

# NBS in the domain of water reuse to increase available water resources

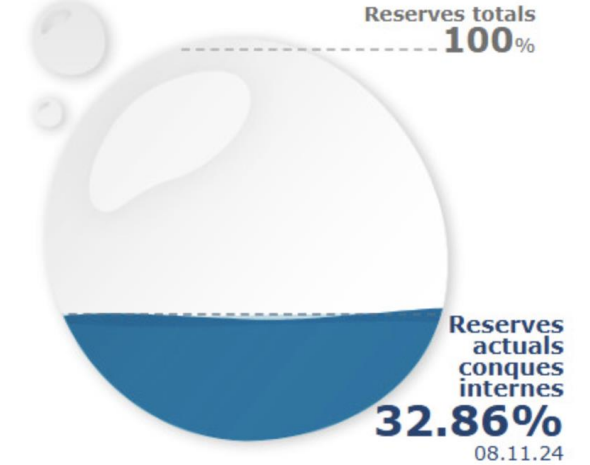
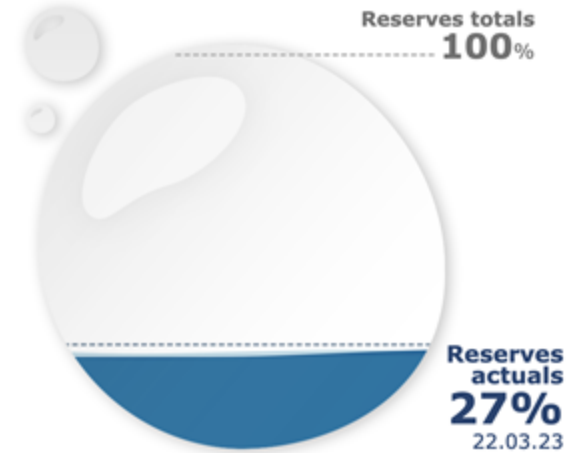
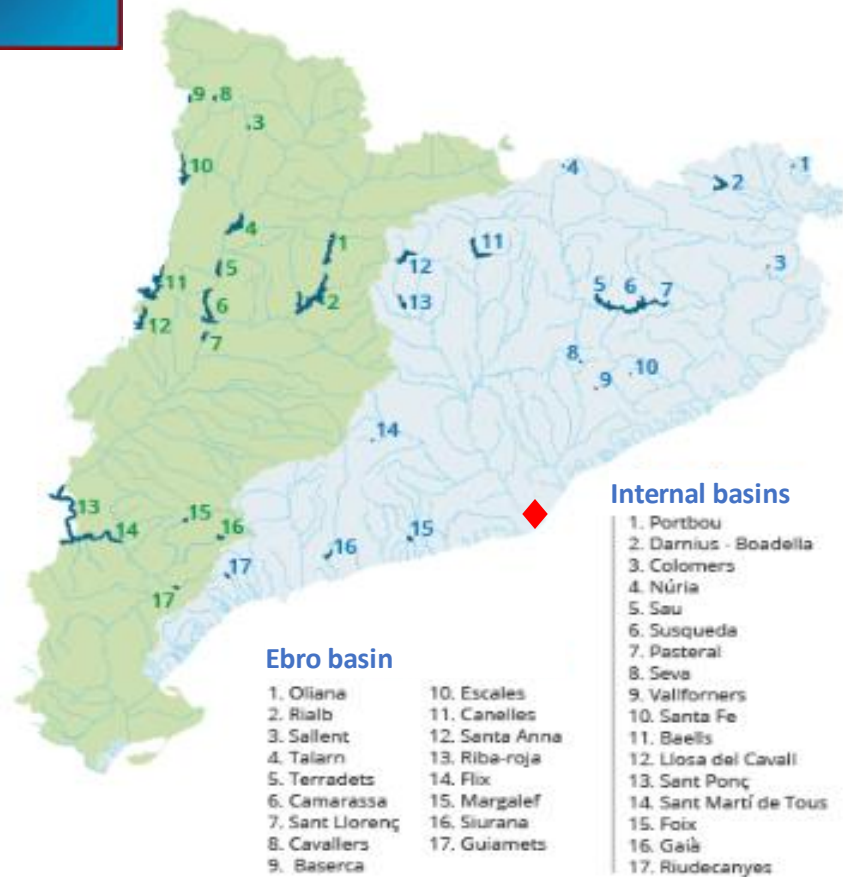
Joan Garcia



