

*GO Doñana – Produced by the artist + 3rd International Biennial of Seville, 2008*

*GO Doñana* is an interactive installation that illuminates the different land use perspectives regarding the Doñana National and Natural parks, important UNESCO wetland and dune sites, less than an hour south of Sevilla. Biodiversity has been maintained there for centuries since it was formerly the King's hunting preserve, but it has been threatened by a mining disaster, endangered species, and water shortages. Specifically made for the 2008 International Biennial of Sevilla, *GO Doñana*'s ultimate goal is to introduce an art audience and members of the public to the complex issues in these rare ecosystems.

*GO Doñana* is metaphorically based on the ancient game of Go, which uses strategies to capture territory through balancing tactics. It also functions as a serious game played through informative video vignettes. Digitally manipulated images with sound are projected on 3 walls, in a widescreen format large enough to make the viewer feel as if they are surrounded by the park. Viewers moving into the central square "game board" (projected on the 4<sup>th</sup> wall) activate the video/sound viewpoints of scientists, farmers, environmentalists, landowners, and park guides. When a player stands still for 3 seconds, their "move" is recorded by a camera sensor transmitting a corresponding one of 70 different video clips through the computer. Any number can play, but odd numbers of players encourage the cooperation required- you must see the other side's point of view since you will be the other side on your next turn. The game can only be finished when both sides each capture territory, a solution that enables participants to win together by working to maintain a delicate equilibrium.

As an ecoartist with an interdisciplinary practice, I recognize that my position as an outside observer requires the involvement of local collaborators. Initially, the project got started with help on restoration issues from ecological scientists Francisco Garcia Novo, Angel Martin Vicente from the University of Sevilla and Andy Green from the Doñana Biological Station. Juan Cuesta (who grew up in Pilas near the park) and Lely C. Zerpa Rodriguez from Ecologistas en Accion contributed their perspective as natural resource advocates. Further information has come from ornithologist- Luis García, goat farmer-José Ardila; biologist-J. Miguel Medialdea; and park guides – José Antonio Sanchez Iglesias and Manuel Cáceres Coronel. The Executive Director of the Doñana Nature Area - José Juan Chans gave several interviews and introduced me to Juan Soltero Pardo, dir. of a organic farming company next to the park. Finally, Sara Jo Breslow, with support from the National Science Foundation, conducted some interviews and took photos in Spain as a valuable colleague. Original music is from Seville composer Raul Cantizano. I am indebted to the kindness and generosity of all.

*GO Doñana* addresses questions that apply to several globally rare locations in coastal areas around the world. This Spanish project has been informed by my participation in the ongoing community preservation of an interdunal swale wetland in Southold, New York. Both that original *GO ECO* project and *GO Doñana* endeavor to present diverse perspectives visually, and to encourage the teamwork required if we are to maintain these sensitive areas. The game format allows players of many ages to be empowered and learn about the issues through an art experience that maps paths of action. As a "serious game for change", *GO Doñana* documents the restoration process, presents scientific information, and strives to inspire greater civic involvement.

Lillian Ball, September 2008

**CREDITS:**

GO Doñana, Lillian Ball, 2008  
Multimedia interactive installation  
Dimensions variable  
Courtesy of the Artist and Fundacion Biacs

Contributors:

Sara Jo Breslow- Environmental Anthropology + Interviews

Christopher Messinger- Translations

Zachary Seldess- Interactive Programming

Laura Hernandez Andrade- Technical support

Raul Cantizano - Original music  
(courtesy of "Restauracion", directed by Soledad Gallardo)