Steppe Forward Chair
for an environmentally compatible energy transition

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CÁTEDRA STEPPE FORWARD

UAM Universidad Autónoma de Madrid · CTFC · TotalEnergies

PROJECT

The **Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM)** along with the **Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia (CTFC)**, with the support of TotalEnergies, have set up a pioneering **chair** to make the conservation of steppe habitats and species compatible with the transition to renewable energies. The chair's aim is to **develop a research line to study the interaction between steppe biodiversity and photovoltaic production.** The project is based on three axes: Research, Transfer and Dissemination.
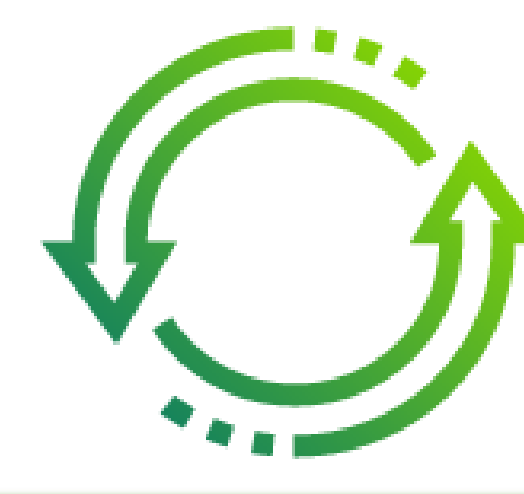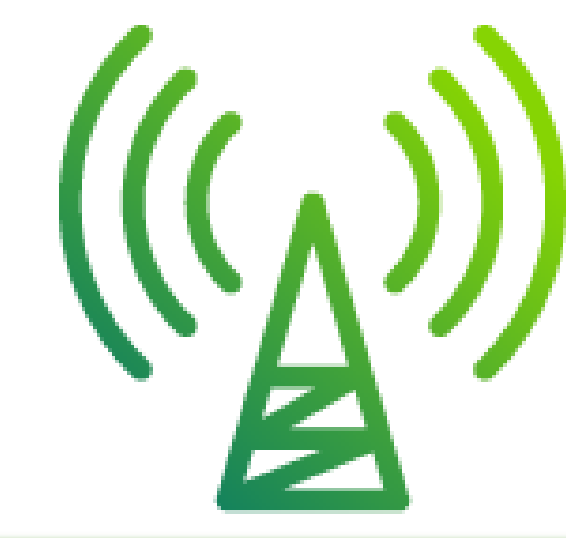
	RESEARCH	TRANSFER	DISSEMINATION
2022 Targets	To broaden knowledge on the use of space by steppe birds prior to the construction of photovoltaic parks. Standardize procedures for collecting data about presence, distribution and abundance of bird species in the study areas. Analyse the environmental impact studies published to identify deficiencies in the process.	Consolidate standard procedures of biodiversity data collection, analysis and presentation in Environmental Impact Assessments. Promote the current knowledge on the adequacy of fallows as a compensatory measure in agricultural systems.	Design a communication strategy and a corporate image for the project. Define the lines and means of communication that will be used. Make the work and results of the chair accessible to the general public, technicians and experts of the area.
2022 Achievements	32 birds of 6 species were tagged with GPS in 4 study sites (Sevilla, Toledo, Madrid y Zaragoza): Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Eurasian Stone-curlew, Little Bustard, Montagu's Harrier and Lesser Kestrel. Data on diversity, abundance and distribution of steppe birds in the study areas of Toledo and Zaragoza. Design of a Before-After-Control-Impact methodology to identify negative impacts of photovoltaic projects.	1st Steppe Forward Workshop on the importance, management and implementation of fallows as compensatory measure in photovoltaic projects. Publication of technical handbooks. These documents will focus on data collection, management, analysis and presentation. Development of an integrated digital system for data collection. First meeting between UAM, CTFC and TotalEnergies on the work area.	Logotype. The chair's Communication plan Portfolio and videos presenting the project. Website. Social media program. Articles aimed at the general public.