

(Projects funded under the Call 2014 onwards must use this format)



LIFE Project Number  
**LIFE17 GIE/IT/000561**

**Final Report**  
**Covering the project activities from 01/09/2018<sup>1</sup> to 31/03/2023**

Reporting Date<sup>2</sup>  
**<21/07/2023>**

LIFE PROJECT NAME or Acronym  
**< LIFE GoProFor >**

**Data Project**

<b>Project location:</b>	Italy, France
<b>Project start date:</b>	<01/09/2018>
<b>Project end date:</b>	<30/09/2022> Extension date: <31/03/2023>
<b>Total budget:</b>	2,517,130 €
<b>EU contribution:</b>	948,057 €
<b>(%) of eligible costs:</b>	59.39

**Data Beneficiary**

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<sup>1</sup> Project start date

<sup>2</sup> Include the reporting date as foreseen in part C2 of Annex II of the Grant Agreement

**This table comprises an essential part of the report and should be filled in before submission**

Please note that the evaluation of your report may only commence if the package complies with all the elements in this receivability check. The evaluation will be stopped if any obligatory elements are missing.

Package completeness and correctness check	
Obligatory elements	✓ or N/A
Technical report	
The correct latest template for the type of project (e.g. traditional) has been followed and all sections have been filled in, in English <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓
Index of deliverables with short description annexed, in English <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓
<u>Mid-term report</u> : Deliverables due in the reporting period (from project start) annexed <u>Final report</u> : Deliverables not already submitted with the MTR annexed including the Layman's report and after-LIFE plan Deliverables in language(s) other than English include a summary in English <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓
Financial report	
The reporting period in the financial report (consolidated financial statement <b>and</b> financial statement of each Individual Beneficiary) is the same as in the technical report with the exception of any terminated beneficiary for which the end period should be the date of the termination.	✓
Consolidated Financial Statement with all 5 forms duly filled in and signed and dated <i>Electronically Q-signed or if paper submission signed and dated originals* and in electronic version (pdfs of signed sheets + full Excel file)</i>	✓
Financial Statement(s) of the Coordinating Beneficiary, of each Associated Beneficiary and of each affiliate (if involved), with all forms duly filled in (signed and dated). The Financial Statement(s) of Beneficiaries with affiliate(s) include the total cost of each affiliate in 1 line per cost category. <i>In electronic version (pdfs of signed sheets + full Excel files) + in the case of the Final report the overall summary forms of each beneficiary electronically Q-signed or if paper submission, signed and dated originals*</i>	✓
Amounts, names and other data (e.g. bank account) are correct and consistent with the Grant Agreement / across the different forms (e.g. figures from the individual statements are the same as those reported in the consolidated statement)	✓
Mid-term report (for all projects except IPs): the threshold for the second pre-financing payment has been reached	N.A
Beneficiary's certificate for Durable Goods included (if required, i.e. beneficiaries claiming 100% cost for durable goods) <i>Electronically Q-signed or if paper submission signed and dated originals* and in electronic version (pdfs of signed sheets)</i>	N.A
Certificate on financial statements (if required, i.e. for beneficiaries with EU contribution ≥750,000 € in the budget) <i>Electronically Q-signed or if paper submission signed original and in electronic version (pdf)</i>	✓
Other checks	
Additional information / clarifications and supporting documents requested in previous letters from the Agency (unless already submitted or not yet due) <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓
This table, page 2 of the Mid-term / Final report, is completed - each tick box is filled in <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓

*\*signature by a legal or statutory representative of the beneficiary / affiliate concerned*

**Instructions:**

Please refer to the General Conditions annexed to your grant agreement for the contractual requirements concerning a Mid-term/Final Report.

Both Mid-term and Final Technical Reports shall report on progress from the project start-date. The Final Report must be submitted to the Agency no later than 3 months after the project end date.

Please follow the reporting instructions concerning your technical report, deliverables and financial report that are described in the document [Guidance on how to report on your LIFE 2014-2020 project](#), available on the LIFE website. Please check if you have the latest version of the guidance as it is regularly updated. Additional guidance concerning deliverables, including the layman's report and after-LIFE plan, are given at the end of this reporting template.

Regarding the length of your report, try to adhere to the suggested number of pages while providing all the required information as described in the guidance per section within this template.

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## 2. List of key-words and abbreviations

AUSF: University Association of Forest Students  
CDF: “Compagnia delle Foreste”  
CNPF: “Centre National de la Propriété Forestière”  
CREA: Council for Agricultural Research and Analysis of Agricultural Economics  
CONAF: Council of the National Order of Doctors of Agronomy and Doctors of Forestry  
CUFA: Command of Forestry, Environmental and Agri-food Units  
DIFOR: Forest Directorate  
DREAM: D.R.E.A.M. Italia  
DRWOLF: Dr Wolf S.r.l  
EGNOS: European Geostationary Navigation Overlay System  
ERIAFF: European Regions for the Innovation in Agriculture, Food and Forestry  
FMP: Forest Management Plan  
GA: Grant Agreement  
GP: Good Practice  
GP DB: Good Practices Database  
IBP: Potential Biodiversity Index  
MASE: Ministry of Environment and Energy Security  
MASAF: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Sovereignty  
MTR: MidTerm Report  
N2000N: Natura 2000 Network  
NB: notice board  
NNT: National Network Table  
PA: Project Advisor  
PEFC: Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes  
PM: Project Manager  
PR: Progress Report  
REGMOL: Molise Region  
REGLAZ: Lazio Region  
REGTOS: Tuscany Region  
PdC: Knowledge Platform (*Piattaforma delle Conoscenze*)  
RDP: Rural Development Programme  
SISEF: Italian Society of Forestry and Forest Ecology  
TM: training module

### 3. Executive Summary

The LIFE project GoProFor aims at identifying and disseminating forest management instruments, the Good Practices (GPs), to increase forest uses compatible with the conservation issues in Natura 2000. The GPs have resulted from the decades-long experience of LIFE Program, and tested through its projects. GoProFor also intends to encourage the exchange of experiences on sustainable forestry and of GPs for the biodiversity conservation of forest habitats in N2000 sites, with the objective to increase the awareness level in both the institutional managers of those areas and all the actors working there, whose activities have an impact on the conservation of habitats and species. The main project activities are i) collection of GPs in forest sector, extracted from LIFE projects, and their implementation in a specific database; ii) their dissemination through a wide range training activity for Italian forestry sector, with the involvement of a significant number of managers, professionals, technicians and operators; iii) establishment of a demonstration network of GPs implemented in Italy; iv) setting up of a "National Network Table" (NNT) to promote cooperation between stakeholders in the forest sector, through the drawing up of a specific document which can also contribute to a better planning of future actions, according to the RDP (2021-2027); v) dissemination of project findings and the GPs on forest management in N2000N, both at Italian and European level; vi) laying the foundations for the development of a European training system for N2000 site managers, beginning with the forestry sector. The [Good Practices Database](#) (GP DB) was designed, tested and published online on 18/10/19 (A2). Within the GP DB dedicated sections, all the insights on the technical activities related to the GPs and the consultation of the GP DB, are provided. The GP DB has been consulted by 7,002 users, with 234 accredited users. The collection and description of GPs (A1) have been much more demanding and complex than expected, but the Italian GPs collection, on which the Italian demonstration network (B1, D2) and the training contents (B2) are based, has been carried out within the deadline required, allowing the regular development of correlated actions. By the end of the project (31/03/23) 273 GPs have been published in their English version, achieving the goal of 270 GPs. An important result achieved by the project is the collaboration with the [FAO Task Force on Best Practices'](#), which has led to the inclusion of the GP DB in the UN Decade Digital Hub, the [FERM Platform](#), on the issue of ecosystem restoration, by the end of June 2023. Furthermore, the Coordination Beneficiary's staff has become a member of the Task Force. The dissemination of GPs in Italy passes through the creation of a GPs demonstration network (B1): for a selection of 60 GPs a [multimedia kit](#) was created, consisting of an informative summary, a video interview and all the links to detailed information and the technical material related to the GP DB. The 60 GPs are also georeferenced to facilitate the visits in the application areas and supported by the GoProFor App (D2), released on [Google Play](#) or the [Mac App Store](#). Since some video interviews concern more than one GP, 60 GPs correspond to 51 videos, for a total of 316m 11s of video recording. The Covid19 related lockdown caused a delay in video recording, required a new scheduling, with the multimedia kits completed by the end of the project. However, the weekly promotion of the GPs produced from time to time, in conjunction with the strengthening of the dissemination channels, significantly contributes to the use of the GP DB and the visibility of the project: at the end of the project the video interviews registered 93,941 views and 1,599 likes. To face the obstacles due to the Covid19 Pandemic, the training action (B2) is the one that has undergone the greatest variations, but at the same time it is perhaps the most successful action of the project. Due to the lockdown, training activities were concentrated in 2021 only, instead of the 2 years planned (2020-21). The 14 training modules initially envisaged have been reorganized into 12 modules, and harmonized to be aimed at both technicians and operators, as well as a wider target of learners. 4 out of 12 modules were organized in a theoretical and practical training package (Course Level 1). Face to face lessons have been replaced with online sessions. For the practical parts, in addition to the 2 training

areas set in the CUFA centres, 5 other training areas have been set up in Veneto, Lazio, Molise, Sicily, Sardinia, with the implementation of 4 additional marteloscopes, thus allowing to reach a greater number of trainees throughout the national territory. Course Level 1 was launched with 5 online editions, followed by 624 people, and 21 sessions of practice exercises. By 31/03/2023, **510 participants** successfully concluded the practical activities, obtaining the final certification of “Expert of Level 1”. A [training platform](#), not foreseen by the Project, has been released to host the remaining 8 training modules, adapted as e-learning courses (Course Level 2), with a total of **26h 8m** of recorded video lessons. Furthermore, the platform was used for learners’ registration to courses and sharing training material. By 31/03/2023 the platform registered a total of **1,054** subscribers, with **814** e-learning courses completely attended and **755** courses passed through the final positive test, for a total of **44** “Expert of Level 2”, who are those who have carried out ALL the proposed training activities. The contents of training courses, or parts thereof, were also used for other training events (ex. Pro Silva Italia, the Forestry Olympic Games, etc. The Potential Biodiversity Index (IBP) manual and field sheets have been adapted and translated into Italian, and represented one of the most effective and appreciated training topics (Module 4). Manual was mainly distributed to learners, and in occasion of any project’s event and network activities. All the IBP related-material is available for [download](#) on project website.

At Italian level, cooperation between actors of both forestry and conservation has been fostered through the establishment of a National Network Table (NNT), which also promotes the dissemination and transfer of GPs. The first 2 NNT meetings (Rome, 10/12/2019; online, 26-28/02/2020) aimed at collecting and discussing the main critical issues and priority topics perceived at national level, through a participatory process. Starting from instances, criticalities and new challenges, the project team developed the contents and drafted a “[Guideline Document for forest management within Natura 2000 Network](#)”, with proposals and solutions to integrate forest management and biodiversity conservation. In this process the project received the full attention and support of MASAF (DIFOR) and MASE, 'CREIAMO PA' and 'Mettiamoci in Riga' projects, which are important players of Italian N2000N governance. The drafting of the document turned out to be quite complex, requiring more time than expected: the delay was mainly due to the need to update part of the Guideline Document, compared with the evolution of the Italian and European framework of biodiversity and forests (new Strategies). The draft Guideline document has been shared and discussed within a 3<sup>rd</sup> NNT meeting (online, 09/03/23), inputs were integrated in the final version presented in the occasion of the final conference (Florence, 20/03/23). The Guideline Document has been further presented and shared in Regional Conferences, just right after the end of the project: i) Basilicata Region, 10/05/23; ii) Lazio Region, 15/06/23. Finally, first the project and then the contents of the Guideline Document have been presented within XII and XIII SISEF National Congress (Palermo, 13.11.2019; Orvieto, 01.06.22).

At regional level, the project tested 3 project-type implementations in the partner Regions (B4), on issues concerning the relationship between sustainable forest management and nature conservation. The three Labs made use of the knowledge, good practices, tools and experiences gained during the Project. An address document was produced and formally adopted by each Region. In particular, REGLAZ has laid substantial foundations for the development and implementation of a regional training system, addressed to the local forest sector; REGMOL adopted a methodology that integrates the IBP diagnosis with the development of forest cutting plans; REGTOS adopted a methodology that integrates the IBP diagnosis with forest planning. At European level, the project promoted itself and its achievements (B5) thanks to the organization of EU conferences (Palermo, 2019; online, 2022) and relevant networking activities: a) with other LIFE projects (collaborations of different kind with [more than 30 LIFE projects](#)), b) with organizations and institutions from all over Europe. To cite some: the Natura

2000 Biogeographical Process, FAO, Integrate Network, EFI, Eurosite, Elo, Egnos, the Bulgarian National Forum, EIP-AGRI, ERIAFF, Seimas Committee on Environment Protection (LT), etc. Furthermore, the project organized a Workshop for the development of a training system (Palermo, 12.11.2019), establishing a network among 11 EU countries. This was the starting point of a participatory process, which resulted in the addition of the topic "Network of training activities for Natura 2000 sites managers" in the 2020 Call for proposals for preparatory projects, thus achieving its set goals of laying the foundation for an EU training system. LIFE GoProFor built an important relationship with FAO and Integrate Network, as the Coordinator Beneficiary's staff, representing the Project, has become member of the FAO Task Force on Best Practices, and is involved as reference experts for Italy in the activities of the Integrate Steering Committee for the year 2023. Finally, the project has also contributed with a specific document to the development of the new EU strategy on climate change adaptation, the **Green Deal**. Promotion at EU level was also supported by the realization of 3 [thematic bulletins](#), translated into 10 EU languages (D3). The 1<sup>st</sup> presented the project, the 2<sup>nd</sup> presented the GP DB and a selection of GPs. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> bulletin, merged together in a single version, reports all the main project's results. We estimate that bulletins reached **at least 860 stakeholders**.

The communication and dissemination activities (D1) were regularly carried out. The project reached a wide audience, meeting and far exceeding the initially predefined objectives. The use of [project's website](#) and [FB profile](#) are significant indicators of the degree of general interest in the project: by the end of the project, the website registered a total number of **25,089 users**, for a total of **42,072 sessions** and **113,324 page views**. The number of users has significantly increased with the launch and implementation of training activities. The FB profile has **1,700 followers**, 1,553 likes on the page, 242 posts with 32,583 interactions, and a total of 236,633 people reached. During the entire project, 76 Newsletters were launched, addressed to 1,155 Italian contacts. As for the videos made during the project, and which are divided into different types (including video interviews of Act. B1), there are a total of **110,583 views** and **1,891 likes**. The Italian launch conference was held in Rome (12.04.2019), while the final conference in Florence (20-21/03/23), for a total number of **259 participants**.

Monitoring activities about the application level of the tools developed within the project (C1) and the socio-economic monitoring (C2) have been regularly implemented, and testified the overall success of the project.

The general project management (E1) ensured that the problems encountered were overcome. In particular, the main difficulties encountered were in relation:

- 1) to the Covid19 Pandemic, that influenced the implementation of some activities, such as video shooting (B1), realization of training gyms and carrying out of lessons (B2), organization of EU conferences (B5);
- 2) to an underestimated complexity of some activities, such as the collection of GPs (A1) and the drafting of the Guideline Document (B3);
- 3) to difficulties within some beneficiary partners, especially CUFA and REGLAZ. In particular, to the internal reorganization of Lazio Region, in parallel with the transfer of its project contact person to other tasks, that caused almost one year of suspension of activities (B3, B4).

To overcome delays for actions B1, B3 and B4, a six-month extension of the project, until 31/03/2023, was asked and granted (Letter Amendment Nr. 1 to Grant Agreement LIFE17 GIE/IT/000561 - GoproFOR LIFE, 23/08/22).



## 4. Introduction

Environmental problem/issue addressed. The interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral nature of the forest management leads to substantial conflicts between the world of nature protection on the one hand, and forest users, landowners and forestry authorities on the other. The forest management, generally entrusted to professionals, technicians, forest managers and forestry companies, requires the transfer of necessary knowledge by the academic world, to promote an efficient protection of forest biodiversity, especially in the context of Natura 2000 network (N2000). This is often difficult, due to the lack of specific tools, environmental protection practices and management and intervention models. On the other hand, nature conservation organizations have little knowledge of forest management, and this often makes the understanding of forest sector needs and objectives difficult, and prevents their cooperation. The initiatives to improve the level of knowledge of technicians and operators about the conservation of natural environments are limited, as well as the sharing of different competences is lacking. There are few training initiatives involving both naturalists and forest operators in common management objectives. Most of the forest plans implemented within N2000 take into account the regulatory requirements but hardly include active conservation interventions aimed at improving the ecosystem with regard to protected species, precisely because there are no technical guidelines for their definition and implementation. All of this leads to the drafting of projects in protected areas that lack of basic quality and knowledge tools to ensure that the interventions are consistent with EU Birds and Habitats Directives principles. The limited use of RDP funds for N2000 forest management, due to the weak dissemination of forest management models for enhancing biodiversity, makes the conservation interventions one-off and linked mainly to special funding, often under LIFE program. The required activities both for allowances and non-productive investments, are often generic and do not apply the techniques and good practices developed through LIFE projects. Hundreds of LIFE projects have indeed undertaken actions to improve forest's structure and composition and/or improve their suitability for protected species. Despite the results achieved, the use of these experiences in N2000 management has not always been effective.

Information/communication strategy implemented in function of the environmental problem addressed by the project. GoProFor aims at filling gaps in tools, models and suitable examples of intervention and management, collecting and making available to stakeholders a wide database of detailed described and replicable practices, tested in LIFE projects, thus providing management models and intervention practices that could be integrated with the conservation measures to be implemented in envisaged and/or existing forest planning tools. Their diffusion is supported by the creation of a database of easy access and consultation, in Italian and English, and a demonstrative network of 60 Italian GPs, which can be visited directly on the field and thus providing concrete examples of application. The 60 GPs of the demonstration network also include multimedia cards which are both a quick and consultation tool, easily accessible to a more general public, and a strictly technical in-depth mean, thanks to the link with the Database. GoProFor aims at improving the stakeholder's level of knowledge and competences on forest conservation and management issues and the financial instruments available, through a wide theoretical and practical training activity, which gives the possibility of integrating the conservation aspects with the management ones. A vast number of stakeholders is reached thanks to a mixed system of theoretical/practical training, with practice in the field at specially set up training areas (Level 1 Course), and supplementary theoretical and in-depth e-learning training (Level 2 Course). Thanks to the training activity, a list of experts is defined which will then be available to all the Italian regional and territorial institutions to facilitate the technical and design transfer. GoProFor aims at improving cooperation between all those players involved in the forest and conservation sector at national level, through the establishment of an Italian NNT that, through a participatory process and discussion among stakeholders, will lead

to the definition of a Guideline Document for forest management within Natura 2000 Network. GoProFor aims at increasing the dissemination of best practices individuated at European level. The main promotion strategies consist in sharing project progress and results through European conferences, information bulletins in 10 EU languages, and the involvement of European network and organizations dealing with forest-related issues, as well as LIFE projects.

Stakeholders targeted. The activities planned in the project are mainly addressed to the following stakeholders: N2000 sites managers, private and public forests managers, network of protected areas and National Parks, Regional Forest and Biodiversity conservation services, forest Carabinieri, MASAF, MASE, environmental associations, NGOs, universities, professional associations, forestry companies and cooperatives, trade organizations, managers and public officials managing the RDP funds.

Baseline situation and Monitoring of the project impact. As the project puts forward diversified strategies and tools to achieve the objectives for the stakeholders, it is crucial the monitoring of project impacts. The baseline is drawn up during the project, through a specific survey addressed to a sample of operators and professional forestry technicians to define their technical and operational knowledge about LIFE program, N2000N, its management tools and funding opportunities, technical and operational critical issues and training needs.

