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Did you know that...

THERE WERE WOLVES IN THE SIERRA THE BAZA UNTIL THE 1930S?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The habitat of the wolf was reduced to the summits of the Sierras because of hunting.

The wolf killed the deer, and later it had to attack the livestock to survive. Eventually, this caused its extinction.

The last wolf was seen in the Calar de Rapa during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939).

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Did you know that...

THERE ARE SOME ENDEMIC SPECIES IN THE SIERRA DE BAZA?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Among the reptiles and amphibians found in the Sierra de Baza, there are two Iberian endemic species: the painted toad (Discoglossus jeanneae) and the common midwife toad (Alytes dickhilleni).

Besides, here we can find 30% of the total number of reptile and amphibian species existing in the Iberian Peninsula.

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Did you know that...

THERE IS A BUTTERFLY CALLED "BAZA"?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

This butterfly, Eucloe bazae, can only be found here, in the Hoya of Baza.

Endemisms in butterflies are closely linked to endemisms of their host plants.

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Did you know that...

NATIVE FORESTS STILL EXIST IN THE SIERRA DE BAZA?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

In the Sierra de Baza, autochthonous high mountain pine forests are still preserved.

The native species of pine trees (Pinus sylvestris and Pinus nigra) constitute ecosystems of high ecological value which contrast with places highly deteriorated by overgrazing, mining, etc.

Most of the pine forests currently found in the Sierra are the result of repopulation.

G4N+

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Did you know that...

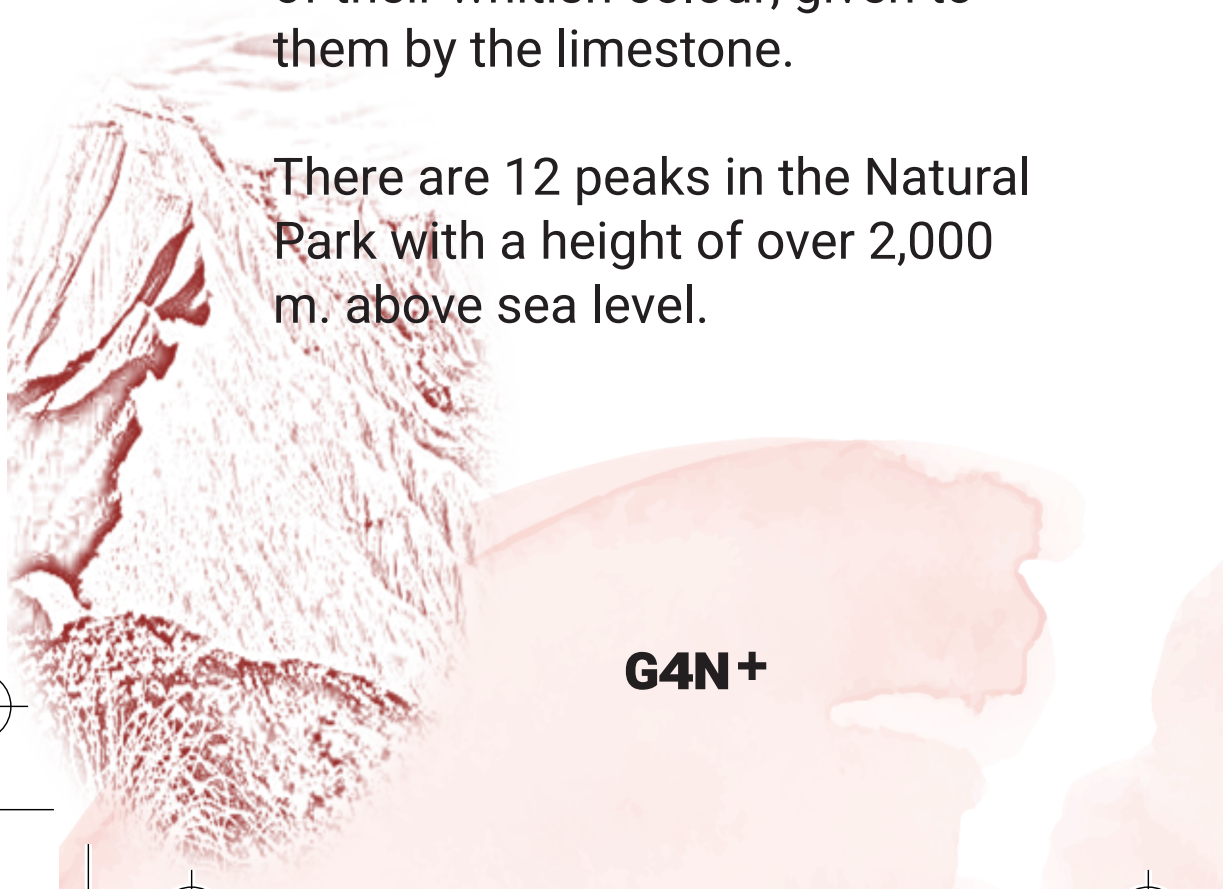
THE HIGHEST PEAK IN THE SIERRA DE BAZA IS 2,269 M. HIGH?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The highest point of the Sierra de Baza is the Calar de Santa Bárbara, standing at 2,269 metres above sea level.

