

DELIBERAZIONE DELLA GIUNTA REGIONALE 27 novembre 2023, n. 1628

**“LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584”**: **Variazione al bilancio di previsione 2023 e pluriennale 2023-2025, al Documento tecnico di accompagnamento ed al Bilancio finanziario gestionale 2023-2025, ai sensi dell’art. 51 comma 2 del D. Lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii.”. Presa d’atto del progetto e autorizzazione missioni all’estero.**

L’Assessora all’Ambiente, Ciclo rifiuti e bonifiche, Vigilanza ambientale, Rischio industriale, Parchi e Politiche abitative, avv. Anna Grazia Maraschio, sulla base dell’istruttoria espletata dai funzionari del Servizio Parchi e tutela della Biodiversità, arch. Enrico Grifoni, avv. Valentina Rubini, confermata dalla Dirigente del Servizio, propone quanto segue.

**PREMESSO CHE:**

- il programma LIFE mira ad agevolare la transizione verso un’economia sostenibile, circolare, efficiente sotto il profilo energetico, basata sulle energie rinnovabili, climaticamente neutra e resiliente, proteggere, ripristinare e migliorare la qualità dell’ambiente, compresi l’aria, l’acqua e il suolo, arrestare e invertire la perdita di biodiversità e contrastare il degrado degli ecosistemi. La dotazione finanziaria del programma LIFE è attuata attraverso quattro sottoprogrammi: natura e biodiversità, economia circolare e qualità della vita, adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici e mitigazione dei loro effetti transizione verso l’energia pulita. il programma sostiene dimostrazioni, buone pratiche, azioni di coordinamento e sostegno, sviluppo delle capacità e progetti di governance. Ciò comprende progetti strategici integrati e progetti strategici per la tutela della natura, che sostengono l’attuazione di piani ambientali e climatici nonché programmi e strategie sviluppati a livello regionale, multiregionale o nazionale;
- il progetto LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST-LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT, in breve, LIFE TURTLENEST, cofinanziato dall’Unione Europea e coordinato da Legambiente, ha l’obiettivo principale di conservare e proteggere la tartaruga marina *Caretta Caretta* dalle minacce legate al disturbo antropico nei siti di nidificazione del bacino del Mediterraneo occidentale. Il progetto intende anche valutare l’impatto dei cambiamenti climatici sulla nidificazione della specie. Attraverso un approccio multidisciplinare e grazie all’istituzione di una rete internazionale sono utilizzate le migliori tecniche condivise ed un sistema di monitoraggio e di controllo finalizzati alla conservazione di nuovi siti di nidificazione in scenari climatici attuali e futuri;
- la tartaruga comune (*Caretta Caretta*) è la specie di tartaruga marina più abbondante nel Mar Mediterraneo; si tratta di una specie prioritaria, inclusa negli allegati II e IV della direttiva Habitat dell’UE, la cui conservazione richiede la protezione dell’intero areale naturale della tartaruga, sia all’interno che all’esterno dei siti Natura 2000, comprese specifiche aree centrali (ad es. corridoi). Lo stato di conservazione della specie è stato valutato “sfavorevole-inadeguato” a livello UE e “sfavorevole-cattivo” in Italia e in Francia e “sconosciuto” in Spagna. Le tartarughe marine stanno espandendo il loro areale di nidificazione nel Mediterraneo occidentale, dove le spiagge stanno diventando adatte alla nidificazione a causa del riscaldamento climatico. Tuttavia, i siti di nidificazione emergenti sono minacciati dalla pressione antropica sulle coste e dall’elevato sfruttamento turistico (inquinamento luminoso, attività ricreative e pratiche di gestione delle spiagge); nel Mediterraneo orientale, dove si verifica la stragrande maggioranza delle nidificazioni delle tartarughe marine, negli ultimi 30 anni, i progetti di conservazione hanno contribuito a mitigare queste minacce e hanno abituato i turisti e le altre parti interessate alla presenza e alla tutela delle esigenze delle tartarughe marine durante la stagione della nidificazione. Ciò non è accaduto nel Mediterraneo occidentale, dove è in corso la colonizzazione da parte delle tartarughe marine nidificanti; le persone sulle spiagge di questa regione sono spesso impreparate a causa di una generale mancanza di consapevolezza. Per più di un decennio, la nidificazione è rimasta occasionale, con solo 13 nidi di tartaruga comune registrati in tutto il Mediterraneo occidentale fino al 2012. Tuttavia, dal 2013, il numero di nidi in questa regione