The baseline is represented by a sample of 326 people interviewed, who have a well-founded knowledge of N2000, its objectives and legal bases. The EU Birds and Habitats Directives are considered the most relevant legal framework for the conservation of habitats and species, even more than the Italian Framework Law on protected areas (Law 394/91). Furthermore, it should be noted a good knowledge of the RDP measures, but in spite of this, the financial instrument considered the most important is the LIFE Program. The main reported critical issues concern the requirements about the intervention methods, the specifications concerning the interventions seasonality and the length of the authorization times. To improve these critical issues and the governance of N2000N, the need is underlined to improve knowledge about GPs, habitats and species (monitoring), the competences and skills of operators, and finally encourage a greater cooperation and support from of the managing bodies. The project also monitors the use of the technical tools provided by the same project and the change of competencies resulting from training, as well as the use of web instruments.

Socio-economic context. The socio-economic context of the project is broad and articulated, as it involves the Italian forestry sector operating within N2000, especially technicians, professionals, businesses and forest cooperatives, public and private forests managers. In Italy, there are 6,471 forestry companies with about 12,166 employees (RAF Italia 2019). The range of technicians is quite articulated, coming from the forestry sector to the naturalistic one, and the fields of use go from public to private. Most of the graduate technicians work as designer in application of loans granted in the RDP. The total number of registered at the orders of agronomists and forestry is 16,074 (RAF Italia 2019), to which are added biologists and naturalists. Among the project partners there is the CUFA, which manages 130 State Nature Reserves covering an area of 90,000 ha and State Forests, for a total extension of 130,000 ha.

Expected longer term results. The main expected results of the project are the following:

→ a wider application of suitable and coherent interventions with what foreseen under N2000 conservation measures, through: 1) the active maintenance of GP DB, the continuation of the GPs collection and their promotion, which will enhance the dissemination of GPs for forest management in N2000N, both at Italian and European level. The GP DB will be an important point of reference for the forestry sector; 2) the continuation of training activities while keeping active the modules created with the project;

→ a better use of available resources for forest management and N2000N, thanks to the results that will be obtained by the NNT implemented by the project. Furthermore, CREA staff involved in drafting the Guidance document, participated also in the working groups for

drafting the National Rural Development Plan, transferring some key elements deriving from the Guideline Document;

→ GoProFor's training approach is structured in such a way as to constitute a model that can be exported and applied in other EU countries. GoProFor training is based on the following elements: a) the GP DB, b) the video collection of 60 Italian GPs (B1); c) 12 TMs, structured partly for theoretical/practical training, partly as e-learning; d) a practical training system consistent with the Integrate Network of demonstration sites. All these elements, with a minimum translation effort (since they are in Italian) could be used at the service of a European training system: the contents of the training activities and the training material of LIFE GoProFor are freely accessible to anyone request. Finally, such a training approach can easily be extended both to other habitats and to other types of stakeholders (e.g., owners, etc.).

→ the project team that worked on the submission of the tender for the call for proposal for preparatory project 2020, subsequently opened a discussion with the EC, which materialized with the release of a topic on training in the context of the new 2023 call (*Training for a better management of Natura 2000 sites and restoration of nature* (N.3). Subprogramme: Nature & Biodiversity. LIFE Preparatory Projects - Projects addressing ad hoc Legislative and Policy Priorities (PLP) (LIFE-2023-PLP).

## 5. Administrative part

The project is managed by a staff consisting of the following professional figures:

- The **Project Manager** (DREAM) who is responsible for controlling and managing the progress of the project, compliance with deadlines, the quality of the activities to reach the project goals and the coordination of the technical-scientific unit to guarantee that the project activities are carried out correctly. This figure is also in charge of relations with the EU Commission. The PM drafts quarterly reports to send to the monitor.
- The **Administrative coordinator** (DREAM) responsible for the record-keeping of the global project reports, assistant for financial reports, payments and the collection of the financial documentation produced by the associated beneficiaries, identified within the staff of the coordinating beneficiary.
- The **administrative referents** of each associated beneficiary, who are responsible for financial reporting together with the administrative contact.
- The **representatives of each associated beneficiary**, who are responsible for implementing the project actions, working directly with the PM and the Coordination staff.

The project management is divided into three main levels:

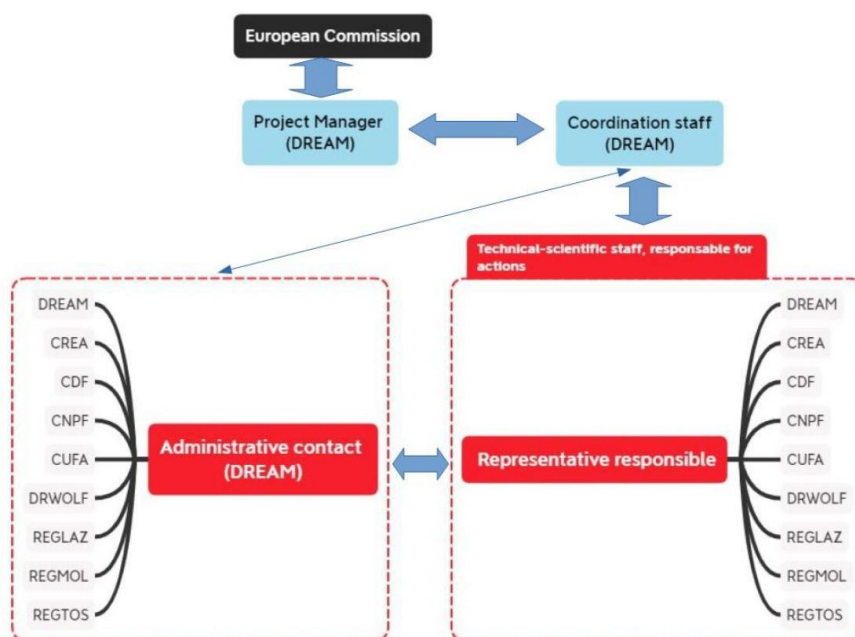
1. **Steering Committee**: checks the project progress, ensures the actions are correctly executed and are effective, manages and controls the project reporting; maintains relations with the monitor and the European Commission.
2. **Administrative management project unit**: drafts, manages and conserves the accounting documentation of the project and works to control and manage the expenditure and the reporting envisaged by the project.
3. **Technical and scientific project unit**: participates in coordination meetings. People who are part of this unit each have a technical and scientific contribution to the activities envisaged by the project; participates in drafting technical documentation and in the preparation of project reporting for each individual area of competence.

The tables below summarise the roles played.

During the project, 7 coordination meetings took place (Ann. E1.D.03\_Minutes coordination meetings) involving representatives of all the organizational level.

As long as some actions (B1, B3, B4) were facing some delays, a 6-month extension of the project was asked and granted (Letter Amendment Nr. 1 to GA LIFE17 GIE/IT/000561 - GoProFor LIFE, 23/08/22): the duration of the project in Art. I.2.2 of the GA was extended and run from 01/09/2018 to 31/03/2023, to allow the remaining part of above-mentioned actions to be effectively concluded, guaranteeing, also for the latter, a positive impact for the project. As a consequence, the dates of some deliverables and milestones have changed, as well as the delivery date of this final report (by 06/30/23). An additional progress report has also been added (by 12/31/22).

Finally, it should be noted that since the need to adopt the external audit (E2) was no longer required, the related milestones and deliverables have been cancelled.



<b>STEERING COMMITTEE</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>BENEFICIAR</b>	<b>ROLE</b>
Marcello	Miozzo	DREAM	Project Manager
Serena	Corezzola	DREAM	Technical coordinator
Francesca	Martini	DREAM	Administrative coordinator
Andrea	Cutini	CREA	Beneficiary Responsible
Paolo	Mori	CDF	Beneficiary Responsible
Pierre	Gonin	CNPF	Beneficiary Responsible
Vincenzo	Andriani	CUFA	Beneficiary Responsible
Massimo	Torelli	DRWOLF	Beneficiary Responsible
Pierluca	Gaglioppa	REGLAZ	Beneficiary Responsible
Pierluigi	Paradiso	REGMOL	Beneficiary Responsible
Valter	Nunziatini	REGTOS	Beneficiary Responsible
<b>PROJECT'S ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT UNIT</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>BENEFICIAR</b>	<b>ROLE</b>
Francesca	Martini	DREAM	Administrative coordinator
Cristina	Baldoni	CREA	Administrative referent
Luca	Marchino	CREA	Administrative referent
Leda	Tiezzi	CDF	Administrative referent
Bruno	Siri	CNPF	Administrative referent
Vincenzo	Andriani	CUFA	Administrative referent
Massimo	Torelli	DRWOLF	Administrative referent
Vito	Consoli	REGLAZ	Administrative referent
Francesca	Spallone	REGMOL	Administrative referent
Susanna	Nocentini	REGTOS	Administrative referent

## 6. Technical part (maximum 25 pages)

### 6.1. Technical progress, per Action

Some notes:

- **deliverables, milestones** and their deadlines, as foreseen in the amendment N°1 to GA LIFE17 GIE/IT/000561 project (23/08/2022), are listed in the section “Deliverables and Milestones”. Delays, changes or cancellation of deliverables and milestones are set out in "Major changes/problems/delays" section and "Action timetable".
- Trying to respect the 25-page limit, **minor changes/delays/problems** already reported in the MTR or in the PRs will be omitted, giving instead priority to the description of the **major ones** that had a greater impact on the project.

#### 6.1.1. Act. A1. Setting the Good Practices Database (GP DB)

Foreseen start date: 01/09/2018	Actual start date: 01/09/2018
Foreseen end date: 30/06/2019	Actual end date: 28/02/2023

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** the first activities, conducted in parallel, were the definition of the GP’s [description protocol](#) (DREAM, CREA, CDF) and the identification of the list of LIFE projects to be analysed (DREAM). GPs are classified according to one or more macro-themes: 1) forest biodiversity, 2) forest habitats, 3) invasive alien species, 4) climate changes, 5) planning, management, governance. GPs are described in detail in order to favour replicability and transfer. The description starts with general information on the LIFE project, context of application, specific GP’ aims, issues addressed, target forest habitats/species. When available: material and instruments needed, labour employed and costs. Finally, results achieved, socio-economic impacts, strengths and weaknesses emerged. All available technical documents are enclosed, and support a better understanding of the GP. The form includes both *text* and *closed choice* fields, associated with a list of fixed terms, as well as the geolocation of the GP on the map in both punctual and areal form. The methodological path, implemented by DREAM, and the criteria applied in [LIFE projects selection](#) are described in a specific section within the GP DB and already annexed to MTR. The selection, started from a first list of 1,130 projects, has identified a total of 684 projects, of which 552 accepted, and 132 accepted "with reserve". On a total of 552 projects completed and accepted, 301 was the "priority" projects, the starting point for the collection of GPs (Annexed to MTR). By 31/03/23 DREAM, CREA, CNPF and CUFA collected and inserted in the DB **273 GPs** have been, from **more than 140 LIFE projects in 22 EU countries**. More than 40 GPs were collected with the direct collaboration of 18 LIFE projects, thus strengthening also the network among projects. The GP DB has been consulted by 7,002 users, with 234 accredited users, who downloaded a total of 795 documents. An important result achieved by the project is the collaboration of DREAM with the [FAO Task Force on Best Practices](#): in the framework of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#), the Task Force conducted an inventory of existing platforms that collect and disseminate validated GPs, in different ecosystems. The Coordinator Beneficiary’s staff became an active member of the Task Force, and the project collaborated on the development of a common search engine to link practices collected from platforms, including the GoProFor GP DB, which has been included in the UN Decade Digital Hub, the [FERM Platform](#) at the end of June 2023. During the project, the Database and the GPs hosted have achieved considerable resonance, both in Italy and in Europe. We note the collaboration with the [Knowledge Platform](#) of MASE, the reference to LIFE GoProFor project in the context of the CLE-PNM / MATTM call for Parks and Climate, the citation in the report of the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) “Risk analysis. Climate change in Italy”,

the presentation of the GP DB in the context of a National Forum organized by LIFE16 NAT/BG/000856 IAS Free Habitats. More details are given in Ann. C1.D.03\_Report C1.5 Database.

**Major changes/problems/delays:** the action, defined in the project as preparatory, is actually a real concrete Action, and therefore required a greater commitment than originally expected. Thus, the action continued through the entire duration of the project. As already stated in the MTR, we confirm that this didn't have any negative impact on the project and related actions (B1, B2). Number of GPs has been reduced from 300 to 270, in agreement with the Project Advisor, to support additional costs of the Workshop in Palermo on 2019 (B5). Finally, costs related to translation of GPs (IT/EN), as foreseen in the technical part of the GA (A1), they were not sufficient to guarantee the translation of all the GPs in both linguistic versions (IT/EN). As described in Chapt. 8, this was partly overcome by drawing on savings from other spending categories. As a priority it was preferred to guarantee the presence of all 273 GPs in the EN version, in order to be consultable for an international audience.

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023	
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	
<b>Scheduled by the project</b>	X	X	X	X																
<b>Actual planning</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Scheduled Deliverable</b>			D1 D2																	
<b>Actual Deliverables</b>			D2																	D1

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 – Database of Good Practices (at least 270 GPs) - by 30/06/2019 (Ann. A1.D.01\_270 good practices); D2 – User Manual for the Database of Good Practices by 30/06/2019 (Annexed to MTR).

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** for the 10 years following the end of the project, DREAM will carry out an annual survey of forest-related LIFE projects in their conclusion phase. These projects will be contacted and invited to fill in a synthetic description form for each GP they intend to promote. These GPs, if accompanied by sufficient elements to be evaluated and described, will be forward to CUFA and CREA for their review and possible corrections. After, DREAM will validate and include them in the GP DB.

### 6.1.2. Act. A2. Set-up of an IT platform with web-gis interface of the pilot sites network and multimedia sections

Foreseen start date: 01/10/2018                      Actual start date: 01/10/2018  
Foreseen end date: 31/12/2019                      Actual end date: 31/12/2019

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** the [GP DB](#) was published online on 18.10.19 (Mil. M1). The database was implemented in close synergy between DREAM and DRWOLF. The platform has been designed to: (1) be used directly from the web. The [access to GP DB](#) can be done directly from the homepage and from the "Multimedia" section of the project website (B1); (2) allow differentiated access to data as administrator, project user and external users (accredited to the system and not). Users' management includes registration, password recovery, authentication, authorization, profiling. Non-accredited users can freely browse in the GP DB, carry out research and view GPs. It is possible to download the data only after the accreditation: the search results can be downloaded in tabular form, while the GPs cards in PDF format, in IT or EN; (3) allow the continuous integration of the GPs listed; (4) allow an information visualization and query, both through an analytical interface and a web-gis interface; (5) allow a free text search within the GP DB, in IT/EN; (6) allow a pre-ordered search of GPs through a system of search keys in 5 languages (IT/EN/FR/ES/DE). The research can be carried out by Macro theme, Theme, Keywords, Forest category, target Forest habitat, target Forest species, Project code, Year, Country, Biogeographical region; (7) allow the platform consultation (its interface and GP DB sections) in 5 languages; (8) allow consultation of GPs in 2 languages (IT/EN). Through the dedicated sections included in the Homepage, it is possible to carry out a more detailed search on all the technical activities related to GPs and consult GP DB: a) [what is a good practice?](#); b) from the projects selection to the identification of good practices: the [methodological path](#); c) the [protocol](#) for the description of good practices; d) a [guide](#) to consult the database; e) the available [languages](#) for the consultation of the GP DB (Annexed to the MTR). From the Homepage it is also possible to have access at the "[Other platforms](#)" section, including that of MASE Knowledge Platform ([PdC](#)). Indeed, the GoProFor platform constitutes a functional and specific deepening on forest management within N2000N, without overlapping with the PdC. During bilateral meetings between DREAM and the PdC coordinators, it was agreed and carried out the following integration method: in the GP DB, the GPs resulting from projects included in the PdC, have the PdC logo and a link to the PdC related projects, while the PdC projects from which were extracted the GoProFor GPs have the following text "The project is included in Life Project GoProFor database", with a direct link to the GP DB.

**Multimedia section:** the Multimedia Collection (B1) was designed in close collaboration between DREAM, DRWOLF and CDF, and implemented in GP DB. A specific section, "Communication", has been integrated into the GPs entry form. In this way the GP DB bring together both the technical contents collected with the act. A1 (included the documentation) and the synthetic-popular contents, which contribute to form the related multimedia card. In order to expand and diversify the target audience, it was considered more effective to host the multimedia collection in the website "Multimedia" section (see B1), so as to: i) increase exponentially the dissemination of the project main themes also towards a less specialized public (through short videos and synthetic concepts), ii) improve the use of the Database by technical public, who thanks to constant references and links to the Database, included in the multimedia cards, has the opportunity to deepen the strictly technical content. Due to these reasons, the collection finds its best location within the website, so better achieving both the target audience, general and technical public, and enhancing the dissemination process. The



website design is the result of a work carried out by the 3 partners, in particular: IT implementation (DRWOLF), compilation in IT/EN of the "Communication" Section (CDF).

**Major changes/problems/delays:** the decision to place the repository of the multimedia collection on the website instead of on the GP platform is targeted and amplified by the dissemination of the project results, as described above.

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023	
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	
<b>Scheduled by the project</b>		X	X	X	X	X														
<b>Actual planning</b>		X	X	X	X	X														
<b>Scheduled Deliverable</b>						D1														
<b>Actual Deliverables</b>						D1														
<b>Scheduled Milestones</b>						M1														
<b>Actual Milestone</b>						M1														

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 - User manual for the Good Practices IT platform by 31.12.2019 (Annexed to MTR); M1 - Online publication of the Good Practices Platform by 31.12.2019.

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** DRWOLF will monitor the GP DB and web interface status and will provide ordinary maintenance for the next **10** years. DREAM will keep the hosting service active for the same period.

### 6.1.3. Act. B1. Multimedia collection of Good Practices for forest management in the Italian N2000 Network

Foreseen start date: 01/01/2019                      Actual start date: 01/01/2019  
Foreseen end date: 30/09/2020                      Actual end date: 31/03/2023

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** by June 2019 DREAM selected 60 GPs, coming from 26 Italian LIFE projects. DREAM was also in charge of their geolocation (B1.1), and evaluated that most of the activity could be done by gathering all the information and material available online and working on orthophotos and GIS, and by doing specific surveys on the field just when needed to better identify and locate the best demonstration area. For each GP, a demonstration area was individuated, together with the best way to be reached by users. 43 GPs out of 60 are associated with interventions to be visited in the field and therefore were georeferenced in line with expected timing (Del.D2). DREAM and DRWOLF have set the interface of the App (D2), based on full interoperability with the GP DB (A1) and the multimedia card contents. In fact, part of related data comes directly from the GP DB, in which a specific section for compiling has been nested. The multimedia collection is included in the website "["Multimedia" section](#)", released on 17.04.2020 (Mil. M1). The template of the multimedia cards has been designed by CDF with attractive and easy to read graphics (B1.2). Each GPs is briefly described in Italian and English, it's linked to the GP DB to allow technical insights, and it is accompanied by a video interview (Italian, with EN subtitles), in which the GP's responsible illustrates: 1) What was the starting environmental issue; 2) What was the solution found and applied through the LIFE project (GP); 3) Which were the main problems identified; and 4) If and where GP is replicable. Format of video interviews was defined by DREAM and CDF; CDF was also in charge of compiling the IT/EN version of the multimedia cards (Del.D3) and realizing the video interviews (Del. D4). Since some video interviews collect more than one GP, 60 GPs correspond to 51 videos, for a total of 316m 11s of video footage.

**Promotion of the multimedia cards:** each multimedia card released, is advertised by CDF through the website, project FB profile and newsletters, and also the following communication channels: Rivista Sherwood FB profile (12,000 followers), CDF FB profile (4,440 followers) and CDF YouTube channel (4,010 subscribers). In this way it was possible to significantly increase the users reached to the project stakeholders and who are sensitive to forestry and conservation issues. Starting from 17.04.2020, CDF has scheduled the weekly publication of the multimedia cards to keep a keen ongoing interest in the project by the audience. The launch of each new card consists in the publication of: i) Information sheet in IT; ii) Information sheet in EN; Video on YouTube collected in a specific LIFE [GoProFor playlist](#); iv) send of a [LIFE GoProFor - Newsletters](#); v) Video on [GoProFor FB Profile](#); vi) Video on [Rivista Sherwood](#) FB profile; vii) Video on [CDF's](#) FB profile. The weekly promotion significantly contributed to the use of the GP DB and the visibility of the project: by 31/03/23 the video interviews since then released registered 93,941 views and 1,599 likes.

