

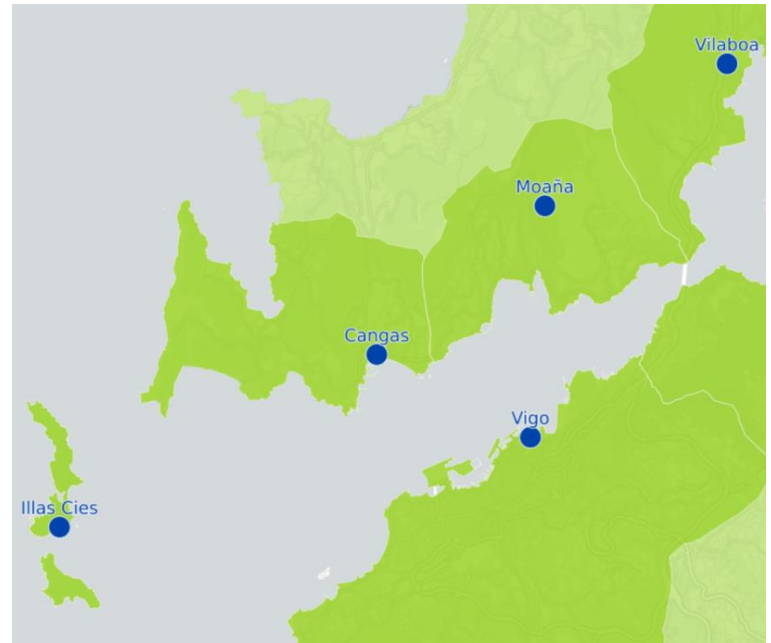


FARNET TRANSNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR FLAGS VIGO (GALICIA), SPAIN 13-15 MARCH 2018 FLAGS and local resource management

FIELD VISIT: Ría de Vigo – A Guarda FLAG Projects

Situated along the Vigo estuary, the FLAG covers 11 municipalities, including the city of Vigo and its important fishing harbour. There are 12 other ports mainly located in the northern part of the FLAG area where fishing is an important activity, whereas to the south, shellfish activities, processing and canning are more prominent.

The FLAG aims to improve the link between the area's natural resources and other economic activities such as fisheries and tourism. Parts of the FLAG area belong to a number of protected areas, including the Cies Islands which are part of the Atlantic Islands National Park (*P.N. Illas Atlánticas*) and the Natura2000 network.



Vilaboa: Improving the current management of algae through composting

In the north of the Vigo estuary is Vilaboa, a village with shellfish farming activity. The local shellfish farmers often need to remove huge amounts of algae that has accumulated on the water's surface. They do this by using tractors and other machinery with adapted devices which they have specifically developed for this purpose.

Until recently, the biomass stemming from the algae was not utilised. To minimise potential environmental problems and contamination due to uncontrolled degradation of the algae, the local *cofradía* (small-scale fishermen's' association) and the municipality of Vilaboa decided to make better use of this resource by developing, together with the FLAG, actions that could turn the algae waste into organic fertilizer for the green spaces of the municipality.

The FLAG supported the technical accompaniment of the planning and implementation of the composting process. The project is now looking to develop a marketing strategy for the algae compost.

(Both the shellfish banks and the composting site will be visited.)

Moaña: Improving the involvement of stakeholders in assisting stranded mammals belonging to endangered species

On the beaches near Baiona, protecting the marine biodiversity and endangered species is an important challenge. CEMMA, an NGO studying marine mammals, reached out to the local *cofradía* to create a network that improves the care of stranded tortoises and other endangered marine mammals to capitalise on the extended knowledge of the fishing community. At the same time, the partnership is raising the environmental awareness of the inhabitants regarding local endangered species.

The FLAG has supported this partnership by investing in a mobile care unit, producing information material for the large public and by organising workshops and courses for locals to learn how to assist mammals in case of stranding.

This project was a finalist at the Galician Blue Economy awards held end of 2017 in the category of local Innovation.

(The project will be presented by a representative of the NGO in the townhall of Moaña, and not in Baiona for logistic reasons.)

Illas Cies: Improving the governance of the artisan fishing management within the Atlantic Islands National Park

The small-scale fishermen from the *Rías Baixas* (the estuaries of southern Galicia, including the Vigo estuary) are faced with the challenge of fishing in the Atlantic Islands National Park (*P.N. Illas Atlánticas*). The different actors and interest groups of the area therefore needed to interact more closely to manage and reduce conflicts.

With the help of three FLAGs (Ría de Arousa, Ría de Pontevedra and Ría de Vigo - A Guarda) it was possible to encourage fishermen to share information on their fishing practices and thereby ensure the integration of this information in the development of management measures of the National Park.

More specifically, under the lead of the Ría de Vigo FLAG, this cooperation project has supported the *cofradías* of Cangas, Portonovo, Bueu, Grove and Aguiño to be a part of a working group with the National Park administration, analysing the collected data regarding their fishing activities. In effect, the project has allowed the FLAGs and the fishermen's associations to integrate the co-management structure that is working on the sustainable development of the National Park.

(Representatives of the cofradías will report about their activities in the project during the boat trip from Cangas to the Illas Cies.)