





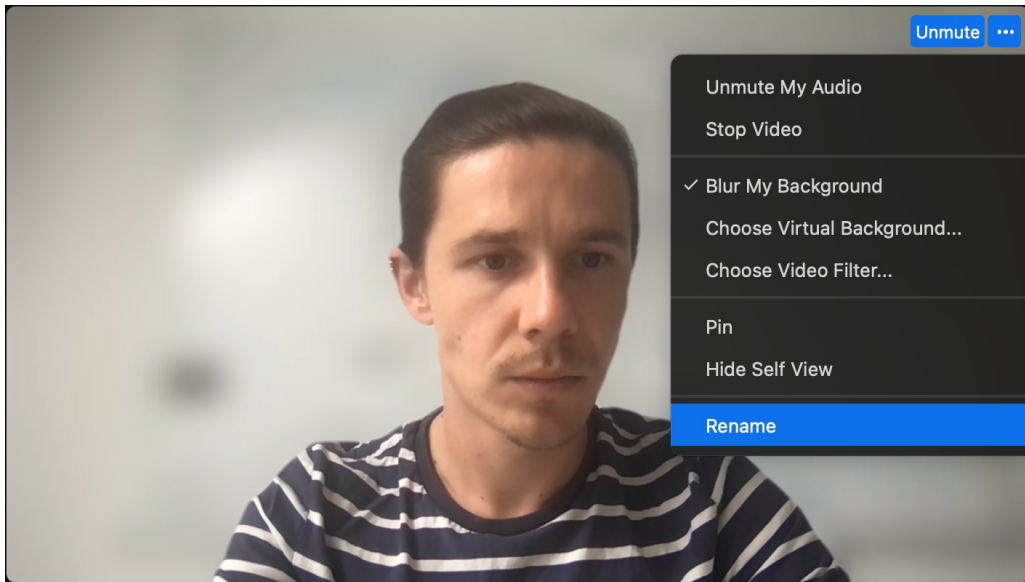
# Grids for Life

## Innovative approaches to Vegetation Management from the Iberian Peninsula

Liam Innis  
Manager – Energy Ecosystems  
Renewables Grid Initiative

# Some housekeeping

- We are recording 
- Rename yourself so your name appears:

A 'Rename' dialog box with a red dot in the top left corner. It contains the text 'Enter new name here:' followed by a text input field containing 'Liam Innis - Renewables Grid Initiative'. Below the input field is a checkbox labeled 'Remember my name for future meetings'. At the bottom right are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Rename'.

# Agenda

11:00 – 11:10	Welcome and Introduction <i>Liam Innis - Manager – Energy Ecosystems, RGI</i>
11:10 - 11:25	Nature on the grid (Naturaleza en RED) <i>Xavier Munill - Professor of Ecology</i> <i>Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona (UAB) / Bufalvent</i>
11:30 – 11:45	IVM in Portugal <i>Pedro Marques, Vegetation Management Coordinator - REN</i>
11:50 – 12:05	Grid Grazing in Spain (Pastoreo en RED) – with Red Eléctrica <i>Liam Innis - RGI</i>
12:10 – 12:30	<i>Open discussion</i>