Why is it called “Calar”?
We refer to these high peaks as “calar” (plural “calares”) because of their whitish colour, given to them by the limestone.

There are 12 peaks in the Natural Park with a height of over 2,000 m. above sea level.



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But after al...

WHAT CAUSES ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

It is produced by different causes:

- Natural causes: mainly due to the lack of rainfall. The Sierra de Baza is affected by a phenomenon known as "rain shadow".

- Socio-historical causes: for example, the loss of profitability of traditional crop production, which caused emigration and depopulation.

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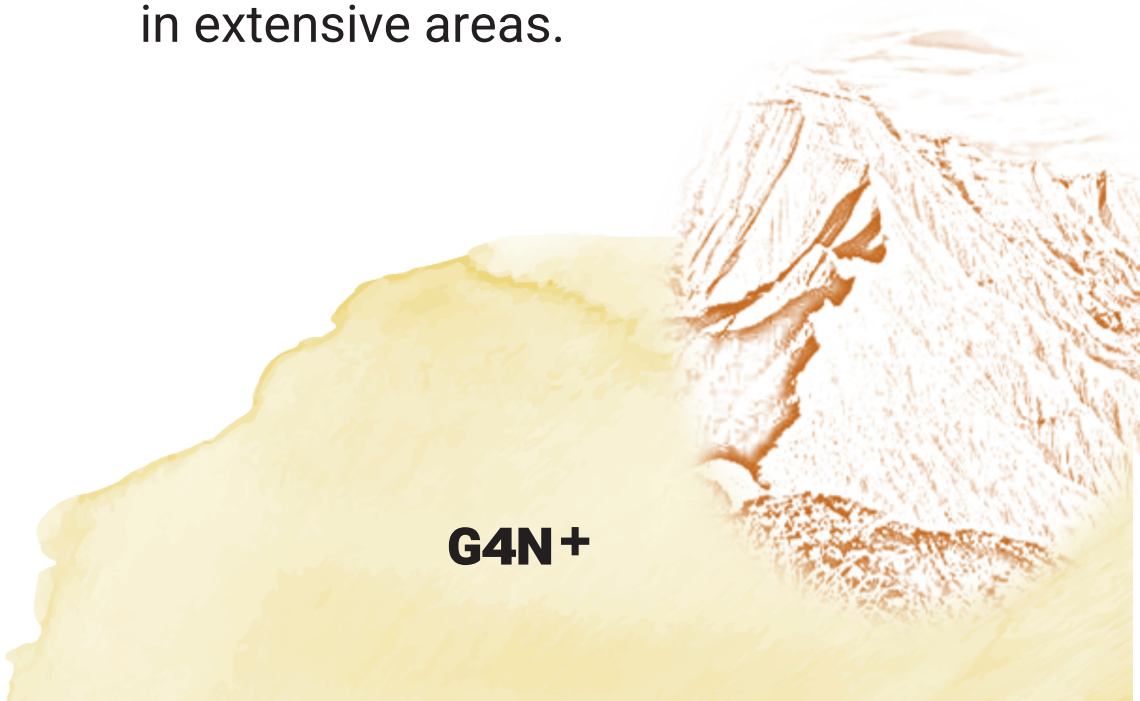
But after al...

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE SIERRA DE BAZA?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

It can be described as a highly deforested and degraded mountain range (except for some exceptional enclaves), seriously threatened by erosion and desertification processes in the lower and middle parts.

Regeneration and reforestation processes can also be observed in extensive areas.



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But after al...

WHY IS ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION A PROBLEM?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Living beings find harder to survive when their natural habitat is degraded.

