



**Biodiversity Action Plan
(2017-2021)
Summary**

Approved on 31 March 2017



1. INTRODUCTION

Biological diversity or biodiversity is the term that refers to the wide variety of animals and plants, habitats and genes found on the Earth, along with their associated natural processes

Biodiversity conservation is a key aspect not only for conserving natural heritage, but also for ensuring that the sustainable development goals are met.

The Red Eléctrica Group, as a responsible company, committed to sustainable development, has formalised its commitment to biodiversity conservation, not only through its environmental policy but also by defining its biodiversity commitment and establishing its corresponding action plan.

The actions contemplated in this plan are mostly related to Red Eléctrica's facilities and in some cases to infrastructure that crosses or is located in protected areas or areas with species of fauna and flora of interest. For this reason, protection and support for the conservation of biodiversity has always been a very important aspect to consider in the carrying out of the Company's activities.

Thus, in 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, Red Eléctrica de España made its commitment to biodiversity clear through the drafting of an action guide that defined the Biodiversity Strategy and included the guidelines and criteria to be followed in this field, therefore ensuring that the conservation of biological diversity was integrated into the Company's strategy. In addition, this guide referred to a four-year plan (2010-2014) that laid the foundation for the work that has been undertaken in recent years.

Among the achievements associated with this plan, the following are of note:

- Development and execution of the "Mapping of bird flight paths" project that has enabled a risk map to be drawn up and a line marking plan to be defined. In addition, the project won the European Environment Award in 2014 awarded by the European Commission as well as other recognitions.
- Improvement in the monitoring of the interaction of birds with overhead power lines, thanks to the definition of a protocol for the gathering, collation and analysis of data regarding bird collisions and to the accident rate studies and the assessment of the effectiveness of various types of bird-saving devices.
- Signing of 11 collaboration agreements on the prevention of forest fires.
- Improvement of the forestry management associated to the transmission grid.
- Definition and execution of biodiversity conservation projects in 14 autonomous communities (during the four-year period of the plan).
- Recovery of 665 hectares of degraded areas thanks to the planting of 473,622 trees within the framework of the 'Red Eléctrica Forest' project.



The commitment to biodiversity was further strengthened in 2013 by signing the Biodiversity Pact, promoted by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment, whose objective is to demonstrate the commitment of the signatory companies to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Similarly, in 2014 Red Eléctrica de España confirmed the commitment undertaken by the Company to biodiversity responsibility through the Management Committee's approval and signing of the Company's Biodiversity Strategy. This document sets out the principles and courses of action in this area and establishes the need to define an action plan that includes the specific actions to be undertaken and the goals to be achieved within a determined period of time.

In 2017, the Company's Executive Committee approved and signed the Biodiversity Commitment of the Red Eléctrica Group, thus reaffirming the responsibility assumed in 2014 and making it extensive to all the Group's activities.

Commitment principles

1. Integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the development of the transmission grid.
2. Establish mechanisms that ensure the protection and conservation of environmental values in the activities engaged in by the Company, especially in sensitive natural environments.
3. Contribute to and promote the development of applied research projects aimed at helping integrate the transmission grid into the environment.
4. Encourage a framework of communication and cooperation with stakeholders, increasing the visibility of the Company's commitment to the conservation of biodiversity.



2. JUSTIFICATION AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PLAN

- **Biodiversity is one of Red Eléctrica's key issues regarding sustainability.**

Among the reasons that make biodiversity a matter of relevance, the following are noteworthy:

- Red Eléctrica's infrastructure interacts with biodiversity.
 - Biodiversity is a fundamental issue at a global, European and national level: The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity recognises that biodiversity conservation is a common concern of all mankind and is of critical importance in order to satisfy their essential needs; the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) explicitly refer to the need to conserve natural heritage and biological diversity; and in 2011 the European Commission adopted the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, aimed at protecting Europe's biodiversity and improving its situation over the next decade. Biodiversity protection is one of the important trends in sustainability.
 - Stakeholders (national, regional and local public administrations, environmental NGOs and the general public) value biodiversity as a relevant aspect.
- Red Eléctrica is a **leading company in the field of biodiversity management** (as demonstrated by some of the awards such as the European Business Award for the Environment and acknowledgments received in this field and the scores obtained in the assessment of the DJSI questionnaire). The existence of an action plan contributes to maintaining the leadership position. In this regard, it is important to point out that the need to have in place a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is explicitly required by rating agencies and opinion makers.
 - The biodiversity action plan is **necessary in order to fulfil the commitments** voluntarily established by Red Eléctrica and to the requirements of some stakeholders and opinion makers.
 - The continuous and growing number of actions carried out by Red Eléctrica in the field of biodiversity makes it advisable to have a multi-year plan, which is included within the framework of the biodiversity commitment in force and is aligned with the commitments and strategy of the Red Eléctrica Group, that acts not only as a revitalising element but also enables the monitoring and assessment of the goals pursued.
 - The drafting of a specific biodiversity plan, with short and medium-term goals, makes it possible **to make progress both in a systematic and continuous manner and helps achieve ever better performance in this area.**



- The biodiversity action plan contributes to the **development and execution of the strategic plan**:
 - Contribution to the core strategies of TSO development:
 - ✓ Execution of the Investment Plan: the development and siting of new infrastructure in the territory is only possible if the impacts of the same on biodiversity are avoided or minimised through the implementation of mitigation measures. The establishment of a programme to improve the identification, definition and effectiveness of such measures is essential to facilitate the goal aimed at reducing impacts on biodiversity. On the other hand, carrying out and supporting biodiversity conservation projects, at a local, regional or national level, improves the relationship with the public administrations and stakeholders, which also facilitates the development and siting of new infrastructure.
 - Contribution to cross-cutting strategies:
 - Excellence:
 - ✓ Management based on corporate responsibility and good governance best practices.
 - ✓ Enhance corporate brand and reputation: Biodiversity-related projects are highly relevant to the perception of specific stakeholders and opinion-makers regarding the Company.
 - ✓ Strengthen environmental and social commitment.
 - Innovation:
 - ✓ Contribute to social, economic and environmental improvement through innovation.
- The biodiversity action plan is integrated into the Sustainability Model and is aligned with the priorities defined within it and with the following essential lines of work:
 - Responsible value chain:
 - Advance in the integration of facilities into the environment (establishing measures to protect biodiversity and make our facilities compatible with it).
 - Responsible management of the supply chain (working to involve our suppliers in the protection and conservation of biodiversity).
 - Contribution to the ongoing improvement of the environment:



- Conservation of biodiversity and natural capital (carrying out numerous conservation projects).
 - Anticipation and action for change:
 - Fostering of a culture of innovation (through innovation projects and changes in biodiversity management).
 - Sustainability Risk Management.
 - Decarbonisation of the economy:
 - Reduction of the carbon footprint (offsetting of emissions through the 'Red Eléctrica Forest' project).
- The biodiversity action plan covers the period 2017-2021.

3. MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN

The action plan will be reviewed and updated annually depending on the degree of fulfilment of the goals set, incorporating those new goals defined and approved in the period of validity of the same. Annual tasks and objectives are integrated into the Company's annual environmental plan.

The plan is articulated around five chapters, as set out in the Biodiversity Commitment: two cross-cutting areas and three courses of action.

The first chapter refers to the need to improve systems and procedures and the implementation of new approaches and methodologies for biodiversity management:

0. Biodiversity management

The Company's commitment to biodiversity is based on the following courses of action:

- A. Biodiversity protection and transmission grid development
- B. Biodiversity conservation
- C. Positioning, communication and raising awareness

It includes a final chapter, which details the actions regarding innovation:

- I. Innovation applied to the management, protection and conservation of biodiversity