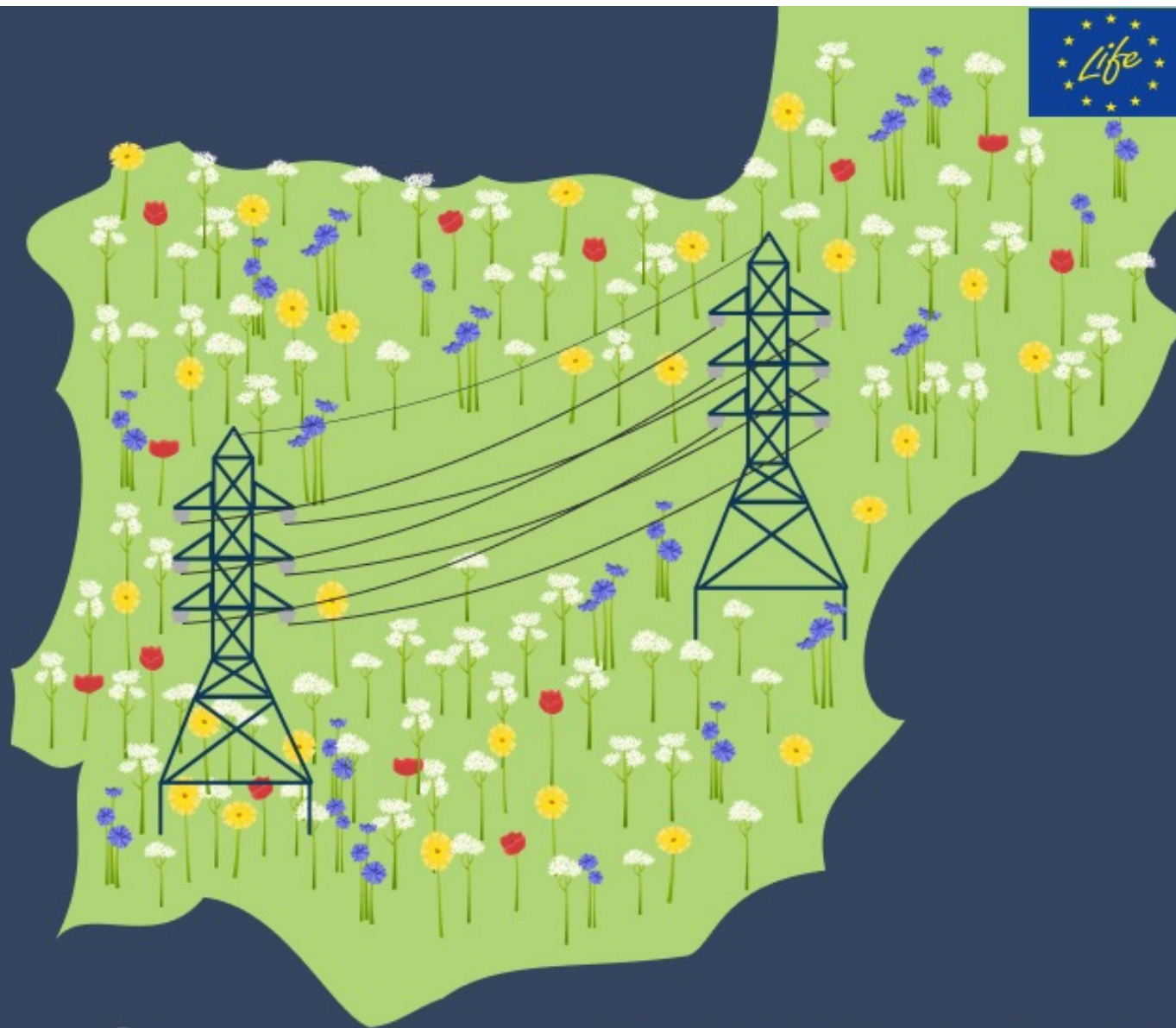
# RGI – a unique cooperation between industry and civil society

RGI is a unique collaboration of NGOs and TSOs from across Europe engaging in an 'energy transition ecosystem-of-actors'. We promote fair, transparent, sustainable grid development to enable the growth of renewables to achieve full decarbonisation in line with the Paris Agreement.



# Grids for Life

Innovative approaches to  
Vegetation Management  
from the Iberian Peninsula



**UAB**

Universitat Autònoma  
de Barcelona



**redeia**

Renewables  
Grid Initiative

**REN**



**ENERGY & NATURE**  
**ZOOM WEBINAR**

**27 OCTOBER 2022**  
**11:30 - 13:00 CEST**

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# Grid Grazing Pastoreo en Red