**Major changes/problems/delays:** the Covid19 related lockdowns slowed down the filming of the video interviews, almost for the whole 2020, and when the Covid measures were reduced, at the same time delays were faced caused by frequent unavailability of GPs witnesses to be interviewed. This caused a delay in completing the video interviews (Del. D4), the IT/EN texts (Del. D3), as they are linked to the video's publication, and the multimedia cards complete assembly (Del. D1), while georeferencing (Del. D2) was not impacted. So, a new scheduling was required and, consequently, the postponing of the completion of the multimedia kits to the end of the project. For this reason, changes proposed in the MTR to Del. D4 (45 video interviews in short format for 45 multimedia cards, and 8 longer videos of 6-8 min, focused on

the 15 GPs contained in 8 selected LIFE projects) were withdrew and that was the new arrangement: 51 videos, covering 60 GPs, for a total of 316m 11s (compared to the 180 min initially scheduled).

Project Code	Project Acronym	GPs N°	N° videos	Total minutes
LIFE12 ENV/IT/000153	INBIOWOOD	3	1	12:16
LIFE11 NAT/IT/000213	CARABUS	3	2	22:45
LIFE09 ENV/IT/000087	PProSpOT	1	1	06:05
LIFE13 BIO/IT/000282	SELPIBIO	2	1	11:10
LIFE11 NAT/IT/000135	FAGUS	4	1	11:28
LIFE14 ENV/IT/000414	FRESH LIFE	1	1	11:01
LIFE11 ENV/IT/000215	RESILFORMED	4	2	13:26
LIFE99 ENV/IT/000003	SUMMACOP	1	1	08:26
LIFE99 NAT/IT/006245	BOSCO FONTANA	2	2	07:35
LIFE14 NAT/IT/000759	WETFLYAMPHIBIA	4	4	28:41
LIFE14 CCM/IT/000905	FORESMIT	2	2	10:23
LIFE11 ENV/IT/000168	MAKING GOOD NATURA	1	1	04:39
LIFE09 NAT/IT/000160	ARCTOS	1	1	07:14
LIFE10 NAT/IT/000262	MAESTRALE	2	2	09:45
LIFE13 NAT/IT/000433	RES MARIS	3	3	20:51
LIFE08 NAT/IT/000362	COLLI BERICI	2	2	13:57
LIFE11 NAT/IT/000252	MIPP	3	3	13:24
LIFE08 NAT/IT/000371	RESILFOR	4	4	15:34
LIFE08 NAT/IT/000353	MONTECRISTO	2	2	09:45
LIFE03 NAT/IT/000109	LOMELLINA	1	1	09:17
LIFE14 ENV/IT/000514	FUTURE FOR COPPICES	1	1	04:40
LIFE10 ENV/IT/000399	EMoNFUr	1	1	07:25
LIFE07 ENV/IT/000388	CARBOMARK	1	1	05:47
LIFE15 NAT/IT/000837	GRANATHA	2	2	14.14
LIFE09 ENV/IT/000078	MANFOR	6	6	35:25
LIFE07 NAT/IT/000498	ST.A.R.	3	3	18:58
		<b>60</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>316':11"</b>

It is important to note that this delay does not significantly affect the achievement of action objectives, and that the minutes of recorded videos nearly doubled. The periodic promotion of the cards, as described above, was highly effective in relation to the dissemination of the project results, to the use of the GP DB and the Multimedia section of the website, as evidenced by the total views and likes (see C1, D1).

#### Action timetable:

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023	
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	
Scheduled by the project			X	X	X	X	X	X	X											
Actual planning			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Scheduled Deliverable									D1 D2 D3 D4											
Actual Deliverables									D2											D1 D3 D4
Scheduled Milestones									M1											
Actual Milestone								M1												

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 - 60 Multimedia KITS of GPs in the demonstration network by 30.09.2020 (Ann. B1.D.01\_02\_03\_04\_Multimedia kit); D2 - 60 geolocated GPs in geolocated database by 30.09.2020 (Annexed to MTR); D3 - 60 GPs in two languages (ITA/EN) by 30.09.2020 (Ann. B1.D.01\_02\_03\_04\_Multimedia kit); D4 - 60 video interviews by 30.09.2020 (Ann. B1.D.01\_02\_03\_04\_Multimedia kit); M1 - Implementation of multimedia Section in the GPs platform by 30.09.2020

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** CDF will regular promote the remaining multimedia cards by the end of 2023. In the 5 years following the end of the project, CDF will promote one GP per year, chosen from among those that are least viewed.

#### 6.1.4. Act. B2. Implementation of training courses for subjects operating within N2000 Network

Foreseen start date: 01/01/2019      Actual start date: 01/01/2019  
 Foreseen end date: 30/06/2022      Actual end date: 31/12/2022

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** DREAM has designed 12 training modules (TMs), strongly based on GPs tested within the LIFE Program, on tools and approaches developed by [Integrate Network](#) (recognition and classification of tree microhabitats, implementation and use of marteloscopes) and from the CNPF experience on IBP (B2.1). All TMs have been developed with the contribute of DREAM, CNPF, CUFA, CREA, REGLAZ, and with the support of competent external experts (see the list [here](#)). The experts also trained the trainers of the working group to ensure the best training quality. The 12 TMs were organized into 2 training packages: Course Level 1 and Course Level 2 (Ann. B2\_TRAINING PLAN).

Courses for experts in forest management and biodiversity conservation						
Training mode	N	T/P	Training Modules	Duration	People	Training days / Person *
Course Lev. 1	0	T	N2000N “system”	30'	624	1248
	1	T	Deadwood and saproxylic species conservation	4h 30'		
	4	T	Biodiversity diagnosis with IBP	1h		
	9	T	Sustainable silviculture	6h		
	1	P	Tree microhabitat recognition	3h 30'	510	1020
	4	P	IBP application	2h 30'		
	9	P	Marteloscopes' exercise	6h		
E-learning Course Lev. 2	2A	T	Amphibians and techniques for their conservation	2h 30'	101	342
	2B	T	Watercourses and techniques for their conservation	2 h	102	
	3	T	Forest species and indication for their conservation	2h 45'	198	
	6	T	IAS: management and eradication techniques	4h 15'	60	
	7A	T	Forests and climate changes	4h 50'	72	
	7B	T	Forest fire and prevention techniques	3h 40'	82	
	8	T	Ecosystem service	3h 30'	71	
	10	T	Financial and management tools for N2000N	2h 38'	60	
<b>Total</b>				<b>50h 08'</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>2610</b>

\*These numbers are calculated on the total number of training days for participants.

Lev.1, organized as a theoretical/practical training package is based on 4 out of 12 TMs, assembling the most important elements for biodiversity conservation and forest management. The practical related activities are carried out in 7 training areas specially implemented on the national territory (B2.2). Lev. 2, organized as a theoretical/in-depth package, is based on the other 8 TMs, adapted as e-learning courses. To better manage the training programming and e-learning TMs, DREAM purchased the sub-domain for a [dedicated platform](#), where users can register and accredit themselves for training. This digital tool is also functional to download all the training material and certificates of completion of each TM. Concerning the **Potential Biodiversity Index (IBP)**, which is the content of TM n°4, its approach was extended to the Italian territorial context by CNPF, adapting and translating, in collaboration with DREAM, the manual of the 10 key factors (2,000 printed copies, distributed free of charge to learners and during project's events and network activities), the field sheets and updated version (IBP

IT v. 3.0) and an information document “Our forests are full of life – Discovering IBP” (1,000 printed copies) (Ann. B2\_IBP). CDF uploaded all the IBP related-material for [download](#) on project website. Finally, CUFA has produced an [information/educational manual](#) in digital and paper version, merging Del.01 and Del.02 (200 copies, Ann. B2.D.01\_02\_Manuals). In parallel to the creation of the TMs, training gyms were implemented by DREAM, with the support of CUFA for the implementation of training areas on Bosco Fontana and Pratovecchio permanent training centres (B2.2): each area consist of 1) path for the recognition of tree’s microhabitats, 2) area of application of IBP, 3) Integrate marteloscope. In addition to the 2 training areas set in the CUFA centres, 5 other training areas have been set up in Veneto, Lazio, Molise, Sicily, Sardinia, with the implementation of 4 additional marteloscopes. Finally, DREAM rented a gas-driven vehicle with the logos of the project, of LIFE program and N2000 (Fiat Doblò model, February 2019, B2.3). The car was rented mainly to support the implementation of training areas and lessons, as well as for other activities related to the Project. The foreseen list of material for the setting up has been optimized, by purchasing video projection equipment, sound diffusion, folding table, 3 notebooks and 4 tablets. Training activities of Lev. 1 started on 18/01/2021, while e-learning TMs were made available right after the first Lev. 1 edition (04/03/21). The training activities achieved excellent results, representing one of the most successful actions of the project. Training also represented an excellent tool for raising attention to the project, conveying the key concepts, key issues and activities, as well as its tools and results. People who participated to training activities had keep on following the project, constituting an important audience. Finally, the use of marteloscopes in training activities has allowed a strong network with Integrate Network and EFI. Course Lev. 1 was launched with 5 online editions, followed by 624 people, and 21 sessions of practice exercises. By 31/03/2023, **510 participants** successfully concluded the practical activities, obtaining the final certification of “Expert of Level 1”. By 31/03/2023 the platform registered a total of **1054** subscribers, **814** e-learning courses completely attended and **755** courses passed through the final positive test, with a total of **44** “Expert of Level 2”, who are those who have carried out ALL the proposed training activities. Counting only these training activities of Level 1 and 2, a total number of **2610 training days/person** was reached, exceeding the goal of 1700 training days/person. To give value to those who have acquired Lev. 1 and Lev. 2 certification, the [list of “Experts”](#) has been published (as foreseen in B3, Mil.M5, Mil.M6). The online list of experts includes only those who have consented to the publication of their personal data. In addition to the name, contact details and educational/professional background, the region in which the professional mainly works is also provided. The Project strongly promotes consultation and use of this list by N2000N managing authorities, forest owners and forest enterprises operating within the Network.

The contents of training courses, or parts thereof, were also used for other training events (tab. below), carried out by DREAM. Forestry Olympics where organized and carried out together with CDF. In fact, when strategic opportunities to increase the project’s results arose, further efforts were made in training activities. In particular, we want to highlight the following activities, that have a strong link with Act. B4: at the request of the Alta Val di Susa Consortium, jointly with the University of Turin, DREAM implemented other 2 marteloscopes in Oulx and Savoulx (TO), inaugurated with the organization of a training event (30/06-01/07/22) on the occasion of [Boster 2022](#), one of the most important national events of the forest sector. At the request of the Trentino Forest Service, DREAM implemented 3 training areas within the provincial state property, with a training session for Trentino trainers (26-27/10/22) for autonomous replication of the training activities. These 5 training areas, not foreseen in the GA, will be managed and used by the applicants, who signed an agreement with the Coordinator (Ann B2\_Marteloscopes agreements).

DATE	“CLIENT”	TRAINING EVENT	Participants	Means of Verification
13/10/20	Tuscany Region	IBP presentation	18	Signature sheet
30/09/21	COST Action CA18207	Tree microhabitats /theory and practice	32	N/A
07-09/10/21	Pro Silva Italia	National Excursion – PN Foreste Casentinesi	42	Signature sheet
22-23/10/21	Pro Silva Italia	Technical fieldtrip of the section “Centro – Monte Arci e Montes”	21	Signature sheet
14-15/10/21	Forest science Universities	Forestry Olympics 4 online meeting / 2 days of practice	126	Signature sheet
25-26/10/21	PN Gran Sasso	Online training event	10	N/A
21-22/03/22 28-29/03/22 07-08/04/22 21-22/04/22	Tuscany Region	Special focus on IBP	37	Signature sheet
24-25/11/22 28/02/23	LIFE Gestire 2020	Basic Course on Biodiversity and N2000N, IV edition, VI meeting	45	N/A
22/02/23 14/03/23 27/03/23	Basilicata Region	Practices of forest management and biodiversity conservation	30	N/A

**Major changes/problems/delays:** to face the obstacles due to the Covid19 Pandemic, this action is the one that has undergone the greatest variations, but at the same time, thanks to these variations, it is perhaps the most successful action of the project. All changes were functional to streamline the activities, while improving the training effectiveness and increasing the number of participants. Training activities were concentrated in 2021 only, instead of the 2 years planned (2020-21). The 14 TMs initially envisaged have been reorganized into 12 modules, and harmonized to be aimed at both technicians and operators: the training contents remain overall in line with what expected. Face to face lessons have been replaced with online sessions, while practical activities were carried out in 7 training areas (5 more in respect with the original 2 foreseen in the CUFA centres), thus allowing to reach a greater number of trainees throughout the national territory. The decision to realize other 5 additional training gyms in Piedmont and Trentino, at the request of the Alta Val di Susa Consortium and of Trentino Forest Service, was functional to increase the impact of the Project, not only in terms of training, but above all as a positive impact at the level of local governance: the Project was in fact a support to public institutions at the local/regional level, providing them of all the tools, knowledge and skills necessary for them to independently carry out future training activities for local technicians and workers. This activity can therefore also be defined as a supplementary activity to the regional laboratories (B4). The costs of this additional activity, of around 6,000 € in total, were lower than the standard: in fact, the experience gained by DREAM in the realization of marteloscopes made it possible to develop a fast-detection method, through the use of a terrestrial laser scanner, supplied by DREAM, for the geolocation of all the trees and the survey of their dendrometric data. This has made it possible to optimize the work days in the field. Furthermore, the Project made use of the collaboration and support of the requesting management bodies, which made their staff available for the survey of the parameters relating to the economic value of the trees. DREAM then dealt with the identification of the sites where to place the marteloscopes, the laser scan session, the tree microhabitat survey, the data processing and the data validation process in the Integrate database. The total cost indicated above is calculated on 20 working days of a technician (4,000 € including travel, food and lodging expenses), to which are added the costs of data processing and training activities for a total of 10 days (2,000 €). As already mentioned, the managers are committed to maintaining and using the training areas (Ann B2\_Marteloscopes agreements). Video lessons of the TM on “Forest flora” were filmed, but the TM has not been uploaded to the training platform, due to unsolvable technical problems. The [training platform](#) implemented was not foreseen by the Project. IT implementation is free of charge, since a template already

in possession of DREAM has been used. The platform management's costs are instead charged in the project's budget, falling under the logistics organization of the training. Finally, just as the contents of training have been harmonized to be addressed indiscriminately to all the main targets of the project, in the same way the 2 manuals (Del.D1, Del.D2), initially conceived as separate, have been harmonized in a single one. Although it was agreed that manuals were not going to be printed, it was deemed useful to print 200 copies, so that CUFA could distribute them to the forest workers in its departments. This is to balance the low participation of operators in training courses (< 1%). Part of the copies (70) was also distributed during the Italian final conference (subac. D1.6).

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023	
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	
Scheduled by the project			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Actual planning			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Scheduled Deliverable							D1	D2												
Actual Deliverables																				D1 D2
Scheduled Milestones						M1 M2	M3			M4 M5				M6 M7						
Actual Milestone							M1 M2	M3			M4 M5			M6 M7						

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1— 2000 training manual copies for forest operators by 31/01/20 (Ann. B2\_D.01.02\_Manuals); D2— 2000 copies of training manuals for N2000 managers, technicians, designers by 31/01/20 (Ann B2\_D.01.02\_Manuals); M1 - Setting up of a mobile training centre by 31/12/19; M2 - Setting up of two training centres in Lombardy and Tuscany by 31/12/19; M3 - Training gyms setting up by 31/03/2020; M4 - 15 training modules carried out by the mobile training centre (500 people) by 31/12/20; M5 - 3 training modules carried out in the two permanent training centres by 31/12/20; M6 - 15 training modules carried out by the mobile training centre (500 people) by 31/12/21; M7 - 3 training modules carried out at the two permanent training centres by 31/12/21.

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** based on the contents of the Level 1 Course, a more streamlined training plan will be organized, focused more on TMs relating to the protection of forest biodiversity (N2000N system, dead wood and saproxylic organisms, tree microhabitats, IBP). This remodulation will concentrate the theoretical part in a full day online, and the practical part in a full day in the field, for a total of 2 training days/course. The decision to remove the silvicultural part is functional to concentrating the training activities primarily in the regions where marteloscopes have not been implemented, which are also regions with a lower participation to GoProFor training activities of 2021. The training activities in the After-LIFE will therefore mainly focus on Liguria, Marche, Umbria, Abruzzo, Campania, Basilicata, Puglia, Calabria. In the 5 years following the project, each year: 1) DREAM will organize 1 training course as described above (2 training days); 2) CUFA will organize 1 training course as described above, aimed at its internal staff: the day of theoretical contents will be held online and aimed at everyone, while the participants will be sorted for the practical part in the 2 permanent training centres of Bosco Fontana and Camaldoli (3 total training days).

DREAM will maintain active the training platform and e-learning TMs for at least the next 5 years.

### 6.1.5. Act. B3. Promotion of good practices

Foreseen start date: 01/07/2019      Actual start date: 01/07/2019  
 Foreseen end date: 30/06/2022      Actual end date: 31/03/2023

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** the National Network Table (NNT) was established (B3.1) by CREA & DREAM with the organization of a 1<sup>st</sup> workshop in Rome on 10/12/19 (Mil.M2), followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop, held online in 3 sessions on 26-28/02/2020 (Mil.M3). Both events were attended by representatives of MASE and MASAF, the Regional Forest and Biodiversity Services, National Parks Network, the RDP Management Authorities, Carabinieri Forestry Officers, environmental and professional associations, and trade organisations. Both workshops aimed at collecting and discussing the main critical issues and priority topics perceived at national level, through a participatory process. Starting from instances, criticalities and new challenges, the project team, composed by CREA, DREAM, CUFA & CDF, developed the contents and drafted a “[Guideline Document for forest management within Natura 2000 Network](#)” (Ann. B3.D.01\_Guideline document), with proposals and solutions to integrate forest management and biodiversity conservation. In this process the project received the full attention and support of DIFOR (MASAF), MASE, 'CReIAMO PA' and 'Mettiamoci in RIGA' projects, which are important players of Italian N2000N governance. On 2 occasions the project team shared the drafted document with the ministerial representatives of the Environment and Forests (04/06/20, 07/07/21), collecting and integrating feedback and suggestion. Furthermore, during the project, many of the promotional and networking activities carried out have also had the aim of disclose and promote the content of the Document, towards local and national governance actors, making them aware of the issues of the Project. These events are listed below:

Date	Event
Rome, 16/10/2019	Participation at the presentation of the For.italy project “Training for forest operators”
Serra San Bruno (VV) 09/10/20	Presentation of GoProFor training activities within For.Italy National Launch “Build forest operator skills” (8-9/10/2020)
08/02/21	GoProFor was invited to participate in the "Boschi Vetusti" working group (assigned by DIFOR to define the identification procedure of old-growth forests): the project contributed, through the partner CREA, by sharing the documentation relating to the IBP
Oulx (TO), 02/07/2021	Project presentation at Boster exhibition (2-4/07/2021), within the session “Forestry and protected areas” curated by CONAF
Cadore (BL), 07/09/2021	Participation to the XII National Assembly of AUSF “Alpine forest biodiversity. Strategies and good practices to protect and enhance it” (6-10/09/2021)
Selva del Lamone (VT), 13/10/2021	Participation at For.Italy training course for Forestry Instructors, with the explanation in the field of the IBP 10 factors
Viterbo, 13/12/2022	Participation to the conference: “Il TUFF, la Strategia Forestale Nazionale e le opportunità per gli Enti e il territorio” (13-14/12/2022)
Rome, 17/10/2022	LIFE GoProFor presented its activities and final results in an internal meeting with DIFOR

The draft Guideline document has been shared and discussed within a 3<sup>rd</sup> NNT online workshop, organized by CREA & DREAM on 09/03/23 (Mil.M4). Inputs were integrated in the final version of the document presented in the occasion of the final conference (Florence, 20/03/23). The round table “Direct the forest system to the use of tools, experiences, good practices” represents the 4<sup>th</sup> NNT workshop meeting (Mil.M9). The Panel was composed by representatives of DIFOR, SISEF, PEFC, Regions, CREA and GoProFor. In summary, the document contains: i) issues, critical factors and new challenges concerning forest management and biodiversity conservation at an Italian level, in view of new European and Italian policies; ii) proposals and solutions to improve forest management in N2000N such as iii) examples of



GPs; iv) administrative documents for the application of GPs (Del. 02 - Special tender specifications models for GPs in charge of Lazio Region); v) new approaches to forest planning; vi) analysis of silvicultural models; vii) promoting the training of experienced technicians and operators. The final version of the Guideline document was integrated by MASE by the end June 2023, and subsequently uploaded to the website and promoted with a specific newsletter ([Newsletter LIFE GoProFor n87](#), 10/07/2023). The Guideline Document has been further presented and shared in Regional Conferences (Mil.M10) just right after the end of the project: i) “Policies, strategies and tools for the management of the forest system”, organized by Basilicata Region (Potenza, 10/05/23); ii) “European Strategy for Forests: how to improve forest management, ecosystem services and biodiversity”, organized by REGLAZ & DREAM (Viterbo, 15/06/23). First the project and then the contents of the Guideline Document have been presented within XII and XIII SISEF National Congress (Palermo, 13/11/2019, Mil.M1; Orvieto, 01/06/22, Mil.M8, respectively by DREAM and CREA).