On the other hand, human beings obtain many resources from ecosystems, for example, a number of active principles of medicines are known through their study in nature.

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But after al...

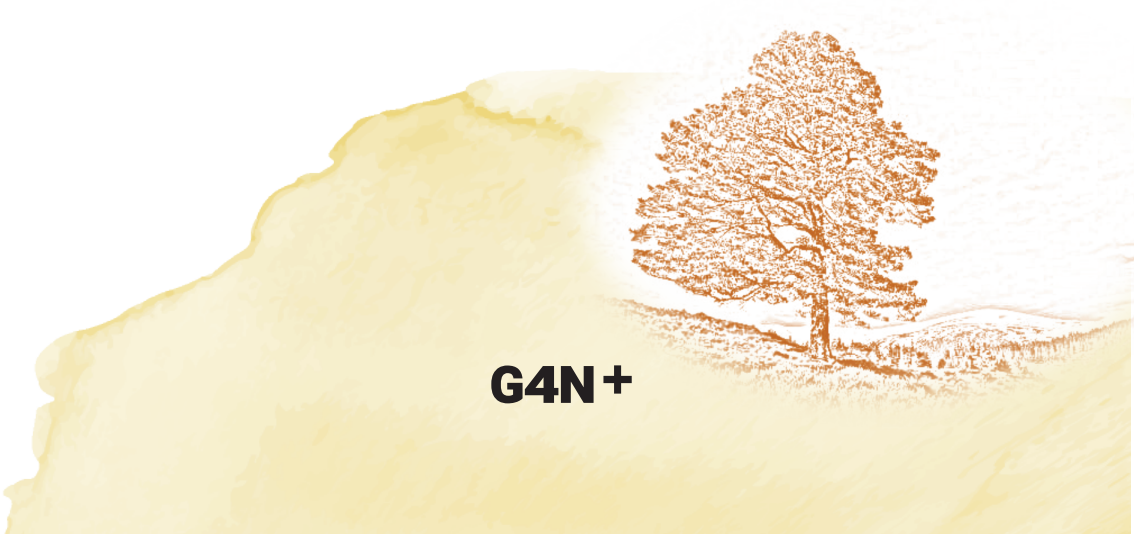
WHAT AREAS MUST BE PROTECTED?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Above all, Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris) and “Salgareño” pine (Pinus nigra Arnold) forests, authentic botanical gems.

Deciduous forests, rapidly disappearing since the rainfall is insufficient for their development.

Holm oak forests, the most affected, possibly due to their accessibility and high quality as fuel.



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IS IT TRUE?

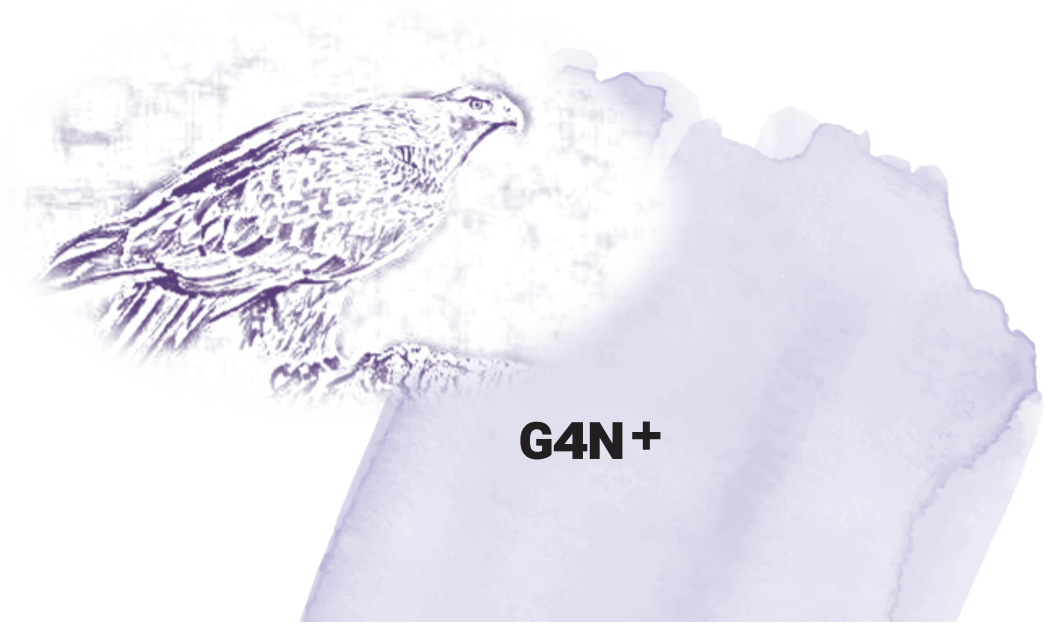
UP TO 220 BIRD SPECIES CAN BE SEEN IN "HOYA DE BAZA"

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

A great percentage of the 350 bird species found in Spain, can be seen in this area.

