

Annex S1

Experts' questionnaire

1. Municipality (Pre-defined)
2. Protected area (Pre-defined)
3. Position
4. In your opinion, what is the cause of the +/- depopulation figures in municipality X?
5. Do you think that the designation of SCI/SPA Y has had some effect on the depopulation of municipality X?
6. In what sense?
7. Why?
8. Do you think that the management of SAC/SPA Y has had some effect on the depopulation of municipality X?
9. In what sense?
10. Why?
11. Are there, in your view, other causes of the depopulation of municipality X?
12. Which one/s?
13. What would you suggest to maintain/improve the depopulation figures in municipality X?
14. What can protected area regulation or management do to maintain/improve the depopulation figures in municipality X?

Annex S2

Residents' questionnaire

1. Municipality
2. Sex: Man - Woman
3. Age
4. Occupation
5. Number of years living in the municipality
6. Do you think there was a trend towards depopulation in your municipality prior to the Covid-19 pandemic? No / Yes
7. In your opinion, what is the cause of the +/- depopulation figures in your municipality?
8. Do you think that the designation of SCI/SPA Y has had an effect on the wellbeing of residents in your municipality? No / Yes
9. In what sense? Negative / Positive
10. Why?
11. Do you think that the designation of SCI/SPA Y has had an effect on your own wellbeing?
No / Yes
12. In what sense? Negative / Positive
13. Why?
14. Are there, in you view, other causes of the depopulation of your municipality? No / Yes
15. Which one/s?
16. What would you suggest to maintain/improve the depopulation figures in your municipality?
17. What can protected area regulation or management do to maintain/improve the depopulation figures in your municipality?

Annex S3

Guidance to mayors on workshops' participants

Background

Dear Sir / Madam,

We are contacting you to compile some data on the possible effect of protected areas on rural depopulation in Spain. A prior study¹ showed that some municipalities in protected areas had substantially better or worse depopulation figures than neighbouring municipalities used as controls, although we could not determine the causes of those results. **Your municipality outstood in that study** for having clearly better or worse depopulation figures than other municipalities.

This study continues the previous one and belongs to the research project 'Contribution of protected areas to the maintenance of populations in small rural municipalities in Spain (Ruralpark)', which is funded by the University of Malaga. In such project, we seek to ascertain if protected area-related factors might have influenced depopulation figures of those small municipalities mostly from perceptual data from local stakeholders as well as to propose some measures to revert depopulation processes in those and other settings.

As a result, we would like to convene a workshop in your municipality in a maximum of one hour in order to garner residents' perception on depopulation in your municipality, and on the possible influence of protected areas. Thus, **we would highly appreciate your collaboration in: 1) providing a suitable place (room)** to be able to hold that meeting with the necessary sanitary warranties (ventilation, distancing...); and **2) helping us to select a representative sample of residents to take part in that activity**, according to the guidelines on the second page of this document.

For any question or remark on this activity or on the project, please do not hesitate to contact David Rodríguez Rodríguez (davidrr@uma.es; 951953102) o Remedios Larrubia Vargas (rlarrubia@uma.es; 952131705).

Thank you very much for your cooperation. With best regards,

Dr. David Rodríguez Rodríguez

¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969720379304>

Guidelines for the selection of participants in the workshops

We would highly appreciate it if you could help us gather a sample of at least 15 residents in your municipality who would be willing to participate in the workshop. If they were more, it would be fine as long as the necessary sanitary restrictions are observed. They should, ideally, comply with the following characteristics, so that at least two residents belong to the following categories:

- **Sex** (two categories): Man & Woman
- **Age** (three categories): 18-49 años / 49-65 años / >65 años
- **Occupation** (five categories): Unemployed / Primary sector / Secondary sector / Tertiary sector / Retired

The responses to the questionnaires to be used during the workshops are anonymous and will be analysed jointly according to sociological characteristics and location. No personal data from the attendees will be retrieved.

Annex S4

Poster announcing the workshop

Dear neighbour of (Municipality X),

The University of Malaga invites you to participate in a **workshop on perception of depopulation in small rural municipalities** within the research project *Ruralpark*.

Researchers from the University of Malaga will visit your municipality to garner your views on depopulation, its causes and possible solutions in a maximum of one hour.

When? Thursday 4th of November, 2021

Where? To be filled in by the local council

We hope to see you there. Thank you very much for your collaboration.

For more information:

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