

1ST SITE VISIT

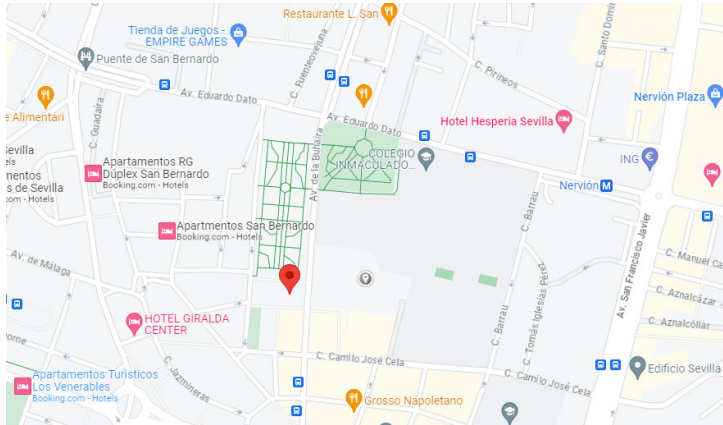
Blue carbon restoration project in the Natural Park Bahía de Cádiz

Wednesday, 21st June 2023

AGENDA

09:00	Meeting place
	Hotel Sevilla Centre (Avenida de la Buhaira 24, 41018 Sevilla) ¹
09:00 – 10:30	Bus from Seville to Cádiz
	From Seville to Bay of Cádiz
10:30 – 13:30	Site Visit to Blue carbon restoration project
	Brief presentation. Faculty of Marine and Environmental Sciences Site visit to blue carbon restoration project in the Natural Park Bahía Cádiz (Guadalete river)
14:00 – 17:00	Lunch
	Restaurant Marambay ²
17:00 – 18:30	Bus from Cádiz to Seville
	From Bay of Cádiz to Seville
18:30	Delivery place
	Hotel Sevilla Centre (Avenida de la Buhaira 24, 41018 Sevilla) ¹

1 Hotel Sevilla Centre



[Av. de la Buhaira, 24 - Google Maps](#)

2 Restaurant Marambay

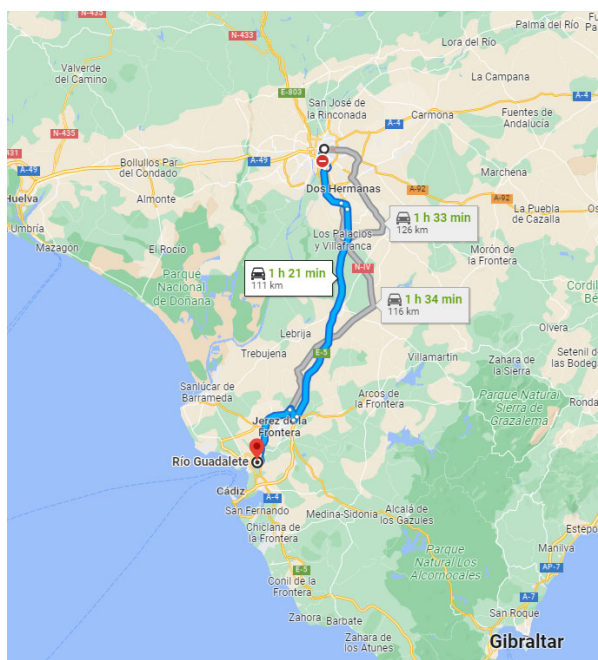


[MARAMBAY](#)

SITE VISIT

Location

- Natural Park Bay of Cádiz (Guadalete river)



Background

Natural Park of Bay of Cádiz

This is not only a SCI (Site of Community Interest), but is also declared a Nature Park, Nature Reserve, a Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds, and a wetland of international importance (Ramsar Convention).

This park is occupied almost entirely by Habitat 1140: tidal flatlands, but also in remote areas of the tidal influence there are representations of Habitat 1310: Annual halophyte vegetation on unevolved saline soils, and Habitat 1320: *Spartina* swards (*Spartinion maritimae*).

In the protected area of the Bay of Cádiz, three species of marine phanerogams can be found: *Cymodocea nodosa*, *Zostera noltei*, and scattered stands of *Zostera marina*. However, the latter species is located outside the Special Protection Area (SPA) but within the Site of Community Importance (SCI) Marine Funds of the Bay of Cádiz (ES6120009).



Cymodocea nodosa



Zostera marina



Zostera noltei

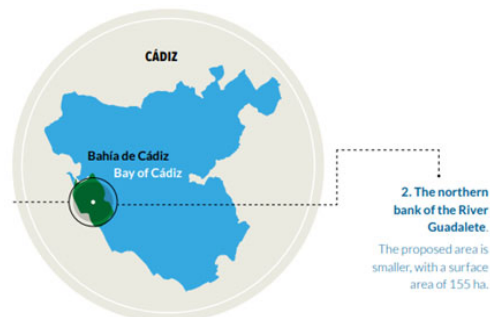
Tidal marshes

Tidal marshes (flood zones with direct and daily influence from tides) are areas of major ecological importance and are the keys to coastal stability. They are also one of the marine habitats with the highest capacity for carbon sequestration in the sediment mainly thanks to the marsh plants and seagrasses that form part of these ecosystems.



Site Visit

The site belongs to the Cadiz Bay Natural Park and is the scenario of a current pilot blue carbon restoration project. The restoration phase of the project is about to start soon.



The current landscape is the result of former anthropogenic interventions in the area (construction of stonewalls, saltmarsh draining, siltation, disconnections from the tidal regimen...) that prevented tidal flowing in the saltmarsh. As a result, the ecosystem has undergone a regression and does not function as an active tidal marsh. This hinders the ecological functions and services that the ecosystem can provide, as for instance carbon sequestration, primary production, flooding defence, biodiversity hotspot, etc.

During the visit we will explain the aim of the project, why the location was selected and what has been done so far to estimate the carbon budget of the main carbon reservoirs (i.e., biomass, sediment) in the preoperational status (base line calculations). The visit will also include demonstrations regarding how to sample carbon reservoirs and how to estimate erosion or accretion sediment rates. Finally, we will observe different homogeneous units in the landscape (low-mid and high saltmarsh, bare sediments, drained and degraded areas, etc.).



RECOMMENDATIONS

“DON’T FORGET TO...”



Fingers crossed that there will be no Levante!