This is due to the variety of habitats existing in the Hoya de Baza, which are still little deteriorated, but highly threatened.

Only the conservation of these habitats will prevent the loss of diversity in birds.



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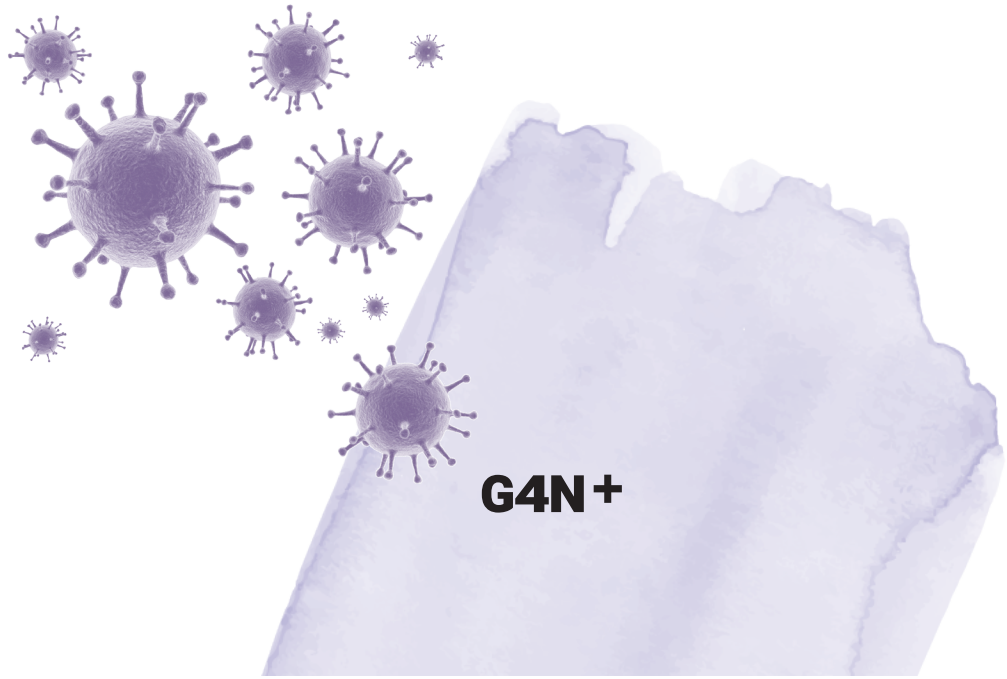
IS IT TRUE?

THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY CAN BE THE CAUSE OF PANDEMICS

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Viruses and bacteria have always lived with us in well-preserved habitats.

When nature is altered or destroyed, natural ecosystems get weaker and this facilitates the spread of pathogens, increasing the risk of contact with human beings and transmission to them, with the subsequent negative effects on our health.



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IS IT TRUE?

THE SIERRA DE BAZA IS NOT FREE. ITS USE IS SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

At present, regulations restrict the use of the Sierra de Baza with respect to camping, getting around with motor vehicles or even bicycles.

There are also a number of rules and regulations for collecting mushrooms and aromatic plants.

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IS IT TRUE?

YOU MUSTN'T MAKE A FIRE IN PICNIC AREAS AT CERTAIN TIMES OF THE YEAR

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

According to regulations, making campfires or barbecues is not allowed from 1st June to 15th October, as it is the season with the highest temperatures and biggest fire risk at the Sierra de Baza.

Driving motor vehicles is banned in forested areas in the Sierra de Baza and also in the surrounding area (a 400- metre wide strip of land).

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TAKE ACTION!

DON'T TAKE ANYTHING WITH YOU!

IENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

DO NOT collect pinecones to light your fireplace or aromatic species for your garden.

The Sierra de Baza is a protected area ruled by the Law of Natural Parks, which establishes as an offense the collection of species of wild flora, minerals or fossils.

G4N+

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TAKE ACTION!

DON'T LITTER ANYWHERE!

