



ICCAs in conservation action and policy in Europe and the Mediterraneo

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- * The concept of ICCAs is largely unknown in Europe and the Med.
- * = associated to systems of collective tenure
- * whether their ownership is public (estate, municipality..) or private (group of villagers).

Historically widespread in Europe and the Mediterranean, these common systems were pushed to the brink of extinction by the growth of capitalism or the new colonial / political borders in North Africa and Middle East.

Today

DATA:scattered & insufficient!
Eurostat: Utilised Agriculture Area (UAA):

MEMBER STATE	COMMON LAND (ha) year 2010
Spain	4 205 593
Greece	1 698 949
Romania	1 497 764
United Kingdom	1 195 246
Bulgaria	858 563
France	750 000
Hungary	627 225
Italy	610 165
Ireland	422 415
Austria	252 872
Portugal	171 351
Slovenia	8 221
Cyprus	805
Norway	Unknown
Croatia	Not identified
Montenegro	Not identified
EU TOTAL (ha)	12 299 265

+ forestry areas (40 M has?) + sea areas+ sacred areas
North Africa & Middle East...?

Main types of (potential) ICCAs

1. Pastoral/ grazing ICCA
2. Forest ICCAs
3. Hunting ICCAs
4. Irrigation ICCAs
5. Fishing ICCAs
6. Farming ICCAs
7. Sacred ICCAs
8. Others...



Common systems/ICCA:

3 basic pillars:

Community; governance and nature conservation.

Governance system

Participation in decision making

Authority to implement decisions

Rule breakers: punishment

To preserve and promote the values of the common system and the services that it provide to society.

“the tragedy of the commons”: responded to a particular context and ideology.

Elinor Ostrom (Economy Nobel Prize 2009): competition /collaboration.

Many successful in human history. Not only public/private ownership.

Unique repository of governance systems and institutions, source of traditional practices, culture and agroecological knowledge

Relation High Nature Value areas & common systems

1. Pastoral/ grazing ICCAs



➤ Managing High Nature Value Systems (HNVS)

➤ Probably the most extense along with forest.

➤ Very old (882)

➤ In Spain big part of grazing lands are common

➤ Some are trasboundary

➤ Many National Parks incude common grazing lands

➤ In Spain, tranhumance way (drove's roads) include 128.000 km in lenght and 439.199 ha. Many summer pastures are common psatures

2. Forest ICCAs



➤ In Spain there are three main common forests:

➤ **Common Forests:** Unknown surface and without national scale data, aprox. 11,500,000 ha, 23% of Spain

➤ **Partners' Forests (Montes de socios):** 1.500.000 ha

➤ **Neighbour Woodlands (montes vecinales):** 630,000 ha, aprox. 3,000 woodlands

3. Hunting ICCAs



- In Spain there are 3,361 hunting areas managed by **Local Hunting Societies**
- Sum up 6,400,000 ha
- Usually this societies does not own the land but hold legally binding management rights

4. Irrigation ICCAs



- Some have been studied by Elinor Östrom (Economy Nobel Prize 2009)
- Increase the period of availability of water in the basin
- Historic origin
- Some of their governance bodies (e.g. the “**Tribunal de las Aguas**”, **The Waters Court**) are declared World Cultural Heritage



5. Fishing ICCAs

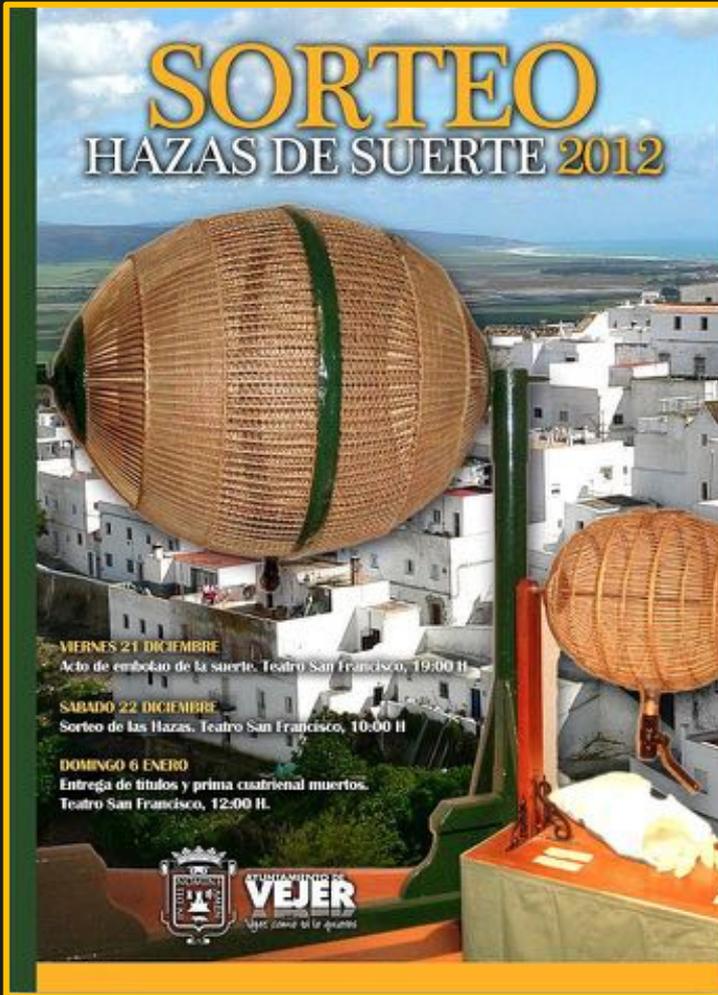


- In Spain all small scale fisheries are managed by **229 Fishing Guilds**, at least from 12th century
- Small scale fisheries in Spain account for 83% of fisheries' job positions in Spain and 95% of the total fishing fleet
- Important example of new commons: shell-gathering started in the 70's

6. Agriculture ICCAs

➤ Less common

Agricultural commons suffered the highest rate of alienation (privatization + municipalization) in XIX century.



Common systems revival:

Why now.....?

The Spanish case example:

Requirements of EU “Financial assistance Programme: reduce the number of sub-municipal entities (most governing common systems) . dissolved if they fail to submit accounts to the State Tax Agency; confiscation of assets.

Unexpected Community reaction giving way to new groups in defense of common systems

Recognising and supporting the commons

iComunales is an association of federations, guilds and other community-based organization that govern common rights, lands and waters in Spain, with the support of NGOs and academics that promotes the study and recognition of this forms of governance of our Natural, Social and Cultural Heritage.





INICIATIVA
COMUNALES



REAL JARDIN
BOTANICO

CSIC



The background of the slide is a photograph of a modern building with large windows and a courtyard area. In the foreground, there are several trees, including a prominent one with thick, gnarled roots on the right side. The scene is outdoors with greenery and a paved area.

National Congress of “Montes de Socios” (Partners’ Forests), 28-30 Oct. in Soria province:

- *The need to link conservation and rural development “forever”*
- Presentation of Pilot project on Integrated territorial development (*Quintos de El Royo*).
- Custody of territory Schemes.
- “All they need is people”

Common systems today:

- To respond to environmental and social challenges.
- “Firebreak” to stop natural resource grabbing and privatization.
- They offer a very cost effective alternative system for the implementation of conservation plans. (“Classic” schemes are costly, eg: Natura 2000 in the EU).
- Fill the gap of social participation in conservation

What do you think about all this...?
Lets think togheter...

