




Water points or ponds for fauna

Goal	<p>Availability of water for wild fauna.</p> <p>An increase of habitats for biodiversity.</p>
Short description of the measure	<p>The presence of permanent or temporary water points, either of natural or anthropic origin (rafts irrigation, drinking troughs for livestock, ditches, wells, fountains, etc.) enables water availability for wild fauna.</p>
Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	<p>Build the ponds before the rainy season in order to facilitate the natural water recharge.</p>
How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality?	<p>Water ponds must be accessible (allow the entry and exit of animals). Favour the perimeter; create shores and coastal areas as much as possible, wide and undulating as possible. Create very steep slopes and shores with low slope (lower of 12°) and with different depths</p> <p>Must have associated native vegetation, very important to avoid slopes erosion and silting of sediments. Favor the presence of trees and shrubs close to the ponds, and leave some shores with a soft slope and sand to favor birds.</p> <div>   </div> <p>Pic. 1: Bad example of water pond, shores with high slope are not accessible for fauna.</p> <p>Pic. 2: Good example of a water pond, with low slopes and vegetation on its shores.</p>
Additional information the auditor need for verification (if any)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The water points could be permanent or temporary. Big and depth or small ponds with a low depth. ■ Design the action to minimize long-term maintenance term. ■ Better to create a set of ponds of different types (definition depth, hydro-period, vegetation cover, etc.) than an isolated pond. ■ Do not use phytosanitary products, herbicides or fertilizers around the pond. ■ Avoid an intense use of the pond for livestock, in order to avoid the eutrophication of waters. Try to leave only a shore for the animals in a low density.

Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	 <p>Habitat and refuge of amphibians and reptiles linked to aquatic environments.</p> <p>Water source for mammals such as rabbits, foxes or lynx.</p>
	 <p>Aquatic flora and fauna promoted, such as fishes or aquatic birds.</p>
	 <p>Aquatic invertebrate's habitat, some of them endemic or unique, such as some species and subspecies of Odonatos, Coleoptera, and Crustaceans, a value that increases even more in arid regions. In case of temporary ponds these habitats are extremely fragile and susceptible to disappear due to their small dimensions. Due to their life cycle, many species are bound to water at least at a certain point in time and are therefore dependent on water sources.</p>
Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Number of permanent water elements. ■ Number of temporary water elements. ■ Existence of different types of water ponds. ■ Quality of water ponds (slopes, depth, native vegetations, water quality, etc).
Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ www.navarra.es/NR/rdonlyres/86815038-FE6D-404A-9A29-3C27FCCBF013/398080/SistemadeAltovalorNaturalCultivosmediterraneosenla.pdf ■ www.conservacionvegetal.org/upload/publicaciones/45/40690-71415-manual_charcas.pdf

Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for auditors of standard organisations and companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

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