GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE LIMOUX AREA ARGETED BY THE PROJECT

Name of the project area: Limoux

Surface area (ha): 7 800 ha

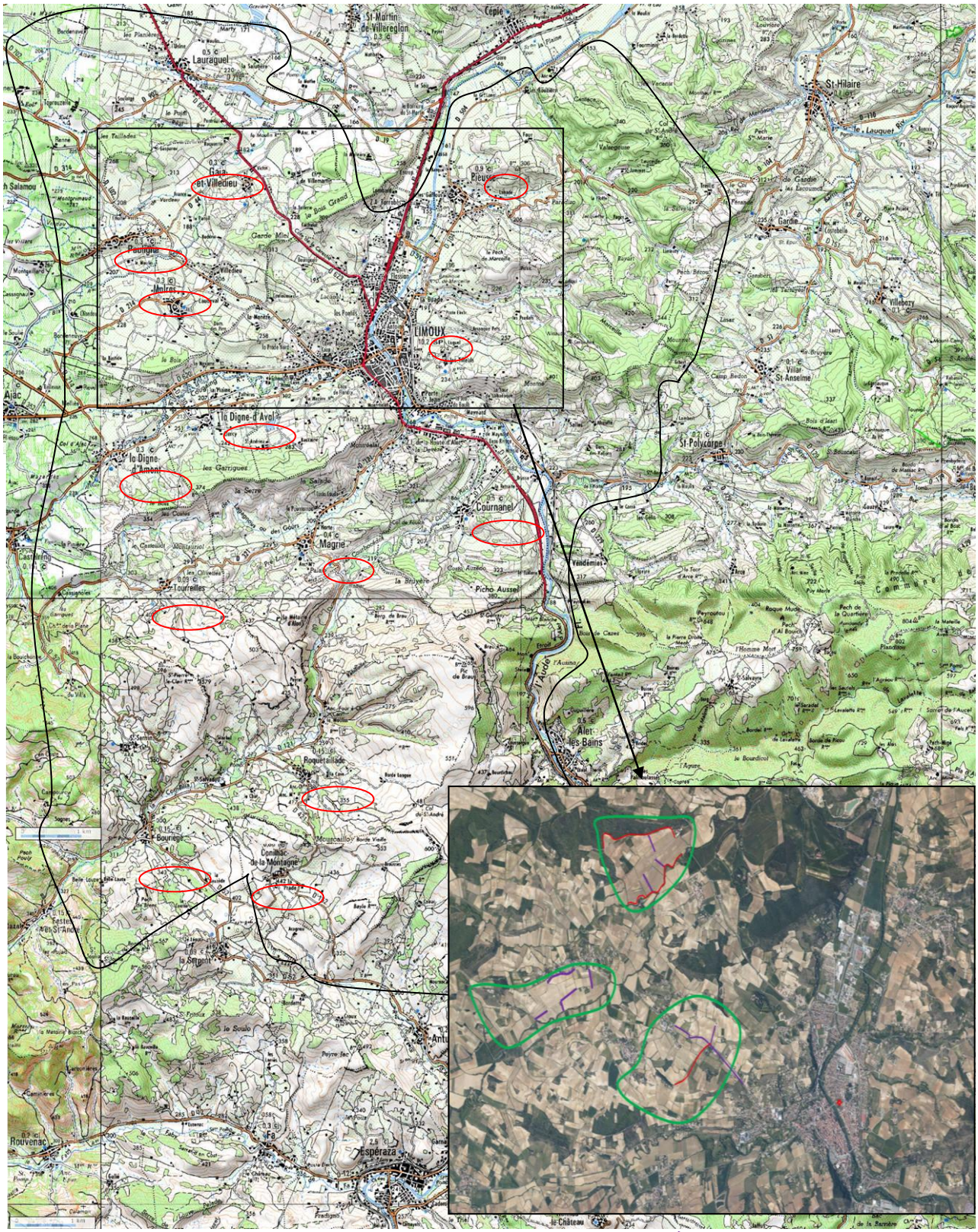
Other protection status according to national or regional legislation: None

Main land uses and ownership status of the project area:
This project site is private owned and its participation to the project will be on a voluntary basis.
The land used for the project is composed of:
- Limoux vineyards that belong to 20 private wine-growers. This land stands for one third of the surface studied for the project.
- 10% of the surface represents other crops such as cereals and oleaginous plants,
- 10% are an urban area,
- and the rest is natural environment, that is 20% is forest-covered, 20% scrubland and 10% wetland.

Scientific description of project area:
The milestone territory of the "Pays de la Haute Vallée de l'Aude" is at crossroads: it is a climatic transition sector since it is close to the watershed area between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Hence a great diversity of landscapes can be found and interpenetration of species from both climates is common. For instance, among reptiles are both available the *Malpolon monspessulanus* that is endemic to Mediterranean areas and the *Coluber viridiflavus* from the Atlantic.
Thanks to this climatic specificity, both fauna and flora are very diversified:
- alders, ash trees from the riparian forest shelter salamanders, *Cinclus cinclus*, *salmo trutta fario* or *Galemys pyrenaicus*;
- in the forest, abe beech bushes and pubescent oak bushes shelter *Tetras crogallus*, *Aegolius funereus* or *Rosalia alpine*;
- in wetlands, *Drosera* and *Sphagnum*, as well as *Rana temporaria*;
- in lawns, 67 species of orchid and butterflies;
- and in vines, *Hyla meridionalis*, *Empus*a, *Phoxinus phoxinus* and *Leuciscus cephalus*.

Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species / habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level:
The selected area was chosen because of its transitory and mixed biodiversity to preserve.
Concrete conservation actions foreseen are : A2 (cartography study), A3 (scientific features study), C1 (introduction of ground covers), C2 (introduction of hedges), C3 (restoration of low walls), C4 (use of pheromones), C5 (introduction of grainlands), E3 (monitoring and evaluating actions: implementation of traps and analysis of capture results).

LIMOUX DEMONSTRATION SITE **LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity 2009**



KEY:

- Monoculture area to lay out to increase ecological connectivity
- Hedges
- Ground cover to connect vines and natural elements
- Municipalities
- Border of the demonstration area