

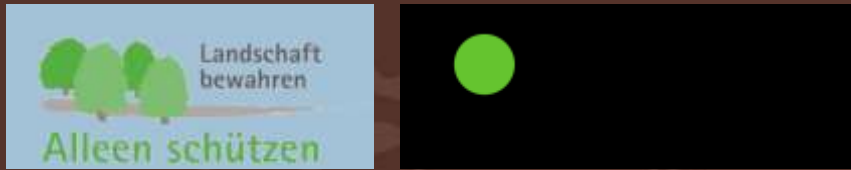
Spanish European Avenues: good and bad news



With the financing of



With the collaboration of







Wild Olive Tree Bonsai (*Olea sylvestris*). Canary Islands



More than 1.000 years. Goats are to blame

Big Trees for Life

- I am the project manager of BIGTREES4LIFE.
- **BIGTREES4LIFE** is a project of the Foundation Felix Rodriguez de la Fuente.
- It is co-funded by the Diputación of Valencia and the European Union LIFE+.
- We want to improve the conservation of **big trees and mature forests** in Spain, through **communication actions**.
- It lasts for **three years** (2013-2015) and has a budget of 1.2 million euros.

enArbolar

Grandes Árboles para la Vida · Grans Arbres per a la Vida · BigTrees4LIFE



Big Trees for Life

- Big trees and mature forest are very important as:
 - Hot spots of biodiversity
 - Witnesses of climate change
 - Creators of landscape
 - Motors for sustainable development of rural economies
 - Tools of environmental education

enArbolar

Grandes Árboles para la Vida · Grans Arbres per a la Vida · BigTrees4LIFE



Strong interest for Avenues in Spain

- The dissemination of the new about our participation in the European Avenue Working Group and the National Tree Friends Forum in Wroclaw, Poland, in September last year, had a great impact in the national media (TV, press and radio).
- The many feedback received prove the high interest of the Spaniards for this natural and scenic forgotten heritage.

enArbolar

Grandes Árboles para la Vida · Grans Arbres per a la Vida · BigTrees4LIFE



Great impact in the national media

DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE

La tala masiva acaba con las arboledas centenarias de las carreteras españolas

☆☆☆☆ (0 Votos)

30.09.14 - EFE

Twitter 1 Recomendar 0 G+ 0

Maripinar, en Cieza, posee una de las escasas vías de España que

Las líneas de árboles plantados desde hace siglos en las cunetas de las carreteras están desapareciendo de forma masiva por la ampliación de las vías o bien por razones de seguridad vial, un problema que afecta especialmente a España, donde «primero se poda y luego se pregunta». En Europa existe una situación similar, pero en España se agudiza: «Casi no se conserva ni una sola avenida o alineamiento de árboles en las vías», afirma César Javier Palacios, director del proyecto LIFE+ 'EnArbolar, Grandes Árboles para la Vida' (Bigtrees4Life), de la Fundación Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente.

El geógrafo acaba de regresar de una reunión en Breslavia (Polonia) con expertos y organizaciones conservacionistas de Reino Unido, Francia, Polonia, Suecia, República Checa, Alemania y Rusia, donde se ha hecho un llamamiento para conservar este singular arbolado. Solo hay pequeños milagros como la olmeda del Maripinar en Cieza (Murcia), donde se mantienen ejemplares centenarios de olmos ibéricos, o el Camino de Santiago a su paso por Palencia y León, donde «se



Olmos

EFE: VERDE

Búsqueda

Búsqueda

Biodiversidad | Clima | Desarrollo Sostenible | Energía | Life + | Periodismo ambiental | Agua

Efeverde / Biodiversidad / Plantas / Los árboles de las carreteras españolas, en peligro

ÁRBOLES CONSERVACIÓN

LOS ÁRBOLES DE LAS CARRETERAS ESPAÑOLAS, EN PELIGRO

- El geógrafo acaba de regresar de una reunión en Breslavia (Polonia) con expertos y organizaciones conservacionistas de Reino Unido, Francia, Polonia, Suecia, República Checa, Alemania y Rusia, donde se ha hecho un llamamiento para conservar este singular arbolado.



Strong interest in Spain

- In one year we got a lot of good information about Avenues that remain still in Spain, but a lot of bad news with regard to destruction of many others too.

