



Fresnedillas por el clima: Participatory mapping for climate change adaptation in central Spain

In a nutshell

The aim of the project was to strengthen the *Fresnedillas por el clima* initiative through community and intergenerational action focused on maintaining biodiversity and local knowledge in Fresnedillas de la Oliva. With the support of the Polytechnic University of Madrid, a participatory mapping of watercourses and ecosystem services in the municipality was carried out, which will serve as a basis for future interventions for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

OBJECTIVES

- Map, inventory and assess the conservation status of watercourses and biodiversity hotspots related to traditional agroforestry management.
- Involve elders and children in the elaboration and collection of information.

ACTIONS

- Participatory selection and design of an intervention area.
- Collaborate with educational institutions and promote the service-learning methodology (SLM).
- Create an intergenerational working group.



CONTACT

Andrea Estrella Torres
andreaestrella@germinando.es
Iniciativas Socioambientales
Germinando S.Coop.



RESULTS (IMPACT)

The *Fresnedillas por el clima* initiative has sparked progress toward climate adaptation by blending ecological knowledge with community-led action. One of its most tangible results has been the participatory mapping of watercourses and biodiversity-rich areas tied to traditional agroforestry, conducted through an intergenerational process that reconnected residents with their land and each other. This work not only documented valuable environmental data but also revitalised local knowledge and fostered deeper ties between long-time inhabitants and newer community members.

Collaborations with local schools and landowners further grounded the project in place-based learning. A dialogue event with experts and residents initiated promising discussions on land stewardship, paving the way for future regenerative practices. Though funding constraints and reliance on volunteers had the potential of limiting capacity, the project nevertheless achieved a strong foundation for lasting change.

Study visits and exchanges, particularly with Resilience.Earth, offered critical inspiration, highlighting the role of social gatherings, community resilience, and the importance of a bioregional, systemic approach. As a result, the project vision expanded to include potential partnerships across regions.

The initial actions undertaken — both symbolic and practical — lay a foundation upon which a more stable model of environmental management and rural collaboration could be built. Although there is still much to be done, these small steps toward collective forms of territorial care offer positive indications of the transformative potential of community action in the face of climate challenges.



GOOD PRACTICES | POLICY LESSONS

By engaging elders and youth in the participatory mapping of local watercourses and biodiversity hotspots, the project bridged generations and anchored environmental stewardship in local identity. Insights gained from fieldwork with ecological experts, especially around riparian vegetation and water-related risks, were transformative, fostering a stronger understanding of the interdependence between water systems, biodiversity, and landscape resilience.

C4C played a pivotal role by bridging knowledge gaps and connecting the community with advisors in bioregional planning and sustainable water management. This external input not only sharpened the technical side of the local project but also helped lay the groundwork for future, more integrated climate actions. Access to professional networks and shared experiences across regions enabled the community to evolve from isolated efforts to a more strategic, collaborative approach.

One of the clearest lessons is the value of embedding a bioregional outlook in local decision-making, grounded in traditional knowledge and ecological realities. Land stewardship, when shaped by the people who live and work in a place, becomes a powerful tool for climate adaptation. To scale this kind of work, public policies must ensure stable, long-term funding and recognise coordination time as being essential. Strengthening community autonomy and simplifying funding access will empower local actors to become lasting agents of climate resilience.