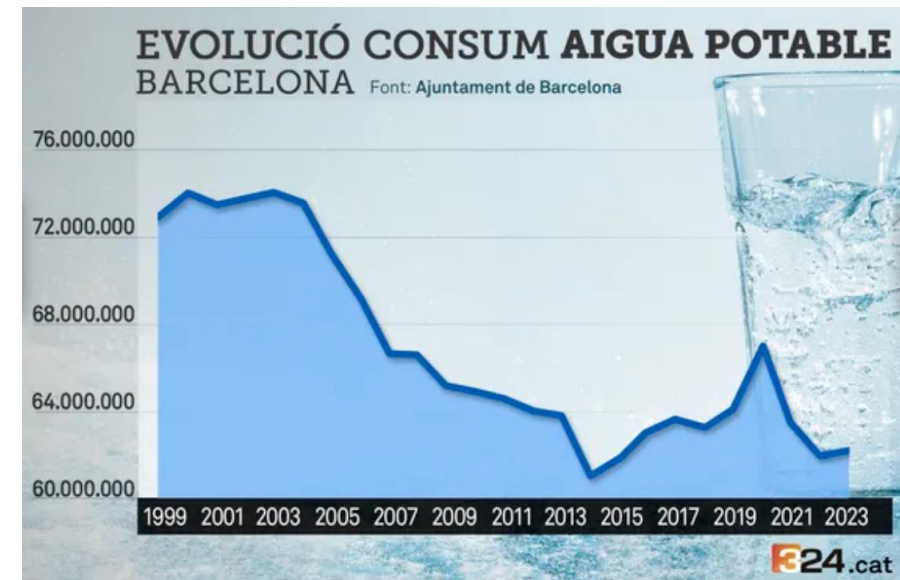
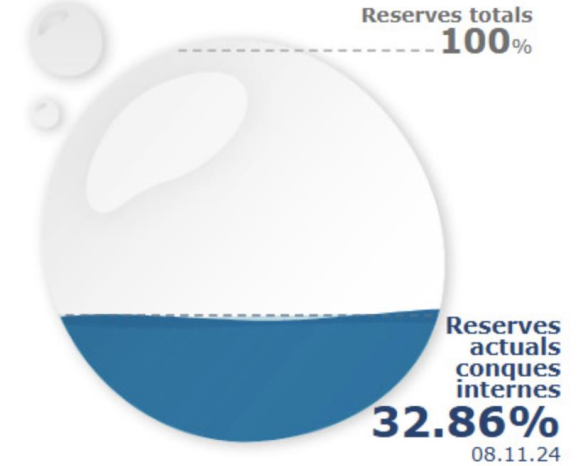
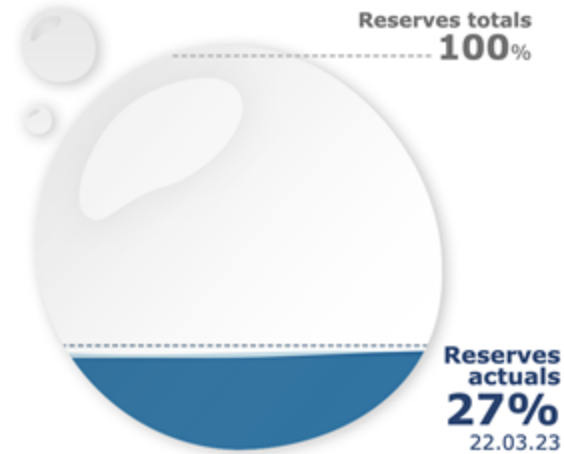
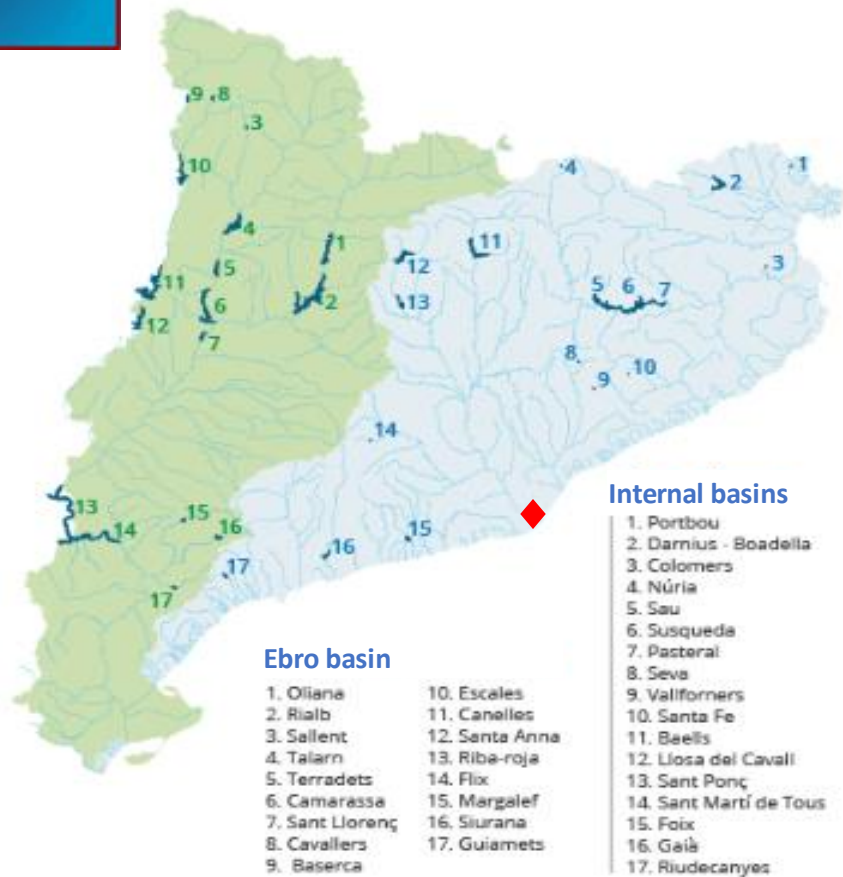
UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA  
BARCELONATECH

