

Why should biodiversity be conserved?

The Earth's incredible variety of life forms provides a number of critical ecosystem services, such as the production of food and medicine, protection from floods and droughts, or the ability to adapt to climate change. The loss of these life forms entails enormous costs to society, far +greater than those required for their conservation.

The **Natura 2000 Network** is the European Union's main commitment to biodiversity conservation. It is the largest network of protected areas in the world and covers almost one fifth of the EU's land area.

Its objective is to contribute to ensuring the conservation and long-term survival of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora in the territory of the European Union, helping to halt the loss of biodiversity and to sustain human life and activities.

It is made up of two types of protected areas:

- **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)**, which contain natural habitat types or species of EU-wide interest. SACs are declared after Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) when their management and conservation instruments are approved.
- **Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPAs)**, which are home to the wild bird species to be conserved in the European Union.

To find out more

The Natura 2000 Network in Spain:

https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/espacios-protegidos/red-natura-2000/rn_espana.html

Scheme for the Recognition of Nature-based Tourism Sustainability in Natura 2000 Network:

https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/conservacion-de-la-biodiversidad/conservacion-de-la-biodiversidad-en-espana/cb_esp_plan_sect_turismo_n2k.html

The Ecotourism Club in Spain:

soyecoturista.com

Cantabria Tourism Web:

<https://turismodecantabria.com/disfrutala/naturaleza>

Region of Liébana: <https://www.liebana.com>

Picos de Europa National Park:

<https://parquenacionalpicoseuropa.es/>



Scheme for the Recognition of Nature-based Tourism Sustainability in Natura 2000 Network



LIÉBANA (ES1300001)
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)





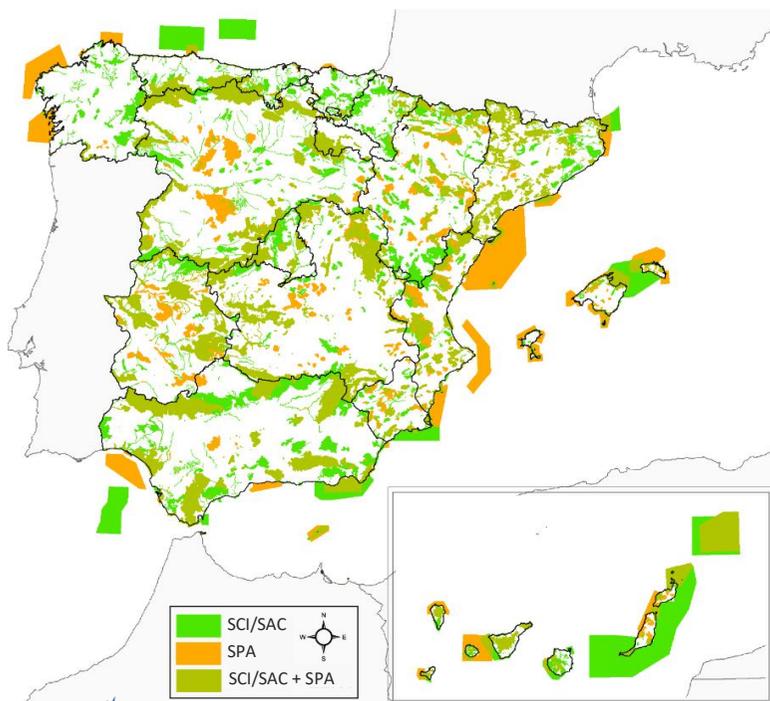
The Natura 2000 Network in Spain

Thanks to its rich biodiversity, Spain is the EU country that contributes the largest area to the Natura 2000 Network, with 17% of the total.

Spain is home to the highest levels of biodiversity in Europe: 30% of fauna and flora species and 51% of habitat types of Community interest, as well as 65% of the continent's birds.

1.861 Natura 2000 sites (1.475 SCI/ZEC and 658 SPA)* have been declared in Spain, covering more than 27% of Spain's land area and nearly 9% of our marine waters.

*Based on data from January 2024



Scheme for the Recognition of Nature-based Tourism Sustainability in Natura 2000 Network

This voluntary scheme distinguishes between Natura 2000 sites that have integrated sustainability and conservation of natural values of Community interest into the management of their public use, and tourism businesses that meet these management requirements by contributing to conservation in a practical way.

It is based on the collaboration and commitment between tourism entrepreneurs and the managers of the Natura 2000 sites in whose environment they operate, which makes it possible:

- For entrepreneurs, to receive specific training on the values and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site, enabling them to shape their business around sustainability, ensuring the preservation of the resources that sustain them, and allowing them to better convey its value to their customers.
 - For visitors, to have a better experience based on the knowledge of the natural values that are the object of their visit, and the satisfaction of contributing to their conservation with all the guarantees of sustainability.
- For managers of the sites, to improve the management of their public use and to be sure that the nature tourism activity carried out at their Natura 2000 site is compatible with the favourable conservation status of its natural values, and contributes to sustainable local development.

SAC Liebana (ES1300001)



The Liébana SAC is a recognized mountainous area with quite significant relief. As a result from relevant geological processes, along with microclimatic conditions and traditional human activities, they make up a region with rich biodiversity and an unique ethnographic and cultural heritage. Rocky outcrops and extensive formations of native forests (beech, oak, holm oak or cork oak) interspersed with shrub communities, mountain pastures, meadows and countryside and river courses. A genuine scenario where human activity, as a shaper of landscapes, also generates opportunities for nature conservation and sustainable use of its resources.

Liébana hosts more than thirty habitats of Community interest, with a significant presence of protected and threatened flora and fauna species (such as the endemic *Aster pyrenaicus*, or the Cantabrian brown bear).

The SAC has a wide range of facilities and activities for visitors: The Picos de Europa National Park Visitor Centre (Sotama, Cillórigo de Liébana) or the Casa de Naturaleza (in Pesaguero)

