

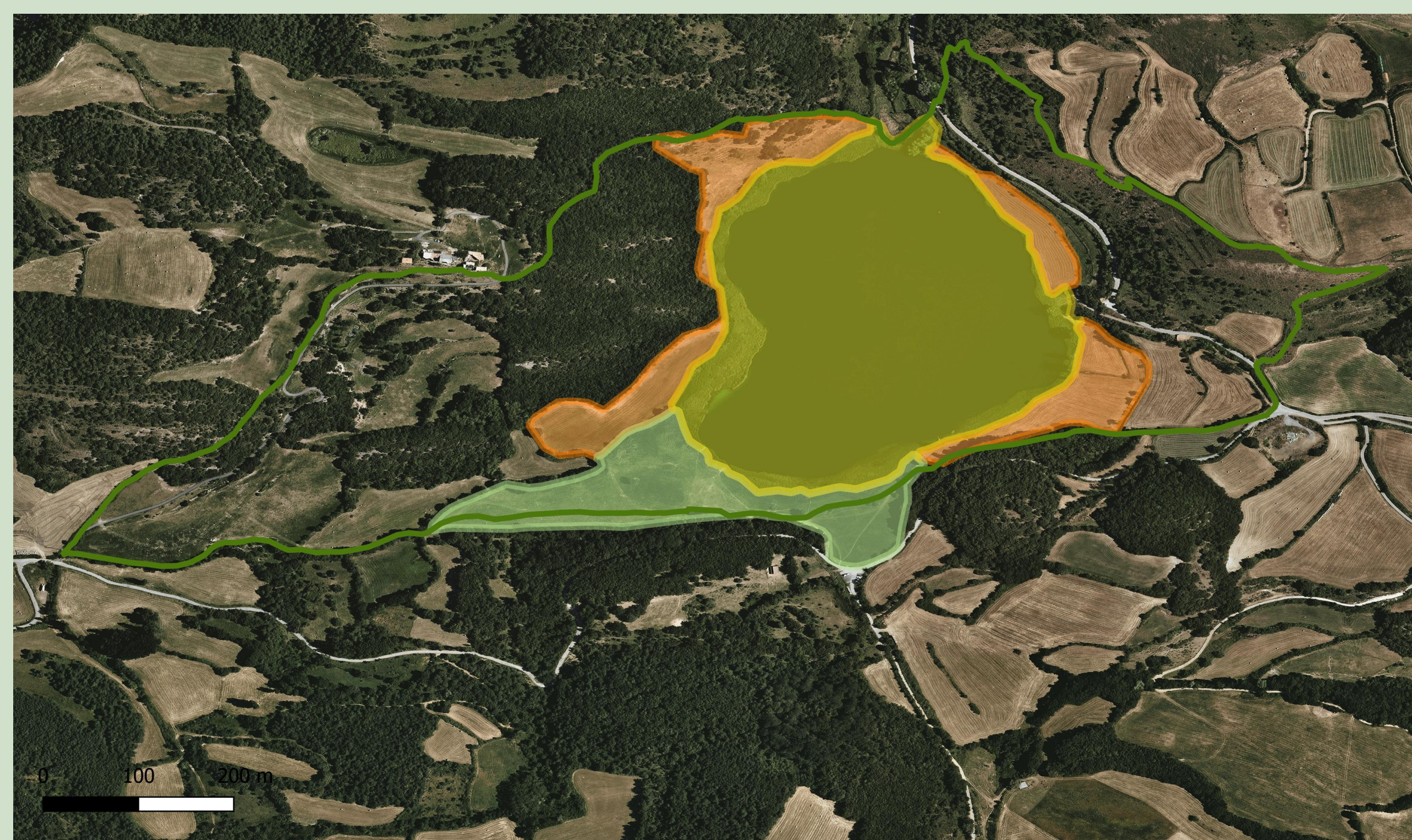
KARST PALLARS. Conservation of karst lakes in the Catalan Pyrenees

Project promoted by La Sorellona with the goal of **improving and preserving the environmental status** of the Montcortès lake. It is an ecological restoration project, through the extraction of invasive exotic species, actions to conserve wildlife habitats and refuges, and the execution of various actions around land-use planning.