Group of Environmental Engineering  
and Microbiology

# Water scarcity is a recurring feature of the Mediterranean region, but its frequency has been exacerbated by the effects of climate change

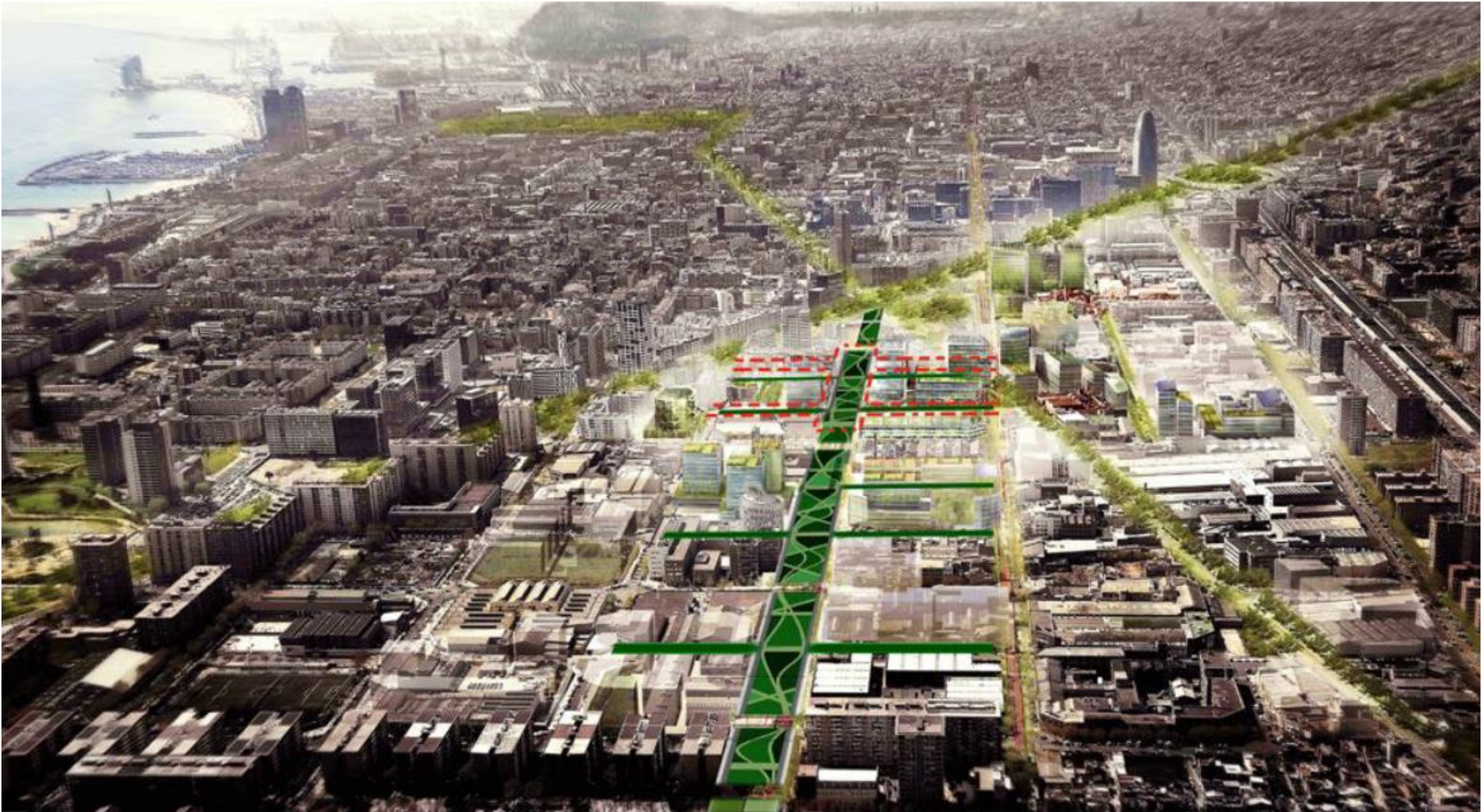


# Water scarcity is a recurring feature of the Mediterranean region, but its frequency has been exacerbated by the effects of climate change