But many legal problems

- The current legislation does not permit to plant new avenues close to the road. And recommend to cut the old avenues for security reasons.

enArbolar

Grandes Árboles para la Vida · Grans Arbres per a la Vida · BigTrees4LIFE



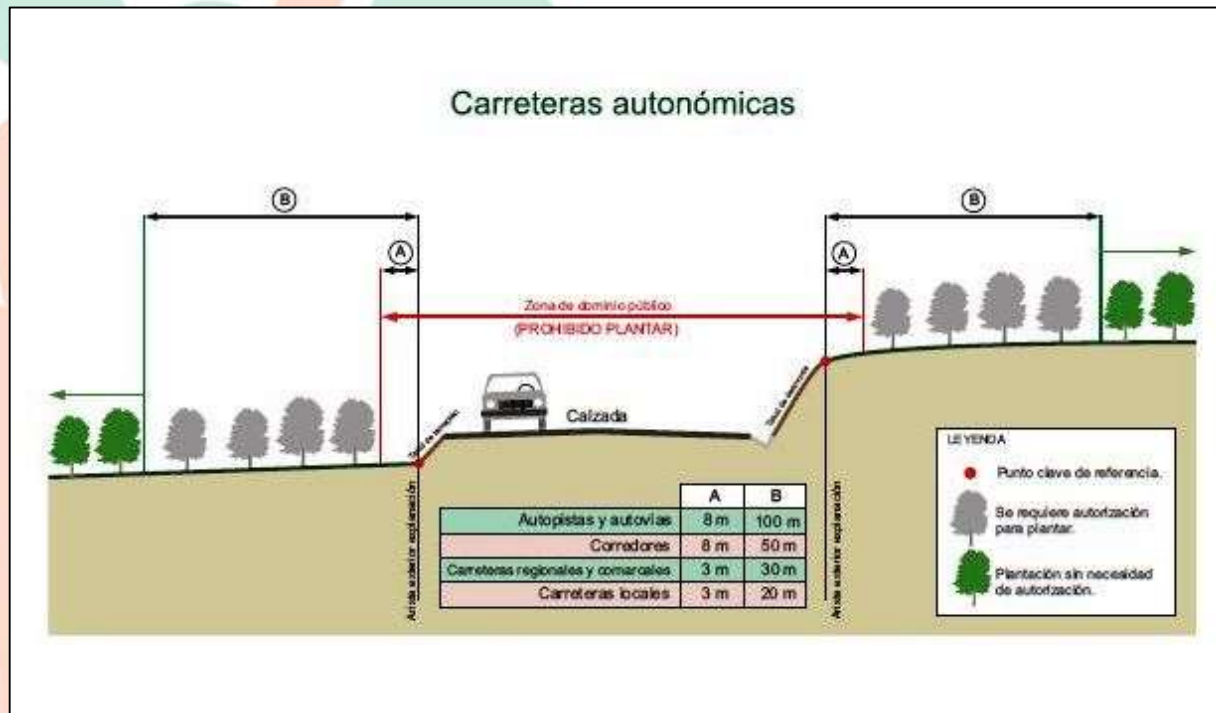
The problem: National road regulations

- It is forbidden to plant trees in the first 8 meters of motorways and the first 3 meters for the rest of the national roads.
- It is necessary a special authorization to plant trees in the first 100 meters of highways and 50 meters of national roads.



The problem: Regional road regulations

- It is forbidden to plant trees in the first 3 meters.
- A special authorization is required to plant trees in the first 30 meters.