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

When we eat in the countryside we think that nature ends up with all kinds of waste as if by magic.

Well, you should bear in mind that ... it can take up to two years for the environment to get rid of the skin of a banana, or of orange peels. In addition, it contributes to increasing visual pollution in the area, and may encourage other people to throw out more

G4N+

TAKE ACTION!

THE WAY DOES MATTER

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

When collecting mushrooms in nature remember to:

- Bring a wicker basket (never a plastic bag) so that the spores can fall on the ground and germinate. Thus, there will be mushrooms the next year.
- Cut the mushrooms with a knife to avoid removing the mycelium and, as a result, ending the life of the fungus under the ground.
- Keep in mind that you can only take 5 kilos per person per day.

G4N+

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Did you know that...

THE SIERRA DE BAZA HAS BEEN INHABITED FOR OVER 7,000 YEARS?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The natural wealth of the Sierra de Baza, in contrast to the surrounding flat areas, led to human settlements 7,000 ago.

In mid- 19th century, population reached its highest density in the Sierra. This coincided with the years of maximum mining, use of wood and livestock exploitation. At that time, there were 2,847 inhabitants registered.

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Did you know that...

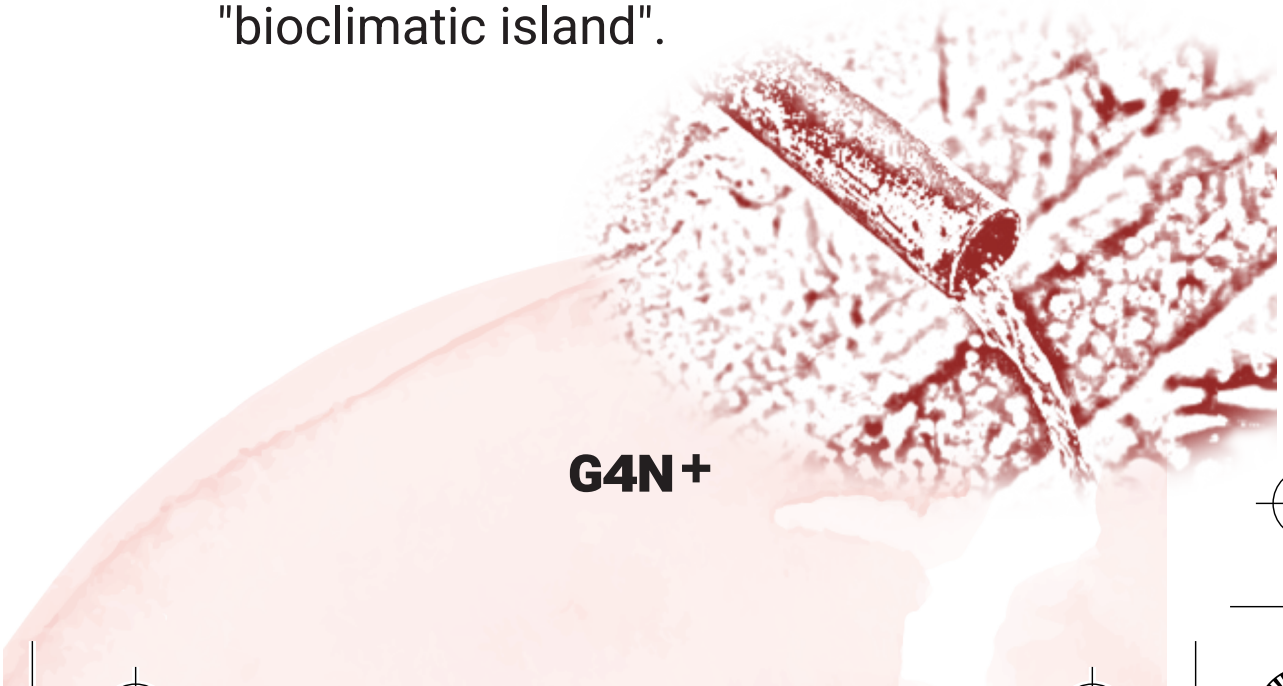
THIS IS ONE OF THE DRIEST AREAS IN SPAIN?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The Sierra de Baza is situated in one of the driest regions of Spain.

Rainfall rarely exceeds 300 mm /a year, and is generally torrential. The rain usually falls in just 40 days a year.

However, the lands around the Sierra enjoy much higher rainfall, turning it into a sort of "bioclimatic island".



