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A new European project to implement effective restoration techniques in mining lands: LIFE TECMINE

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TECMINE is a project funded by the European LIFE Program, which proposes **innovative techniques for mine restoration in natural areas**.

The project area is located in the Rincón de Ademuz, Valencia province (Spain) where a mine area exploited to obtain siliceous sand, kaolin and clay, is being restored.

The demonstration project proposes a combination of geomorphological and ecological techniques considering geotechnical, hydrological and ecological criteria to achieve **long-term stability and landscape integration under Mediterranean conditions**. In this sense, **water flows management** to avoid erosion and **increased water availability** for plant communities is the key.

Experts in the most innovative techniques worldwide participate in the project making feasible the implementation of the **GeoFluvTM method** and other practices focused on the restoration of native vegetation communities that maximally improve environmental conditions and the recycling of organic wastes.

The GeoFluv method provides the area with **new landforms**, stable and close to natural, using the drainage basin as basic restoration unit. This modelled area also provides **hydrological connectivity** with the surroundings, which means also **ecological connectivity**. The result of this method is a broad set of complex landforms (convex-linear-concave slopes) with a high diversity of aspects, which means a variety of physical conditions –from drier to more humid- that allow high biodiversity.

Above the Geofluv landform, a wide range of ecological restoration techniques are applied. Among the most relevant techniques, we build **micro-catchments** to drive water runoff from precipitation to the