



## **BIODIVERSITY IN BUILDINGS PROJECT**

### **SUMMARY**

**The Biodiversity in Buildings Project, developed by the Nature Institute of Alava (IAN) is partly funded by the company EROSKI as part of its programme to promote environmental awareness in the city of Vitoria-Gasteiz. Subsequent stages of this project will be financed with other subsidies assigned to IAN projects.**

The main aim of the project is a) to ensure the provision of adequate conditions for biodiversity both in new and old buildings, b) emphasise the importance of biodiversity and c) ensure that this is taken into consideration in the following aspects:

- ✓ **Cultural:** Knowledge of the fauna associated with buildings.
- ✓ **Architectural:** Take into consideration the existence of biodiversity in the refurbishment of old buildings and incorporate the biodiversity concept in the design of new constructions, as well as facilitating the presence of biodiversity in already-existing buildings.
- ✓ **Social:** Increase the public's awareness of their surroundings to ensure that nature becomes a vital part of our heritage and make people feel proud of the fauna that exists in this municipality.
- ✓ **Tourism and economics:** Exploit the natural environment as an economic and touristic resource, through activities that contribute at the same time to its conservation and enhancement. Consider the fauna of the city as an asset, in addition to its artistic and architectural attributes.

Encourage the idea that the architectural values of a building together with the biodiversity it is capable of supporting go hand in hand; that together with the coffered ceilings, sculptures, frescoes, carvings, etc. of our churches we must demonstrate the value of providing sanctuary to a pair of barn owls, bats or a colony of swifts.

#### PROJECT DATA SHEET

Name:	“Biodiversity in Buildings”
Abbreviation:	BIOED
Beneficiary:	Nature Institute of Alava - IAN
Sponsor:	Fundación Eroski
Agencies that back the project:	Basque Government, Provincial Council of Alava, Environmental Studies Centre, Seo/Birdlife and Aranzadi Science Society.
Budget:	2450 €
Duration:	2018
Website:	<a href="http://www.ian-ani.org">www.ian-ani.org</a>

## Stages:

- ✓ **Creation of a workgroup** of specialists in this field: Josean Gainzarain (IAN), Urtzi Goiti (Basque Country University), Iván de la Hera (Txepetxa, Aranzadi), Azaitz Unanue (IAN, Txepetxa, Aranzadi), Jonathan Rubines (Provincial Council), Andrés Illana (Gaden), Diana Paniagua (Gaden), Luis Lobo (Environment Department, Vitoria-Gasteiz City Hall), Brian Webster (IAN), Marina Guerrero (Txepetxa, Aranzadi), Luis Rodriguez (Arquitecto, IAN), Jordi Gómez (IAN, Txepetxa, Aranzadi), support of Seo/Birdlife, Aranzadi Science Society, Vitoria-Gasteiz City Hall, Provincial Council of Alava.
- ✓ **Field studies**: Surveys of fauna associated with a list of buildings in Vitoria-Gasteiz with the idea of comparing the fauna existing before and after their refurbishment with or without compensatory measures.
- ✓ **Workshops, talks and excursions to interpret wildlife**. Using data for the field study and photographs taken for this purpose, a PowerPoint presentation will be prepared and excursions, workshops and talks will be organised, adapted to the target audience in each case and the time of year. During the workshops, nest boxes of many different kinds can be made for barn owls, jackdaws, house martins, swifts, bats, and so on. Typically, these workshops would be organised during the winter months in conjunction with a talk on this subject.
- ✓ **Meetings** with entities and individuals who undertake the construction and refurbishment of buildings, including: Professional College of Architects, Santa Maria Cathedral Foundation, Environmental Studies Centre, Provincial Council of Alava, Basque Government, etc., with the aim of getting them to consider incorporating elements that minimise the impact of building work or encourage the incorporation of fauna in projects involving the construction of new buildings or the refurbishment of old structures.
- ✓ **Exhibition** on singular buildings in Vitoria-Gasteiz and their associated fauna.
- ✓ **Installation of nest-boxes** for birds and bats in public buildings with the aim of creating a network of small colonies scattered throughout the city, capable of offsetting the loss of nesting sites.
- ✓ **Publicity campaign** of the project in the media, contacts, Website and Blog of the IAN and social networks. Winning over public opinion is a major concern.
- ✓ **Training of biodiversity guides**. Train the tourist guides that currently operate in the city of Vitoria-Gasteiz, particularly those who work in the Cathedral of Santa Maria, in matters relating to the biodiversity associated with buildings. The aim will be for them to include information about biodiversity in their tours and highlight its value alongside the architectural and historical values of buildings. A team of biologists and naturalists will take on the job of training these professionals.
- ✓ **I International Symposium about Fauna and Buildings, management and conservation**: Secure an exchange of ideas and specialist knowledge in order to incorporate regulations that govern the conservation or establishment of biodiversity in projects for new buildings or refurbishment projects. Call on professionals from the main areas involved:
  - 1) The building sector, companies, architects, urban developers, technical architects, schools of architect, urban development organisations, foundations and professional, etc.
  - 2) Public administration: City Hall: Environment department and other departments responsible for heritage and urban development. Provincial Council: Environment department and other departments responsible for these matters. Basque Government: Environment, biodiversity and other departments responsible for these issues.
  - 3) Conservation groups: Associations interested in these matters. Specialists in conservation. Environmental lawyers, etc.
  - 4) Science sector: Biologists and specialists in birds and bats found commonly in buildings.

[www.ian-ani.org](http://www.ian-ani.org)

<http://ian-ani.blogspot.com.es/2018/01/ponemos-en-marcha-el-proyecto.html>

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