



PRACTICE ABSTRACT № 16

Keywords

Peri-Urban agriculture, Landscape conservation, Policy Innovation, Policy Design

Land Stewardship agreements in Spain

Land stewardship is a strategy to involve landowners and land users (farmers, shepherds, fisherman, foresters etc.) in the conservation of natural, cultural and landscape values and resources. Land stewardship contracts are a type of a land tenure contract, while these are voluntary agreements between landowners and land users, with a land stewardship entity as an intermediary. These entities are public or private non-profit organizations with the goal of nature conservation and the promotion of sustainable practices, such as environmental NGOs, foundations, but also city councils or other types of public bodies. The goal of these agreements is achieving a sustainable management of the land by involving the local actors, rather than absolute preservation of natural resources.

In Spain, the use of this conservation tool has been spread over time throughout the country with the first examples of private reserves in the late seventies of the twentieth century. In 2003 the first land stewardship network was created in Catalonia (Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori). Since then, various networks have been created in the different autonomous communities. Nowadays there are more than 1800 land stewardship agreements established, involving more than 160 entities (with approximately 650.000 ha under these agreements) all over Spain. These are bottom-up initiatives achieving the goal of landscape conservation with the participation of private actors, where the government is unable to reach.

Author(s)

Inés Gutiérrez Briceño & Marina García-Llorente (UAM, ES)

Carolina Yacaman (Heliconia, ES)

Contacts

ines.gutierrez@uam.es

marina.glllorente@uam.es

carolina@heliconia.es

Country/Region

Spain

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



An example of a land stewardship entity is *Brinzal*, which is a non-profit association dedicated to the study and conservation of nocturnal birds of prey. To do so, they have agreements with farmers to avoid agricultural practices that would negatively impact on these birds and in turn provide some beneficial elements. For more info regarding this case:

<https://brinzal.org/tienda/proyectos/un-mochuelo-en-cada-olivo/>

Olive grove in Morata de Tajuña, under “Brinzal” agreement, offering suitable habitats for nocturnal birds of prey © Contracts2.0

ABOUT CONTRACTS2.0

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Contracts2.0 aims to develop innovative contract-based solutions, which increase the motivation for farmers and land managers to produce more environmental public goods and allow them to reconcile the profitability of their farms with sustainability objectives. To do so, 28 research and practice partners closely cooperate to co-design and evaluate the novel contracts. Lessons learned from successfully tested contracts will also provide support for policy makers on local, national and EU-Level.

 www.project-contracts20.eu
 [contracts2_0](https://twitter.com/contracts2_0)
 contact@project-contracts20.eu

Research partners



Action partners



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