**Major changes/problems/delays:** the drafting of the document turned out to be quite complex, requiring more time than expected. The delay was mainly due to the need to continuous update part of the Guideline Document, compared with the evolution of the Italian and European framework of biodiversity and forests (new Strategies): during 2021, Italian Regions concluded their PAFs, the National Forest Strategy was published and the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030 is under editing. These changes have forced continuous updates of all the relating texts. Furthermore, the important contribution and revision of MASE arrived on 30/06/23. The presentation of the Guideline Document in Regional Conferences (M10) has been postponed just right after the end of the project. Mil. M5 and M6 “Establishment of GPs regional (M5) and national (M6) expert team correspond respectively to Level 1 and Level 2 Experts. Concerning the definition of an attestation of professional competence on GPs (Mil.M7), it was not possible to issue certificates of professional competence, as the formal procedures for issuing this type of certificate require the involvement of a training agency, and above all, the existence of a professional profile already defined within the regional directories is necessary. As there is no comparable professional profile, it was not possible to define a new one, as it would have been necessary to implement a training plan of at least 900 hours. Therefore, the choice was to issue a certificate of participation, and include all training courses of Lev. 1 and 2 in CONAF professional accreditations.

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023	
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
Scheduled by the project					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Actual planning					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Scheduled Deliverable																	D2		D1	
Actual Deliverables																	D2		D1	
Scheduled Milestones						M1 M2			M3			M4		M5 M6		M8		M7	M9 M10	
Actual Milestone						M1 M2	M3							M5 M6		M8		M7	M9 M4	M10

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 - Guidelines for the management of forest habitat within N2000 by 31.12.2022 (Ann. B3.D.01\_Guideline Document); D2 - Special tender specifications models for Good Practices by 30.06.2022 (Ann. B3.D.02\_Special tender specifications models for GPs); M1 - Participation to SISEF National Congress, by 31.12.2019 (Annexed to MTR); M2 - 1st Network workshop by 31.12.2019 (Annexed to MTR); M3 - 2nd Network workshop by 30.09.2020 (Annexed to MTR); M4 - 3rd Network workshop by 30.06.2021 (B3.M4\_Third Meeting of Network); M5 - Establishment of Good Practices regional expert teams by 31.12.2021; M6 - Establishment of Good Practices national expert team by 31.12.2021; M7 -

Definition of an attestation of professional competence on Good Practices by 31.12.2022; M8 - "Guidelines" presentation by SISEF National Congress by 01.06.2022; M9 - 4th Network workshop by 31.03.2023 (Ann. D1.M5\_Italian final conference); M10 – “Guidelines” presentation on the occasion of the four regional workshops by 31.03.2023.

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** the presentation of the Guideline Document in Regional Conferences (M10) has been postponed just right after the end of the project. The *Guideline Document for forest management within Natura 2000 Network* will be downloadable in digital version for at least 10 years from the project website. CDF also undertakes to make the Document downloadable free of charge from its Ecoalleco online library ([www.ecoalleco.it](http://www.ecoalleco.it)) for the 10 years following the conclusion of the LIFE GoProFor. At least 1 newsletter dedicated to the promotion of the Document will be sent during this period. The list of Level 1 and 2 experts trained by the Project (B2) will remain available on the website for 10 years following the conclusion of the project. The list will be periodically updated.

#### 6.1.6. Act. B4. Project laboratories in the regional territories

Foreseen start date: 01/01/2021                      Actual start date: 01/01/2019  
Foreseen end date: 30/09/2022                      Actual end date: 31/03/2023

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** the activities for each regional Lab. are here summarized, while Dels. D4, D5, D6 report everything in detail.

**REGLAZ:** the aim of this Lab was the development and implementation of a regional training system, addressed to the local forest sector (forest enterprises, owners, technicians, environmental guides...). Training aims at increasing knowledge and skills on GPs and forest biodiversity. The activities started with the selection of a sample of local forest companies, the administration of a questionnaire in order to highlight their training needs and set up a tailor-made Plan of training activities. The training plan is presented in the related Deliverable D1. In addition to this, a path for the transfer of knowledge, skills and training material for employees of the regional system of protected areas has also been defined, together with the Lazio Region. An additional training area was implemented with the Natural Reserve of Selva del Lamone, in collaboration with the University of Molise. A seminar session was therefore organized, involving the personnel of Lazio's protected areas, in order to transfer the contents and training methodologies, for the organization of future training activities. Already on 15.03.23, CNA Sostenibile s.r.l. carried out an exercise for the forestry operator course at Selva del Lamone in the training area equipped by the project (20 participants). Lazio Region formally acknowledges the Guidance Document (Del.D1), with determination No. G08089 on 09/06/2023.

**REGMOL:** the aim of this Lab. was the implementation of a procedure that can be integrated in the planning of silvicultural intervention (Plans/Projects/Interventions/Actions), in order to develop projects for forest utilization, in compliance with N2000N objectives. The procedure was defined on the basis of the methodologies acquired within LIFE GoProFor, combined with demonstration activities for the detection of the IBP, applied in 12 forest habitats of community interest in the Molise Region, with both forms of management (coppice and high forest). REGMOL has appointed a professional, selected from the list of experts trained by the Project (B2), to carry out the IBP surveys. The result led to the drafting of a methodological document "Guidance document for IBP diagnosis in forest planning within Natura 2000 Network" (Del. D.02). REGMOL has undertaken to adopt the proposed methodology, with the Executive Determination N. 3154 (22/06/2023).

**REGTOS:** the aim of this Lab. was to develop and test a forest planning model, capable of reconciling biodiversity conservation with active forest management in the regional territory. The model integrates the IBP diagnosis with forest planning. DREAM presented the IBP method to Tuscan stakeholders organizing a specific training activity on 13.10.2020. Experimental activities were conducted on the areas of 2 FMPs, the Alto Tevere forest complex and the Pratomagno/Valdarno forest complex. On the basis of these activities and of further investigations and analyses, the definitive document "Method for applying the Potential Biodiversity Index (IBP) in Forest Planning" was drawn up (corresponding to Del. D.03 "Guideline document for methodological additions for the drafting of future REGTOS Forest Management Plans"). In order to further increase the awareness, the staff working in Agriculture and Environment Departments, DREAM organized a specific theoretical/practical training course (Online, 21-22; 28-29 March; Practice, 4-5; 7-8 April 2022). REGTOS has proposed, within the process of implementation of the National Plan for Rural Development, to include some of the IBP factors in the Measure concerning the forest-environmental commitments of the new RDP programming, and is moving to include, in integrative way, the application of the IBP in the directives for the drafting of the new Management Plans and to

make official its use. REGTOS invites the managers of the Regional Forest-Agricultural Heritage (PAFR) to take into consideration the results of GoProFor, regarding the analysis and application of the IBP for the drafting of the new management plans (28/06/23, see Del.D.06). REGTOS has undertaken to adopt the proposed methodology: on the date of sending the Final report, we are still waiting for the official Determination Number, that will be forwarded to the EC as soon as obtained.

It should be noted that the methodology developed with this Lab. has already been used by some professionals, trained under B2, when drafting the new Regional Agricultural Forestry Heritage management plans. Furthermore on 30/12/22 the Unione Montana dei Comuni del Mugello announced a [tender procedure](#) for the assignment of the drafting of the Forest Management Plans of Gigo Casaglia forest complex, in which the application of the IBP is [explicitly requested](#).

**Major changes/problems/delays:** the start of the action has been anticipated to the II Trim 2018, with the presentation of the project in dedicated events organized with the beneficiary Regions. As explain in detail in Act. E1 and in sec. 6.2, the start of Lazio Lab. was postponed due to an internal reorganization of the Environment and Agriculture Departments of the Region, in conjunction with the transfer of the project contact person to other tasks. During May 2022 the stalemate was positively resolved, and Lab's activities officially started. While trying to solve this situation, the PM decided to implement additional labs in other Regions, not foreseen by the project, but similar to the one of REGLAZ, concerning the implementation of training system. These activities, involving the Consorzio Forestale dell'Alta Val di Susa and the Trentino Forest Service, are already described under Act. B2.

An additional activity, not originally foreseen by the project, was a pilot study within a REGTOS forest complex (Sant'Antonio Forest, comprises within SCI IT5140012). This study had the objective both of inserting the IBP methodology, in a demonstrative form, within the Sant'Antonio Forest Management Plan (FMP), and of starting a process of revision of the ecosystem services certification standards of PEFC, for the Apennines and Mediterranean forest areas of Italy. This activity was possible thanks to the availability of resources in the REGTOS budget (15,860.00 euro) deriving from a lower use of additional staff. The pilot study was conducted in external consultancy (PAN Studio Associato), identified through a specific selection procedure. After receiving a favourable opinion from CINEA (18/01/2022), in mutual agreement with REGTOS and the managing body (UC Montagna Fiorentina), the technical activities were started for the implementation of the IBP methodology in the forest planning of the Forest of Sant'Antonio, whose FMP was under implementation at the time. Therefore, the plan documentation contains the indications deriving from the application of the IBP methodology. The FMP was approved with Decree no. 51 of 09/06/2022, while the in-depth studies useful for the revision of the certification standards were completed in March 2023. For the modification of this standard, a technical committee was set up, made up of a representative for each of the following subjects: REGTOS (Elisabetta Gravano), Sant'Antonio Forest Management Body (Toni Ventre), GoProFor Project (Marcello Miozzo), PECF Italy (Antonio Brunori). The committee met on 31/01/23, to define the methodological setting of the activities, and on 17/03/23 to validate the activities carried out and to prepare a work program for the inclusion of the IBP method in the certification standards. The inclusion of the IBP methodology for Apennine and Mediterranean forests in the PEFC standard has not yet been included at the conclusion of the project, because changes are made periodically. The 0.4 revision of the standard will be completed by July 2023, a date that could however be postponed in the event that PEFC decides to integrate the results of the pilot study in more detail into the standard procedures. At the time of writing, PECF envisages inserting the reference to IBP and the LIFE GoProFor experience in chapter 2.1 "Methodology for assessing biodiversity in forests", while postponing the detailed study to a later stage. This study provides for the

definition of a single methodology that integrates the two sources (Interreg BIOΔ4 project and LIFE GoProFor) starting from the pilot study.

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I
<b>Scheduled by the project</b>											X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
<b>Actual planning</b>			X	X							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Scheduled Deliverable</b>														D2 D3 D5 D6					D1 D4
<b>Actual Deliverables</b>															D3 D6				D1 D2 D4 D5
<b>Scheduled Milestones</b>																			
<b>Actual Milestone</b>																			

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 - Guideline document for the training of REGLAZ forestry companies by 28.02.23; D2 - guideline document for the forestry sector on impact studies and the drawing up of future PDGs for REGMOL by 31.12.21; D3 - Guideline document for methodological additions for the drawing up of future REGTOS PDGs by 31.12.21; D4 - report lab. 1) REGLAZ "local forestry companies competencies" by 28.02.23; D5 - report lab. 2) "supplementary and compensatory practices for active management forestry interventions carried out in N2000" REGMOL by 31.12.21; D6 - report lab. 3) "forest planning models that combine conservation with active management" REGTOS by 31.12.21.

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** the strategic documents produced for the 3 regional Labs will be downloadable from the website for the 10 years following the end of the project. To promote the results of the workshops, CDF undertakes to disseminate 3 technical-informative articles through "Sherwood - Foreste ed Alberi Oggi", its national periodical, in the 3 years following the end of the project.

### 6.1.7. Act. B5. Project promotion at European level

Foreseen start date: 01/07/2019                      Actual start date: 01/11/2018  
Foreseen end date: 30/09/2022                      Actual end date: 31/03/2023

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** at European level, the project promoted itself and its achievements thanks to the organization of EU conferences (B5.1) and relevant networking activities: a) with other LIFE projects (collaborations of different kind with [more than 30 LIFE projects](#)), b) with organizations and institutions from all over Europe. To cite some, the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process, FAO, Integrate Network, EFI, Eurosite, Elo, Egnos, the Bulgarian National Forum, EIP-AGRI, ERIAFF, Seimas Committee on Environment Protection (LT), etc. Furthermore, we want to remark that EASME asked LIFE GoProFor to send inputs and suggestions emerging from the project experience, contributing with a [specific document](#) to the development of the new EU strategy on climate change adaptation, the Green Deal (Annexed to MTR).

The 1st EU Conference, organized by DREAM with the support of CDF & REGTOS, took place in Palermo (11/11/19, 72 participants), in conjunction with the XII SISEF National Congress, where GoProFor has been presented (B3.4). On the same occasion, on 12/11/19, DREAM, with the support of the EC and its Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process, organized an international workshop dedicated to the implementation of a “European Training system for forest management in Natura 2000 Network” (B5.4). Representatives of 11 EU Countries participated, starting a participatory process, which resulted in the addition of the topic "Network of training activities for Natura 2000 sites managers" in the 2020 Call for proposals for preparatory projects, thus achieving its set goals of laying the foundation for an EU training system. DREAM submitted the proposal for the Preparatory Project (10.09.20), and, even if it was not funded, due to the participation of another competing consortium, it obtained the evaluation of 71 points and managed to involve 11 partners from all over Europe and financial support from Office Français de la Biodiversité (OFB).

REGTOS, together with DREAM, promoted the project within ERIAFF network (B5.2) in occasion of the Rural Development Innovation Week 2019 - Annual Event of Tuscany Region RDP Eafrd 2014-2020 (Florence, 26-29/03/19) and of the Forest Innovation Workshop and Rosewood Final Conference (15-16/01/20). Finally, in conjunction with the 2023 ERIAFF Annual Conference (22-24 May, Bolzano), REGTOS promoted all bulletins (D3) and the Layman's Report with a special newsletter to more than 400 contacts.

The project, represented by DREAM, has been invited to participate in several international events: webinar organized by the Lithuanian Parliament Seimas Committee on Environment Protection (Vilnius, 20/05/20); 3rd N2000 seminar for the Mediterranean region, 4-7.05.21; LIFE Platform Meeting on the New European Bauhaus, 15-17.11.21; EIP-AGRI “turning forest into practice”, 24-25.11.21, as “Inspiring story” in the parallel session “Forest biodiversity”; presentation of the GPs Database within the Bulgarian National Forum, on 10.06.22, organized by LIFE16 NAT/BG/000856; 2 events organized by Integrate Network (28-29/06/2022, Bonn, Integrate Marteloscope manager workshop and 19-21/10.22, Madrid, 8th Integrate Meeting), achieving as a final result the entry of Italy into the Integrate Steering Committee for the year 2023, which will be attended by a representative of the Project staff, together with DIFOR II. The collaboration between the Project and the [FAO Task Force on Best Practices](#) has led to the participation of the Project staff as a member of the Task Force (see A1).

**Major changes/problems/delays:** the action started earlier (01/11/18), getting preliminary in touch with EASME and DGENV to define a shared path for the establishment of an EU training system (B5.4). Dels. D1, D3, D5 and Mil. M1 of subact. B5.3 “Promotion of the replicability

of training in other European contexts” were cancelled, in order to cover extra costs for the organisation of the 1st EU Conference (Palermo, 11/11/19). The Project Advisor evaluated it as acceptable because within the threshold of 20% of the total eligible costs. So, B5.3 hasn't been implemented. Considering the Covid situation, and moreover the results already achieved at EU level with the 1st EU Conference, a single final EU Conference of 3 days (16-18.02.22) was organized online, instead of 2 events, in presence, in Spain and France.

Finally, it was decided to suspend the activities within the ERIAFF Network after the first 2 events (instead of the 4 foreseen), because it was considered that the promotion of the project at EU level has already been effective. However, ERIAFF remains the target of dissemination of the bulletins and the Layman's report.

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I
<b>Scheduled by the project</b>					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
<b>Actual planning</b>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Scheduled Deliverable</b>						<b>D1</b> <b>D2</b>				<b>D3</b> <b>D4</b>				<b>D5</b> <b>D6</b> <b>D7</b>					<b>D8</b>
<b>Actual Deliverables</b>						<b>D2</b>	<b>D7</b>								<b>D4</b> <b>D6</b>				<b>D8</b>
<b>Scheduled Milestones</b>										<b>M1</b>									
<b>Actual Milestone</b>																			

**Deliverables and Milestones:** ~~D1— Online publication on forestry projects (ita/eng);~~ D2 - electronic documents of the event in Italy by 31/10/19 (Annexed to MTR); ~~D3— Online publication on forestry projects (esp/eng);~~ D4 - electronic acts of the event in Spain by 31/10/20 (Ann. B5.D.04.06\_Digital acts of EU final conference); ~~D5— Online publication on forestry projects (fre/eng);~~ D6 - electronic acts of the event in France by 31/10/21 (Ann. B5.D.04.06\_Digital acts of EU final conference); D7 - project technical report for the application of the project in 8 countries by 31/12/21 (Annexed to MTR); D8 - 4 information reports presented in ERIAFF network by 31/03/23 (Ann. B5.D.08\_ERIAFF report); ~~M1— Online publication on forest related projects.~~

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** N/A.

### **6.1.8. Act. C1 Monitoring on the level of application of the tools developed with the project.**

Foreseen start date: 01/09/2018

Actual start date: 01/12/2018

Foreseen end date: 30/09/2022

Actual end date: 31/03/2023

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** in the project 5 surveys are foreseen, mainly carried out through questionnaires and aimed at understanding the effects of the project activities. These surveys are targeted in most cases at the same target (public officials, technicians and operators). The surveys are related to subact. C1.1/C1.2 (the same questionnaire), C1.4, C1.5, C1.6. DREAM developed questionnaires, collected and elaborated data, collected Plans of C1.3, with the support of REGLAZ, REGMOL, REGTOS. CDF helped to spread questionnaires provided data for C1.6. DRWOLF provided data for C1.5.

**C1.1 Knowledge level of project tools and C1.2 Changes in the skills of technicians and forestry companies.** The required information was included into a single questionnaire (Annexed to MTR) to optimize the project effort. The analysis is based on a sample of 582 questionnaires (326 baseline sample and 256 post sample), collected between 12/04/19 and 31/01/23. The knowledge of N2000N and its legal bases improved during the course of the project. In general, it is noted that, during the project, the perception of critical aspects decreased, together with the importance of what can be useful for improving critical issues and governance in the management of N2000N, and with the importance of solutions to reduce conflicts between management and conservation. In our opinion, this lesser perception of criticality can be attributed to the change in the panorama of EU policies which, with the multiplication of the new Strategies, lay the foundations for greater support for a reduction of conflicts and a better management of forests and their resources. Finally, knowledge on the project and its activities increased exponentially, especially with the start of the training activities, at the beginning of 2021.

