the territory.
- Develop a communication project relating to the unitary presentation of the nominated property, aimed at the recognition of the attributes and values on which it is based and serving as a guide for all the actors involved in the transmission of these attributes and values.

**Monitoring indicators:**

- Communication plan drawn up.
- Created dissemination material.
- Number of publications of the material produced.
- Draft communication relating to the unitary presentation of the completed good.

**Estimated total investment: €155,000**

**Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	<b>TOTAL</b>
65,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	<b>155,000</b>

## 8.7. Awareness raising, communication and social participation

### Coordination of the Interdepartmental Commission of Ribeira Sacra

#### ■ **Code:** SCP-05

■ The whole process for the previous candidacy of Ribeira Sacra to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2020, as well as the current one, was carried out with the collaboration of all the administrations and organisations present in the territory from an inclusive approach, so that all the stakeholders felt involved in the plan and committed to the actions for the management of the property.

The Management Plan that formed part of the 2020 candidacy envisaged the creation of an Interdepartmental Commission of Ribeira Sacra, with the aim of guaranteeing the effectiveness and correct implementation of the measures and actions of the management plan, with the ultimate goal of ensuring the conservation of the Ribeira Sacra cultural landscape and preserving its exceptional universal value.

In August 2020, by Decree 105/2020 of 9 July 2020, the Interdepartmental Commission of Ribeira Sacra was set up and its goals and mode of operation were defined. The commission is configured as the collegiate body for coordinating the sectoral actions of the different departments of the general administration of the Autonomous Community in the Ribeira Sacra territory. In addition, it also aims to be the channel for the active participation of local communities in the territory.

The ultimate aim of this Commission is to enable the planning and assessment of actions corresponding to different areas of the sectoral policy of the Xunta de Galicia and of all the competent and involved agents, both the public administrations and the people who reside or have cultural, social or economic interests in the area, establishing a permanent channel of communication, all of this with regard to the Management Plan for the Cultural Landscape of Ribeira Sacra.

Consequently, for the appropriate development, implementation and monitoring of the measures of the current management Plan for the Cultural Landscape, it is proposed that this committee be maintained and properly coordinated to ensure compliance with its goals, the analysis of deviations and the adoption of appropriate measures to guarantee the protection, conservation, research and dissemination of the values of the cultural landscape of the Ribeira Sacra in a collaborative and participatory manner in which all parties feel co-responsible for it.

#### ■ **Party Responsible:**

Directorate General for Cultural Heritage

#### ■ **Associated partners:**

Xunta de Galicia, Government of Spain, Provincial Council of Lugo, Provincial Council of Ourense, Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium, town councils, Regulatory Council of Denomination of Origin

Ribeira Sacra, Ribeira Sacra Rural Association, Bishoprics of Lugo and Ourense, Miño-Sil Hydrographic Confederation, parish communities that make up the cultural landscape of A Ribeira Sacra and non-governmental organisations in cultural and local development matters.

#### ■ **Estimated total investment:**

There is no associated investment or maintenance costs, which are borne by the representatives of the organisations, entities and communities represented.

#### ■ **Status:** Under execution

#### ■ **Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2030

#### ■ **Execution measures:**

- Present the initiatives of the different bodies and representative entities in the Ribeira Sacra Territory for an effective management with guarantees for the conservation of its values as a cultural landscape.
- Follow the strategies, plans, policies and actions of the Xunta de Galicia and representative bodies and entities in the territory and to know their results.
- Coordinate and promote the actions of the Xunta de Galicia, without prejudice to the exercise of the competences of each department.
- Support and promote the lines of action for the protection, conservation, research and dissemination of the cultural landscape values of Ribeira Sacra of the representative bodies and entities in its Territory, and especially those promoted jointly by the municipal entities through the Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium.
- Propose the necessary measures to homogenise, develop and apply the regulations in force in relation to Ribeira Sacra, as well as to know about the proposed regulations that affect them.
- Draw up proposals to be submitted to the different public administrations, public and private entities, as well as individuals in relation to the situation and potential of Ribeira Sacra as a cultural landscape.
- Approve a periodic report on the situation of the Ribeira Sacra Water Landscape.