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE ACTION PLAN

0. BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT		
Challenges	Improve the management of biodiversity in the Company, incorporating new approaches and expanding the scope of the same	
Main actions		
Assess and work on the incorporation of new concepts and approaches: net impact, mitigation hierarchy, natural capital, etc.		
Design a methodology for the assessment of natural and ethnological heritage conservation projects		
Extend the management to include the Company's subsidiaries		
Improve biodiversity management in the supply chain		
KPIs		
Indicator	Partial Goals	2021 Goal
N/A	2019: Completion of the pilot project <i>No pérdida neta de biodiversidad</i> ('No net loss of biodiversity')	New biodiversity impact management methodology defined and implemented (in investment projects)
N/A	2018: Biodiversity KPIs, defined and calculated, for the Company's subsidiaries	Biodiversity management applied to the whole Group (including subsidiaries)
N/A	2018: Supplier survey conducted and evaluated	Biodiversity protection and conservation criteria incorporated in the supplier qualification and selection process



A. TRANSMISSION GRID DEVELOPMENT AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION		
Challenges	Make transmission grid facilities compatible with biodiversity, reducing their potential impacts on birdlife, forested areas and habitats of high ecological value.	
Main actions		
A.1 Birdlife		
Multi-year line marking plan		
Nesting control		
Guidelines & criteria regarding materials and best work practices for the protection of birdlife		
A.2 Forested areas		
Forest fire prevention agreements		
Set up a firebreak around substations located in forested areas		
Offset tree felling resulting from the construction of new facilities		
Treatment of vegetation around the base of towers		
A.3 Habitats of high ecological value		
'Hábitat' Project		
KPIs		
Indicator	Partial Goals	2021 Goal
Percentage of lines marked in critical priority areas (km of line marked in critical priority areas/total km of line in critical priority areas)	Marking of a minimum of 50 km of line per year	100% (this goal is set for 2023)
Number of signed forest fire prevention agreements	Signing of 2 agreements per year	21 agreements signed
'Hábitat' Project: number of autonomous communities with validated cartographic maps (including review of conservation status)	2017: 17 autonomous communities	Action plan and monitoring plan defined



B. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION		
Challenges	Promote biodiversity conservation through active participation or the promotion of projects in collaboration with the public administration, NGOs, research organizations and other stakeholders.	
Main actions		
Participation and collaboration on projects for the conservation of fauna (especially birdlife) and flora		
Red Eléctrica Forest		
Red Eléctrica Marine Forest		
Promotion of biodiversity and/or local development in sites acquired by Red Eléctrica for facilities that will not be constructed in the end		
KPIs		
Indicator	Partial Goals	2021 Goal
Fauna conservation projects underway	6 projects per year (5 of which shall be for focal bird species)	Minimum of 10 different projects in the period (2017-2021) (8 of which shall be for focal bird species)
Red Eléctrica Forest: - Number of hectares restored - Investment	Annual: >40 ha >150,000 Euros Additionally, the offsetting goal shall be met	Accumulated: >1,000 ha >2,500,000 Euros



C. POSITIONING, COMMUNICATION AND RAISING AWARENESS		
Challenges	Promote Red Eléctrica's stance regarding biodiversity matters	
Main actions		
Boost internal dissemination regarding Biodiversity matters		
Promote the Company's stance and boost external dissemination		
KPIs		
Indicator	Partial Goals	2021 Overall Goal
Number of news articles published on miRED	1 per month	60 in the period
Number of corporate volunteering actions related to biodiversity	1 per year	5 in the period
Number of informative publications on biodiversity matters published externally	2 per year	10 in the period
Number of national and international forums/events related to biodiversity in which Red Eléctrica participates	2 per year	10 in the period
Number of recognitions related to biodiversity	N/A	minimum of 3 in the period



I: INNOVATION IN THE MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY		
Challenges	Promote innovation in biodiversity matters	
Main actions		
Development of solutions applied to the protection of birdlife (Course of action A)		
'Biotransporte' Project (Course of action A)		
'Vegeta' Project (Course of action A)		
KPIs		
Indicator	Partial Goals	2021 Goal
3% of the innovation budget earmarked for biodiversity	Minimum 3% annually	3%
Number of innovation projects regarding biodiversity matters (underway)	Annually: 1 project	Minimum of 3 different projects in the period (2017-2021)