è aumentato rapidamente, con numeri record di 79 nel 2020 e 100 nel 2021. Questa maggiore attività di nidificazione è considerata una risposta adattativa alle mutevoli condizioni ambientali, dovute al riscaldamento climatico e alla conseguente colonizzazione di nuovi siti adatti alla nidificazione. Tuttavia, le spiagge del Mediterraneo occidentale sono state a lungo sfruttate dall'uomo: Spagna, Francia e Italia sono tra i primi 7 paesi con la più alta pressione turistica sulle coste del Mediterraneo, e rimangono pochi luoghi incontaminati adatti alla nidificazione delle tartarughe marine.

- L'obiettivo principale del progetto LIFE TURTLENEST è quello di migliorare la conservazione della tartaruga comune. Il progetto mira a mitigare le minacce alla specie in Italia (in 7 regioni lungo 4.800 km di coste sabbiose), Spagna (1 600 km, corrispondenti all'intera costa del paese) e Francia (1.500 km) al fine di proteggere i nuovi habitat di nidificazione e favorire la riuscita della riproduzione delle tartarughe marine. Gli obiettivi specifici includono:
  - individuazione, protezione e gestione dei nidi di tartaruga *Caretta Caretta*: aumento del 30% dei nidi rilevati in Italia, Spagna e Francia; aumento del 30% dei nidi protetti dalle minacce legate all'uomo; aumento del 50% del personale autorizzato a gestire i nidi delle tartarughe marine;
  - identificazione di almeno tre siti campione per il monitoraggio a lungo termine delle tendenze di nidificazione delle tartarughe marine nel Mediterraneo occidentale in condizioni di cambiamento climatico e miglioramento della gestione dei siti attraverso l'adozione di buone pratiche per mitigare i disturbi di origine antropica;
  - incremento delle conoscenze scientifiche per supportare un'efficace protezione della specie e miglioramento del suo stato di conservazione nell'UE: 500 nidi monitorati; 1.000 persone a cui vengono rilevate le impronte digitali; aumento del 150% dei cuccioli di un anno; aumento di cinque volte delle femmine nidificanti monitorate; aumento del 100% dei campioni di popolazione nidificante analizzati;
  - coinvolgimento degli stakeholder: aumento del 40% del livello di consapevolezza; raccolta di firme da parte di 1.000 stabilimenti balneari per la sottoscrizione di un protocollo d'intesa; 70 autorità locali che adottano regolamenti specifici per proteggere le spiagge delle tartarughe marine; 1.500 download di un'applicazione software di "Citizen science";
  - valutazione dell'impatto del cambiamento climatico sull'idoneità dell'habitat per la nidificazione delle tartarughe marine nel Mediterraneo occidentale, attraverso un nuovo modello predittivo all'avanguardia per valutare i cambiamenti nell'idoneità dell'habitat in scenari climatici attuali e futuri e per guidare le decisioni di gestione;
  - rafforzamento delle politiche di conservazione delle tartarughe marine: designazione, ampliamento o aggiornamento dello "Standard Data Form" di 12 siti Natura 2000 per proteggere in modo specifico le spiagge di nidificazione emergenti per le tartarughe comuni; nuove norme per 70 siti di nidificazione; realizzazione di una guida sulla gestione e protezione dei nidi di tartaruga;
  - sensibilizzazione dell'opinione pubblica sul fenomeno della nidificazione delle tartarughe marine sulle spiagge del Mediterraneo occidentale: aumento del 40% della consapevolezza delle comunità locali; aumento del 30% della disponibilità dei cittadini a partecipare alle attività di protezione; aumento del 30% del consenso sociale a favore di politiche per la tutela della natura e dell'ambiente.
- I partner del progetto sono: Legambiente (Italia), Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (Italia), Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale - ISPRA (Italia), Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" (Italia), Universitat de Barcelona (Spagna), Fundació Universitària Balmes (Spagna), Ente Nazionale della Cinofilia Italiana -ENCI (Italia), Centre d'Etude et de Sauvegarde des Tortues Marines en Mediterranee - Cestmed (Francia), Regione Basilicata (Italia), Regione Puglia (Italia), Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione Ambientale della Toscana - ARPAT (Italia), Regione Lazio (Italia), Regione Campania (Italia);
- Legambiente ha proposto alla Commissione Europea, in data 30.11.2021, il progetto in oggetto;