#### ■ **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of meetings of the Ribeira Sacra Interdepartmental Commission.
- Number of meetings of the specific sub-committees that may be set up for the preparation of studies and reports.
- Number of studies and reports carried out by the Commission or Sub-Commissions.

## Promotion and monitoring of the Council of Parishes.

### **Code:** SCP-06

In the context of the preparatory work for the candidacy of Ribeira Sacra as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2020, the creation of a *Council of Parishes* was promoted with the aim of collecting the opinions, suggestions and complaints of the local population on everything related to the candidacy presented to UNESCO, as well as concerns and proposals related to the economic, social and tourist development of this territory.

The *Council of Parishes* is configured as the representative body of the parish communities, aspiring to integrate a representative from each of the 72 parishes included in the nominated property. Its formal constitution took place on 17 December 2019, in an event where the attendees signed a document of membership to the candidacy. In this document, the identification, admiration and attachment of the local population to the cultural landscape in which they live was expressed, their will to preserve it was stated, and their commitment to its preservation was reaffirmed.

The functioning of the *Council of Parishes* is structured through two annual meetings, one in spring and one in autumn. The results of these meetings have been instrumental in articulating the candidacy and defining management strategies. In these sessions, citizens share information about spaces, techniques, cultural manifestations and initiatives with varying degrees of development related to the waterscape. The results of the practical implementation of the Management Plan are also assessed, allowing for the identification of deviations and opportunities. These are communicated to the Ribeira Sacra Interdepartmental Commission by the designated representatives of the *Council of Parishes*.

It is therefore proposed to give continuity to this crucial instrument in order to ensure the participation and commitment of the local population in the current nomination process and in the future development of the Ribeira Sacra. This council serves as a channel of direct communication between the community and the authorities responsible for heritage management and local development.

By maintaining, promoting and monitoring this initiative, the aim is not only to gather opinions and suggestions on the candidacy to UNESCO, but also to provide a space to discuss and address concerns related to the economic, social and tourism development of the area. In addition, by actively involving local residents in decision-making and planning for the future of the Ribeira Sacra, a sense of ownership and shared responsibility for the area's cultural and natural heritage is fostered, contributing to its long-term preservation and the well-being of its inhabitants.

### **Party Responsible:**

Directorate General for Cultural Heritage

### **Associated partners:**

Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium and town councils of the Ribeira Sacra.

### **Estimated total investment:**

€ 70,000

### **Status:** Under execution

**Anticipated execution date:** 2024-2030

### **Execution measures:**

- Organise meetings as part of the process of preparing the Ribeira Sacra candidacy for UNESCO World Heritage status to address the various issues related to the candidacy and the management plan.
- Hold at least two meetings a year to monitor the Management Plan and the problems associated with the implementation of the various actions planned, as well as other issues related to the socio-economic evolution of the territory and the matters dealt with by the Ribeira Sacra Interdepartmental Commission.

### **Indicators for monitoring the action:**

- Number of *Council of Parishes* meetings held.
- Number of attendees at the different meetings organised.

### **Estimated total investment: €70,000**

### **Breakdown by annual instalments:**

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	70,000

## 9. Monitoring plan

### 9. Monitoring plan

This Management Plan has a monitoring plan that includes a series of indicators that make it possible to measure its execution in quantitative and qualitative terms and, if necessary, to establish the appropriate corrective measures.

A series of indicators are considered for this, referring both to the control of conservation measures and to the effectiveness of measures to safeguard the Ribeira Sacra Cultural Landscape, which have been advanced in the application form in section 6.a., especially those referring to the population and visitors; the interventions on the territory, particularly those of cultural heritage conservation; and the productive and economic activity itself, with special reference to the agricultural and livestock sector, as well as those related to cultural heritage and nature.

Specific monitoring issues that will measure the effectiveness of the measures and the development of the actions are listed below. These indicators will

allow the preparation of the periodic reports that through the Ribeira Sacra Interdepartmental Commission will be presented to all the agents and communities represented in order to assess them, make an objective judgement on their effectiveness and propose the review or complementary measures that may be carried out.

Follow-up and monitoring will be carried out on the basis of official statistics and quantifications, through collaboration between the Regulatory Council of Denomination of Origin Ribeira Sacra and the Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium.