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Did you know that...

NOT ALL PINE TREES ARE THE SAME?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Scots pines, holm oaks, river deciduous forests and juniper thickets are the native vegetation of the Sierra de Baza.

In many cases, these areas have been reforested with pine trees, and the vegetation near the waterways has been destroyed due to the favourable conditions of this land for orchards.

G4N+

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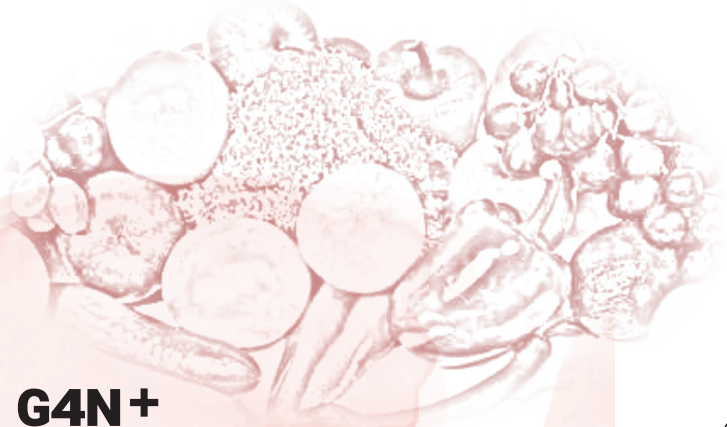
Did you know that...

QUALITY, NOT JUST QUANTITY, MATTERS?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Not only the number of species matters but also the diversity.

We need to preserve the right balance or mix of species if we want to prevent biodiversity loss in the Sierra de Baza.
It's not just the total number of species preserved in the Sierra de Baza that matters, it's also the number of key species. Generally, the more diverse a system is, the more resilient it is to pressures.



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But after al...

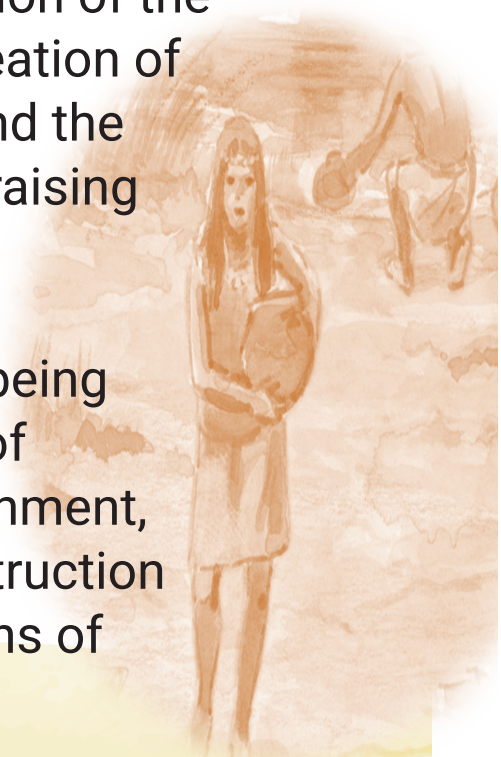
WHEN DID THE PROBLEM START?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The problem started in the Neolithic Age, when humans became sedentary.

This involved the exploitation of resources, the modification of the environment with the creation of spaces for agriculture and the increase in hunting and raising animals for food.

At this time, the human being accelerated the rhythm of aggression to the environment, which led to a quick destruction of what had taken millions of years to create.



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But after al...

WHAT WAS THE ANCIENT VEGETATION?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

In low areas there were mature oak forests, alternated with kermes oaks, rosemary, gorse and some rockrose.

In shady areas, deciduous forests with acer trees or bushes, oak galls, holm oaks and spiky shrubs.

In the highest areas, extensions of Pinus nigra or black pine alternating with Scots pine trees and large thickets of common junipers and savins.

G4N+

Did you know that...

MINING IS A THREAT TO BIODIVERSITY?

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

There are a number of factors that contribute to the loss of biodiversity: climate change, deforestation, pollution, habitat destruction, invasive species and overexploitation of the environment. Mining, too.

5,000 years ago, the Sierra de Baza became one of the main metallurgical sites of Western Europe. Since then, and until the 1970s, the exploitation of mines at the Natural Park was intense.

