

CONGRESO LIFE IN COMMON LAND

Preservar a biodiversidade nunha terra pouco común con xente pouco común



Amelia Ortubai

HAZI

Biography

PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of the Basque Country. She works in the Natural Environment Area of the HAZI Foundation, an entity dependent on the Department of Agriculture of the Basque Government. A large part of her working life has been dedicated to the management and planning for the conservation of protected natural areas in the Basque Country, as well as studies of vegetation, territorial planning and the definition of agri-environmental measures for the CAP. She is currently technical coordinator of the LIFE OREKA MENDIAN project.

LIFE OREKA MENDIAN: the importance of sheep grazing for the conservation of mountain pastures in the Basque Country

The LIFE OREKA MENDIAN project focuses on the conservation of Basque mountain pasture habitats, based on the use of these habitats for livestock farming. In the diagnosis of the situation, it has been highlighted that the change of livestock species in the mountains, and the decline in sheep in particular, is one of the main causes of the deterioration of these habitats. There is a notable difference in this aspect between some Protected Natural Spaces and others: while in the border areas with wolf-producing areas the sheep population is practically non-existent, in the central-eastern part of the Basque Country there is still traditional grazing of the Latxa breed of sheep, mainly associated with the production of Idiazabal cheese. Within the project, actions have been carried out to facilitate the grazing of small livestock, including the promotion of the recovery of mountain cheese dairies, associated with the "Mendiko Gazta" brand.

