

PROMOTION OF LAND STEWARDSHIP IN CATALONIA

WORKPLAN FOR THE 2011-2014 TERM BETWEEN THE GENERALITAT OF CATALONIA
AND THE NETWORK OF LAND STEWARDSHIP OF CATALONIA



Agreement between partners:



Land stewardship, as an innovative and participative strategy for preservation of biodiversity and natural environment, is still a work-in-progress in Catalonia. A new landmark in this process is the **renewal of the collaboration agreement** between the Generalitat of Catalonia –through the General Directorate of Environmental Policy (DGPA) of the Department of Territory and Sustainability– and the Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori (xct, Network for Land Stewardship in Catalonia).

This partnership came to fruition on February 21st 2012 by the signature of an agreement between both organisations, including a *DGPA-xct Workplan for the 2011-2014* term that defines the tasks to be carried out over this period. This partnership will abide by the mandate of the 42/2007 Law on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity for the promotion of land stewardship by Autonomous Communities.

The DGPA-xct Workplan for the 2011-2014 term forecasts a total funding by the DGPA of **1,485 million Euros** for the 2011-2014 period. This fund will be allocated to expenses of the DGPA (790.000 Euros) and to support the works of the xct (695.000 Euros).

The stakeholders

The **General Directorate of Environmental Policy (DGPA)**, from the Department of Territory and Sustainability (DTES), is the administrative unit in the Generalitat of Catalonia responsible for the task of fostering land stewardship (Decree 342/2011).

On the other hand, the **Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori de Catalunya (xct)** is a non-for-profit organization created in 2003, whose aim is to foster land stewardship as a participative strategy of society in the preservation and management of the natural, rural and urban environments. The xct is made up of 163 organisations and affiliated members (February 2012), including 70 entities of land stewardship, responsible for the implementation in the field of land stewardship agreements with landowners and users of estates.

A long-standing partnership with support of legislation

This new Plan 2011-2014 results from a collaborative work between the institutions of the Generalitat of Catalonia and other entities in the country, starting in 2003, in order to promote land stewardship in the Catalan territory. Among the joint achievements over this period of time, one should highlight a survey on legal, fiscal and funding options for land stewardship (2003-2005), the creation of a joint committee from various departments of the Generalitat and Parliament of Catalonia, for the development of land stewardship (2008), a call for fund programs for land stewardship technicians (2009-2011 and 2011-2014) or the inclusion of support measures for land stewardship in legal development measures.

At the level of Spanish state, the agreement between the DGPA and the xct is in line with the 42/2007 Law on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity. This law, defining the concepts of land stewardship and land stewardship entities from the legal point of view, states that public administrations will foster land stewardship (art. 72.1) and that Autonomous Communities will regulate the mechanisms and conditions aiming at encouraging positive externalities of lands with agreements on land stewardship (art. 73).

Operational tasks planned in the 2011-2014 Workplan

The DGPA-xct Workplan for the 2011-2014 term aims at encouraging and consolidating policies in favour of biodiversity and natural heritage through the promotion of land stewardship as a main cooperation tool. This Plan comprises new operational actions (OA):

- OA.1.** Implementation of a structural framework of partnership and funding between the DTES and the xct.
- OA.2.** Implementation of the second stage of the Commission for the Development of Land Stewardship in Catalonia, with participation of six departments from the Generalitat of Catalonia.
- OA.3.** Creation of a development program of fiscal and economic measures of land stewardship in Catalonia, fostering the involvement of landowners and users of estates.
- OA.4.** Definition of the funding of the Department of Territory and Sustainability for land stewardship technicians: in 2012 a new program will be launched along the same lines of the 2009-2011 programs.
- OA.5.** Development of the project LIFE+ "LANDLIFE: To encourage land stewardship as a preservation tool in the Western Mediterranean arc: communication and training". This project, with a 50% rate funding by the European Commission, will be carried out until 2014 and will count on the participation of the DGPA for the tasks to be held at international level.
- OA.6.** Organisation of joint institutional events, such as the "Week of land stewardship" and the biannual meeting of the xct.
- OA.7.** Execution of framework actions for the promotion of land stewardship in the Catalan territory. These include the activities of xct planned for their yearly activities such as training, capacity-building and reinforcement of land stewardship entities or the communication Plan on land stewardship.
- OA.8.** Contribution to the making of the Law on Biodiversity and Natural Heritage for land stewardship. The xct will contribute to the making of this law in every aspect concerning land stewardship.
- OA.9.** Contribution to the identification of possible agreements of land stewardship in estates owned by the Department of Territory and Sustainability and its related organisations. This action transposes into Catalan law another measure included in the Spanish law on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity (art. 72.2), according to which the public body, if it owns land located in natural areas, will develop agreements for total or partial transfer of its management to land stewardship entities.

The whole text of this Workplan for the term will be available in Catalan on the environmental websites of the Generalitat of Catalonia and in the documentation centre of the xct website:

www.custodiaterritori.org/ca/cdr



Agreement between partners:

 Generalitat de Catalunya
**Departament de Territori
i Sostenibilitat**

 **xct**
xarxa de custòdia del territori