red eléctrica

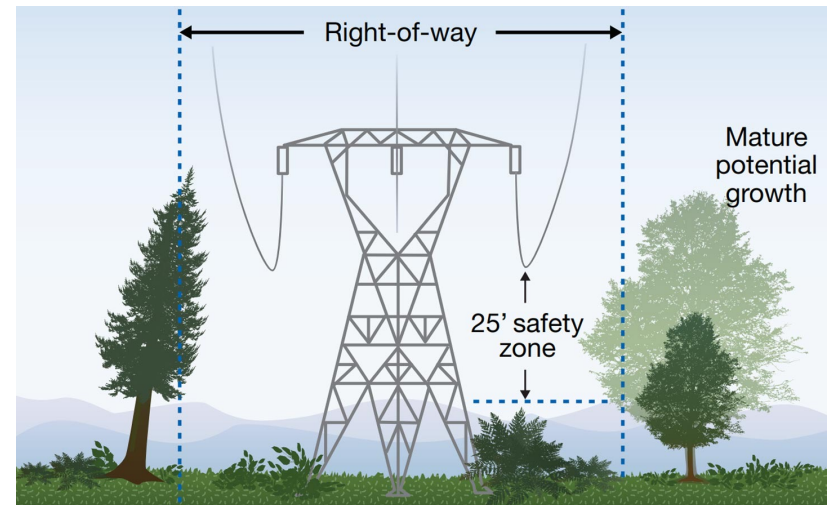
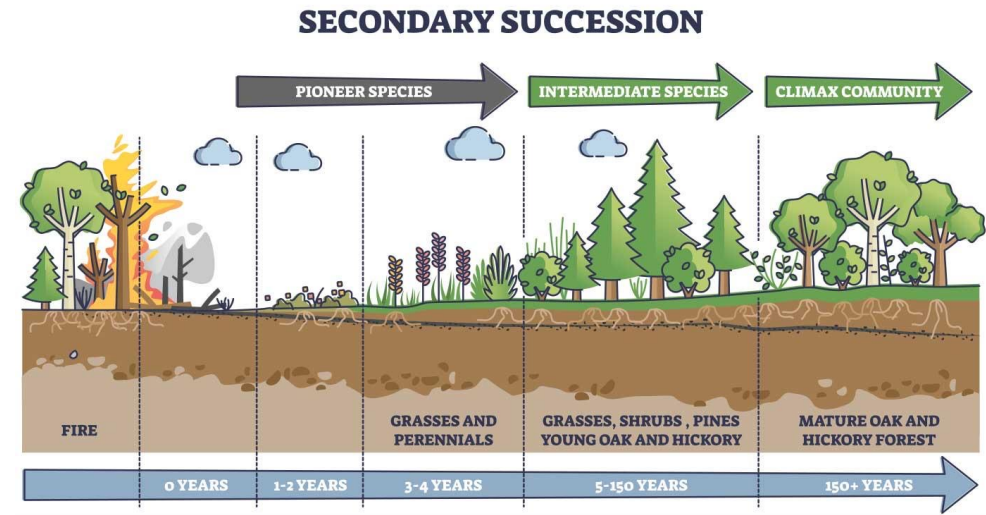


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## Background

- 'Secondary succession'  
End of agriculture in mountain areas => forest  
Risk of forest fires
- Traditional vegetation management = mechanised
- Alternative = Livestock farming?





## Objectives

- Pilot project
  - Pivot towards nature-based vegetation management
  - Learn about potential benefits for nature, company & local people
- Benefit nature
  - Higher biodiversity (more open spaces)
  - Nutrient removal & sporadic return
  - Organic matter in soil, soil structure, water retention
  - Prevent forest fires
  - Reduced GHGs
- Engage rural communities and support traditional farming
- If successful, replicate
  - Monitor & evaluate ecosystem services
  - Develop methodology for replication



## Implementation

- 2 phases of project      Pilot: 2020-2021    Continuation: 2022
- Monte Los Agudos (Calahorra, La Rioja, Spain)
  - 220 kV power line, 13 hectares
- Partnership with shepherd
  - Flock of **700 sheep** from livestock farm 2.5 km away
- Grazing Plan (!)
  - Mar 2020 – Feb 2021 - 20 days of 7h grazing
  - Jan – May 2022 – 7 days of 6h grazing (pause 'til Sep)
- Evaluation: Field visits
  - Biodiversity sampling points: plants, arthropods
  - 27 traps, 9 points, 3 zones
  - 1) Grid w/ grazing 2) Grid w/o grazing 3) Control = forest
- Monitoring: Drone flights to determine coverage