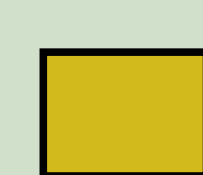
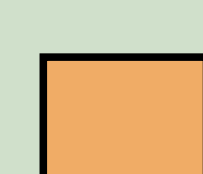


Where can we walk?

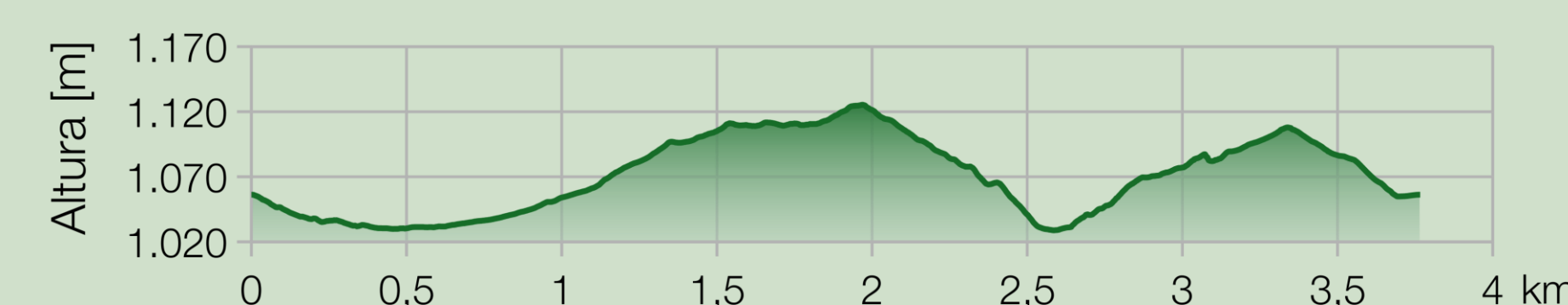
The sectorization of the Montcortès lake and its immediate surroundings aims to **make the various uses** that develop there compatible with the protection of species and habitats linked to the lake.

We invite you to walk along the **signposted circular route**, created around the Montcortès lake. It is a route of 3.8 km and a difference in height of 199 m. It has been designed by recovering old paths, passing through various habitats and providing different perspectives of this unique lake.



During this itinerary you will walk around protected areas. We ask that you respect the signage and that **if you want to approach the lake, do so in the area for public use and not access the areas with other priorities.**

-  Nature conservation priority area. We avoid them in order to minimize discomfort to the fauna and the degradation of the habitats.
-  Priority areas of traditional uses (mainly agriculture and livestock). We avoid them in order to reduce the trampling of crops or meadows and the disturbance to livestock.
-  **Area for public use** and livestock use. We minimize trespassing by not leaving the marked paths, we close livestock fences and take care of the environment.
-  Signposted route. Route profile:



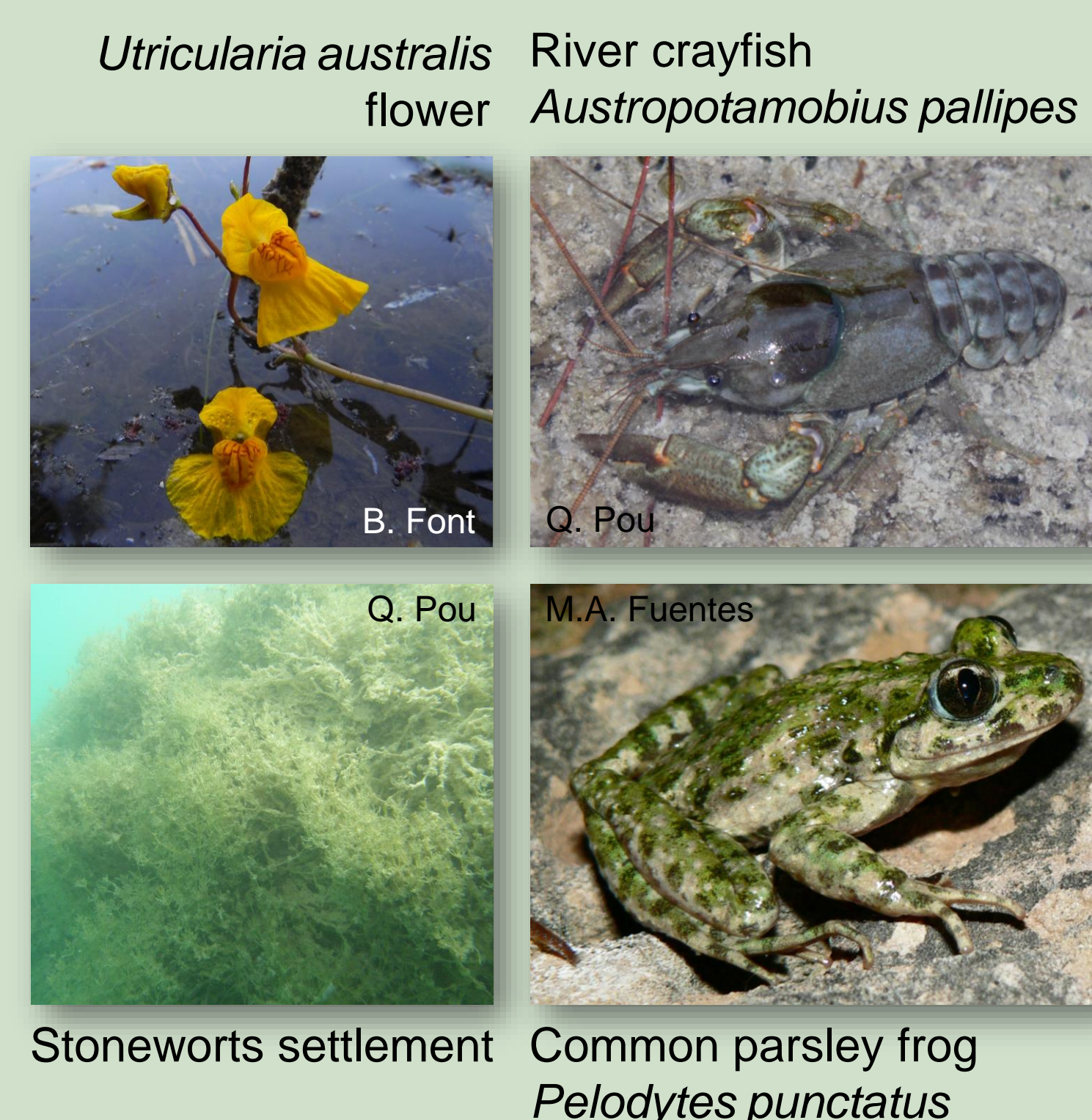
Download the track here:



Introduced species, a serious problem for nature conservation

The introduction of invasive species by humans is one of the main causes of **biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation**. In the Montcortès lake we find carps and crucian carps as the main invasive exotic species, which cause important ecological impacts, such as:

- **Bioturbation.** Carps and crucian carps have a tendency to stir the bottom, muddying the water and causing eutrophication in the lake. This fact causes algae to proliferate.
- **Zooplankton predation.** As zooplankton decreases, phytoplankton increases in the lake, causing a decrease in water transparency. This fact negatively affects the macrophytes (aquatic plants), which have suffered a widespread decline.
- **Disappearance of native species:** of flora, amphibians or invertebrates such as native crab, dragonflies, etc. As the populations of these groups decrease, the presence of their predators, such as birds and bats, which find a source of food in the pond, also decreases.



It is everyone's responsibility to **avoid new introductions**.

Do not release animal or plant species. There are specialized centres for collecting exotic fauna.

Avoid the entry of water sports equipment (kayak, paddle surf, etc.). It is one of the main sources of entry of exotic species.