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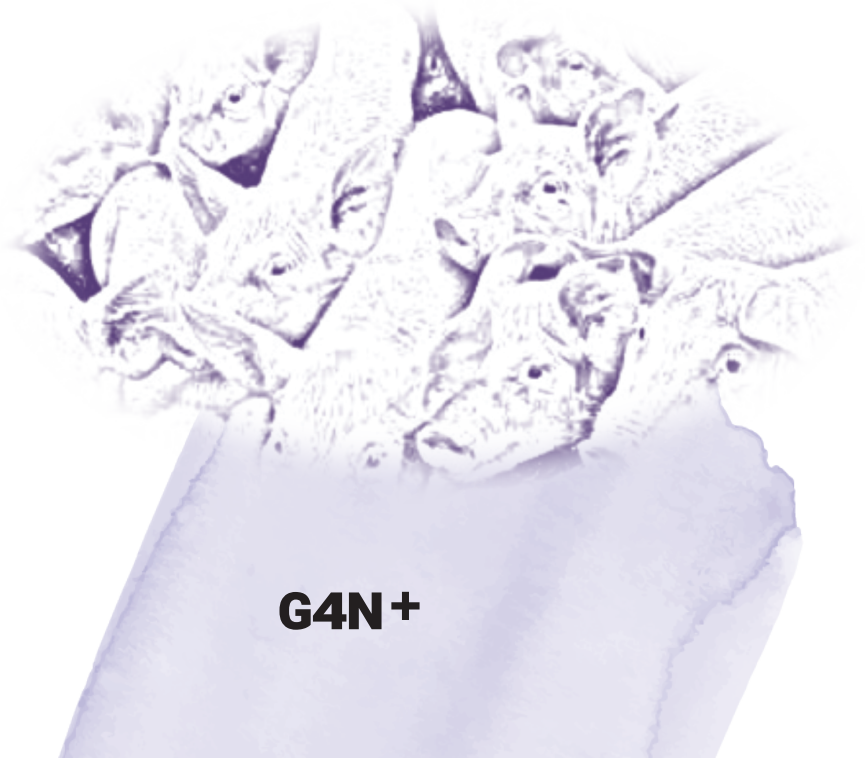
IS IT TRUE?

MEGA-FARMS AFFECT BIODIVERSITY

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Most pig mega-farms house from 2,000 to 7,000 animals.

The daily water consumption of these animals is 465,000 litres. Besides, 408,000 litres of slurry are generated every day, polluting water sources and aquifers



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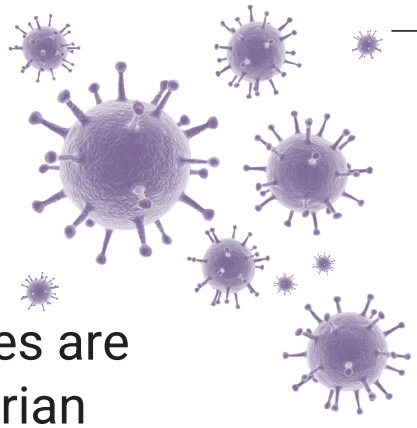
IS IT TRUE?

