

NEWSLETTER



Nº 4 | February 2023

Highlight

Transfer of LIFE RIBERMINE solutions to the largest mine in South America (Cerrejón, Colombia)

News

Last year under review

LIFE RIBERMINE in the First Person

Partners' Testimonials

In Agenda

Next actions




LIFE
RIBERMINE
LIFE18 ENV/ES/000181

TRANSFER OF LIFE RIBERMINE SOLUTIONS TO THE LARGEST MINE IN SOUTH AMERICA (CERREJÓN, COLOMBIA)

Between November 1st and 4th 2022, collaborators from the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM) and the University of Zaragoza (UZ) organized a training action for employees of Cerrejón company (Glencore, Colombia), the largest mine in all of South America. This action allowed the sharing of knowledge and experience of Geomorphological Restoration solutions of the LIFE RIBERMINE project.

A group of five people standing in front of a stone wall and a grassy hillside. They are holding a blue flag with yellow stars and the word 'Life' in the center. The background shows a large, rocky hillside.

Transfer of LIFE RIBERMINE solutions to the largest mine in South America (Cerrejón, Colombia)

A group of people standing in a field, looking towards a line of trees in the background. One person in the foreground is wearing a bright yellow safety vest.

A training action was carried out between November 1st and 4th 2022, by collaborators from the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM) and the University of Zaragoza (UZ). This training aimed to disseminate the LIFE RIBERMINE project through the sharing of Geomorphological Restoration solutions.

In this training participated 12 persons, including technicians from Cerrejón company (Glencore, Colombia). The Cerrejón Mine is a large open pit coal mine located in northwestern Colombia, considered one of the largest coal mines in the world.

This training was attended by Jose F. Martín (UCM), José M. Nicolau (UZ), María Tejedor (UCM) as speakers and with the organization of Cristina Martín (UCM).

With this sharing of knowledge, Cerrejón become the first mine in South America to adopt Geomorphological Restoration solutions in its closure plan.

Castilla-La Mancha chosen for the "European Climate Change Adaptation Mission", having its environmental policies recognized

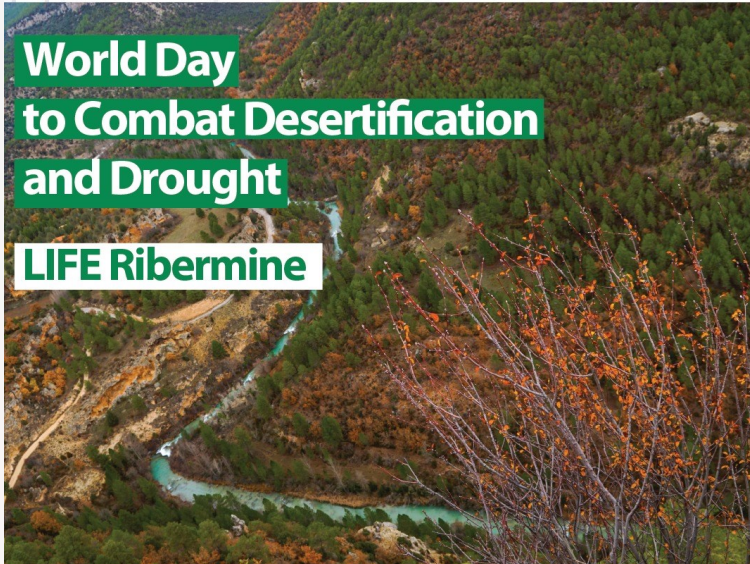
June 9th, 2022



Field trip to the Santa Engracia mine with representatives of the European Union. Present were José Luis Escudero, Consejero de Desarrollo Sostenible de Castilla de Castilla La Mancha Gov. and the LIFE Ribermine project coordinator, Javier de la Villa Albares (JCCM). The visit was guided by José Francisco Martín Duque (UCM) and Cristina Martín (UCM).

Life Ribermine highlighted by Green Deal on "Desertification and Drought Day"

June 17th, 2022



Promotional poster shared by Green Deal

LIFE RIBERMINE video awarded at the "XI Scientific Dissemination Contest of the UCM"

The video "*Restauración geomorfológica y seguimiento en la mina Santa Engracia (Peñalén, España)*", conducted under the LIFE RIBERMINE project, received the second prize in the video category of the "XI Scientific Dissemination Contest of the UCM" promoted by the Transfer of Research Results Office (OTRI) of the Complutense University of Madrid (<https://www.ucm.es/otri/xi-concurso-de-divulgacion-cientifica-ucm>). Its authors are Cristina Martín Moreno, Javier de la Villa Albar, José Francisco Martín Duque, María Tejedor Palomino, Lázaro Sánchez Castillo, Quirico Rubio Sanz, Ángel Moya and Miguel Ángel Langa, Quirico Rubio Sanz, Ángel Moya and Miguel Ángel Langa.

This award is an achievement for the authors of the video and the entire LIFE RIBERMINE project, encouraging the continuation of the dissemination of results.