Many people speak about Nature-Based Solutions exclusively thinking in urban environments

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Linear Park  
Barcelona

# Many people speak about Nature-Based Solutions exclusively thinking in urban environments

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Source: R. Soto  
IMU



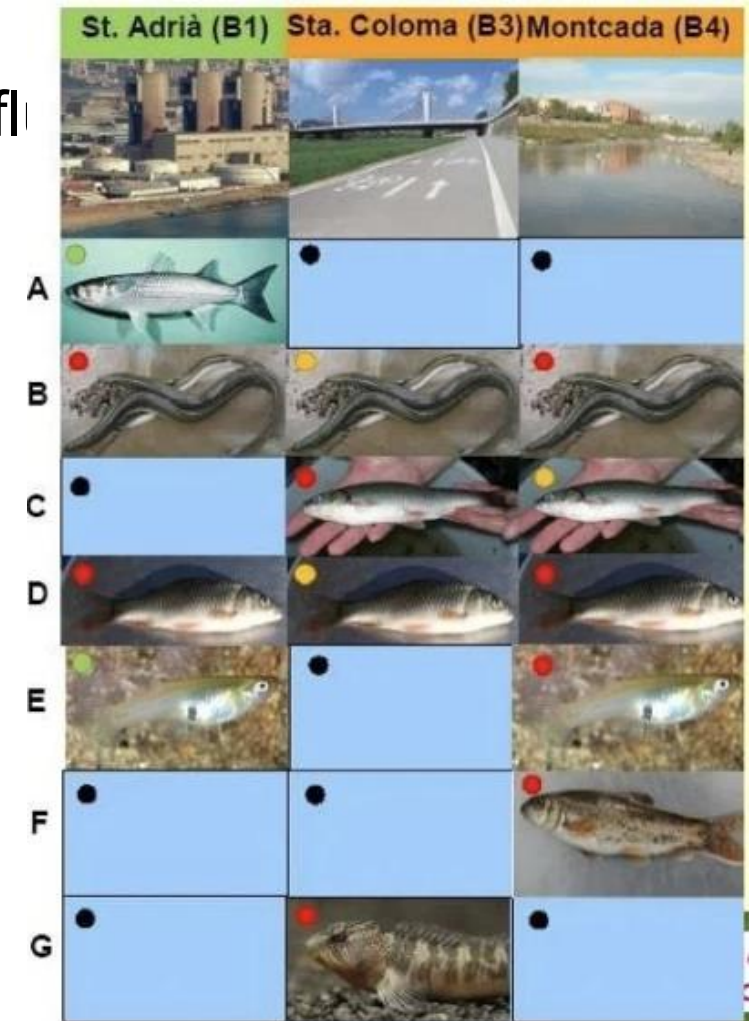
# What are the properties and the benefits of the Besòs River Fluvial Park wetlands?

## Properties

- Constructed in 2004
- Inside 3.7 km of river bed, secondary effluent
- Surface: 7.7 ha (60 cells)
- Flow: 15,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d
- <5 mg TSS/L, <50 mg COD/L

## Benefits

- Environmental restoration
- Increase in biodiversity
- Landscape improvement
- Water quality improvement
- Increase in water resources amount

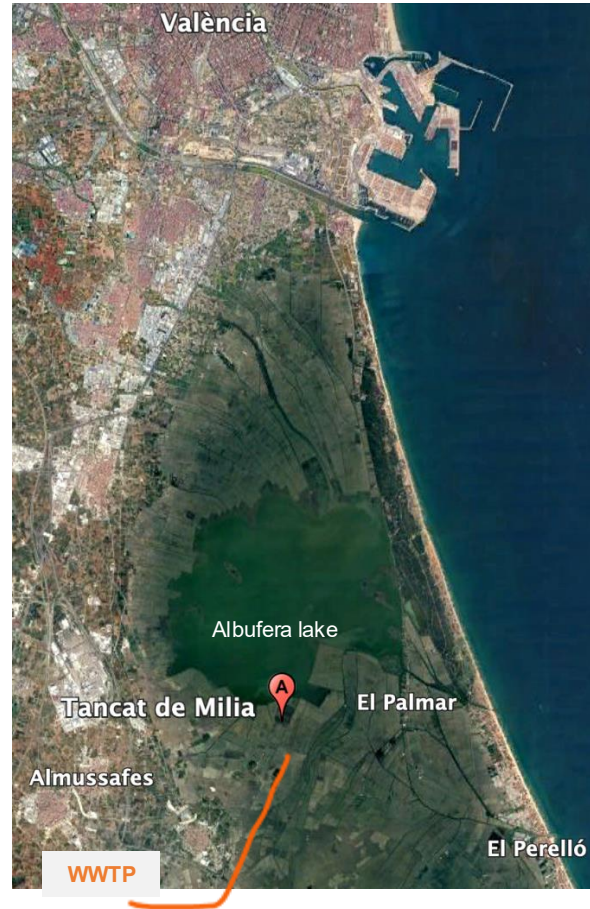
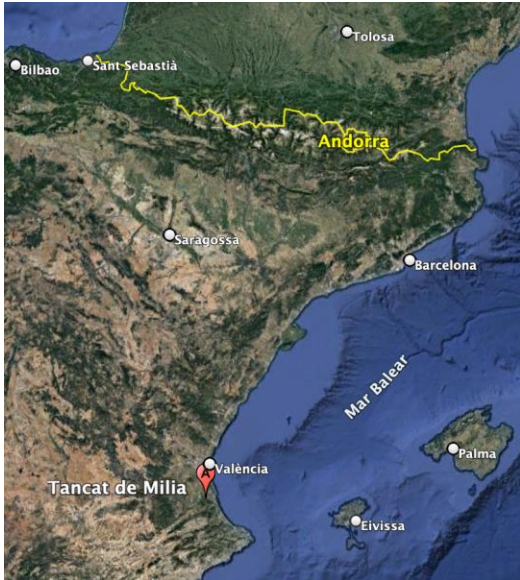


