



IZKI

Description and situation	Prominently forest space located in southeast Alava, between the Atlantic and Mediterranean regions.
Surface area	10,595 ha
Protection status	ZEC - NATURA 2000 (ES2110019)
Other regional or national protections	Natural Park since 1998 ZEPA: <i>Zona de Especial protección para las Aves</i> (Special Protection Zone for Fowl) – NATURA 2000
Main uses	Forestry, extensive livestock, and to a lesser extent, agricultural. Public Use.
Ownership	84% public (Mountain of Public Use)
Habitats targeted by LIFE	(4020) Atlantic <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i> wet heaths, (4030) dry European heaths, (4090) oro-Mediterranean heaths, (6170) Calcareous alpine and sub-alpine meadows, semi-natural dry meadows and brush facies, (6220) pseudo-step zones and annual Thero-Brachypodietea grasses, (6230) plant formations with <i>Nardus</i> , (7140) transition mires, (7230) low alkaline fens. These habitats occupy 17% of the total surface area of the ZEC.

The Izki landscape is fundamentally modelled by forestry and livestock use, with agricultural zones in the periphery. Most of the space is located in the Izki river basin, with a considerable network of ponds and marshes. The surface is covered by autochthonous trees, with one of the most extensive and best-preserved masses in Europe of downy oak (*Quercus pyrenaica*).

Beech trees, alder, bush formations, marshes and fens make for a diversity of habitats, hosting a multitude of flora and fauna species of interest. The presence of *Rhynchospora fusca* is of note, a plant in danger of extinction that lives in the pond zones. In Izki, it is the largest population on the Iberian Peninsula.

Also of note are the amphibians, fowl and mammals native to forest habitats. The middle-spotted woodpecker, the agile frog and Bechstein's bat can be observed in this space.

Regarding mountain pastures and habitats targeted by the project, the mountain meadows are not much represented, but mesophilic pastures are relevant. There is also a great amount of surface occupied by heath. There is a high variety and abundance of narcissus, with populations of *Narcissus asturiensis* and *N. pseudonarcisus*, considered of community interest.

In Izki, through the OREKA MENDIAN project, the actions to be conducted include actions oriented toward adapting livestock loads to preserve pasture habitats of interest.