

ALDUDES MASSIF

Description and situation	Old massif dominated by Mount Orzanzurieta's 1570 metres. Located in Lower Navarre, it includes the entire municipality of Valle de Baigorry and forms the border with Spain to the south and to the west.
Surface area	17 440 ha
Protection status	ZEC-NATURA 2000 (FR7200756)
Other regional or national protections	Natural Zone of Ecological Interest, Zone of Importance for Bird Preservation.
Main uses	Mainly agriculture and livestock. Forest spaces occupy 20%
Ownership	54% private and 46% public.
Habitats targeted by LIFE	(4020) Wet Atlantic <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> heath, (4030) Dry European heath, (6210) semi-natural dry meadows, (6230) plant formations with <i>Nardus</i> , (6410) Meadows-reed beds with <i>Molinia caerulea</i> on wet soil, (6430) Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities, (6510) Poor harvest meadows of low altitude, (7110) high active fens

Agriculture, and especially livestock, mark the territory, landscape and economy of Valle de Baigorry. Mainly based on milk sheep, the operation systems are generally mixed, sheep/cow. Some livestock operators have also diversified their activity with Basque fattening pigs.

The livestock sector is almost exclusively based on exploiting natural resources: the meadows near the farmhouses in winter, and the communal mountain pastures during the summer. Despite limitations from steep slopes and decreased manpower on farms, practises in maintaining the pastures (agricultural burns, fern harvesting) are still deeply rooted.

Valle de Baigorry is marked by a steep terrain. In fact, although the altitude is no greater than 1,200 metres at the highest point (Adarza), the slopes are often very pronounced. The landscaped is characterised by zones with brush, due to abandoning livestock use, a high zone with summer pastures, forests and meadow lands lower down that are near the villages.

Priority natural habitats that contributed to making this zone Natura 2000 are riverside forests of alder and ash, wet Atlantic *Erica ciliaris* and *Erica tetralix* heath, and high fens.

In this zone, 8 animal species of community interest have been identified. One of them, *Rosalia alpina*, is considered priority. Other saproxylic insects are also of note, as well as four bat species of interest.

The LIFE activities

- Monitoring feed production in habitat 4030 under different management conditions (burns, brush clearing or livestock load).
- Monitoring the evolution of vegetation depending on different ways of managing the habitats of community interest.