Source: M. Vila,  
DIBA



# A subsurface-surface flow wetland for environmental quality improvement

## Tancat de Milia wetland



- ① Subsurface flow zone, 4.5 ha, 18 cells
- ② Surface flow zone, 18 ha, 6 cells
- ③ Artificial lake, 10 ha

Source: F. Juan  
Acuamed

# What are the properties and the benefits of the Tancat de Milia wetland?

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## Properties

- Constructed in 2011, Investment 5.5 M€, operation 110m/year
- Inside old rice fields, secondary effluent
- Surface: 33 ha
- Flow: 1,500 up to 4,500 m<sup>3</sup>/day
- Efficiency→ N: 40-60%, P: 40-70%

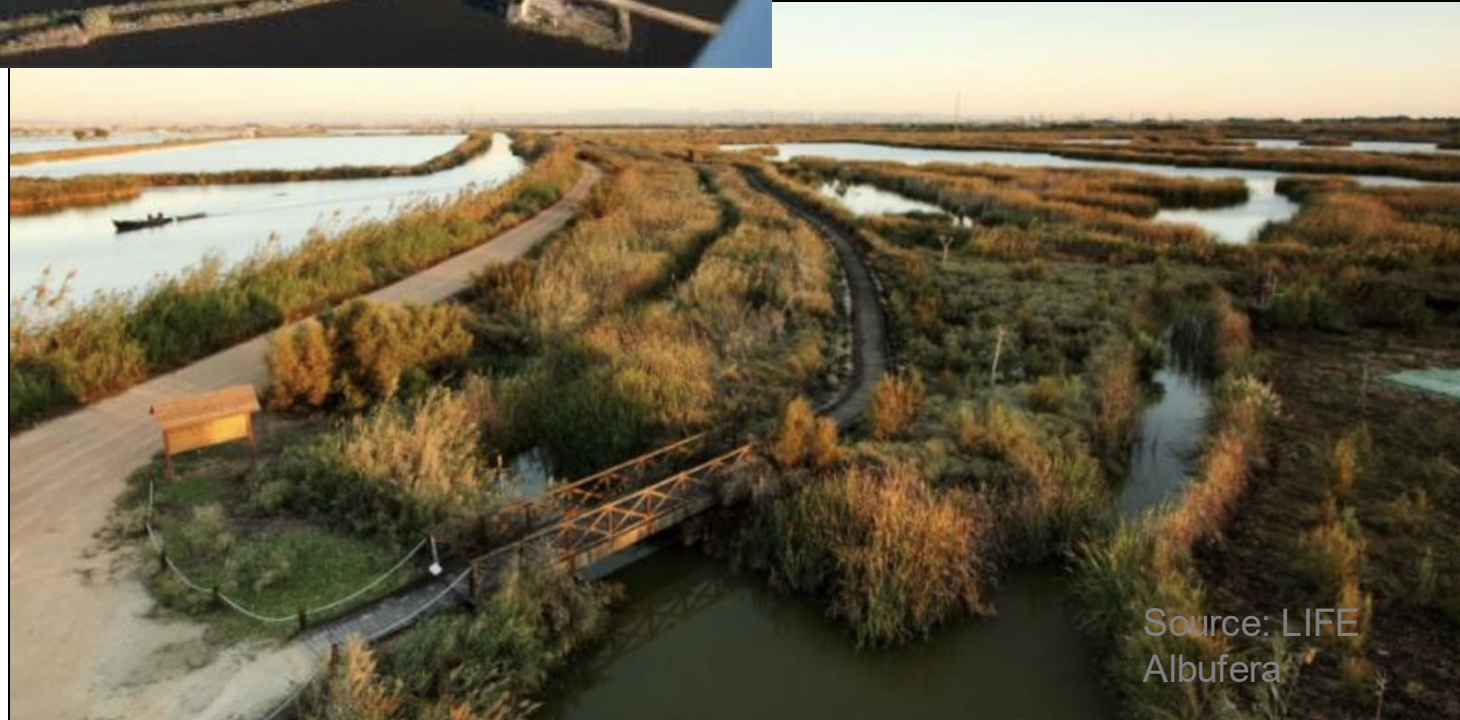
## Benefits

- Water quality improvement (nutrients)
- Environmental restoration



Tancat de  
Milia wetland

Tancat de  
l'Illa wetland



Source: LIFE  
Albufera

# Environmental restoration in Can Cabanyes Park (Granollers) and creation of a wetland

Can Cabanyes Park  
Granollers



# The water reuse system in Granollers

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Different restoration actions  
started in 2002

Wetland operation

2004

Reclaimed water network  
with storage tanks

Reuse is started

2010-15

2010

Start operation

Reclamation plant  
constructed in 2008

2020

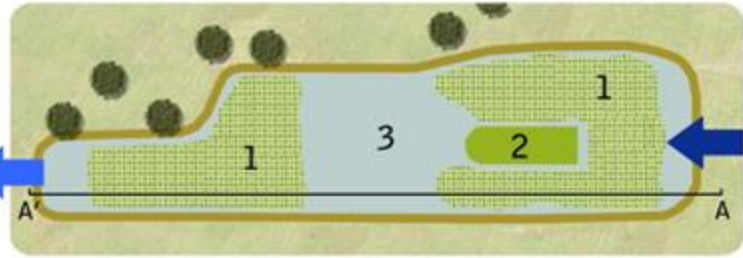
Truck connection

Water storage tanks provided  
with pipes and valves



# The wetland in Granollers

Plan view



- 1. Shallow planted zones
- 2. Island
- 3. Deep unplanted zones

Effluent

Influent

Section view



2003



2006

# The wetland in Granollers: a changing system

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2015



2019

# What are the properties and the benefits of the wetland of Can Cabanyes?

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## Properties

- Constructed in 2002-03, Investment 72 m€
- Secondary effluent
- Surface: 1 ha
- Flow: 300 m<sup>3</sup>/d
- <2 logs CFU/100 mL (*E. coli*)
- <15 mg TSS/L, <60 mg COD/L, <10 mg N/L