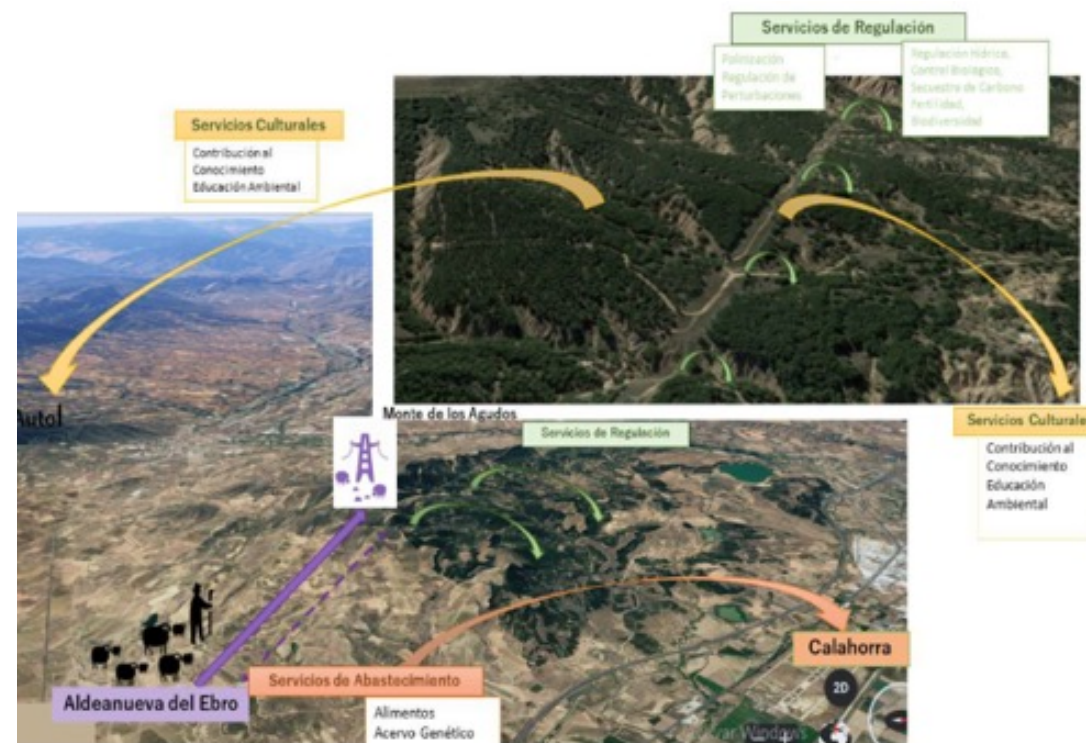
## Results

### Environmental

- Trampling, ingestion & manure  
Inc. soil fertility & filtration capacity  
Prevention of scrub, succession to herb. veg.  
**Reduced forest fire risk**
- Strengthened biodiversity  
Plants & arthropods (incl. pollinators)
- GHG reduction (no machinery, soil health & CO2 storage)

### Social

- Supports local shepherding culture  
Access to new grazing resources  
Additional income streams for farmer (1,700€ in total - phase 1)  
Facilitates inter-generational learning
- Positive relationship betw/ grid operator & local communities – direct engagement



# Pastoreo en RED

## Dissemination and replication

- Planned replication within other regions of Spain (accounting for geographical diversity)
- Practical guides for sectoral forums, trainings etc.
  - Practical Guide to “Networked Grazing”
  - Manual “Benefits of Networked Grazing, Services for Human Welfare”
  - Guide for the “Evaluation of Ecosystem Services”
- Info materials for other farmers
- Recognised in RGI’s “Good Practice of the Year” Award 2021
- Meetings with EU TSOs
- Wide dissemination in press/online
  - Magazine interviews (with farmer) & radio appearances
- Environmental Education Campaign (15-16 y/o)



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# Other good practices in Europe



- Pasturing areas near **public paths** – **awareness**
- Prevent succession, renew grassy vegetation and creating disturbances - **diversify habitats**.
- To support **restoring peatlands**, moors and sparse meadows.



- Strengthen **regional biodiversity** ecological balance, support (new) biodiversity and conservation of species
- New **pasturing areas** for shepherds
- Union of **diverse actors** in a living network (nature, grid operators, farmers, developers).

# Thank you!



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