

Birds and power lines

MAPPING OF BIRD FLIGHT PATHS



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ELÉCTRICA
DE ESPAÑA

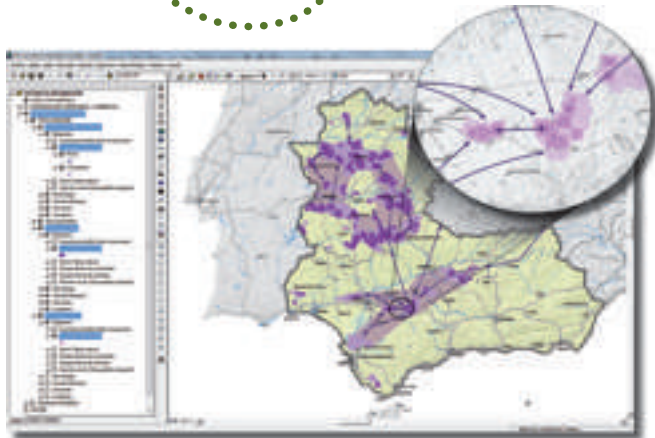
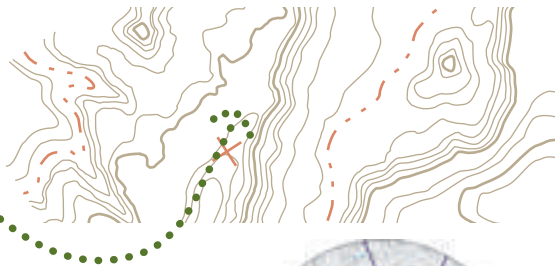
Spain is the European country with the greatest diversity and one that has greater abundance of birds, due to the good overall state of conservation of their habitat (about 500 species present and 600 SPAs covering more than 10 million hectares).

This fact, coupled with the commitment to biodiversity conservation, has led Red Eléctrica to develop and carry out the 'Mapping of Bird Flight Paths' project, a nation-wide project which will impact positively on the state of conservation of threatened bird species in Spain and across Europe.

*This project has received recognition at the **European Environment Awards 2014** in the 'Business and Biodiversity' category, organised by the Directorate-General for the Environment of the European Commission and that recognize those companies that stand out for their environmental performance.*

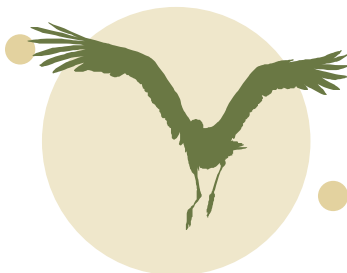
What does the project 'Mapping of bird flight paths' consist of?

The purpose of the project is to develop a tool based on geographic information systems (GIS), which integrates information on the areas of presence and main flight paths of 45 species of birds listed in the Birds Directive and the Spanish Catalogue of Endangered Species potentially affected by risk of collision with power lines.



The tool allows sensitivity maps to be drawn up at a national level (Spanish mainland and Islands) to identify areas which pose the greatest potential risk of collision, which facilitates more efficient and sustainable decision-making in the planning and development stages of new power lines, and also enables the prioritisation of mitigation actions for existing lines.

The system integrates information about the areas of presence, routes and flight paths, and also includes geographical information and environmental information of a different nature that is equally relevant to decision making in projects.



More information at
www.ree.es

What goals does the project seek to accomplish?

- Minimise the potential impacts that future power lines could cause on bird populations and their habitats.
- Prioritise mitigation actions for existing power lines with the goal of reducing the net loss of biodiversity.

The information generated is shared with the regional ministries and departments with competence in biodiversity conservation of the 17 Spanish autonomous communities, as well as with research entities and environmental organizations.

In this sense, it will act as a common benchmark framework for the environmental assessment of projects, and will favour transparency in the processes of public information and stakeholders' consultation in the administrative permitting process for electrical installations.



Facilitates the strategic decision-making process during the planning, design and development stages of electricity infrastructure projects. Additionally it favours the management of the existing power grid by introducing the protection of birdlife factor in all actions.



What benefits will be generated?

- Improves the compatibility of electricity facilities and infrastructure with birds, reducing the accident rate due to collision with power lines.
- Has a positive effect on the state of conservation of endangered bird species; especially those potentially affected by high-voltage power line installations.
- Facilitates the adoption of solutions with the least environmental impact in the development of projects, as well as the introduction of preventive and mitigation measures.
- Generates a benefit for society as a whole, as it will allow the planning and development of electricity infrastructure whilst preserving biodiversity.



Minimizes the impacts on the natural capital of the territories in which electricity transmission facilities are located.





Edition: December 2014
Legal deposit: M-32276-2014

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Entities that have participated in the project:

Asistencias Técnicas CLAVE, S.L. and CSIC (Spanish National Research Council), together with the collaboration of the regional ministries with competence in the conservation of biodiversity of the 17 Spanish autonomous communities, as well as other research organizations and environmental organizations.

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