## Benefits

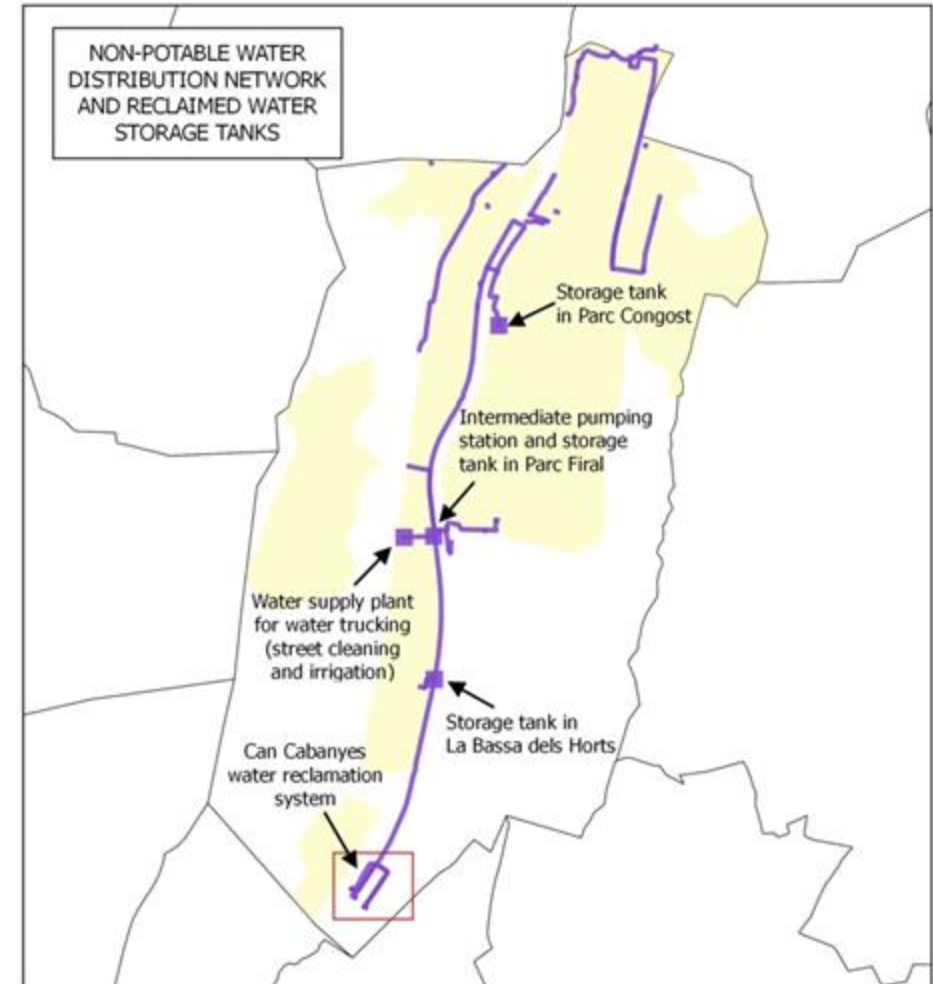
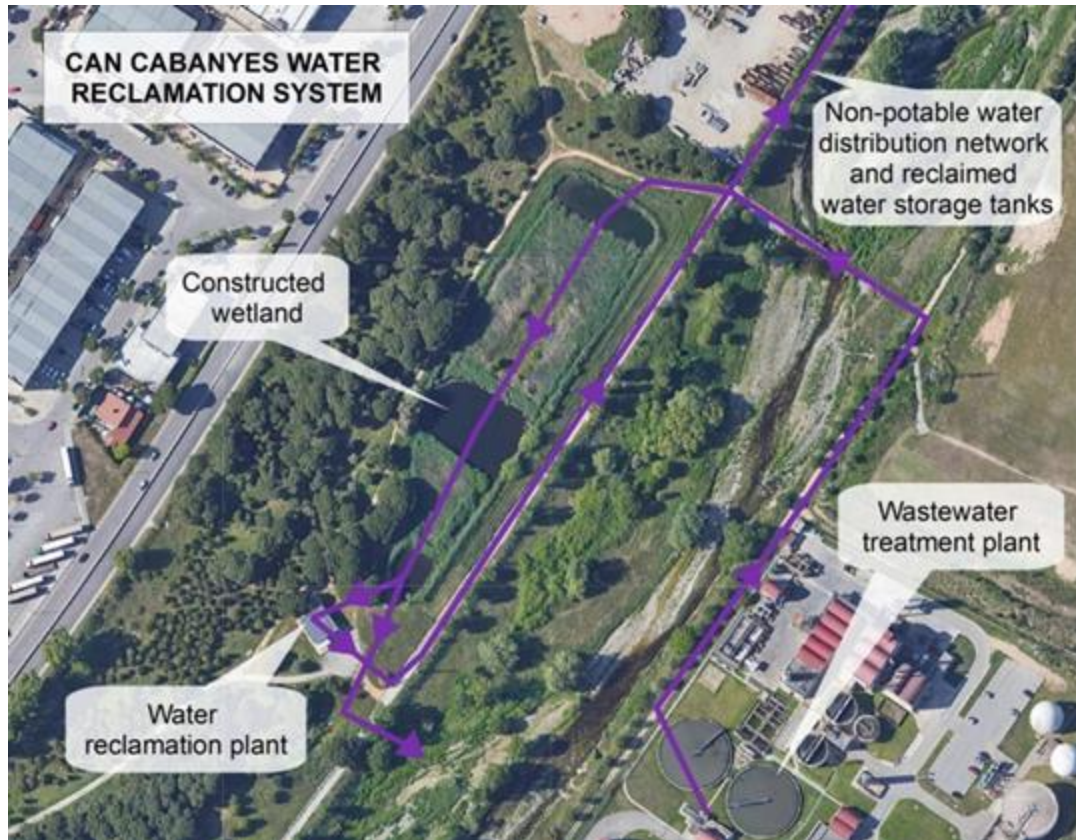
- Environmental quality
- Increase in biodiversity
- Water quality improvement (microbiology)
- Increase in water resources
- Gardening, street cleaning

# The mechanical reclamation treatment plant

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# The non-potable distribution network and the storage tanks