**C1.3 Improvement of planning tools.** First, 30 Forest Management Plans (FMPs) of the 3 Regions partner of GoProFor were analysed to identify a set of indicators to refer to, in order to conduct the actual analysis. Each of the following 4 indicators can reach a value from 0 to 5. 1) Plan Report: degree of consideration of N2000N within the report; 2) Parcels Cartography: how the N2000N boundaries are considered in the parcels compartmentalisation; 3) Forest compartment: consideration of N2000N when defining forest compartments; 4) Intervention plan: adequacy of the implementation of the conservation objectives of N2000N in the intervention plan. This preliminary analysis concerned also FMPs that don't include N2000 sites: their inclusion in this screening was useful for a better understanding of how forest planning considers Habitat Directive criteria. Then, compared analysis between "pre" and "post" FMPs were conducted only on FMPs that included N2000N. The "baseline" sample is represented by 24 FMPs drawn up before 2020 while the "post" sample by 11 FMPs drawn up from 2020 onwards. All indicators register an increase in their score, attesting to a general improvement in the attention to N2000N during the drafting of the FMPs (Ann. C1.D.05\_Report C1.3).

**C1.4 Ex-post check on enabled learners.** The aim is to evaluate the effectiveness of the training, both in terms of increasing knowledge and skills, and in terms of positive effects in the professional sphere of the participants. One year after the training activities, DREAM administered a final questionnaire and analysed 108 compilations. 59% say that training has contributed a lot to increasing their knowledge; 55% affirm that training has contributed enough to change their professional behaviour and finally 64% affirm that training has been very useful. One's way of working has improved quite a bit (51%) and a lot (28%) thanks to the greater awareness acquired. Finally, 44% of the interviewees affirm that training has



concretely favoured them in the context of a work activity, mainly in forest planning, in the design of forest interventions and as an improvement or rewarding element in the selection of public tenders. Furthermore, based on analysis of satisfaction, it can be said that both Course Lev.1 (275 interviews) and Lev. 2 (477 interviews) were extremely appreciated (theoretical/practical activities slightly more than e-learning).

**C1.5 Degree of use of the [Good Practices Database \(GP DB\)](#).** From the online launch to the end of the project, the GP DB counts 234 accredited users, who have downloaded a total of 795 documents. Google Analytics reports a total number of 7002 users, for a total of 13,805 sessions and 48,645 page views. Users visited an average of 3.52 pages/session, with an average duration per session of 00:04:30. Finally, the bounce rate is relatively low (48.86% as an average per visit). Users are selected from 128 countries, of which 33 are from the European continent. If we exclude from the analysis the Countries that record an excessively high bounce rate, combined with a very low average session duration, we report a more realistic number of 5372 users from 33 countries, of which 23 from the continent European. The users who consulted the database with the most attention related to Italy (4435) and France (159). During the project, the GP DB hosted have achieved considerable resonance, both in Italy and in Europe. In the context of a questionnaire administered in act. C2 by a sample of 179 users, 75% know the GP DB. Of these, 47% consulted the GP DB to increase their personal knowledge, while 35% for professional reasons. 57% have consulted it more than once. Finally, the database is considered useful (52%) and very useful (29%) with respect to one's personal and/or professional goals. We note the collaboration with the [Knowledge Platform](#) (PdC) of MASE, the reference to LIFE GoProFor project in the context of the CLE-PNM / MATTM call for Parks and Climate, the citation in the report of the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC) "Risk analysis. Climate change in Italy", the collaboration with the Task Force, led by FAO (see A1): this collaboration is certainly one of the most relevant results of the project, in terms of resonance of the GP DB. Finally, the Database was presented in the context of a National Forum organized by LIFE16 NAT/BG/000856 IAS Free Habitats.

**C1.6 Degree of use of web tools.** The [website](#) registers a total number of 25,089 users, for a total of 42,072 sessions and 113,324 page views, reaching and far exceeding the initially predefined objectives. The number of users has significantly increased with the launch and implementation of training activities. This is also found by analysing the most popular pages, which are precisely those related to training. Website users are mainly Italian, followed by French and Dutch. The [Facebook profile](#) has 1,700 followers, 1,553 likes (on the page), 242 posts with 32,583 interactions, and a total of 236,633 people reached. These results meet and far exceed the initially predefined objectives. Until the end of the project (31/03/23), 76 [Newsletters](#) were launched, addressed to 1,155 Italian contacts (87 newsletters to date). As for the videos made during the project, and which are divided into different types, there are a total of 110,583 views and 1891 likes. The number of downloads of documents made by the project varies according to how long each document is being available on the website.

**C1.7 LIFE KPI webtool and reports.** KPIs have been completed and updated (see Sec. 7), and the results achieved, compared with the objectives, are reported in tabular form in the Ann. C1.7\_KPI.

**Major changes/problems/delays:** as already reported in the MTR, it should also be noted that the Del. reported in the Grant Agreement are not correct, referring to the project version submitted in the 2016 call. The right list to be submitted is reported in section "Deliverables and Milestones".

C1.3: for the post phase analysis it was not possible to find an overall number of 30 FMPs, as foreseen by the project. The post phase analysis had to consider only FMPs approved from 2020 onwards, in partner Regions, and their overall number was lower than our target. Therefore, only those available were analysed.

C1.5: since considering all the Project actions, a total of 7 different questionnaires were administered (for a total of 2078 responses), it was considered inappropriate to administer further questionnaires, aggravating the effort required of the stakeholders. For this reason, the monitoring of the use of the GP DB and its impact on the users' professional or social activity was done by inserting pertinent questions in the questionnaire administered in the context of act. C2 (179 answers).

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I
<b>Scheduled by the project</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
<b>Actual planning</b>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Scheduled Deliverable</b>																			D1 D2 D3 D4
<b>Actual Deliverables</b>																			D1 D2 D3 D4 D5
<b>Scheduled Milestones</b>																			
<b>Actual Milestone</b>																			

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 - report subact. C1.1 and C1.2, verification of the knowledge level of the tools developed through the project and of the technicians and forestry companies skills by 31/03/23 (Ann. C1.D.01\_Report C1.1\_C1.2); D2 - subact report. C1.4 ex-post verification on qualified learners by 31/03/23 (Ann. C1.D.02\_Report C1.4 Ex-post verification on qualified learners); D3 - subact report. C1.5 use of the GPs Platform by 31/03/23 (Ann. C1.D.03\_Report C1.5 Database); D4 - report subact. C1.6, use of web tools by 31/03/23 (Ann. C1.D.04\_Report C1.6 Utilizzo strumenti web); D5- report subact. C1.3, planning tools improvement check by 31/03/23 (Ann. C1.D.05\_Report C1.3)

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** N/A.

### 6.1.9. Act. C2 Socio-economic monitoring

Foreseen start date: 01/01/2020      Actual start date: 01/01/2020  
 Foreseen end date: 31/03/2022      Actual end date: 31/03/2023

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** all the activities described below were conducted by CREA, in close collaboration with DREAM. Project's impacts were measured in terms of 1) employment; 2) companies involved for supplies; 3) impacts deriving from project results. Point 1) e 2) are direct economic effects, while point 3) is classified as indirect effects of the project. For each point, the indicators to be monitored have been defined.

For the assessment of direct impacts, the data obtained from the Beneficiaries' Financial Reports (updated to 31/03/2023) were analysed. In terms of employment, the project has generated a positive impact by employing, specifically for the project, 21% of additional personnel (60% of which represented by external assignments) and entrusting the supplies envisaged by the project to about 88% to companies located within the provinces under the jurisdiction of the Beneficiaries. Also in economic terms, the data showed that the involvement of new personnel and contractor companies was quite conspicuous: external assistance €177,966.48, the purchase of consumables €6,013.13, other costs (other direct costs) €54,506.06 and equipment €3,276.95. As regards the indirect effects, a questionnaire was administered to a sample of stakeholders, to identify the areas/actions of the Project of greatest interest, and therefore with potential socio-economic effects. The analysis of 179 responses made it possible to identify 6 different areas of interest, namely the GP DB, the training courses, the list of experts, the Guideline Document, the tender specifications models and the dissemination activities. A set of indicators to be monitored has been defined for each of them. The detailed analysis is described in a specific report (Ann. C2.D.01\_Socio-economic monitoring). In general, the GP DB, training courses and the relative list of experts had a great impact throughout the national territory, because they are considered relevant by the stakeholders for their professional sphere. In particular, the greatest impact was for Level 1 Courses, in correspondence with which there was also the greatest use of the GP DB.

**Major changes/problems/delays:** since the project has been extended of 6 more month, consequentially, all the final analysis were postponed to the end of the project, in order to optimally evaluate its socio-economic impacts. Since some documents relating to Act. B3 were completed at the end of the project, the monitoring of their impact (number of downloads from the website) will be monitor during the After-LIFE.

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023	
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	
<b>Scheduled by the project</b>							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
<b>Actual planning</b>							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Scheduled Deliverable</b>																				<b>D1</b>
<b>Actual Deliverables</b>																				<b>D1</b>
<b>Scheduled Milestones</b>																				
<b>Actual Milestone</b>																				

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 - socio-economic monitoring report by 31/03/23 (Ann. C2.D.01\_Socio-economic monitoring)

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** CREA, one year after the end of the project (31/03/2024), will count the downloads of the documents relating to act. B3, which have been identified as indicators of socio-economic impact of the project.

### 6.1.10. Act. D1. Communication plan and its application

Foreseen start date: 01/09/2018                      Actual start date: 01/09/2018  
Foreseen end date: 30/09/2022                      Actual end date: 31/03/2023

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** CDF has drafted the [Communication Plan](#) (Del. D1, Annexed to MTR) in due time (D1.1). The [project website](#) was published on 12/03/19 (Mil.M1), in IT/EN versions, and the [Facebook profile](#) @goprofor is active since 14/01/19 (D1.2). The website consists of 7 sections in the main menu, with 18 specific subsections. Special mention should be made of subsections i) "[Networking](#)", in which particular importance is given to all LIFE projects (32) that have proactively collaborated in different ways with GoProFor (D1.7); ii) [list of experts](#), where the main contacts of all people trained by the project (B2), who gave their consent, are available and promoted (B3); iii) [IBP](#), with all the material available for download. Website and "[news](#)" section are periodically updated. Updates and news are regularly communicated to the mailing list of the stakeholders (Del. D2, annexed to MTR) through the [Newsletter](#), activated on 04/09/19, and posts on FB. Quantitative results are reported in subact. C1.6: all the expected results have been achieved, and far exceeded the initially predefined objectives.

The project implemented 3 types of notice board (NB) (D1.3): Type 1, indoor NBs (100x70cm), with general information describing goals and actions of the project. This typology was implemented in Italian (16 boards) and French (5 boards), and installed in the partners' offices; Type 2, outdoor NBs (100x70cm) installed at each training area: these notice boards are of 2 types: one on tree microhabitats (TreMs), installed near the path for the recognition of TreMs, one on the marteloscopes, installed near each marteloscopes implemented; Type 3, outdoor NBs, with general information on the project, with a focus on the training areas, installed at each CUFA training centre (100x140cm). Concerning NBs of "type 2", the one on TreMs is the same for each training area (with the exception of the one of Sardinian one), while the one on Integrate marteloscope is specific for each training area, as it describes the specific characteristic of each marteloscope. A total of 21 NBs of Type 1, 15 of Type 2 and 2 of Type 3 were realized (Del.D3, Ann. D1.D.03\_Notice boards). Each notice board were installed in each area as they were implemented (Mil.M3). The last one was installed in May 2021, once the training area of Somadida (BL) was completed. Contents of all types of NBs were defined by DREAM and CDF: CDF designed all the layouts and graphic and was in charge of printing, DREAM provided all the contents.

At the end of the project the Layman's report (D1.4) have been prepared in 4 linguistic versions (Italian, English, French and Spanish), summarizing the achievements of the project (Del.D4). 2000 copies were printed: 1.000 (IT), 500 (EN), 200 (FR), 200 (ES). Digital versions are available for downloadable on the [project's website](#).

Concerning videos, realized by CDF (D1.5), the [video presentation](#) of the project (12,840 views) was launched on the occasion of the 1st European Conference (Palermo, 11/11/19, B5). Two extra video were realized, one on [training](#) (2,190 views) and one on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of [Forestry Olympics](#) (1,612 views. Altogether, the videos (Mil.M4) obtained a total of 16,642 views, further exceeding the expected results. The Italian initial conference (Mil.M2), organized by DREAM and CDF, took place in Rome (12.04.2019), with 66 participants, while a 2-days [final conference](#) (Mil.M5), organized by DREAM with the support of with all the partners, and in close collaboration with LIFE Biorgest (LIFE17 NAT/ES/000568), was held in Florence (20-21.03.23), with 192 participants (D1.6). LIFE Biorgest contributed to the conference with some expenses of its own competence. In particular, the final conference consisted in one conference day (20 March) and one day of field visit (21 March) to the GPs of LIFE Selpibio (LIFE13 BIO/IT/000282). For the occasion, in network with LIFE Biorgest,

the International Committee of IBP Experts (CIE) were invited to attend at the event, and organized their annual meeting within the activity of the Conference. Finally, DREAM has involved in the GoProFor network 32 projects (D1.7). Networking activities can be divided into i) formal support during the project presentation phase, ii) exchange of visits and inspections aimed at GPs, iii) reciprocal participation in events; iv) support and collaboration for the description of the GPs contained in the database ("Good Network Practices", A1); v) cooperation agreements on training (B2). CDF has implemented on the website a [section dedicated to the Network](#) with LIFE projects, in continuous updating.

**Other dissemination actions:** the project was designated as “[Project of the Month](#)” (June 2020), on the dedicated section of MASE website. The following articles were produced and published:

1. Corezzola S., Miozzo M., 2019. Il Progetto LIFE GoProFor. Implementare il network delle buone pratiche per la conservazione della biodiversità forestale nella Rete Natura 2000. Sherwood, 242 Settembre - Ottobre 2019
2. Brusten T., Miozzo M., 2020. Les projets européens LIFE: bilan pour les forêts françaises. Forêt-entreprise - N° 255 - novembre-décembre 2020
3. Corezzola S., Miozzo M., Buscarini S., De Zan R., 2021. Esperto in gestione forestale per la conservazione della biodiversità. L'esperienza formativa LIFE GoProFor, Sherwood, 251 Marzo - Aprile 2021.
4. Gonin P., Larrieu L., Emberger C., Corezzola S., Miozzo M., 2022. L'Indice di Biodiversità Potenziale La storia, lo sviluppo e le recenti novità. Sherwood, 256 Gennaio Febbraio 2022.
5. Gonin P., Larrieu L., Corezzola S., Miozzo M., Zapater TB., 2022. Comitato Internazionale di Esperti. Un organismo per l'armonizzazione dell'IBP in Europa e nel Mediterraneo. Sherwood, 256 Gennaio Febbraio 2022.
6. Buscarini S., Miozzo M., Corezzola S., Boschi I., Longo G., 2022. Biodiversità e pianificazione forestale L'applicazione dell'Indice di Biodiversità Potenziale nei Piani di gestione. Sherwood, 256 Gennaio Febbraio 2022.
7. Miozzo M., Buscarini S., Corezzola S., Airi M., Frattegiani M., Accastello C., Dotta A., Momo E., Caffo L., 2022. L'Indice di Biodiversità Potenziale a supporto della selvicoltura Tre casi studio in Italia. Sherwood, 256 Gennaio Febbraio 2022.
8. Corezzola S., Miozzo M., Buscarini S., 2022. La Rete Integrate e l'utilizzo dei martelloscopi in Italia. Sherwood, 256 Gennaio Febbraio 2022.
9. Torreggiani L., 2023. 273 buone pratiche. Rubrica (S)punti di vista. Sherwood, 264 Maggio - Giugno 2023.

**Major changes/problems/delays:** as already stated in the introduction to this chapter, minor changes/delays/problems were already reported in the MTR or in the PRs are omitted. Concerning Del.D3, Graphic and printing of NBs, and Mil.M3, installation of NBs, it must be specified that the date of achievement of the objective (Action Timetable) corresponds to the last NB created and installed. This does not correspond to a real delay with respect to the foreseen dates, as these referred only to the NBs foreseen for the 2 permanent training areas of CUFA, which were the first to be implemented, in line with the established times. Additional NBs, realized for additional training areas (B2), were realized, printed and installed in each area as they were implemented. The last one was installed in May 2021, once the training area of Somadida (BL) was completed.

We point out that, instead of the video envisaged by the project, on GoProFor “products” (D1.5), two videos have been made on training activities: it was considered more useful, and expected results in terms of number of views has been largely reached and exceeded.

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I
<b>Scheduled by the project</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
<b>Actual planning</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Scheduled Deliverable</b>		D1	D2			D3													D4
<b>Actual Deliverables</b>		D1	D2									D3							D4
<b>Scheduled Milestones</b>		M1	M2				M3	M4											M5
<b>Actual Milestone</b>			M1	M2				M4				M3							M5

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 – Communication Plan by 31.12.2018 (Annexed to MTR); D2 – Stakeholders database by 31.03.2019 (Annexed to MTR); D3 – Graphic and print of Notice boards by 31.12.2019 (Ann. D1.D.03\_Note boards); D4 - Layman's Report (2,000

copies) by 28.02.2023 (Ann. D1.D.04\_Layman's report); M1 - Website publication by 31.12.2018; M2 - Project initial conference by 31.03.2019 (Annexed to MTR); M3 - Installation of signs by 31.03.2020; M4 - Completion of the project video by 30.06.2020; M5 - Project final conference by 31.03.2023 (Ann. D1.M5\_Italian final conference).

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** CDF will maintain active the project's website for the following ten years, promoting it through its social channels. All versions of Layman's report will be available for download on the project website for all its lifetime (10 years). CDF keeps available for more than 10 years all the video interviews (B1) and other videos made (D1.5) on the specific GoProFor playlist on YouTube.

All the Associated Beneficiaries undertake to keep internal notice boards posted in their offices.

### 6.1.11. Act. D2. Paths in augmented reality of good practices

Foreseen start date: 01/01/2020      Actual start date: 01/01/2020  
 Foreseen end date: 30/06/2022      Actual end date: 30/06/2022

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** the GoProFor App has been designed by DREAM & DRWOLF, assessing functionalities and methods for using existing information. DREAM supplied the text contents, and created and uploaded the KML files necessary for the geolocation of the GPs. DRWOLF developed and released on [Google Play](#) or the [Mac App Store](#) (first one on 13/02/2022, the last on 17/03/2022). CDF promoted it through the project's [channels](#). This App guides the user on a journey through the GPs selected by Italian LIFE Projects (B1) aimed at the conservation of nature in the forest environment. By selecting the GPs directly on the map, the App guides the user to visit the intervention sites, where it will be possible to see directly in the field, years later, the results of the activities implemented. The app, via the navigator, leads the user to the nearest car park, where he/she can leave the car and continue on foot, following the route indicated by the app. Through the App the user can view the details of the walking route to get to the interventions, and the location of the interventions themselves. On the App it is possible to connect to multimedia information on the GPs itself, or rather a short video interview with the protagonists of the interventions, a synthetic descriptive sheet of the GP (Multimedia Kit, B1). It is also possible to access the more in-depth technical data sheet, contained in the GP DB. At the end of the project, the App registered 100 installations on Android, of which 46 were active installations, and 44 total downloads on Ios.

**Major changes/problems/delays:** N/A

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I
<b>Scheduled by the project</b>							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
<b>Actual planning</b>							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
<b>Scheduled Deliverable</b>											D1								
<b>Actual Deliverables</b>															D1				
<b>Scheduled Milestones</b>																			
<b>Actual Milestone</b>																			

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 - App for augmented reality of GPs by 31/12/20 (Ann. D2.D.01\_App).

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** DRWOLF will monitor the App status and will provide ordinary maintenance for the next 10 years.