- il progetto, in data 15.11.2022, è stato oggetto della stipula di uno specifico accordo di sovvenzione (Grant Agreement), Allegato A al presente provvedimento e sua parte integrante, tra il beneficiario coordinatore e la Commissione Europea- European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA), CUP Master: C79I22000820005;
- il progetto ha una durata che va dal 9 gennaio 2023 all'8 aprile 2028 ed è stato ammesso a finanziamento per un importo complessivo di € 6.442.002,05, con un cofinanziamento della CE corrispondente al 75% del totale, pari ad euro 4.831.501,04 ed un cofinanziamento a carico dei soggetti proponenti per la restante parte.

**RILEVATO CHE:**

- la Regione Puglia-Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità regionale è responsabile, nell'ambito del progetto, delle seguenti tasks di progetto:
  - *WP1 – Project management and coordination activities*
    - T.1.1 Technical and financial management
    - T.1.2 Monitoring of the project's progress
    - T.1.3 Stakeholders engagement
  - *WP2 – Communication and dissemination activities*
    - T2.1 Communication plan and information materials
    - T2.2 Multi-target Awareness Campaign
    - T2.3 Citizen science campaign
    - T2.4 Media relations, social media and web
    - T2.5 5 Dissemination activities
  - *Work package WP3 – Preparatory activities*
    - T3.1 Review of the best practices-state of art methods to monitor and protect sea turtle nesting sites, to assess habitat suitability and to define nesting intensity
    - T3.2 Preliminary data collection, habitat suitability analysis and GAP analysis.
    - T3.3 Geo-morphological characterization of nest sites and analysis for planning and management framework
    - T3.4 Definition of protocols and training for detection canine units
  - *Work package WP4 – Conservation actions*
    - T4.7 Pilot interventions to reduce anthropic impacts at new regular nesting sites
    - T4.8 Geo morphological and physical-chemical analysis
    - T4.9 Guidelines on management of coastal erosion to sustain nesting habitat suitability
  - *Work package WP5 – Governance and Advocacy*
    - T5.1 Predictive Models
    - T5.2 Guide for the management and protection of emerging sea turtle nest sites in changing climate
    - T5.3 Advocacy campaign
  - *Work package WP6*
    - T6.1 Future sustainability
    - T6.2 Replication
    - T6.3 Results Exploitation
  - *Work package WP7 – Monitoring and evaluation*
    - T7.1 Evaluation of conservation actions impacts.
    - T7.2. Monitoring of socio-economic impact.
- lo staff di progetto, così come indicato nella proposta progettuale, è costituito dai seguenti dipendenti incardinati nel Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità: Dirigente ing. Caterina Dibitonto, dipendenti dott.ssa Fiore Maria, arch. Grifoni Enrico, avv. Rubini Valentina, dott.ssa Sgarra Concetta;
- su un costo totale di 200.000,12 euro, la Regione Puglia riceverà un finanziamento da parte della CE di euro 138.000,12. La differenza di euro 62.000,00 euro è costituita dal co-finanziamento a carico della Regione Puglia assicurato tramite costi diretti, imputabili alla voce "Costs for employees" (Article 6 – Eligible and ineligible costs and contributions del Grant Agreement);

- le erogazioni di finanziamento sono suddivise secondo le seguenti modalità:  
Prima erogazione 30%= 41.400,04 euro  
Seconda erogazione 50% = 69.000,06 euro  
Ultima erogazione 20% = 27.600,02 euro.
- Con nota pec prot.116/PROT/27/09/2023/0006687 la Sezione Bilancio e Ragioneria regionale ha comunicato che, con provvisorio di entrata n. 9873/2023, il Tesoriere Regionale ha richiesto l'emissione della reversale d'incasso a seguito delle somme trasferite da Legambiente per l'importo di € 41.400,04.

