



Madrid, September 10th, 2015

Dear Sirs:

CIREF (Iberian Centre for River Restoration) would like to acknowledge the relevance and interest of the WET-CORRIDOR Project. We believe this Project is coherent and suitable with the water planning process in the Tagus River Basin Management Plan, and may contribute significantly to the protection and restoration of water bodies and their associated ecosystem services in the Jarama basin.

The importance of the Jarama River and its connected wetlands (natural or artificial) has scientifically been described by many authors and works during the last decades. The Jarama river corridor is of utmost importance due to the essential habitats and threatened species it holds, its ability to ecologically connect a diverse array of (priority) aquatic, riparian and terrestrial habitats, and its influence on the proper functioning of water cycle in Madrid region. Restoration of wetlands connectivity and their buffer zones in this corridor would additionally work as NWRM (Natural Water Retention Measures), with all their associated benefits, in a dryland area which frequently suffers high hydrological irregularity and water scarcity. The development of the WET-CORRIDOR Project would be thus of the higher interest for ecological, hydromorphological and socio-economic reasons in the context of the Community of Madrid. We believe this Project is coherent with the EU Water Framework and Floods Directives.

Therefore, CIREF supports the WET-CORRIDOR initiative to Restore the Wetlands Ecological Connection in the Jarama River Basin (Spain), to be submitted to the LIFE 2015 Call of Proposals.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Francisco Martínez Capel', is written over a horizontal line.

Francisco Martínez Capel
President of CIREF