### 6.1.12. Act. D3. Realization of thematic bulletins of the project

Foreseen start date: 01/04/2020      Actual start date: 01/10/2019  
 Foreseen end date: 30/09/2022      Actual end date: 30/09/2022

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** the design of bulletins and topic covered in each of them was arranged by DREAM & CDF. DREAM provided all text content, while CDF was in charge of the graphic format, layout and graphic care of the 10 language versions. CDF also arranged a database of 1903 EU contacts (Del.D1, Annexed to MTR, D3.1), for bulletins' dissemination. Bulletins are in A4 format, with 4 pages (8 sides) each. All bulletins are available in 10 languages, which altogether cover 90,3% of European citizens, ensuring an extensive dissemination of project's results. The languages are in Italian, English, French, Spanish, German, Danish, Czech, Dutch, Polish and Hungarian. The first bulletin, aim at presenting LIFE GoProFor project, was released during the 1st European Conference in Palermo (11.11.2019, annexed to MTR). For the occasion, CDF printed 100 copies in both IT and EN version, distributed during the event. The second bulletin was realized in occasion of the final EU conference (Feb. 2022), and presented the project's Database and a selection of 5 GPs, representing the 5 macro-themes. The third and fourth bulletin, merged together in a single version of 8 pages (16 sides), was launched in occasion of the Italian final conference (March 2023) and reports all the main project's results. Furthermore, all the bulletins were sent by newsletter to the Italian and European databases of stakeholders (Del.D1.02 and Del.D3.01 Annexed to MTR), and to the ERIAFF Network mailing list. We estimate that bulletins were received at least **by 860 people**, calculated as 10% of all participants at the events and 10% of mailing contacts for each newsletter sent. [All bulletins](#) are available on the project's website.

**Major changes/problems/delays:** as already detailed in MTR and in PR 2020, a reduction in the number of languages has been communicated and agreed: 10 languages, instead of 24, still altogether cover 90,3% of European citizens, ensuring an extensive dissemination of project's results. Furthermore, to improve the usefulness of the last thematic bulletins, it was deemed more appropriate to develop just 1 last bulletin of 8 pages (16 sides) that merged together the 3rd and 4th remaining bulletins, of 4 pages each (8 sides each). For greater effectiveness, a more technical rather than informative style was envisaged, in order to also distinguish it from the Layman's report, with more detailed contents. The timing of launch of bulletins is different from the due dates foreseen during the project. The reason for this delayed launch is to follow a dissemination strategy deemed more effective: instead of promoting the newsletters solely through newsletters to the mailing lists collected (Act. D1, Del.D2; Act. D3, Del.D1), the promotion took place in conjunction with international events organized by the project. Finally, the project envisaged the sending of a questionnaire in conjunction with the sending of each bulletin. Following the very low number of responses to the first questionnaire (only 25), and in consideration of the high number of questionnaires created in the Project (as already mentioned for subact. C1.5), it was decided not to send the subsequent questionnaires.

#### Action timetable:

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I
<b>Scheduled by the project</b>							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
<b>Actual planning</b>						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
<b>Scheduled Deliverable</b>						D1										D2			
<b>Actual Deliverables</b>						D1													D2
<b>Scheduled Milestones</b>																			
<b>Actual Milestone</b>																			



**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 - bulletin database addressees by 31/01/20 (Annexed to MTR); D2 - 4 thematic bulletins translated into 10 languages by 30/06/22 (Annexed to MTR and Ann. D3.D.02\_Bulletin 2\_3\_4\_10 lang).

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** CDF will guarantee the availability of bulletins for download on the project website for the following 10 years after the end of the project.

### 6.1.13. Act. E1. General management of the project

Foreseen start date: 01/09/2018                      Actual start date: 01/09/2018  
Foreseen end date: 30/09/2022                      Actual end date: 31/03/2023

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** the Coordinator Beneficiary regularly carried out all the ordinary management activities of the project. DREAM participated in the project kickoff meeting (Brussels, 08-09/11/2018). The signing of all the Partnership Agreements was completed on 31.01.2019 (Del.D1, Annexed to MTR). An amendment was made to the CUFA PA, signed on 09.03.2020. The Management and Control Strategic Plan was completed on 31/12/2018 (Del.D2, Annexed to MTR). Eight coordination meetings were held during the project (Del.D3, Ann. E1.D.03\_Minutes coordination meetings). Some of them were organized as 2 separate events to facilitate the communication between the Italian and French partners. The 1st PR was sent on 29/02/2020. The 2nd PR was sent on 15/12/2021. A 3rd PR was sent on 31/12/2022. The MTR was anticipated on 31/07/20, reporting the period from the project's start to 31/05/20. Five monitoring visits were carried out, on: 1) 30/01/19; 2) 11/12/19; 3) 30/12/20; 4) 06/04/22; 5) 23/03/23. The project documentation was managed on cloud, in two specific folders: the first is accessible only to administrative managers, the second is open to all members of the technical-scientific committee for eventual technical questions. Systematic reviews and quality control for both folders ensure that all beneficiaries contributed with appropriate PDF documents and materials. Please note: as requested, in a specific document (Ann. E1\_Pending technical\_financial issues) additional information (and/or supporting documentation) are given, on a number of technical and financial issues, as reported in the ANNEX of REF. Ares(2023)259749 – 12/04/2023.

**Major changes/problems/delays:** the Coordinator Beneficiary had to face several difficulties encountered, mainly in relation: **1)** to the **Covid19 Pandemic**, that influenced the implementation of some activities, such as video shooting (B1), realization of training gyms and carrying out of lessons (B2) and organization of conferences in presence (B5); **2)** to an **underestimated complexity** of some activities, such as the collection of GPs (A1) and the drafting of the Guideline Document (B3), **3)** to difficulties within some **beneficiary partners**, especially CUFA and REGLAZ. Concerning point 1) and 2), the strategies proposed and implemented by the Coordinator are already described in detail in the "Major changes/problems/delays" section of each action mentioned, and in section 6.2. Concerning point 3) as already reported in MTR and in the 1<sup>st</sup> PR (2020), CUFA had difficulties to comply with deadlines, due to the very strict and rigid procedure that characterise the administrative structure of Carabinieri. In order to reduce the impact of slow procedures of CUFA, an amendment of its Partnership Agreement was made, to shift several invoices of their budget to DREAM, i.e., hiring staff dedicated to training (B2), costs related to organization of events (B5) and translations (D3). As explained in detail in the 2<sup>nd</sup> PR (2021), the activities related to Lazio Region Laboratory (B4) were suspended for more than one year, due to the internal reorganization of REGLAZ, in parallel with the transfer of its project contact person to other tasks. DREAM has formally contacted the heads of the two departments several times, to ask for clarifications and to remind them of their responsibilities (certified e-mail, on 21.06.2021, and after no replies, a new reminder, on 30/09/21). Finally, both Department answered, but negatively (Prot. n. 0885795 of 02.11.2021; Prot. n. 0965192 of 23.11.2021), highlighting a problem of responsibility. Only the establishment of a new director served to unblock the situation (04/05/22).

In the end, to overcome delays for actions B1, B3 and B4, a six-month extension of the project, until 31/03/2023, was asked and granted (Letter Amendment Nr. 1 to Grant Agreement LIFE17 GIE/IT/000561 - GOProFOR LIFE, 23/08/22).

For the sake of more effective implementation of certain activities, after prior consultation with an external monitor, the transfer of the budget foreseen within the cost categories, within the actions, between the partners, has been carried out.

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I
Scheduled by the project	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Actual planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Scheduled Deliverable		D1 D2														D3			
Actual Deliverables		D2	D1																D3
Scheduled Milestones																			
Actual Milestone																			

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 - Partnership agreements by 31/12/2018 (Annexed to MTR); D2 - Management and Control Strategic Plan by 31/12/2018 (Annexed to MTR); D3 - 8 minutes of the coordination meetings by 31/03/2022 (Ann. E1.D.03\_Minutes coordination meetings).

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** N/A

#### 6.1.14. Act. E2. Audit

Foreseen start date: 01/06/2022

Actual start date: 01/04/2023

Foreseen end date: 30/09/2022

Actual end date: 30/06/2023

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** starting from the end of the Project, the Coordinator started the procedures for the selection of the auditor, identified in the figure of Giovanni Colucci and contracted on 05/05/2023 (Mil. M1). On 17/07/2023 the auditor provided its Independent Report of Factual Findings (Del. D1). The Financial Statement was examined and all foreseen procedures were carried out. On the basis of the results of these procedures, it was found that all needed documentation and accounting information has been provided by the Beneficiary.

**Major changes/problems/delays:** N/A

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023		
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	
<b>Scheduled by the project</b>																	X				
<b>Actual planning</b>																				X	
<b>Scheduled Deliverable</b>																	D1				
<b>Actual Deliverables</b>																					D1
<b>Scheduled Milestones</b>																M1					
<b>Actual Milestone</b>																					M1

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 – Auditing report by 31.08.2022 (Ann. E2.D.01\_ Auditing report); M1 – Auditor selection by 31.12.2021

**Continuation of the action after the end of the project:** N/A

### 6.1.15. Act. E3. After-LIFE Plan

**Activities undertaken and outputs achieved:** the After-LIFE plan of the LIFE GoProFor project was prepared by all the project partners at the end of the project (Del.D1). The document reports a brief overview and description of the state of actions at the end of the project and it defines activities and results of the project that will continue after its completion in March 2023. Possible sources of (co)financing are also reported for the continuation of these activities and results. With the After-LIFE plan, we want to ensure the continuation of the project outputs, such as the GP DB, the Italian Demonstrative Network of GP (multimedia kit and the GoProFor App), the training platform and project's channels (project website and social media). With the plan, we also want to ensure the continuation of information and awareness-raising on the main topics of the project, through training activities and the dissemination of communication materials. This document will be adopted by the beneficiaries once the Final Report is approved by the European Commission.

**Major changes/problems/delays:** N/A

**Action timetable:**

	2018		2019				2020				2021				2022				2023	
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	
<b>Scheduled by the project</b>																	X			
<b>Actual planning</b>																				X
<b>Scheduled Deliverable</b>																				D1
<b>Actual Deliverables</b>																				D1
<b>Scheduled Milestones</b>																				
<b>Actual Milestone</b>																				

**Deliverables and Milestones:** D1 – After-LIFE Communication Plan by 31.03.2023 (Ann. E3.D.01\_After-LIFE Communication Plan)

## 6.2. Main deviations, problems and corrective actions implemented

Most of the actions were carried out according to the proposed work plan, with only minor deviations in timing, or minor problems, or improvements made during the work because considered more effective in ensuring the achievement of the objectives. These changes are described for each action in the "Major changes/problems/delays" section.

The main difficulties encountered were in relation to: 1) an underestimated **complexity of some activities**, such as the collection of GPs (A1) and the drafting of the Guideline Document (B3); 2) the **Covid19 Pandemic**, that influenced the implementation of some activities, such as video shooting (B1), realization of training gyms and carrying out of lessons (B2); organization of conferences in presence (B5); 3) **difficulties within some Associated Beneficiaries**, especially CUFA and REGLAZ. The Coordinator Beneficiary has always made the monitor and the PA aware of critical issues, and proposed and implemented the following solutions.

The collection of GPs (A1) continued through the entire duration of the project, with no negative impact on the project and related actions (B1, B2). The target number were reduced from 300 to 270 (agreed with the PA), and their collection was also extended to ongoing and almost concluded projects. This contributed to collect more than 40 GPs with the direct collaboration of 18 LIFE projects, strengthening also the value of the network with active projects. Finally, costs foreseen in the GA were not sufficient to guarantee the translation of all the GPs in both linguistic versions (IT/EN): this was partly overcome by drawing on savings from other spending categories. As a priority it was preferred to guarantee the presence of all 273 GPs in the EN version, in order to be consultable for an international audience.

The making of the videos (see B1) was extended for the entire duration of the project, intensifying the effort dedicated to the promotion of already assembled videos and multimedia cards, with a scheduled release and with the use of additional communication channels of CDF. The strategy proved to be effective, obtaining significant numbers of views and sensitizing the stakeholders on the usefulness and applicability of the GPs while promoting the use of GP DB. In any case, the delay didn't have negative repercussions on other actions.

The entire training system has been rethought in light of the restrictions, travel limitations, and the need to make up for the activities not carried out in 2020. The changes made to the training system (see B2) have made it possible to reach and even exceed the set objectives, making this action one of the greatest successes of the project.

The drafting of the Guidance Document (B3) required more time than expected, as continuous updates were needed, due to the evolution of the Italian and European framework of biodiversity and forests (new Strategies). Furthermore, the Document couldn't be ended, without taking into account the important contribution and revision of MASE. For these reasons, the presentation of the Guideline Document in Regional Conferences has been postponed just right after the end of the project. Despite the delay in finalizing the definitive version of the Document, its contents have nevertheless been disclosed and promoted, throughout the project, in numerous events attended by local and national governance actors.

As already reported in MTR and in the 1<sup>st</sup> PR (2020), CUFA had difficulties to comply with deadlines, due to the very strict and rigid procedure that characterise the administrative structure of Carabinieri. In order to reduce the impact of slow procedures of CUFA, an amendment of its Partnership Agreement was made, to shift several invoices of their budget to DREAM, i.e., hiring staff dedicated to training (B2), costs related to organization of events (B5) and translations (D3).

As explained in detail in the 2<sup>nd</sup> PR (2021), the activities related to Lazio Region Laboratory (B4) were suspended for more than one year, due to the internal reorganization of REGLAZ, in parallel with the transfer of its project contact person to other tasks. DREAM has formally contacted the heads of the two departments several times, to ask for clarifications and to remind them of their responsibilities (certified e-mail, on 21.06.2021, and after no replies, a new

reminder, on 30/09/21). Finally, both Department answered, but negatively (Prot. n. 0885795 of 02.11.2021; Prot. n. 0965192 of 23.11.2021), highlighting a problem of responsibility. Only the establishment of a new director served to unblock the situation (04/05/22). In the end, to overcome delays for actions B1, B3 and B4, a six-month extension of the project, until 31/03/2023, was asked and granted (Letter Amendment Nr. 1 to Grant Agreement LIFE17 GIE/IT/000561 - GoProFor LIFE, 23/08/22).

### 6.3. Evaluation of Project Implementation

**Methodology applied.** The GoProFor model is intended as a set of actions which are overall oriented towards improving forest management and conservation in N2000N. Each of these actions has its own effectiveness, but the results are fully achieved thanks to their totality. The pillars of the model are: 1) large technical database of GPs as replicable case studies, 2) a broad, expeditious and very practical and concrete training system, 3) a network involving the actors of the national N2000 governance, able to reduce obstacles and constraints to develop an effective forest management in N2000, 4) an important awareness-raising and involvement actions for the whole audience that in Italy moves around forest management. It can be said that the defined methodological model has guaranteed the achievement of the expected results. For example, the publication of the GP DB allowed all stakeholders to understand the meaning of "good practice", and to learn about particular techniques already existing but not easily accessible in their details. The GP DB, containing GPs from all over Europe, allowed to increase awareness and a sense of belonging to a system of European experiences and values. NNT's action allowed to link the N2000 technicians, operators and managers management needs with the GPs applicable to future programming actions for financial resources (RDP). Moreover, the training activities has strongly contributed to disseminate knowledge, operating methods and approaches that will increase the competences of all the Italian forestry sector. The online tools developed through the project are also considered relevant, in particular a) the website, which in fact is configured as a hub, with a strong communicative connotation, to which two subsites are linked, one dedicated to the GP DB and one to training planning; b) the visit instrument to the demonstration areas of the Italian GPs, developed through the use of an APP that guides the user in the GPs areas of application.

The experience carried out leads us to advice about a general difficulty in finding information from concluded LIFE projects (websites that are no longer active, non-active contacts, etc.), difficulty in finding detailed information on GPs, which are also insufficiently standardized (e.g., executive projects are not always available, and/or there are no clear actions to monitor the effectiveness of the interventions, etc.): all this makes the collection and description of the GPs very expensive. It is therefore suggested to the European Commission to give greater value to the effective transferability of the GPs, also taking example from GoProFor, which wants to be a first attempt in standardizing the GPs description and the collection protocol.

The strategy to disseminate the project's activities and results at the European level, by sending bulletins, proved to be less effective than expected, despite the fact that the DB of European stakeholders (Del.D3.D.01) collects more than 1900 contacts. The confirmation of the scarce effectiveness is denoted by the fact that few requests for further information on the specificities of the project have been received from EU subjects. It is believed that it is not the "bulletin" tool that is ineffective, but rather the difficulty in identifying recipients who are really interested in the project topics.

**Comparison of results.** The following table compares with quantitative and qualitative information of the results achieved by the project, compared to the objectives of the proposal:

Act	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
A1	<p><b>Objectives:</b> preparing a database of good practices (GP DB) deriving from LIFE experience</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> Collection of 270 GPs</p>	<p>GPs description protocol and list of LIFE Projects defined and 273 GPs collected, from more than 140 LIFE projects in 22 EU countries. The GP DB has been consulted by 7,002 users, with 234 accredited users, who downloaded a total of 795 documents.</p>	<p><b>Achieved.</b> The Action was successfully concluded, even if it took more time than expected. However, this didn't negatively influence the project's results. Expected results has been reached, and more important, the GP DB achieved considerable resonance, both in Italy and in Europe.</p>
A2	<p><b>Objectives:</b> Publication of the GP DB including the multimedia section</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> Publication of GP DB including multimedia section</p>	<p>The GP DB was published, and contains all the features foreseen by the project. Regular IT maintenance activities have been carried out throughout the whole project. In addition, some new fields have been added to the description protocol, to allow harmonization with the UN Decade Digital Hub BP filter search system.</p>	<p><b>Achieved.</b> The Action was successfully concluded without any difficulties and in compliance with the project schedule.</p>
B1	<p><b>Objectives:</b> dissemination and resonance of the GPs through the creation of a demonstration network of 60 Italian GPs</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> 60 multimedia cards of the Italian GPs</p>	<p>60 multimedia cards implemented, published and promoted through newsletters and FB posts, 60 GPs mapped 51 video interviews shot</p>	<p><b>Achieved.</b> Although this action took more time than expected, this has not negatively affected the achieving of expected results. The multimedia collection reached a significant success, quantified in 93,941 total views by 31/03/23. The periodical launch of multimedia cards represented a successful strategy of promotion, keeping the attention high on the project and giving a significant contribution to the use of the GP DB.</p>
B2	<p><b>Objectives:</b> improvement of competences on forest management GPs for those forest operators in N2000</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> 1700 training days/person</p>	<p>12 training modules completed and organized in two types of courses: 1) theoretical/practical Course of Level 1 (4 modules), launched in 5 online editions and 21 practical training sessions, for a total of 510 certified participants (Experts of Level 1); 2) e-learning mode (8 modules), integrating Course of Level 1 with Level 2, through the implementation of a dedicated training platform (1,054 subscribers). By 31/03/2023, 814 e-learning courses were completely attended and 755 courses passed through the final positive test, with a total of 44 "Expert of Level 2". 7 training areas implemented all over Italy (6 Integrate Martelloscopes). The Potential Biodiversity Index (IBP) manual and field sheets have been adapted and translated into Italian and used for training.</p> <p>Overall number of <b>2610 training days/person</b></p>	<p><b>Achieved.</b> The action was successfully concluded, but changes were needed in its implementation, due to the sanitary emergency. Despite that, training activities achieved excellent results, representing one of the most successful actions of the project. Training also represented an excellent tool for raising attention to the project, conveying the key concepts, key issues and activities, as well as its tools and results. People who participated to training activities had keep on following the project, constituting an important audience. Finally, the use of martelloscopes in training activities has allowed a strong network with Integrate Network and EFI.</p>
B3	<p><b>Objectives:</b> improvement of cooperation among forest managers in N2000 and indications to decision makers about investment programs on GPs to be incentivized</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> definition of Guidelines for the management of forest habitats; individuation of a team of qualified experts / operators, coming from training</p>	<p>The National Network Table established, and the 4 workshops took place. The Guideline Document has been written, as a result of a participatory process, collecting instances and criticalities from the audience of stakeholders, and implementation of the current document.</p>	<p><b>Achieved.</b> The action was successfully concluded, even if timing of the last 2 workshop events and of the promotion of the Guideline Document were not in line with the project schedule.</p> <p>The participatory process favoured dialogue and cooperation between the different local and national actor of governance.</p>