**VISTI:**

- il D.lgs. 23 giugno 2011 n.118 come integrato dal D.Lgs. 10 agosto 2018, n.126 "Disposizioni integrate e correttive del D.lgs.11872011 recante disposizioni in materia di armonizzazione dei sistemi contabili e degli schemi di bilancio delle Regioni, degli Enti Locali e dei loro organismi, a norma degli articoli 1 e 2 della L.42/2009;
- l'art. 51 comma 2 del D.Lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii., che prevede che la Giunta, con provvedimento amministrativo, autorizza le variazioni del documento tecnico di accompagnamento e le variazioni del bilancio di previsione;
- la Legge 241/90 e ss.mm.ii.;
- la Legge Regionale n. 32 del 29/12/2022 "Disposizioni per la formazione del bilancio di previsione 2023 e bilancio pluriennale 2023-2025 della Regione Puglia (legge di stabilità regionale 2023)";
- la Legge Regionale n. 33 del 29/12/2022 "Bilancio di previsione della Regione Puglia per l'esercizio finanziario 2023 e bilancio pluriennale 2023-2025";
- la D.G.R. n. 27 del 24/01/2023 "Bilancio di previsione per l'esercizio finanziario 2023 e pluriennale 2023-2025. Articolo 39, comma 10, del decreto legislativo 23 giugno 2011, n. 118. Documento tecnico di accompagnamento e Bilancio Finanziario Gestionale. Approvazione";
- la D.G.R. 15 settembre 2021, n. 1466 recante l'approvazione della Strategia regionale per la parità di genere, denominata "Agenda di Genere";
- la D.G.R. del 3.7.2023, n. 938 recante "Valutazione di impatto di genere. Sistema di gestione e di monitoraggio". Abrogazione degli allegati e loro integrale sostituzione;
- la DGR 1411/2023 "Attuazione della deliberazione della Giunta regionale 16 maggio 2023, n. 661. Variazione al bilancio finanziario gestionale 2023-2025 a seguito modifica dei centri di responsabilità amministrativa (CRA).".

**DATO ATTO CHE:** il progetto prevede, tra le varie attività da realizzare, anche lo svolgimento di missioni all'estero che, allo stato, non consentono una programmazione delle missioni stesse dei dirigenti e dei dipendenti regionali coinvolti nel rispetto delle disposizioni di cui alla D.G.R. n. 1082 del 26 luglio 2002.

**VERIFICATO CHE** la variazione proposta con il presente provvedimento assicura il rispetto dei vincoli di finanza pubblica vigenti e gli equilibri di bilancio come previsti dal D.Lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii..

**TANTO PREMESSO**, si propone alla Giunta regionale di:

- prendere atto dell'avvenuta approvazione e ammissione a finanziamento del progetto "LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584", di cui Legambiente è il Beneficiario coordinatore e la Regione Puglia è Beneficiario associato;
- di prendere atto che le attività da porre in essere da parte della Regione Puglia, relative al progetto, sono le seguenti:
  - *WP1 – Project management and coordination activities*
    - T.1.1 Technical and financial management
    - T.1.2 Monitoring of the project's progress
    - T.1.3 Stakeholders engagement
  - *WP2 – Communication and dissemination activities*
    - T2.1 Communication plan and information materials
    - T2.2 Multi-target Awareness Campaign
    - T2.3 Citizen science campaign

T2.4 Media relations, social media and web

T2.5 5 Dissemination activities

- *Work package WP3 – Preparatory activities*

T3.1 Review of the best practices-state of art methods to monitor and protect sea turtle nesting sites, to assess habitat suitability and to define nesting intensity

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- *Work package WP4 – Conservation actions*

T4.7 Pilot interventions to reduce anthropic impacts at new regular nesting sites

T4.8 Geo morphological and physical-chemical analysis

T4.9 Guidelines on management of coastal erosion to sustain nesting habitat suitability

- *Work package WP5 – Governance and Advocacy*

T5.1 Predictive Models

T5.2 Guide for the management and protection of emerging sea turtle nest sites in changing climate

T5.3 Advocacy campaign

- *Work package WP6*

T6.1 Future sustainability

T6.2 Replication

T6.3 Results Exploitation

- *Work package WP7 – Monitoring and evaluation*

T7.1 Evaluation of conservation actions impacts.

T7.2. Monitoring of socio-economic impact.