The codification and systematisation of the monitoring parameters of the actions is based on a matrix of 130 indicators related to the programmes and to each of the actions. For each of them, the quantitative indicator to be collected, its value, the source or entity that must provide the information and the periodicity with which the indicator must be collected are established.

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### 9.1. Monitoring matrix

No.	CODE	ACTION	INDICATOR	VALUE	SOURCE (*)	CALENDAR
1	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Actions for maintenance and conservation of roads executed	No.	CTRS AXI DXM	YEARLY
2	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Km of pedestrian and cycle routes	No.	CTRS AXI DXM	YEARLY
3	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Bicycle parking areas built	No.	CTRS AXI DXM	YEARLY
4	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Bicycles on loan	No.	CTRS AXI DXM	YEARLY
5	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Charging points for electric bicycles	No.	CTRS AXI DXM	YEARLY
6	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Transport users (public, river)	No.	CTRS AXI DXM	YEARLY
7	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Boat crossings recovered / users	No.	CTRS AXI DXM	YEARLY
8	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Park and ride parking	No.	CTRS AXI DXM	YEARLY
9	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Shuttle service at the jetties	YES / NO	CTRS AXI DXM	YEARLY
10	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Actions for maintenance and conservation of roads	No.	AXI DXM	YEARLY
11	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Traffic rearrangement actions and access to points of interest	No.	CTRS AXI DXM	YEARLY
12	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Actions to improve the signposting of access routes to car parks.	No.	CTRS AXI DXM	YEARLY
13	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Sustainable mobility platform	YES / NO	CTRS AXI DXM	YEARLY
14	PPC-01	Improving sustainable mobility in the territory	Work to improve pedestrian accessibility on the roads in the centre of Os Peares, in the area around the new bridge.	YES / NO	AXI	YEARLY
15	PPC-02	Promotion of residential rehabilitation through the Ribeira Sacra supra-municipal ARI	Calls for applications for grants carried out	No.	IGVS	YEARLY
16	PPC-02	Promotion of residential rehabilitation through the Ribeira Sacra supra-municipal ARI	Amount of grants provided	€	IGVS	YEARLY
17	PPC-02	Promotion of residential rehabilitation through the Ribeira Sacra supra-municipal ARI	Rehabilitated houses	No.	IGVS	YEARLY
18	PPC-03	Plan for the improvement of the heritage interest centres around the monuments related to the Ribeira Sacra cultural waterscape	Actions to bury electricity and telephone lines in points of interest	No.	CTRS	YEARLY