[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=CDs3LCPJTJO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdS3LCPJTJO)



LIFE RIBERMINE as an example of ecosystem service recovery

1st International Forum of the Castilla-La Mancha Ecosystem Services Alliance, visiting the LIFE RIBERMINE project area

October 26th & 27th, 2022

On October 26th and 27th, the "1st International Forum of the Alliance for Ecosystem Services of Castilla-La Mancha" took place in Guadalajara.

The meeting, promoted by the Sustainable Development Ministry and organized by the Directorate-General for The Natural Environment and Biodiversity, brought together representatives of companies and financial institutions, public administrations, and Civil Society to share and create opportunities for collaboration, with the promotion of good practices for the improvement of biodiversity and other ecosystem services.

First field campaign to study soil respiration

November 2nd, 2022

On November 2nd, was held the first field campaign to measure soil respiration in different restored areas in Santa Engracia mine, Peñalén.

Measurements were carried out in the restored areas, where sowing and the mulching method was applied (between 2020 and 2021), as well as in the area where it will be applied this autumn and in natural terrain.

These measurements, together with the analysis of the soil samples collected, allow the study of soil evolution and verify whether soil conditions similar to natural ones are being achieved, thus facilitating vegetation growth and minimizing erosion by surface runoff.

The preliminary results are very positive, with measurements values in one of the restored areas higher than in the natural terrain.

This work is being conducted by soil expert Avelino García, who developed the procedure and transferred it to the LIFE RIBERMINE project.



Avelino García and Alba García taking soil respiration measurements.

ATTENDANCES

April 6th, 2022

Technical Journey and Workshop - LIFE RIBERMINE

June 23rd, 2022

Lousal Pilot Project in Talks Alentejo Blue

June 28th, 2022

LIFE RIBERMINE at the Conference "Conservation of Natural Diversity and Natural Heritage in Mining Environments"

September 5th to 9th, 2022

Participation in the 13th European Conference of Ecological Restoration

September 23rd, 2022

LIFE RIBERMINE at the 45th General Assembly of the Asociación de Empresas de Áridos de la Comunidad Valenciana (ARIVAL)

September 25th, 2022

LIFE RIBERMINE in the celebrations of the European Heritage Days 2022

November 2nd to 4th, 2022

LIFE RIBERMINE at the IX Edition of the APG Days

December 9th, 2022

Lousal Pilot Project presented at the VI Jornadas de Arqueología, Historia y Minería de la Faja Pirítica Ibérica, in Las Herrerías, Puebla de Guzmán, Huelva, España



Some of the participants in the LIFE RIBERMINE Technical Seminar



Presentation of Javier de la Villa at the 45th General Assembly of ARIVAL



Group photo in the Lousal intervention area for the celebration of the European Heritage Days 2022

New Stakeholder



**SEMENTES
DE PORTUGAL**

LIFE RIBERMINE IN THE FIRST PERSON



MARIA ADORACIÓN

LIFE RIBERMINE PROJECT COORDINATION

*GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ENERGY TRANSITION
DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT*

Working in the coordination of this project allows me to participate in all its actions and have a wide range of tasks, from writing news to visiting the works on the ground. My main task is to concentrate all the technical and administrative information generated in the development of the Project, as a result of the activities of the different partners and to act as a liaison with CINEA, the European Commission Agency in charge of managing LIFE projects.

On a professional level, LIFE RIBERMINE is a very enriching experience, not only on an administration level learning to manage a LIFE project, but also on a technical level, since it has an extraordinary team of experts in different fields and the Best Available Techniques in Environmental Restoration.

MARIA TEJEDOR

SPECIALIST IN GEOMORPHOLOGICAL RESTORATION DESIGN

RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR THE LIFE RIBERMINE PROJECT

2022 has been a key year for the successful completion of the LIFE RIBERMINE Project. In Peñalén, the Ecological Restoration of the central area of the old mineshaft was completed. This year, the technique of 'soil removal' and its dissemination in restored areas was put into practice, in a pioneering way. "Perches" for birds were also installed, designed to serve both for seed dispersal and watchtowers for birds of prey. On the other hand, the evolution of areas restored in 2020 and 2021 exceeded the most optimistic forecasts. There is already an optimal vegetation cover in these areas during the first years, which is when the land is most vulnerable to water erosion.

Finally, LIFE RIBERMINE project has had a lot of international recognition and influence in improving mining restoration practices, as exemplified by the training action, which took place in November 2022, with the dissemination and sharing of best practices, in situ, to the employees of the Cerrejón mine (Colombia). This is the largest mine in South America, and after seeing the results of LIFE RIBERMINE first hand, they have decided to use Geomorphological Restoration techniques in their large coal mine in La Guajira.



Inauguration of the itinerant exhibition LIFE RIBERMINE, at the Lousal Ciência Viva Science Centre

Monitoring of areas already intervened in Spain and Portugal

CURIOSITIES



Shoring

Shoring designates the process of supporting and coating the wells and underground galleries, aiming for the sustain of the rocky massif. This prevents the collapse of the hoists (walls) and ceilings and thus ensures the safety of the mining work.

Wood shoring is a solution used at least since mid-18th century. Mining activity in Lousal resorted to this method until the mid-20th century, as a way of stabilizing and securing underground work.

Coordinator



Castilla-La Mancha

Consejería de Desarrollo Sostenible

Partners



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CREDITS NEWSLETTER #4

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