enArbolar

Grandes Árboles para la Vida · Grans Arbres per a la Vida · BigTrees4LIFE

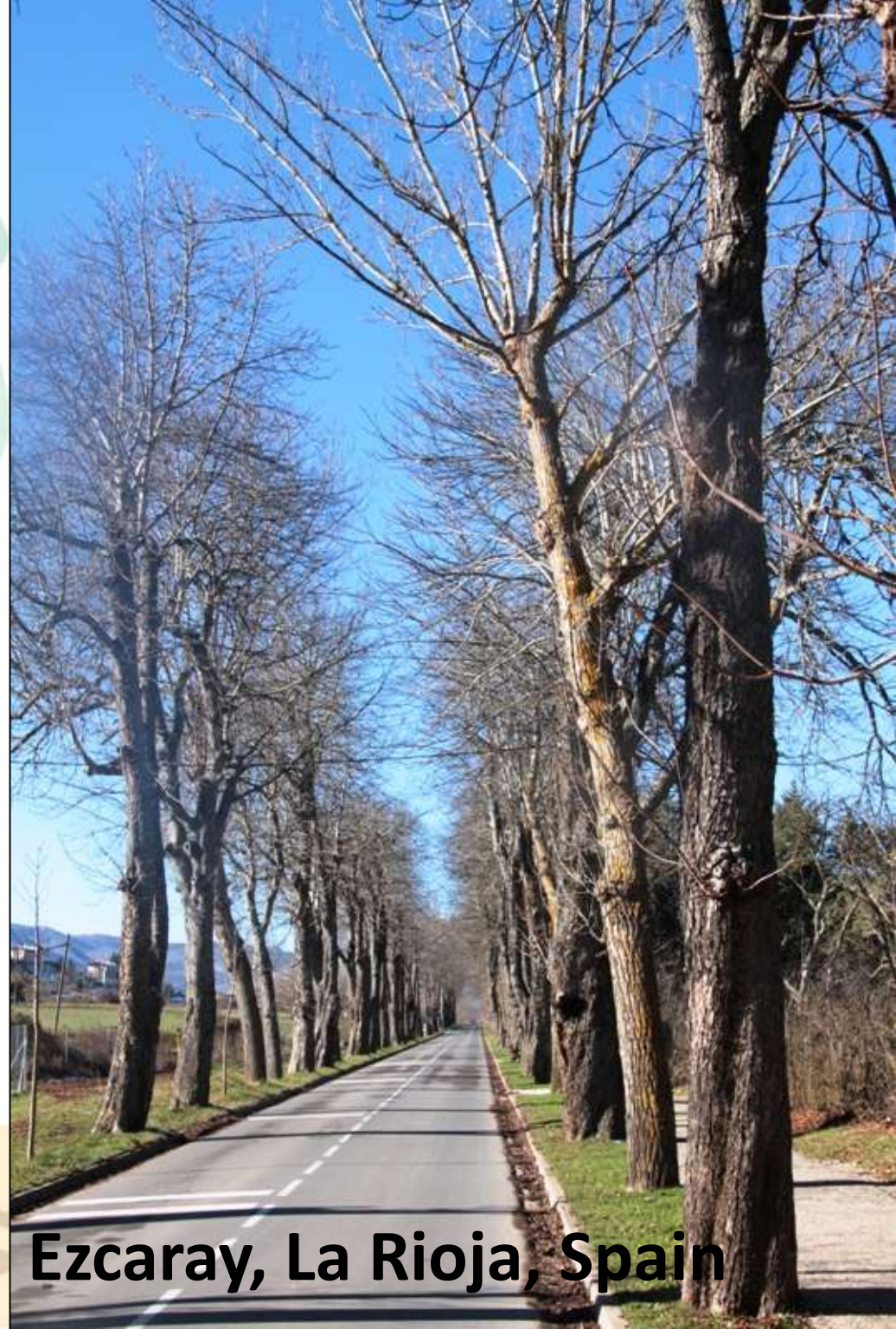


Survivors

- The few survivors are tranches of forgotten roads, old main entrances to the cities or access to railway stations.
- It would be very important that the municipalities protect them. But usually they are cutting bit by bit.

enArbolar

Grandes Árboles para la Vida · Grans Arbres per a la Vida · BigTrees4LIFE



Ezcaray, La Rioja, Spain

Alamedas

- The only avenues in Spain handled with care are the popular "alamedas" (poplar groves), wooded walks in historic parks and gardens.
- Despite its name they are not usually poplar plantations, but normally London planetree.
- This name, "alamedas", was popularized probably by the French word "allées".



Parque Alameda del Tajo, Ronda, Málaga, Spain

Bad News

- In July 2015, the ecologists denounced the removal of 144 old trees in Cantabria (North of Spain) due to 6.50 meters road widening.
- After the neighborhood protests, the politicians ensured that they will not cut more trees down.
- Finally, the ecologists have requested its statement as "road of ecological and landscape interest" or as "Cultural landscape", just as contemplate the Highway Act or the Law of Cantabria Cultural Patrimony.
- Thereby, the ecologists propose to turn the Avenues into tourist attractions that help to reduce highway speed, improve road safety and promote walkways and bicycle trails. It is a very good idea!



Cleared Avenue, Cantabria, North of Spain

enArbolar

Grandes Árboles para la Vida · Grans Arbres per a la Vida · BigTrees4LIFE



Good News

- The most ambitious project was led in 2010 for the regional Castilla and León government. It's called 'The trees of the Way'.
- It aims to plant 15,000 native trees each 8 meters along more than 450 kilometers in the Saint James Path (Route of Santiago de Compostela), between the provinces of Burgos and León, to celebrate the Jacobean Holy Year and the inclusion of this route, by UNESCO, as a World Cultural and Natural Heritage site.
- Until now, **7,400 new trees have been already planted in the way**. Now, pilgrims can walk under their shade as they go through the deforested Castilla towards Santiago. In the last 10 years, a total of 1.7 million people have made the Saint James Path.

enArbolar

Grandes Árboles para la Vida · Grans Arbres per a la Vida · BigTrees4LIFE



CAMINO de SANTIAGO



enArbolar

Grandes Árboles para la Vida · Grans Arbres per a la Vida · BigTrees4LIFE







Good News

- Other avenues are protected because of their botanical rarity.
- For example, in Olmeda de Maripinar (Cieza, Murcia, South East of Spain), 43 Spanish elms (*Ulmus minor*) planted in 1911 survive thanks to a regional law that protects this endemic species, endangered because of a plague, the Dutch Elm Disease (DED).

enArbolar

Grandes Árboles para la Vida · Grans Arbres per a la Vida · BigTrees4LIFE





Olmeda de Maripinar (Cieza, Murcia)

Conclusion

- At present, the Spanish avenues are a scarce natural heritage, threatened by the pressures of road safety.
- Spanish society has a increasing interest about Avenues.
- It is urgent to ask the municipalities to protect the most important avenues: Now!



enArbolar

Grandes árboles para la vida



**Thank you very much
for your attention!**