## 9. Monitoring plan

No.	CODE	ACTION	INDICATOR	VALUE	SOURCE (*)	CALENDAR
19	PPC-03	Plan for the improvement of the heritage interest centres around the monuments related to the Ribeira Sacra cultural waterscape	Standardisation of the regulations for the regulation of terraces	YES / NO	CTRS	YEARLY
20	PPC-04	Restoration and improvement of the conservation of heritage elements of Ribeira Sacra	Studies, master plans and restoration projects carried out	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
21	PPC-04	Restoration and improvement of the conservation of heritage elements of Ribeira Sacra	Amount of restoration and rehabilitation actions	€.	DXPC	YEARLY
22	PPC-05	Conservation and promotion of the Winter Pilgrims' Route through Ribeira Sacra	Pilgrims that use the Winter Pilgrims' Route to Santiago de Compostela	No.	ATG	YEARLY
23	PPC-05	Conservation and promotion of the Winter Pilgrims' Route through Ribeira Sacra	Beneficiaries of grants for the landscape improvement of the Pilgrims' Routes to Santiago de Compostela along the Winter Pilgrims' Route.	No.	ATG	YEARLY
24	PPC-05	Conservation and promotion of the Winter Pilgrims' Route through Ribeira Sacra	Unique buildings recovered to create tourist establishments along the Winter Pilgrims' Route.	No.	ATG	YEARLY
25	PPC-05	Conservation and promotion of the Winter Pilgrims' Route through Ribeira Sacra	Promotional campaigns of the Winter Pilgrim's Route carried out	YES / NO	ATG	YEARLY
26	PPC-06	Accessibility to places of interest	Formalisation of the collaboration procedure	YES / NO	CTRS	PLAN
27	PPC-06	Accessibility to places of interest	Improved viewpoints and monuments	No.	CTRS	YEARLY
28	PPC-06	Accessibility to places of interest	Maintained trails and routes	KM.	CTRS	YEARLY
29	PPC-06	Accessibility to places of interest	Collaboration agreement signed with ADIF	YES / NO	CTRS DXPC	PLAN
30	PPC-06	Accessibility to places of interest	Interventions carried out in railway stations and halts	No.	CRTS	YEARLY
31	PPH-01	Inventory of hydraulic heritage elements	Survey, registration and inventory plan carried out	YES / NO	DXPC	PLAN
32	PPH-01	Inventory of hydraulic heritage elements	Elements of hydraulic heritage catalogued	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
33	PPH-01	Inventory of hydraulic heritage elements	Geographic Information System developed	YES / NO	DXPC	PLAN
34	PPH-01	Inventory of hydraulic heritage elements	Report on state of conservation, risks and recommendations for preservation, management and sustainable use.	YES / NO	DXPC	PLAN
35	PPH-02	Research elements of hydraulic heritage and cultural significance	Research team / Ribeira Sacra working group created	YES / NO	DXPC	PLAN
36	PPH-02	Research elements of hydraulic heritage and cultural significance	Research works published	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
37	PPH-02	Research elements of hydraulic heritage and cultural significance	Dissemination activities conducted	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
38	PPH-02	Research elements of hydraulic heritage and cultural significance	Cooperation actions carried out	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
39	PPH-03	Integral plan for the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of water heritage	Restored and/or rehabilitated elements	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
40	PPH-03	Integral plan for the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of water heritage	Accessibility and safety improvement actions carried out.	No.	DXPC	YEARLY

No.	CODE	ACTION	INDICATOR	VALUE	SOURCE (*)	CALENDAR
41	PPH-03	Integral plan for the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the hydraulic heritage	Dedicated financial resources	€.	DXPC	YEARLY
42	PPA-01	Identification of intangible water heritage	Persons interviewed	No.	DXPC	PLAN
43	PPA-01	Identification of intangible water heritage	Focus groups and workshops conducted with local communities	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
44	PPA-01	Identification of intangible water heritage	Supporting document for the research carried out	YES / NO	DXPC	PLAN
45	PPA-01	Identification of intangible water heritage	Web platform created	YES / NO	DXPC	PLAN
46	PPA-02	Promotion and dissemination of the intangible heritage linked to water	Workshops and educational talks held	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
47	PPA-02	Promotion and dissemination of the intangible heritage linked to water	People attending workshops and talks	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
48	PPA-02	Promotion and dissemination of the intangible heritage linked to water	Designed routes	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
49	PPA-02	Promotion and dissemination of the intangible heritage linked to water	Exhibitions organised	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
50	PPA-02	Promotion and dissemination of the intangible heritage linked to water	Traditional festivals or competitions organised	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
51	MAN-01	Maintenance and conservation of biodiversity elements	Monitoring and assessment of the state of conservation of biodiversity and natural heritage carried out.	YES / NO	DXPN	PLAN
52	MAN-01	Maintenance and conservation of biodiversity elements	Maintenance and habitat improvement actions carried out and area affected	No.	DXPN	YEARLY
53	MAN-01	Maintenance and conservation of biodiversity elements	Number and area of degraded ecosystems restored	No. / Ha.	DXPN	YEARLY
54	MAN-01	Maintenance and conservation of biodiversity elements	Biodiversity reservoirs identified and actions taken	No.	DXPN	YEARLY
55	MAN-01	Maintenance and conservation of biodiversity elements	Entomological catalogue carried out and shelter houses built	YES / NO No.	DXPN	YEARLY
56	MAN-01	Maintenance and conservation of biodiversity elements	Actions or interventions carried out to ensure the sustainability of hunting and fish farming.	No.	DXPN	YEARLY
57	MAN-01	Maintenance and conservation of biodiversity elements	Measures or actions conducted to address climate change	No.	DXPN	YEARLY
58	MAN-02	Improving ecological connectivity and green infrastructures	Needs assessment study on the improvement of ecological connectivity carried out.	YES / NO	DXPN	PLAN
59	MAN-02	Improving ecological connectivity and green infrastructures	Restoration actions linked to green infrastructures carried out and / or area affected	No.	DXPN	YEARLY
60	MAN-02	Improving ecological connectivity and green infrastructures	Inventory of ethnobiological resources carried out and incorporation into the catalogue carried out.	YES / NO	DXPN	PLAN
61	MAN-03	Surveillance and control of invasive alien species	Monitoring of exotic species carried out	YES / NO	DXPN	PLAN