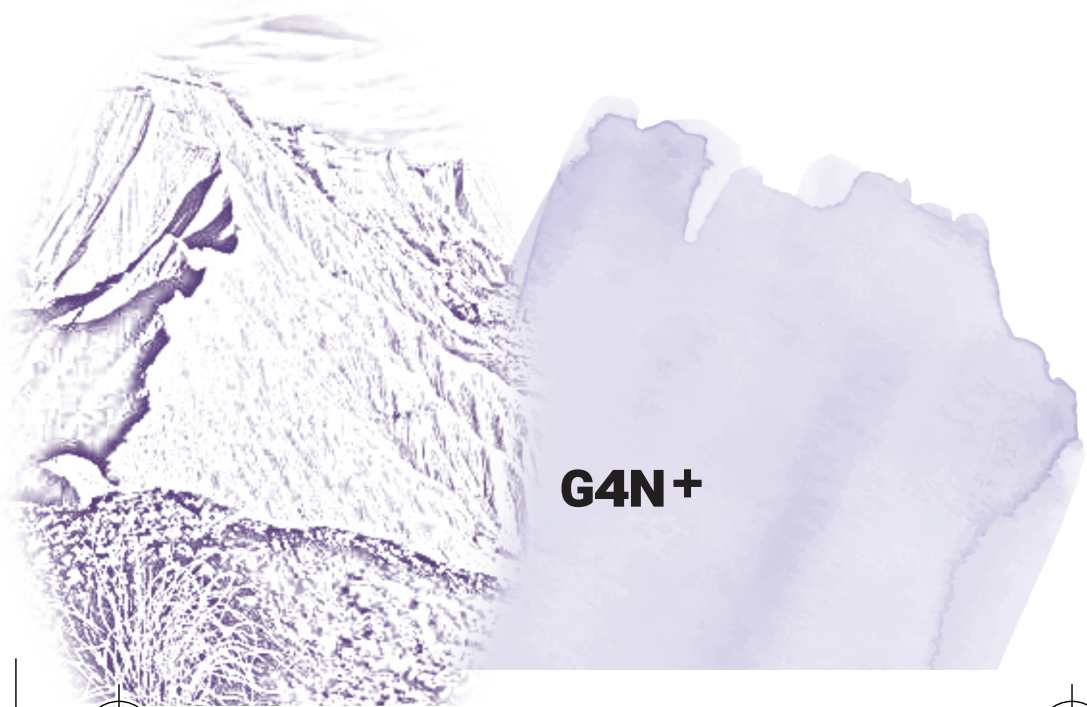
CLIMATE CHANGE CAN BRING US TROPICAL DISEASES

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION



Unless appropriate measures are taken, the climate in the Iberian Peninsula will surely look like that of North Africa in 2050.

Most pests are constrained by low temperatures. In fact, some pest species can complete several reproductive cycles when they are not under the influence of a cold winter.



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G4N+

IS IT TRUE?

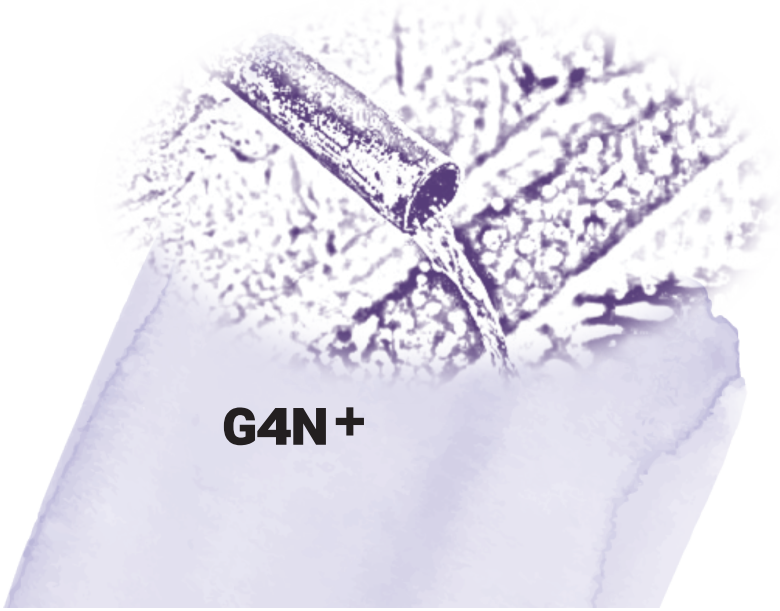
THERE ARE FEWER AND FEWER WATER SPRINGS

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The effects of climate change are getting more and more visible in the Sierra de Baza.

Historically, this area has suffered dry seasons, but now the situation is really worrying.

An increasing number of water springs are getting completely dry, for example, those in the area of Santa Olalla, of the Camino del Treasurer and the Cortijo del



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TAKE ACTION!

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION HELPS TO REDUCE THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The consumption of fresh, seasonal and locally produced products is preferable to transported, packaged and frozen food.

Regarding diet, moderate consumption of meat and fish, as well as the daily intake of vegetables and fruit is recommended.
When travelling, you can choose to go by public transport, by bicycle or on foot. If you go by car, share it with other people.

G4N+

G4N+

TAKE ACTION!

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The volunteering activities carried out in the Sierra de Baza have expanded throughout the years.

At present, they range from environmental interpretation activities addressed to locals and visitors, including groups of disabled people, to promotion and exchange of good practices, reforestation, environmental restoration in high mountains, official trail markings, and recovery of cultural heritage.

G4N+

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TAKE ACTION!

340 PLANT SPECIES COULD DISAPPEAR FROM THE SIERRA DE BAZA

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

There are many endangered plant species in the Sierra de Baza.

A total of 340 endangered plant species have been catalogued, and, out of these, 239 have been classified as rare, 57 as vulnerable and 24 as extinct in recent years. Most of them concentrate in the area of high mountains.

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