- di prendere atto che su un costo totale di 200.000,12 euro, la Regione Puglia riceverà un finanziamento da parte della CE di euro 138.000,12. La differenza di euro 62.000,00 euro è costituita dal co-finanziamento a carico della Regione Puglia assicurato tramite costi diretti, imputabili alla voce "Costs for employees" (Article 6 – Eligible and ineligible costs and contributions del Grant Agreement);
- di procedere alla istituzione di capitoli di Entrata e di Spesa, come specificatamente riportato nella sezione copertura finanziaria;
- di apportare, ai sensi dell'art. 51, comma 2, punto a) del D. Lgs n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii., le variazioni al Bilancio di Previsione 2023 e pluriennale 2023-2025, al Documento Tecnico di Accompagnamento ed al Bilancio Finanziario Gestionale 2023-2025, come specificatamente riportato nella sezione copertura finanziaria;
- di autorizzare la dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità, responsabile dei competenti capitoli di spesa istituiti con il presente atto, ad adottare i conseguenti provvedimenti di accertamento e di impegno e liquidazione delle spese;
- di autorizzare in via preventiva la dirigente del Servizio parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità nonché i dipendenti selezionati, in narrativa richiamati, nell'ambito del progetto e coinvolti nella gestione dello stesso, a recarsi per lo svolgimento di missioni all'estero strettamente connesse all'attuazione del citato progetto;
- di dare atto che, preliminarmente ad ogni missione, sarà trasmessa alla Segreteria della Giunta specifica comunicazione, da parte del Direttore del Dipartimento, con informazioni inerenti al personale interessato alla trasferta ed ai relativi dettagli;
- di rinviare alle procedure definite nel Regolamento approvato con D.G.R. n. 746 del 26 aprile 2011 per le singole autorizzazioni di volta in volta necessarie a comporre la delegazione che parteciperà ai diversi incontri all'estero;
- di dare atto che le spese per le missioni in argomento sono a totale carico delle risorse che finanziano il progetto.

**Verifica ai sensi del D.Lgs. 196/2003 e del Regolamento (UE)2016/679  
GARANZIE DI RISERVATEZZA**

“La pubblicazione sul BURP, nonché la pubblicazione all’Albo o sul sito istituzionale, salve le garanzie previste dalla legge 241/1990 in tema di accesso ai documenti amministrativi, avviene nel rispetto della tutela della riservatezza dei cittadini secondo quanto disposto dal Regolamento UE n. 679/2016 in materia di protezione dei dati personali, nonché dal D.Lgs. 196/2003 ss.mm.ii., ed ai sensi del vigente Regolamento regionale 5/2006 per il trattamento dei dati sensibili e giudiziari, in quanto applicabile. Ai fini della pubblicità legale, il presente provvedimento è stato redatto in modo da evitare la diffusione di dati personali identificativi non necessari ovvero il riferimento alle particolari categorie di dati previste dagli articoli 9 e 10 del succitato Regolamento UE”.

**Valutazione di impatto di genere**

**Ai sensi della D.G.R. n. 938 del 3.7.2023, la presente deliberazione è stata  
sottoposta a Valutazione di impatto di genere.**

**L’impatto di genere stimato risulta (segnare con una X):**

**diretto**

**indiretto**

**x neutro**

**non rilevato**

**COPERTURA FINANZIARIA AI SENSI DEL D. LGS. 118/2011 E SS.MM.**

Il presente provvedimento comporta l’istituzione di nuovi capitoli di entrata e di spesa e la variazione al bilancio di previsione 2023 e pluriennale 2023-2025, al documento tecnico di accompagnamento e al bilancio finanziario gestionale 2023-2025, approvato con DGR n. 27/2023, ai sensi dell’all’art. 51, comma 2, del d. lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii., come di seguito indicato:

**BILANCIO VINCOLATO**

**CRA: 11.01 - DIREZIONE DIPARTIMENTO AMBIENTE, PAESAGGIO E QUALITÀ URBANA**

- **ISTITUZIONE NUOVI CNI DI ENTRATA E DI SPESA**

**PARTE ENTRATA**

Entrata non ricorrente

**CODICE UE: 1** - Entrate destinate al finanziamento dei progetti comunitari

| CAPITOLO           | DECLARATORIA  | TITOLO<br>TIPOLOGIA | P.D.C.F.  |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| CNI (1)<br>E _____ | Trasferimenti per il Progetto “LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584” | 2.104               | E.2.01.04.01.000<br>Trasferimenti correnti da Istituzioni Sociali Private |

**PARTE SPESA**

Spesa non ricorrente

**CODICE UE: 6** – Trasferimenti di altri soggetti correlati ai finanziamenti UE

| CAPITOLO           | DECLARATORIA  | Missione<br>Programma | P.D.C.F.         |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| CNI (2)<br>U _____ | Progetto “LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584”- Spese per organizzazione eventi, pubblicità e servizi per trasferta | 19.02                 | U.1.03.02.02.000 |

|                   |  |       |                  |
|-------------------|--|-------|------------------|
| CNI (3)<br>U_____ | Progetto "LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584"- Spese per consulenze           | 19.02 | U.1.03.02.10.000 |
| CNI (4)<br>U_____ | Progetto "LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584"-Spese per altri beni di consumo | 19.02 | U.1.03.01.02.000 |