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No.	CODE	ACTION	INDICATOR	VALUE	SOURCE (*)	CALENDAR
62	MAN-03	Surveillance and control of invasive alien species	Eradication and restoration actions of affected areas carried out	No./ Ha.	DXPN	YEARLY
63	MAN-04	Ribeira Sacra, a model of energy sustainability	Town councils in the area of the property that are members of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.	No.	TOWN COUNCILS IN THE SCOPE OF THE PROPERTY	PLAN
64	MAN-04	Ribeira Sacra, a model of energy sustainability	Recipients of energy efficiency grants and amount received	No./ €.	INEGA	YEARLY
65	MAN-04	Ribeira Sacra, a model of energy sustainability	Energy communities put into operation	YES / NO	TOWN COUNCIL SOBER POBRA DO BROLLÓN	PLAN
66	MAN-04	Ribeira Sacra, a model of energy sustainability	Renovation or installation of lighting systems at points of tourist interest	No.	CTRS	YEARLY
67	DS-01	Model Village Programme	Model villages created	No.	AGADER	PLAN
68	DS-01	Model Village Programme	Agroforestry estates implemented	No.	AGADER	PLAN
69	DS-01	Model Village Programme	Ha mobilised through model villages and estates	Ha	AGADER	PLAN
70	DS-01	Model Village Programme	Production agents managing villages and industrial estates	No.	AGADER	PLAN
71	DS-02	Abandoned vineyard land mobility programme and promotion of generational change in viticulture	Entrepreneurs and winegrowers interested in or requesting vineyard surface area	No.	AGADER	PLAN
72	DS-02	Abandoned vineyard land mobility programme and promotion of generational change in viticulture	Requested surface area of vineyards to be recovered	Ha.	AGADER	PLAN
73	DS-02	Abandoned vineyard land mobility programme and promotion of generational change in viticulture	Young people involved in viticulture	No.	DXGAIA	YEARLY
74	DS-03	Recovery of soutos (chestnut forests)	Surface area of recovered Soutos	Ha	DXPOF	YEARLY
75	DS-03	Recovery of soutos (chestnut forests)	Treatments against pests and diseases	Ha	DXPOF	YEARLY
76	DS-04	Development of forest management tools in montes vecinales	MVMC Governing Boards created	No.	DXPOF	YEARLY
77	DS-04	Development of forest management tools in montes vecinales	MVMCs with revised governance arrangements	No.	DXPOF	YEARLY
78	DS-04	Development of forest management tools in montes vecinales	Montes vecinales with a forest planning and management tool	No.	DXPOF	YEARLY
79	DS-04	Development of forest management tools in montes vecinales	Firebreak landscapes implemented	No.	DXPOF	YEARLY
80	DS-04	Development of forest management tools in montes vecinales	Forest-certified MVMCs	No.	DXPOF	YEARLY
81	DS-04	Development of forest management tools in montes vecinales	MVMCs with Forest Ecosystem Services Certification	No.	DXPOF	YEARLY

