LIFE15 NAT/ES/000757

Conservation of newt endemism

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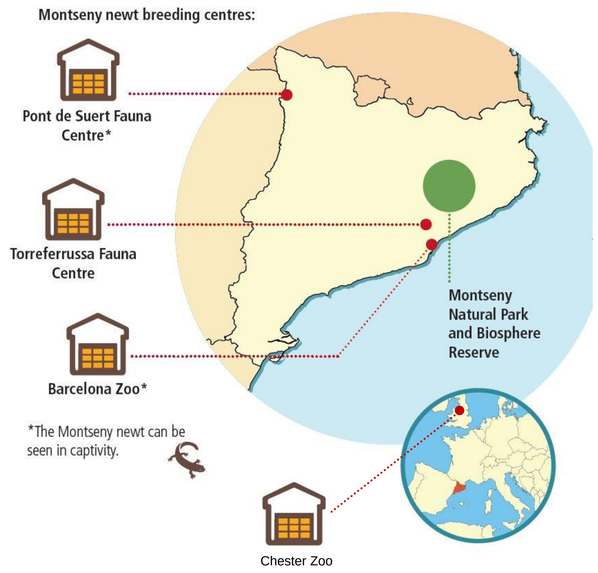
The project

Calotriton arnoldi is an amphibian **endemic** to Montseny Natural Park and Biosphere Reserve, Spain. It was recognized as a new taxon in 2005 and (based on its small range and population size) is listed as critically endangered by the IUCN. At the end of 2016, the "Life Tritó Montseny" project (LIFE15 NAT/ES/000757) was launched, which until the end of 2020 will promote around fifty actions to ensure the conservation of *C. arnoldi* and its natural habitat. This project has two main objectives:

- ✓ To reduce the threats to *Calotriton arnoldi* by improving the natural habitat: Minimizing water collection, purifying waste water, recovering rainwater, improving ecological connectivity, and restoring the riverside forest.
- ✓ Extend the geographical distribution of *Calotriton arnoldi* : Increase the number of newts in the wild by reintroducing captive-bred specimens.



We are working on **five core strategies**

1. Protection
Achieve greater legal protection for *Calotriton arnoldi*, including *C. arnoldi* in the European Habitats Directive and developing a Conservation Plan.

2. Conservation
Promote preventive management, increased captive breeding and reintroduction to ensure the viability of *Calotriton arnoldi* populations in their natural habitat.

3. Habitat
Reduce water withdrawn from streams, improve wastewater treatment, and promote rainwater use with the goal of improving stream quality, ecological connectivity, and riparian forest restoration.

4. Research
Increase the collaboration between scientists and environment managers to support research into the ecology and conservation status of *Calotriton arnoldi*.

5. Dissemination and education
Promote awareness of the project through presentations, digital media, and social networks, with the objective of involving local stakeholders and society in general in the conservation of the Montseny riverside habitat and its biodiversity.


Aquatic macroinvertebrate collection


Laboratory monitoring of Montseny newt


Agreements with land owners


Maintenance tasks in captive breeding facility


Data collection at meteorological stations


Montseny brook newt exhibition


Long term hydrological monitoring system implementation


Newts are sexed, measured, weighed and photographed


Manipulation of Montseny newt during samplings


Gathering information on newt characteristics


Riverside habitat restoration


Soil extraction in a bridge construction


Vault installation in a stream


Bridge to improve ecological connectivity

Partners:

Diputació Barcelona · Diputació de Girona · Generalitat de Catalunya · Zoo Barcelona · Chester Zoo

This project is financed with the LIFE Program of the European Commision

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