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INSTITUTO DE HIDRÁULICA AMBIENTAL
UNIVERSIDAD DE CANTABRIA

Copernicus Tools for Monitoring Global Change Effects in Rivers and Riparian Zones

(Cop.RIVER)

Deliverable 3: Selection of potential pilot basins

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FUNDACION INSTITUTO DE HIDRÁULICA AMBIENTAL DE CANTABRIA
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1 BACKGROUND

The Cop.RIVER action will strengthen the Copernicus user uptake developing an innovative toolkit that will allow defining a selected set of standardized ecological indicators from both riparian and aquatic domains. This tool will enable achieving independent decision-making to assist on water resource management, restoration and conservation actions in these complex, fragile and valuable landscapes.

Cop.RIVER will test the applicability of this toolkit in a number of pilot basins, proposed by FIHAC and selected jointly with the International Advisory Committee of the project (i.e., scientists and local, regional and EU-level authorities), in the base of their representativeness and extrapolation to other regions. This will foster the user uptake through related workshops and good-practice demonstrations using a Living Lab approach tested previously by the project team in other regions.

2 SELECTION OF THE POTENTIAL PILOT BASINS

One of the main objectives of Cop.RIVER is to apply the selected remote sensing indicators in at least one pilot basin. A major factor that led to the selection of the potential pilot basins was the availability of data, such as ground data and remote sensing-derived information obtained in previous actions and projects led by the FIHAC. The ground data includes a series of environmental variables that are being gathered for the potential pilot basins, including climatic, topographic, land-use/land-cover and vegetation variables, habitats models and *in situ* data for the terrestrial and the aquatic domain.

A total of seven river basins located in Northern Spain (Fig. 1) have been selected as potential pilot cases:

- Asón
- Cares
- Deva
- Miera
- Pas
- Saja-Besaya
- Sella

All of them are Atlantic catchments enclosed in the Northern part of the Cantabrian Cordillera. In relation to topography, three main different morphology zones can be differentiated in the catchments; coastal areas in the lower parts, middle internal valleys and mountain ranges in the upper lands. In terms of vegetation, there is a wide range of vegetation formations and conservation status (e.g., degraded vs. well preserved) both within and across different basins.

The potential pilot basins identified in this step of the action will be at the disposal of the International Advisory Committee to select those where the toolkit can be applied once it has been developed. The representativeness of the different potential pilot basins and the potential extrapolation of their results to other regions in the EU space will be discussed at forthcoming meetings with the International Advisory Committee engaged in the project.

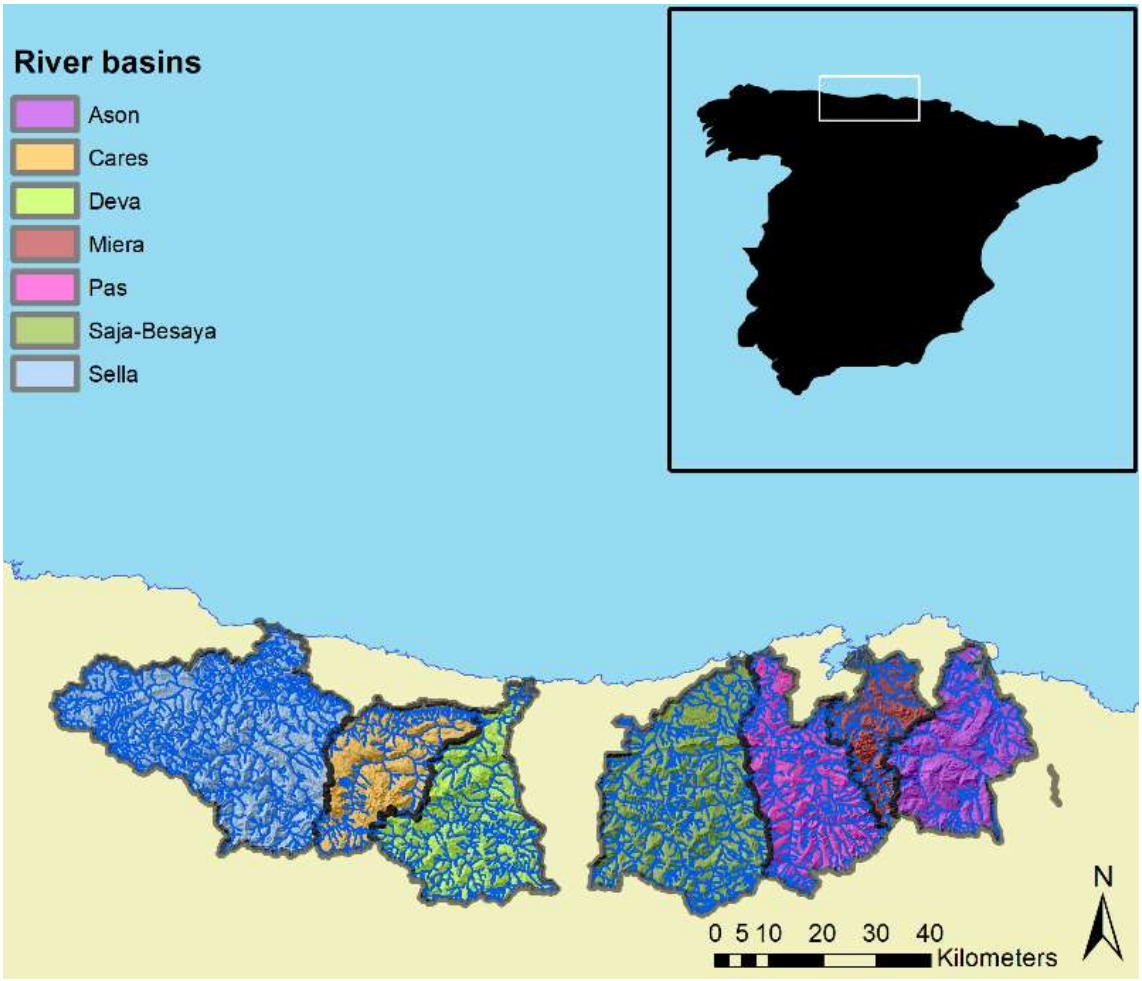

Figure 1. Location of the potential pilot basins selected in Northern Spain.