No.	CODE	ACTION	INDICATOR	VALUE	SOURCE (*)	CALENDAR
82	DS-05	Promotion of active forest management in consolidated masses of autochthonous hardwoods	Registered forests	No.	DXPOF	YEARLY
83	DS-05	Promotion of active forest management in consolidated masses of autochthonous hardwoods	Forests registered with approved forest management instrument	No.	DXPOF	YEARLY
84	DS-05	Promotion of active forest management in consolidated masses of autochthonous hardwoods	Beneficiaries and surface area covered by the grants	No. / Ha.	DXPOF	YEARLY
85	DS-06	Promotion of local production and local craftsmanship	Crafts people that are members of the Artesanía de Galicia brand	No.	DXC	YEARLY
86	DS-06	Promotion of local production and local craftsmanship	Courses undertaken	No.	DXC	YEARLY
87	DS-06	Promotion of local production and local craftsmanship	Course attendees	No.	DXC	YEARLY
88	DS-06	Promotion of local production and local craftsmanship	Businesses and artisans benefiting from the calls for different lines of grants	No.	DXC	YEARLY
89	GT-01	Public Use Plan	Approval of the Plan	YES / NO	ATG CTRS	PLAN
90	GT-01	Public Use Plan	Tourism advisory committee set up	YES / NO	ATG CTRS	PLAN
91	GT-01	Public Use Plan	Collaboration agreements with the Galician Tourism Agency and other entities.	YES / NO	ATG CTRS	PLAN
92	GT-01	Public Use Plan	Tourism intelligence system created	YES / NO	CTRS	PLAN
93	GT-02	Improvement of energy infrastructures	Number of beneficiaries for grants in the Ribeira Sacra area.	No.	ATG CTRS	YEARLY
94	GT-02	Improvement of energy infrastructures	Total investment made and % co-financing	€. / %	ATG	YEARLY
95	GT-02	Improvement of energy infrastructures	Humanisation and landscape restoration actions carried out on the jetties	No.	CTRS	YEARLY
96	GT-02	Improvement of energy infrastructures	Building refurbishments carried out on the jetties	No.	CTRS	YEARLY
97	GT-03	Development of new tourism products related to the waterscape	Laboratory of experiences created	YES / NO	CTRS	PLAN
98	GT-03	Development of new tourism products related to the waterscape	Tourist product linked to the tangible and intangible heritage of water created.	YES / NO	CTRS	PLAN
99	GT-03	Development of new tourism products related to the waterscape	Tourist product linked to astronomical observation created	YES / NO	CTRS	PLAN
100	GT-03	Development of new tourism products related to the waterscape	Industrial tourism products created	YES / NO	CTRS	PLAN
101	GT-03	Development of new tourism products related to the waterscape	Ribeira Sacra certified as a Starlight Destination	YES / NO	CTRS	PLAN
102	GT-03	Development of new tourism products related to the waterscape	Feasibility report on the Ribeira Sacra as a Starlight destination.	YES / NO	CTRS	PLAN

## 9. Monitoring plan

No.	CODE	ACTION	INDICATOR	VALUE	SOURCE (*)	CALENDAR
103	GT-04	Programme of training, professionalisation and improvement of professional skills in the tourism sector in the Ribeira Sacra.	Participants in training courses	No.	ATG	YEARLY
104	GT-04	Programme of training, professionalisation and improvement of professional skills in the tourism sector in the Ribeira Sacra.	Attendees at conferences, workshops and events	No.	ATG	YEARLY
105	GT-04	Programme of training, professionalisation and improvement of professional skills in the tourism sector in the Ribeira Sacra.	Entities certified in the Tourism Quality Brand of Spain	No.	ATG	YEARLY
106	GT-05	Promotion of the Ribeira Sacra destination brand as a Cultural Landscape	Promotional campaigns carried out	No. ATG CTRS	ATG CTRS	YEARLY
107	GT-05	Promotion of the Ribeira Sacra destination brand as a Cultural Landscape	Brochures, tourist maps and guides printed	No.	CTRS	PLAN
108	GT-05	Promotion of the Ribeira Sacra destination brand as a Cultural Landscape	Attendances at national and international fairs	No. ATG CTRS	ATG CTRS	YEARLY
109	GT-05	Promotion of the Ribeira Sacra destination brand as a Cultural Landscape	Strategic partnerships established	No.	ATG CTRS	YEARLY
110	GT-05	Promotion of the Ribeira Sacra destination brand as a Cultural Landscape	Membership of the Wine Routes of Spain	YES / NO ATG CTRS	ATG CTRS	YEARLY
111	GT-05	Promotion of the Ribeira Sacra destination brand as a Cultural Landscape	Membership of the Spanish Ecotourism Product Club	YES / NO CTRS	CTRS	PLAN
112	GT-05	Promotion of the Ribeira Sacra destination brand as a Cultural Landscape	Membership of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism	YES / NO CTRS	CTRS	PLAN
113	GT-05	Promotion of the Ribeira Sacra destination brand as a Cultural Landscape	Visitors to the tourist offices	No.	CTRS	YEARLY
114	SCP-01	Centre for the interpretation and dissemination of the Waterscape	Interpretative room(s) on the Waterscape created	YES / NO DXPC	DXPC	PLAN
115	SCP-01	Centre for the interpretation and dissemination of the Waterscape	Visitors	No.	CTRS	YEARLY
116	SCP-01	Centre for the interpretation and dissemination of the Waterscape	Number of workshops / activities carried out	No.	CTRS	YEARLY
117	SCP-02	Organisation of conferences, seminars and training activities in the areas of culture, nature, cultural and hydraulic heritage and tourism.	Workshops and seminars held	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
118	SCP-02	Organisation of conferences, seminars and training activities in the areas of culture, nature, cultural and hydraulic heritage and tourism.	Attendance at training activities and dissemination days	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
119	SCP-03	Campaign to raise awareness among the local population of the outstanding universal value of the cultural landscape of Ribeira Sacra	Dissemination materials produced on the Ribeira Sacra and its cultural heritage	YES / NO DXPC	DXPC	PLAN