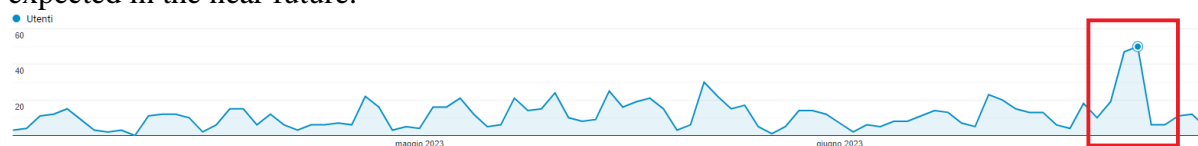
Act	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
	activities and from the census of GPs		
B4	<p><b>Objectives:</b> developing and testing a GPs transfer model for forest management in N2000 areas of the project partner regions</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> a specific policy document for each of the 3 regional laboratories of the partner regions</p>	Three specific policy documents for each of the partner Regions implemented, and 3 reports on the activities carried out.	<p><b>Achieved.</b> The Action was successfully concluded, but has encountered some difficulties, due to the suspension of activities by the Lazio Region Beneficiary. This impediment, affecting also Act. B3 (Del.2 “Special tender specifications models for Good Practices”), was one of the main reasons why the Coordinating Beneficiary asked (and obtained) for a 6-months project extension. These additional 6-months of activities allowed to achieved all the expected results.</p>
B5	<p><b>Objectives:</b> spreading the project’s results and tools, its methodological approach and promoting its replicability in other EU contexts. It also aims to increase the spread of GPs, in particular in the European Mediterranean area, through the involvement of EU networks and organizations that deal with forests</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> 3 EU conferences, 4 annual reports on promotion of ERIAFF Network, building a network for setting up of a reference training system for all European N2000 site managers</p>	1st EU Conference held in Palermo (11.11.19), with 72 participants, and a single final EU Conference was held online (16-18/02/22), attended by 178 total participants from all over Europe. Together with the 1 <sup>st</sup> EU conference, a Workshop for the development of a training system was organized in Palermo (12.11.2019), establishing a network among 11 EU countries. This was the starting point of a participatory process, which resulted in the publication of the 2020 call for proposals for preparatory projects of the topic: "Network of training activities for Natura 2000 sites managers". GoProFor was promoted during 2 ERIAFF events and through ERIAFF newsletter, and participated to several network events, which allowed to disseminate its achievements. Some examples: LIFE projects, 3rd N2000 seminar for the Mediterranean region (4-7.05.21); LIFE Platform Meeting on the New European Bauhaus (15-17.11.21), Bulgarian National Forum (10.06.22), Integrate Marteloscope manager workshop (Bonn, 28-29/06/2022), 8th Integrate Meeting (Madrid, 19-21/10.22), participation as a member to the activities of FAO Task Force on Best Practices	<p><b>Achieved.</b> The action was successfully concluded without any relevant difficulty, but the schedule and modality of implementation of the EU conferences had to be changed due to the sanitary emergency. However, this didn’t affect the achievement of expected results. Among the main results achieved, one derives from the transposition, by DGENV, of the results of the participatory process started with the Palermo workshop, through the definition of a strategic action that aimed to develop a European training system for the N2000 site managers, starting from forests. The process was also supported by EASME and the N2000 Biogeographical Process. Withing this action the project successfully managed to establish a network of European interlocutors which constituted an important point of reference for the dissemination of the project results throughout Europe.</p>
C1	<p><b>Objectives:</b> measure the performance indicators of the project.</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <p><b>C1.1</b> and <b>C1.2</b> knowledge of the tools provided by the project and change of skills, about 500 questionnaires;</p> <p><b>C1.3</b> analysis of forest planning tools, 60 forest plans analysed;</p> <p><b>C1.4</b> ex-post verification of qualified learners, at least 65 questionnaires;</p> <p><b>C1.5</b> 3 annual surveys on the use of GP DB by accredited users</p>	<p><b>C1.1/C1.2</b> The analysis is based on a sample of 582 questionnaires (326 baseline sample and 256 post sample).</p> <p><b>C1.3</b> 41 forest plans analysed</p> <p><b>C1.4</b> The analysis is based on 108 questionnaires.</p> <p><b>C1.5</b> The GP BD has been consulted by 7,002 users, with 234 accredited users, who downloaded a total of 795 documents. 179 users answered to the survey</p> <p><b>C1.6</b> Periodic analysis of Google analytics and web tools registered 42,072 sessions and 113,324 page views. 76 newsletters were sent to 1,155 contacts. FB: 1,700 followers,</p>	<p><b>Achieved.</b> The action was successfully concluded without any relevant difficulty and in line with the project schedule.</p>

Act	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
	<p><b>C1.6</b> Website with 14,000 sessions and 42,000 views; at least 6 newsletters; FB: at least 84 posts with 60,000 views and 1,000 likes.</p> <p><b>C1.7</b> completion of the KPI and update</p>	<p>242 posts with 32,583 interaction (see Act. D1 cited below).</p> <p><b>C1.7</b> KPI completed and updated</p>	
C2	<p><b>Objectives:</b> monitoring the socio-economic impacts of the project actions on local communities, and involved subjects in the project directly and indirectly</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> compilation of 500 questionnaires</p>	<p>Project's impacts were measured in terms of 1) employment; 2) companies involved for supplies; 3) impacts deriving from project results. Point 1) and 2) were analysed through the Beneficiaries' Financial Reports, while point 3) monitoring indicators defined through a survey carried out among the project stakeholders by means of questionnaires.</p>	<p><b>Achieved.</b> The action was successfully concluded without any relevant difficulty.</p>
D1	<p><b>Objectives:</b> communicating and disseminating project activities and results, raising awareness among the target stakeholders</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <p><b>D1.1</b> Drafting and publication of the Communication Plan;</p> <p><b>D1.2</b> Website, 14,000 sessions and 42,000 views; sent 6 newsletters reaching at least 5,000 subjects; Fb Profile: 84 posts, 60,000 views and 1,000 likes;</p> <p><b>D1.3</b> realization and installation of: a) 20 internal notice boards; b) 8 external notice boards at the gyms; c) 2 external notice boards in the 2 fixed CUFA centers;</p> <p><b>D1.4</b> 2000 copies of the Layman's Report;</p> <p><b>D1.5</b> 1 video presentation of the project with at least 2,000 views;</p> <p><b>D1.6</b> Initial (70 people) and final (150 people) conferences;</p> <p><b>D1.7</b> Network with LIFE projects</p>	<p><b>D1.1</b> Communication plan drawn up and published;</p> <p><b>D1.2</b> Website: 25,089 users, with 42,072 sessions (300%) and 113,324 page views (270%). Sent 76 newsletters to 1,155 contacts. FB: 1,700 followers, 242 posts (288%) with 32,583 interaction and 236,633 views (394%) and 1,553 likes (on the page) (155 %).</p> <p><b>D1.3</b> 21 internal notice boards (including 5 in French) printed and installed in the beneficiaries' offices; 15 outdoor Notice boards of Type 2 printed and installed at the training areas; 2 outdoor Notice boards of Type 3 printed and installed at CUFA's training centers.</p> <p><b>D1.4</b> 2,000 copies of Layman's report printed in 4 languages (1,000 IT, 500 EN, 200 FR, 200 ES)</p> <p><b>D1.5</b> The video presentation of the project, with 12,840 views (642%). Additional videos on training (2,190 views) and Forestry Olympic Games (1,612 views).</p> <p><b>D1.6</b> The initial conference took place in Rome (12.04.2019), with 66 participants, while the 2-days final conference was held in Florence (20-21.03.23), with 192 participants.</p> <p><b>D1.7</b> More than 30 projects involved in different forms of networks (participation to events, collaboration in the description of GPs, exchange visits, collaboration in training activities, etc.)</p>	<p><b>Achieved.</b> All the expected results have been achieved, and far exceed the initially predefined objectives.</p>
D2	<p><b>Objectives:</b> providing an additional tool for dissemination and awareness of project contents</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> creation and release of an APP</p>	<p>The GoProFor App has been designed, developed and released. At the end of the project, the App registered 100 installations on Android, of which 46 were active installations, and 44 total downloads on iOS.</p>	<p><b>Achieved.</b> The action was successfully concluded.</p>
D3	<p><b>Objectives:</b> transferring throughout Europe the project results.</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> realization and European diffusion of 4</p>	<p>Realization and spreading of 3 thematic bulletins in 10 EU languages (N°3 and 4 were merged together in a single version of 8 pages). We</p>	<p><b>Achieved.</b> The action was successfully concluded, even if some changes have been made in respect with the project, for example the release date of each bulletin. Bulletins</p>

Act	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved	Evaluation
	thematic bulletins (4 pages) in 10 EU languages	estimate that bulletins reached at least 860 stakeholders.	were realized and published in conjunction with Italian and European-wide events (D1, B5): this was evaluated to be more effective in function to broaden their use and amplify the diffusion of their contents.
E1	<p><b>Objectives:</b> Coordination among the project partners, reporting to and communicating with Associated Beneficiaries, the EU Commission, budget Management</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> signing of partnership Agreements, PSGC, coordination meetings.</p>	Regular (technical, financial and administrative) project management: the Coordinating Beneficiary had many ad-hoc technical and strategic meetings with Associated Beneficiaries whenever necessary. 7 Coordination meetings were held. Extraordinary project management to deal with difficulties encountered, regular communication between the Coordinator, the external monitor and PA and the EU Commission. The PSGC completed by 31/12/2018 All Partnership agreements signed by January 2019.	<b>Achieved.</b> The overall expected results were reached, thanks to a flexible and fluid management of the activities, which in some cases required the implementation of alternative strategies to achieve the project's goals.
E3	<p><b>Objectives:</b> define the work after the end of the project.</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> The After-LIFE Communication plan</p>	The After-LIFE Communication plan was prepared and is available also on the project website.	Expected result delivered.

Many of the project results and outputs have been seen and detected during the project itself and in the quarter following its end, during the drafting of the Final Report.

To cite the most significant: the GP DB has gained strong international visibility, thanks to its link with the FERM Registry promoted by the FAO Task Force on Best Practices. In the quarter following the end of the Project, on 22/06/2023 the GP DB was presented during a UN Decade Learning Session: [Collecting and disseminating good practices on Ecosystem Restoration](#). Following the event, the GP DB had a peak of 48 and 50 users respectively. Continued use is expected in the near future.



The interest in the IBP and in the methodology developed with Act.B4 for REGTOS has already been used by some professionals, trained under B2, when drafting the new Regional Agricultural Forestry Heritage management plans. Furthermore on 30/12/22 the Unione Montana dei Comuni del Mugello announced a tender procedure for the assignment of the drafting of the Forest Management Plans of Giogo Casaglia forest complex, in which the application of the IBP is explicitly requested. Furthermore, the use of the IBP was foreseen in the context of the [Fondo Alto Borago](#) Project, within the SAC Borago Galina (VR), thanks to the fact that the project manager himself, Mario Spezia, attended the Lev. 1 Course. Furthermore, in June 2023, Mario Spezia contacted LIFE GoProFor to help him select an expert for the application of IBP, having a budget of € 8,000. To disseminate this offer, the list of Level 1 Experts from Verona and neighbouring provinces was used. Also in June 2023, the L'ALTRA PROSPETTIVA association turned to the Project for support in identifying a professional expert in the management of lowland forests for conservation purposes and for the improvement of biodiversity within N2000N.

Several activities should instead have also long-term effects: i) possibility for users to consult the GP DB for many years to come, will allow the potentially application of many of the GPs contained in it in the near future; ii) the increase in knowledge and skills due to project's

training activities may have future repercussions in terms of increased job opportunities; iii) changes in terms of application of forest management more sensitive to biodiversity conservation, due to a change in the behaviours and attitudes of professionals and operators, could be more substantially recognized over time; iv) effects of the Guideline Document: since the drafting of the document personally involved representatives of MASAF and MASE, it is highly probable that both ministries will be able to draw inspiration from its contents and take them into account in their future governance actions; v) effects of regional laboratories: the methodology promoted towards REGTOS will be gradually applied to all Forest Management Plans which insist on 110,000 hectares of public heritage forests; in REGLAZ, most of the protected areas of the Region will organize training activities aimed at local forestry companies and technicians; in the Molise Region, as the proposed methodology streamlines the impact assessment process, it is expected that most professionals will present forestry projects applying the proposed methodology. To support them, REGMOL will organize a specific training course, for the application of the method, addressed to the majority of professionals operating in the regional territory.

The decision to locate the multimedia section (B1) on the website was a functional choice to increase the attendance of the GP DB and the website itself, to reach a wider audience not only of stakeholders with technical skills, but also of common citizens sensitive to conservation issues. The reorganization of the entire training offer, together with the change in the methods of providing training activities and the increase of training areas (B2), has made it possible to overcome the limitations imposed by Covid19, and to achieve (and even exceed) the expected objectives. In fact, 7 training areas were realized (5 more in respect with the original 2 foreseen in the CUFA centres), distributed from north to south of Italy, thus allowing to reach a greater number of trainees throughout the national territory. The decision to realize other 5 additional training gyms in Piedmont and Trentino, at the request of the Alta Val di Susa Consortium and of Trentino Forest Service, was functional to increase the impact of the Project, not only in terms of training, but above all as a positive impact at the level of local governance.

Furthermore, the creation of a specific platform dedicated to the training, not expected in the project (B2), has been a very useful tool for a better access to the training offer and the recruitment of learners. Besides, the list of subscribers became part of the project's audience willing to cooperate, for example by completing proposed questionnaires. The request of a 6-months extension of the project allowed the remaining part of actions B1, B3, B4, facing some delays, to be effectively concluded, guaranteeing a positive impact for the project.

**Results of the replication efforts.** The effort to collect and describe the GPs (A1) has produced detailed and more easily replicable and transferable GPs, despite the prolongation of the activity, and the involvement of ongoing projects had positive impacts on the expansion of the network with projects LIFE from all over Europe. This helped to facilitate the dissemination of project tools and results at EU level. Among results already achieved in terms of replication, we ascribe the transfer of the GoProFor training model to 3 new territorial contexts: Alta Val di Susa, the province of Trento and the Lazio Region. In the situations mentioned, the project gave support to the requesting subjects to set up training gyms and train future trainers, able to carry out training activities in the area in full autonomy, using the training modules of the Project, with the possibility also of personalizing and adapting them to the contest and goals. To facilitate transferability and replicability the project website is translated into English.

**Effectiveness of the dissemination activities.** The dissemination activities obtained good results, as highlighted in the table above: the project reached a wide audience, meeting and far exceeding the initially predefined objectives. The periodic promotion of multimedia cards through the entire lifespan of the project was highly effective in keeping high and constant the audience's attention for the project. Also, the training activities highly contributed to enlarge the project's audience: the number of overall users (website, FB, GP DB) has significantly

increased with the launch and implementation of training activities. The overall strategy proved to be effective, obtaining significant numbers of views and sensitizing the stakeholders on the usefulness and applicability of the GPs while promoting the use of GP DB and training.

**Policy impact.** The project did not foresee among its objectives that relating to the impact on legislation.

**EU added value.** Facilitating the provision of GPs, collected and described in a specific database, supports what is hoped for in point 3.2 of the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030, i.e. *Ensuring forest restoration and reinforced sustainable forest management for climate adaptation and forest resilience*. Indeed, the GP DB contains forest management practices that preserve and restore biodiversity, forest related risk management practices, and many more. Furthermore, the GP DB will support the forthcoming Nature Restoration Law, aimed at restoring European natural habitats, as it contains forest habitat restoration GPs.

Through training activities based on already tested GPs, approaches and tools coming from the EU scenario, the project is in line with point 3.3.4. “Improving knowledge, education and skills” of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. “*The fight against biodiversity loss must be underpinned by sound science (...) knowledge exchange will be key to gathering the best data and developing the best nature-based solutions*”. The training activities are also in line with what is advocated by the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030, namely the importance “*to develop (...) curricula, knowledge and skills*” (2.4. Developing skills and empowering people for sustainable forest-based bioeconomy). Furthermore, among the approaches and tools used in the training, GoProFor has heavily drawn on the experience of Integrate network, a project cited as “Examples of good practices in forest management to preserve and restore biodiversity” in the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030. The project developed its activities and consequent results by involving national, regional and local actors involved in forest and N2000 management, through a multi-stakeholder approach. This is in line with point 6 “Inclusive and coherent EU forest governance framework” of the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030, where it is reported that the Commission encourages Member States to establish broad multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms to discuss and inform European, national and local forest policies.

LIFE GoProFor contributed to the EU Green Deal, as it was requested by EASME to send a specific document with inputs and suggestions emerging from the project experience.

Through the activities oriented to the transfer of the project training model to other EU countries (B5), the project provided a contribution in line with what has been done so far by the N2000 Biogeographical Process on the theme of forests.

In particular, the outputs of the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop (Palermo, 12/11/19), carried out in collaboration with Platform N2000, refer to the issue of applying good management practices, promoting the full implementation of N2000N, overcoming socio-economic conflicts between management and nature conservation activities.

In particular, through the work carried out in collaboration with Platform N2000, with the 1st Workshop (Palermo, 12/11/19), The main conclusions of the 1st Workshop refer to the issue of applying good management practices, promoting the full implementation of N2000N, overcoming socio-economic conflicts between management and nature conservation activities.

The transposition in a call for proposal (2020) by the EC of the main proposal of the 1st Workshop, which foresaw the launch of a project involving several EU countries and aimed at establishing a European training system for the N2000 site managers, constitutes a significant contribution to the application of the Habitat Directive, the Biogeographical Process and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

With regard to the significance of the project towards biodiversity, it is confirmed that the project provided useful contributions to support a more conservative forest management: the MASE, taking the opportunity of the tender issued in favour of the National Parks, with funds

deriving from the regularization of companies for their CO2 emissions, which also include Sustainable Forest management projects to improve climate change adaptation and the accumulation of Carbon in various forest areas, has expressly requested Park Authorities to refer to the LIFE GoProFor project to implement the network of good practices for the Conservation of forest biodiversity in Natura 2000 network.

Finally, the Coordinator Beneficiary's staff has become a member of the [FAO Task Force on Best Practices](#) and is involved as reference experts for Italy in the activities of the Integrate Steering Committee for the year 2023. These participations are signs of appreciation of the activities and results of the GoProFor project, which in this way has the opportunity to make itself better known on the European scene.

## 6.4. Analysis of benefits

### 1. Environmental benefits

Direct/quantitative environmental benefits: at national level, within the 3 partner Regions, more than 39,900 hectares of forests were planned applying GoProFor Best Practices, methodology or indicators, favouring in this way an improvement in the ecosystem assessment, condition and trend for the future (see KPIs 1.5 and 4.2.1).