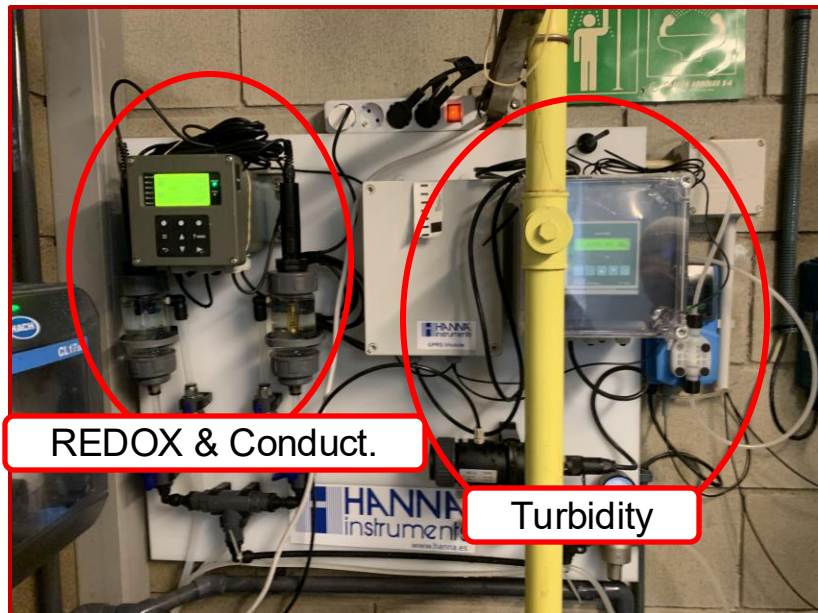


# Water supply for trucks

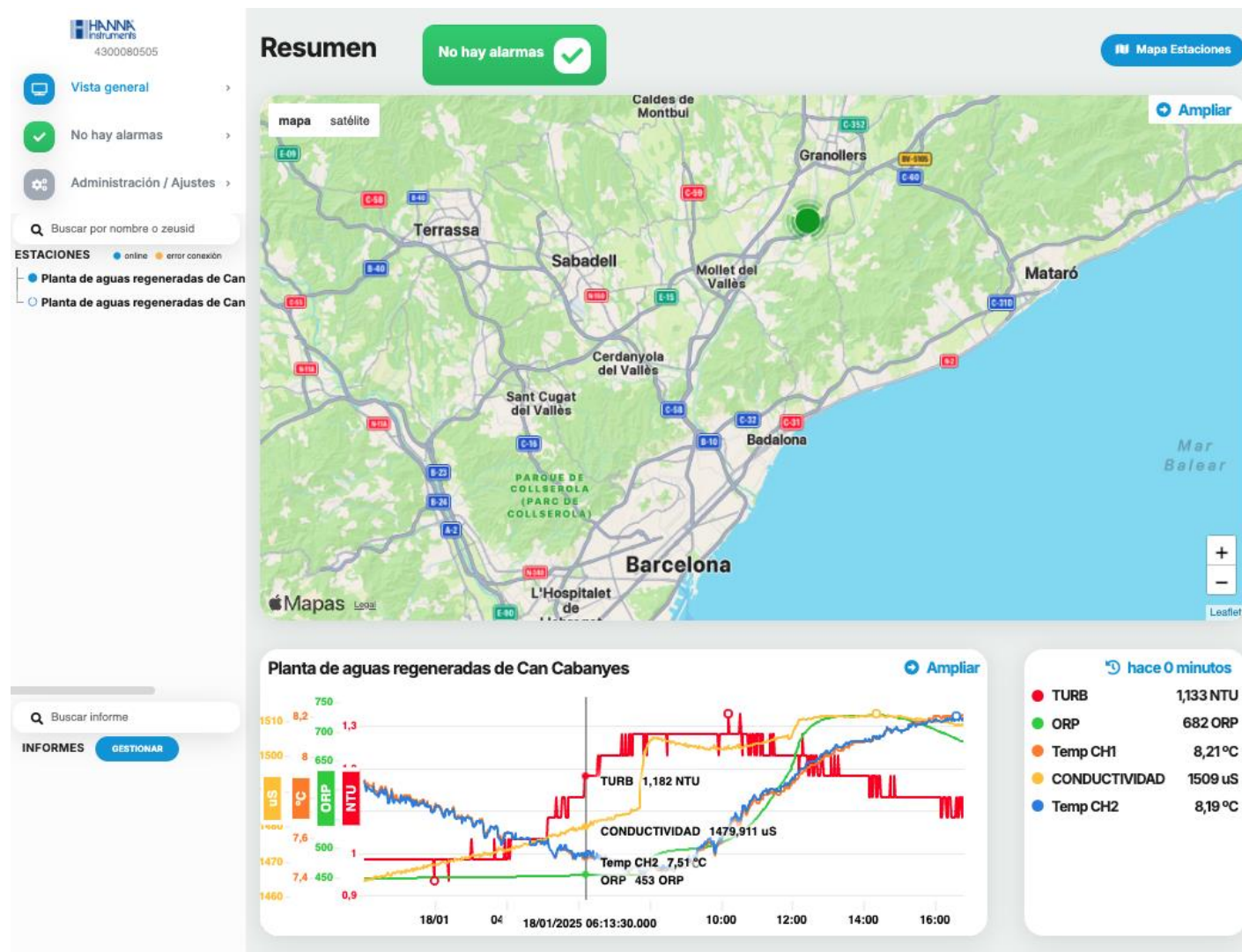
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## TARGET



## Online monitoring in collaboration with Granollers city council



# Final Remarks

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1. NBS projects in the context of water reuse have been very successful providing multiple benefits
2. Experience gained in the past 20 years has paved a solid background knowledge ensuring new projects and extrapolations to other countries/regions
3. NBS as a pre-step to reclamation plants seems to be a good strategy