No.	CODE	ACTION	INDICATOR	VALUE	SOURCE (*)	CALENDAR
120	SCP-03	Campaign to raise awareness among the local population of the outstanding universal value of the cultural landscape of Ribeira Sacra	Dissemination activities among the local population	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
121	SCP-03	Campaign to raise awareness among the local population of the outstanding universal value of the cultural landscape of Ribeira Sacra	Participants in awareness-raising activities	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
122	SCP-04	Communication campaign on the management of the protection and dissemination of the OUV of the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape	Communication plan drawn up	YES / NO	DXPC	PLAN
123	SCP-04	Communication campaign on the management of the protection and dissemination of the OUV of the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape	Dissemination material prepared	YES / NO	DXPC	PLAN
124	SCP-04	Communication campaign on the management of the protection and dissemination of the OUV of the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape	Publications of the material produced	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
125	SCP-04	Communication campaign on the management of the protection and dissemination of the OUV of the Ribeira Sacra Waterscape	Draft communication relating to the unitary presentation of the completed property.	YES / NO	DXPC	PLAN
126	SCP-05	Coordination of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Ribeira Sacra	Meetings held	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
127	SCP-05	Coordination of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Ribeira Sacra	Meetings, where appropriate, of the subcommittees	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
128	SCP-05	Coordination of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Ribeira Sacra	Studies and reports carried out by the Commission or Sub-Commissions	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
129	SCP-06	Promotion and monitoring of the Council of Parishes	Council of Parishes meetings held	No.	DXPC	YEARLY
130	SCP-07	Promotion and monitoring of the Council of Parishes	Council of parishes meetings attended	No.	DXPC	YEARLY

**SOURCE:** DXPC

AGADER: Agencia Gallega de Desarrollo Rural (Galician Agency for Rural Development)

ATG Agencia Turismo de Galicia (Galician Tourism Agency).

AXI: Agencia Gallega de Infraestructuras (Galician Infrastructure Agency).

CTRS Consorcio de Turismo Ribeira Sacra (Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium)

DXC Dirección General de Comercio (Directorate General for Trade)

DXGAIA Dirección General de Ganadería, Agricultura e Industrias Alimentarias (Directorate-General for Livestock, Agriculture and Agri-food Industries).

DXM Dirección General de Movilidad (Directorate General for Mobility).

DXPC: Dirección General de Patrimonio Cultural (Directorate General for Cultural Heritage).

DXPN Dirección General de Patrimonio Natural (Directorate General for Natural Heritage).

DXPOF Dirección General de Planificación y Ordenación Forestal (Directorate General for Forest Planning and Management).

INEGA. Instituto Energético de Galicia (Galician Energy Institute).

IGVS Instituto Gallego de Vivienda y Suelo (Galician Institute for Housing and Land).





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