Qualitative environmental benefits: **a) the GP DB** has succeeded in such a way as to become a reference point, both at Italian and European level, for the diffusion of GPs for forest management within N2000N; the GP DB will guarantee benefits even after the end of the project, as it is perhaps the only reference in Italy, from which to draw for the development of habitat and species conservation projects in the forest field. The GP DB is even more relevant if we consider that the policies of the new CAP are also strongly oriented towards the protection of biodiversity, so that even in this area many projects can be inspired by the GP DB contents; **b) training** saw a significant participation of personnel from Italian public regional and local administrations (56 trainees in the Level 1 course, and 130 from other training activities, as listed in the table in Act. B2). Furthermore, other subjects have directly contacted the project, asking for support in the development of training activities and/or training systems (Forest Service of the province of Trento, Lazio Region, Forestas Agency, Forestry Consortium of the Alta Val di Susa). he above contributes to attitude changes of key stakeholders; constitutes an ongoing effect of the strategy followed on key stakeholders, and represents a transfer of the methodology implemented; **c)** since the drafting of the *Guideline Document for forest management within Natura 2000 Network* personally involved representatives of MASAF and MASE, it is highly probable that both ministries will draw inspiration from its contents and take them into account in their future governance actions. In fact, the document strongly promotes the issue of integration between forest management and biodiversity conservation: this issue was also at the center of a dialogue between the 2 Ministries, on the occasion of the work carried out for the publication of the Interministerial Decree n. 563765 of 10/28/2021 "Provisions for the definition of the minimum national criteria for the preparation of forest plans of territorial address and forest management plans", which introduces numerous references for the compliance of forest planning with N2000N. This confirms that the indications of the Document can be taken into consideration in the governance of the 2 Ministries; **d) at European level, the project contributed** to the inclusion of **training** topics in the context of 2 calls for proposals for LIFE Preparatory projects (2020 and 2023). Specifically: 1) "*Network of training activities for Natura 2000 sites managers*" in the 2020 Call for proposals; 2) "*Training for a better management of Natura 2000 sites and restoration of nature*" (N.3). Subprogramme: Nature & Biodiversity. LIFE Preparatory Projects - Projects addressing ad hoc Legislative and Policy Priorities (PLP) (LIFE-2023-PLP). Also, LIFE ENABLE (LIFE20 PRE/DE/000009) interviewed the project (12/06/2023) as a subject with relevant experience in offering training proposals related to nature management.

**2. Economic benefits:** in terms of employment, the project has generated a positive impact by employing, specifically for the project, 21% of additional personnel (60% of which represented by external assignments) and entrusting the supplies envisaged by the project to about 88% to companies located within the provinces under the jurisdiction of the Beneficiaries. Furthermore, 45% of the total project budget concerns the "Personnel" category. The project has directly involved a large number of additional staff (22 people employed, 14% of the overall personnel), that represents real new jobs generated thanks to the project activities. Considering that all additional staff were employed full-time, the project created 22 FTE (4.8 FTE/year). The two-day practical sessions of training activities resulted in some participants staying overnight near the training areas (1 night for 91 participants / 2 nights for 49 participants).

**3. Social benefits:** training (B2) and the institution of the NNT (B3) pay particular attention to overcoming conflicts between forest management and nature conservation. **Training** has created important moments of dialogue, understanding and exchange between different sectors, addressing and bringing together a wide audience with diversified professionalism and personal backgrounds, and creating a "common language". Furthermore, as emerges from a survey conducted on over 100 participants, one year after the training activities (C1.4), training has contributed a lot to increasing knowledge, changing professional behaviours and improving the way of working. Training has also concretely favoured the work activity of participants, mainly in forest planning, in the design of forest interventions and as an improvement or rewarding element in the selection of public tenders. **Workshops** of Network (B3) allowed to collect numerous instances on conflicting aspects and critical issues, contributing to improve communication and cooperation between the parties. Furthermore, the **communication and awareness activities** have strongly supported and disseminated one of the key messages of the Project, namely the importance of collaboration between the stakeholders in charge of forest management and biodiversity conservation. This was possible through effective and accessible language, conveyed by videos (Act. B1&D1, 110.583 views and 1.891 likes) and by informative documents, aimed at the general public, such as the brochure on IBP "[Our forest are full of life](#)" and the [Handbook](#) on the Protection of Biodiversity in forest management interventions (Del.B2.01/02).

**4. Replicability, transferability, cooperation.** The GoProFor model as described in par. 6.3 (tools and strategies such as the application of GPs, training, specific national guidelines, network strategy, etc.), has the potential to be replicated in other EU countries in order to improve the management of forest habitats in N2000N, due to the increase of stakeholders' knowledge and competences and thanks to the reduction of conflicts between the forestry and conservation sector, increasing cooperation and communication. The collected GPs, coming from projects carried out throughout Europe, can be immediately applied in all EU countries and biogeographical areas. The ability to query the GP DB in 5 languages facilitates the use of this tool for a large user base, facilitating the replicability of the experiences collected. The GP DB, The GP DB as it has been designed, is a tool with a certain degree of flexibility and modifiability, and which therefore, with relatively little effort and low costs, can be adapted to new needs, facilitating its use over time and its adaptability to new contexts and new functions. In fact, the GP DB could be used: i) for the collection of GPs for the conservation of other ecosystems (e.g. grasslands, wetlands, coastal habitats, etc); ii) for the collection of GPs deriving not only from the LIFE Program, but also from other contexts (local regional experiences, other research programs, and in general other programs, both at national and European level, etc.); iii) as a basis for contents that could be used in local, national and European training activities; iv) as a basis for forest management actions also outside the N2000N. The training model is replicable, and in fact, has already been replicated during the course of the project (see B2/B4): the Trentino Forest Service and the Alta Val di Susa

Consortium, jointly with the University of Turin, asked the support of LIFE GoProFor for the implementation of training areas in their territories, and for the training of their own trainers, in order to autonomously continue the training activities aimed at local forest actors (technicians, forest workers, ecological guards, etc).

The close cooperation with the [FAO Task Force on Best Practices](#) (see Act. A1) it has allowed some contents of the Project, the Good Practices, to be applied to another context, albeit relevant, that of ecosystem restoration. Many of the GPs, with the main objective of safeguarding forest species and habitats, can also be used with a view to restoration.

Finally, a fruitful collaboration was born between the project and the MASE [PdC](#), to encourage its complementarity with the GP DB. Indeed, the GoProFor platform constitutes a functional and specific deepening on forest management in the N2000, without overlapping with the PdC.

**5. Best Practice lessons.** The experience carried out leads us to underline the importance of the collaboration with ongoing projects for the collection of GPs. If on one hand, this means not being able to immediately collect the useful elements for the validation of the GPs carried out, on the other this: i) guarantees the collection of innovative GPs, in harmony with the most current needs and strategies of nature conservation, ii) greatly facilitates the description work of GPs, carried out by those who are fully involved in their implementation, iii) allows a strong network action among LIFE projects. The GP results, verified only in the long term, could however be integrated into the GP DB at a later time. Moreover, the GPs description protocol, if disseminated and recognized as valid, could be a reference tool in the project phase of a LIFE, useful for setting up more effectively, concrete actions for forest conservation in N2000. It could also be applied to other ecosystems, with only few changes. It could be very useful to set up a form to describe the good practices of a project, to be filled in by the beneficiaries in the project final phase of a LIFE, as for the KPIs.

Another element that represents an important lesson learned is the activity of transposition of technical-scientific contents in popular form (Act. B1, video interviews and multimedia files). Another best practice lesson is the training of trainers: the fundamental concept is to invest resources and energy to train competent people, who in turn can convey and exponentially spread a wider pool of learners. The way in which the future trainers are trained can also be considered a best practice, i.e. through the recording of video lessons by the teachers, to be made available to future trainers for self-training, dedicating the face-to-face part between trainers and future trainers exclusively to in-depth analysis and resolution of doubts and uncertainties. Finally, the e-learning platform is a further winning element, which allows for the collection of multiple training modules, developed by expert figures, and which can be assembled into ad hoc training *curricula*.

**6. Innovation and demonstration value.** One of the innovative aspects of the Project, also unexpectedly favoured by the Covid emergency, is the enhancement of the technological tools for the dissemination of the Project's key messages and contents. These tools are namely the GB DB (A1), the multimedia section of the Italian GPs (B1), the e-learning platform (B2) and the app (D2). The GP DB is the main tool developed by the project aiming at describing conservation GPs, in this case focused on the forest environment. This database is supported by explanatory technical papers on the methodologies adopted for the selection of projects and GPs, and on the description criteria. The protocol adopted could be a first reference, applicable to other thematic contexts. Connected to the database, the demonstration network of the Italian GPs, with the visits on the field supported by a specific App, and the multimedia portal of the Italian GPs, as a valorisation tool providing technical contents into a communicative and easily accessible form. Finally, another element of innovation experimented in the Project concerns the use of a GNSS receiver and terrestrial LaserScann technologies for the realization and geolocation of marteloscopes implemented in Alta Val di Susa and Trentino. The use of this



technology has allowed, for some of the necessary activities, to save time (days/man), and therefore costs, as shown in the table.

Activities	TRADITIONAL METHOD		LASERSCANN TECNOLOGY	
	Days/man	Average costs	Days/man	Average costs
Site selection	1	€ 160	1	€ 160
Marteloscope delimitation	2	€ 320	1	€ 160
Trees position and trees measurements	20	€ 3.200	5	€ 800
Tree microhabitats detection	2	€ 320	2	€ 320
Assignment of trees economical value	2	€ 320	0	€ 0
Data entry	2	€ 320	2	€ 320
Validation of data	1	€ 160	1	€ 160
Travel and accomodation	/	€ 480	/	€ 192
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>€ 5.280</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>€ 2.112</b>

Furthermore, [EGNOS](#) correction was also tested in one of the martelloscopes in Trentino (Val di Sella), in order to evaluate its use to improve its GNSS measurements in replacement of other more expensive systems used so far (this experience is described in the EGNOS BULLETIN, Issue 40, Autumn'22 Edition, pp.13-14). The results showed that EGNOS provided successful values concerning the accuracy expected for the georeferencing of the marteloscope.

**7. Policy implications.** The project did not foresee, among its objectives, that relating to the impact on legislation. For this reason, the project does not have any policy implication. However, the activities of the regional laboratories (Act. B4) influenced the policies of the 3 regions involved. Furthermore, under the Act B3, the project has favoured the collaboration of the two Ministries, MASE and MASAF for the drafting of the Guideline Document (Del.B3.D.01), and it could therefore have an indirect impact on national policies.

## 7. Key Project-level Indicators

The final actual values of the KPIs for LIFE GoProFor project were entered in the online KPI database, and KPIs values are also reported in tabular form in the Ann. C1.7\_KPI.

Most of the time the targeted values set at the beginning of the project were achieved, and in many cases exceeded. With the project activities we took action in the context of Good Forest Practices in N2000N at EU level.

At national level, more than 39,900 hectares of forests were planned (Ind. 1.5) applying GoProFor Best Practices or indicators, favouring in this way an improvement in the ecosystem assessment, condition and trend for the future (Ind. 7.1).

At European level, we assess that our awareness-raising and dissemination activities have reached more than 117,000 people (Ind. 1.6), in particular with the involvement of at least more than 1,400 stakeholders from public bodies, more than 190 from private for profit and almost 100 from NGOs (Ind. 10.2). In different project activities more than 500 members of interested groups were involved (Ind. 12.1), while at national level, the training activities involved more than 700 professionals and expert in the field (Ind. 12.2).

The [project website](#) was very well visited (Ind.11.1): we registered more than 42,000 unique visits (74% from Italy and 17% from Europe). Indicator 11.2 shows how many different publications, manuals and reports were implemented, about 10 articles have been published and more that 50 videos were realized. Two email mailboxes were activated (one general and one specific for training), to provide all the necessary information in response to each request, together with several information boards. The project also organized 13 events, as seen under action B3, B4, B5, D1 (considering conferences and workshops, but excluding training activities). Finally, 4.8 FTE/year were created in the project (Ind. 13).

## 8. Comments on the financial report

The financial report covers the entire period from the beginning of the project 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Annex FR.8.01 includes a) the Financial Statement(s) filled in and signed; b) the Consolidated Financial Statement filled in according to the costs provided by each beneficiary, and signed by the coordinating beneficiary.

The costs reported, in addition to those being only strictly related to the LIFE project, are always paid and followed by all the documentation necessary to prove the expenses incurred.

The originals of the documents are kept and filed by each individual beneficiary. All documents stored on digital format are available to the coordinating beneficiary.

The types of costs reported to date are:

- a) personnel, justified by Time Sheet and pay slip, as well as documentation of the actual payment of the salary and contributions. During the pandemic times due to Covid-19, some beneficiaries did not have the possibility to have the Time Sheets signed by the supervisors within 15 days of the following month. In these cases it is reported as explanation for the late submission “late submission caused by COVID-19”. Other beneficiaries, who worked in smart working, used the digital signature.
- b) travel, justified by the travel document and settled according to the internal travel management regulations specific to each beneficiary;
- c) external assistance, equipment, consumables, other costs, justified by invoice, payment order, possible certification of the payment of withholding tax and VAT, documentation certifying the payment incurred from the bank account. Moreover, all documents concerning the procedure for the selection of suppliers are available;
- d) overheads.

### 8.1. Summary of Costs Incurred

In the table below it is provided the description of the costs for each category from the beginning of the project to 31/03/2023, without taking into consideration the deduction that some public beneficiaries have made to their budget to allow compliance with the 2% rule. In the Financial reporting consolidated submitted and signed (see annex FR.8.01) there are reported cost revised to respect the 2% rule.

The overall expense incurred from the beginning of the project to 31/03/2023 consists of € 2.520.838 (corresponding to the 100,4% of the total foreseen budget) and there are reported overheads as 7% of the total eligible costs.

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED			
Cost category	Budget according to the grant agreement in €*	Costs incurred within the reporting period in €	%**
1. Personnel	1.992.255	2.055.593	103,2%
2. Travel and subsistence	171.070	53.935	31,5%
3. External assistance	136.133	167.928	123,4%
4. Durables goods: total <u>non-depreciated</u> cost			
- <i>Infrastructure sub-tot.</i>	-	-	-
- <i>Equipment sub-tot.</i>	5.311	3.277	61,7%
- <i>Prototype sub-tot.</i>			
5. Consumables	0	10.653	Plus € 10.653
6. Other costs	73.717	64.545	87,6%
7. Overheads	133.332	164.907	123,7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.511.818</b>	<b>2.520.838</b>	<b>100,4%</b>

\*) If the Agency has officially approved a budget modification through an amendment, indicate the breakdown of the revised budget. Otherwise, this should be the budget in the original grant agreement.

\*\*\*) Calculate the percentages by budget lines: e.g. the % of the budgeted personnel costs that were actually incurred

The description of the expenses for each category of cost is reported below.

## PERSONNEL

Personnel costs consist of € 2.055.593 (103% of the total foreseen budget).

All personnel involved in the project are appointed by way of assignment letters applied both for internal and external.

The calculation of hourly costs of the personnel is done according to Annex X of Grant agreement. The components of annual gross salary are strictly related to the project. It is explained below under each beneficiary, the justification of higher personnel cost compared with what foreseen in the budget.

The hourly cost derives by the cost of the personnel dividing the hours actually worked during the year. The total annual cost of the reported employees was considered net of all the indemnities not linked to the project and paid with another funds (availability, etc.) and net of any refunds received from social security and welfare institutions.

The costs reported for each year are real costs related to employees' costs, except the costs for 2023. For the calculation of 2023's costs, for the first three months (January, February and March) have been used the costs of 2022.

## TRAVEL

Travel costs consist of € 53.935 (32% of the total foreseen budget).

Travel expenses are low, mainly related to pandemic situation. In fact, different activities related to dissemination, training and coordination meetings were held online and not in presence.

## EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

External assistance costs consist of € 167.928 (123% of the total foreseen budget).

## **EQUIPMENT**

Equipment costs consist of € 3.277 (62% of the total foreseen budget).

## **CONSUMABLES**

Consumables costs consist of € 10.653.

## **OTHER COSTS**

Other costs consist of € 64.545 (88% of the total foreseen budget).

## 8.2. Certificate on the financial statement

The auditor appointed by the beneficiary DREAM is Mr. Giovanni Colucci.

## 8.3. Estimation of person-days used per action

<b>Action type</b>	<b>Budgeted person-days</b>	<b>Estimated % of person-days spent</b>
Action A: Preparatory actions	1.487	104%
Action B: Core actions	6.291	103%
Action C: Monitoring of the impact of the project action	602	91%
Action D: Public awareness/communication and dissemination of results	1.859	110%
Action E: Project management	1.841	105%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12.080</b>	<b>104%</b>

## 9. List of Deliverables and Milestones

The following list reports deliverables (format for file name: ACT.D.sequential number) not already submitted with the MTR annexed, including the Layman's report and after-LIFE Communication Plan. Also, some milestones (format for file name: ACT.M.sequential number) are reported, together with other technical annexes particularly useful.

### Deliverables

- ✓ A1.D.01\_270 good practices
- ✓ B1.D.01\_02\_03\_04\_Multimedia kit
  - Please note: this file brings together the following 4 different deliverables:
    - B1.D.01: 60 Multimedia kit of GPs in the demonstration network
    - B1.D.02: 60 geolocated GPs in geolocalized database
    - B1.D.03: 60 GPs in two languages (IT/EN)
    - B1.D.04: 60 video interviews
- ✓ B2.D.01\_02\_Manuals
- ✓ B3.D.01\_Guideline document
  - Please note: this deliverable also contains the Del. B3.D.02 (as Annex 3 of the Guideline document)
- ✓ B3.D.02\_Special tender specifications models for GPs
- ✓ B4.D.01\_Guideline document\_REGLAZ
- ✓ B4.D.02\_Guideline document\_REGMOL
- ✓ B4.D.03\_Guideline document\_REGTOS
- ✓ B4.D.04\_Report Lab1\_REGLAZ
- ✓ B4.D.05\_Report Lab2\_REGMOL
- ✓ B4.D.06\_Report Lab3\_REGTOS
- ✓ B5.D.04\_06\_Digital acts of EU final conference
- ✓ B5.D.08\_ERIAFF report
- ✓ C1.D.01\_Report C1.1\_C1.2
- ✓ C1.D.02\_Report C1.4\_Ex-post verification on qualified learners
- ✓ C1.D.03\_Report C1.5\_Degree of use of the Database
- ✓ C1.D.04\_Report C1.6\_Degree of use of the web tools
- ✓ C1.D.05\_Report C1.3\_Check on the improvement of planning tools
- ✓ C2.D.01\_Report on socio-economic monitoring
- ✓ D1.D.03\_Notice boards
- ✓ D1.D.04\_Layman's report
- ✓ D2.D.01\_App for augmented reality of GPs
- ✓ D3.D.02\_Bulletin n° 2 & 3+4 in 10 languages
- ✓ E1.D.03\_Minutes coordination meetings
- ✓ E2.D.01\_Auditing report
- ✓ E3.D.01\_After-LIFE Communication Plan

### Milestones

- ✓ B3.M4\_Third Meeting of Network
- ✓ D1.M5\_Italian final conference

### Other technical Annexes

- ✓ B2\_IBP
- ✓ B2\_Training Plan

- ✓ B2\_Marteloscopes agreements
- ✓ B4\_Pilot study for PEFC standard
- ✓ C1.7\_KPI
- ✓ E1\_Pending technical\_financial issues

Administrative annexes (chapter 8):

- ✓ FR 08.01\_Consolidated & Financial statement

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Instructions / guidelines for the submission of deliverables / annexes

Please make a reference to the deliverables in the report text. In case the deliverables are presented in a national language other than English, please include a summary in English, in the deliverable, outlining the purpose, outcomes, results and conclusions.

All the deliverables due in the reporting period shall be provided unless already submitted with previous report(s). Deliverables should only be resubmitted if a revised version has been requested by the Agency.

Please date deliverables with the actual date of completion (and the date of revision if applicable).

You may annex any other document **only if** particularly useful to assess the success of the project but which is not part of the planned deliverables.

Please note that For LIFE Nature & Biodiversity and LIFE Climate Action with land purchase you need to submit digital copies of the land register, including a "conservation clause" (in exceptional cases the purchase / lease acts can be accepted) as this is a prerequisite for the costs to be considered eligible. All land sections purchased or leased must be shown on a map, which also provides the boundaries of the project area and the Natura2000 site boundaries.

Please be aware that the Layman's report and the After-LIFE Plan are **compulsory** deliverables and must be submitted with the Final report only:

After-LIFE plan – for LIFE Nature & Biodiversity, LIFE Environment & Resource Efficiency, LIFE Environmental Governance & Information and LIFE Climate Action projects

This compulsory plan (suggested length: 5 pages) shall set out how the beneficiary and partners plan to continue disseminating and communicating the results of the project after its end, and in particular how they plan both to continue applying the results themselves and to facilitate / encourage / ensure their wider application by others; it shall be delivered in English and also in the language(s) of the beneficiaries.