• **VARIAZIONE DI BILANCIO**

**PARTE ENTRATA**

| CAPITOLO          | DECLARATORIA  | TITOLO TIPOLOGIA | P.D.C.F.         | Variazione e.f. 2023 Competenza e cassa | Variazione e.f. 2024 Competenza | Variazione e.f. 2025 Competenza | Variazione e.f. 2026 Competenza (*) | Variazione e.f. 2027 Competenza (*) | Variazione e.f. 2028 Competenza (*) |
|-------------------|---|------------------|------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| CNI (1)<br>E_____ | Trasferimenti per il Progetto "LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584" | 2.104            | E.2.01.04.01.000 | + 41.400,04                             | + 31.738,69                     | + 37.261,37                     | + 8.600,00                          | + 7.999,95                          | + 11.000,07                         |

**Titolo giuridico che supporta il credito:** Grant Agreement allegato sottoscritto in data 15.11.2022.

Si attesta che l'importo relativo alla copertura del presente provvedimento corrisponde ad obbligazione giuridicamente perfezionata con debitore certo: Commissione Europea per il tramite di Legambiente.

Si attesta che l'importo di € 41.400,04 relativo all'e.f. 2023 è stato incassato con provvisorio di entrata n. 9873/2023.

**PARTE SPESA**

| CAPITOLO          | DECLARATORIA  | MISSIONE PROGRAMMA | P.D.C.F.         | Variazione e.f. 2023 Competenza e cassa | Variazione e.f. 2024 Competenza | Variazione e.f. 2025 Competenza | Variazione e.f. 2026 Competenza (*) | Variazione e.f. 2027 Competenza (*) | Variazione e.f. 2028 Competenza (*) |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| CNI (2)<br>U_____ | Progetto "LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584"- Spese per organizzazione eventi, pubblicità e servizi per trasferta | 19.02              | U.1.03.02.02.000 | +2.000,00                               | +2.000,00                       | +3.000,00                       | +1.000,00                           | +1.000,00                           | +1.000,00                           |
| CNI (3)<br>U_____ | Progetto "LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584"- Spese per consulenze  | 19.02              | U.1.03.02.10.000 | +37.400,04                              | 25.738,69                       | +26.261,37                      | +6.600,00                           | +5.999,95                           | +5.999,95                           |
| CNI (4)<br>U_____ | Progetto "LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584"-Spese per altri beni di consumo                                      | 19.02              | U.1.03.01.02.000 | +2.000,00                               | +4.000,00                       | +8.000,00                       | +1.000,00                           | +1.000,00                           | +4.000,12                           |
| Totale            |   |                    |                  | +41.400,04                              | +31.738,69                      | +37.261,37                      | +8.600,00                           | +7.999,95                           | +11.000,07                          |

(\*) Si attesta che per le annualità successive al Bilancio di previsione corrente si provvederà con successivi stanziamenti sui bilanci di previsione futuri.

La variazione proposta con il presente provvedimento assicura il rispetto dei vincoli di finanza pubblica vigenti e gli equilibri di bilancio di cui al D.lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii..

La quota di cofinanziamento regionale pari ad euro 62.000,00 trova copertura completamente sul risorse *in kind* e non sono previste risorse in cash su stanziamenti del bilancio regionale.

I conseguenti provvedimenti di accertamento delle entrate e di impegno e liquidazione delle spese saranno adottati dalla dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità del Dipartimento Ambiente, Paesaggio e Qualità Urbana.

L'Assessora relatrice, sulla base delle risultanze istruttorie come innanzi illustrate, ai sensi dell'art.44 comma 4 lettere a) nonché della L.R. 7/2004 e dell'art. 4 comma 4 - lettera K) della L.R. 7/1997, propone alla Giunta:

1. Di prendere atto e di approvare quanto esposto in narrativa che qui si intende integralmente riportato.

2. Di prendere atto dell'avvenuta approvazione e ammissione a finanziamento del progetto "LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584, come da Grant Agreement allegato A al presente provvedimento e sua parte integrante, di cui di cui Legambiente è il Beneficiario coordinatore e la Regione Puglia è Beneficiario associato.
3. Di prendere atto che le attività da porre in essere da parte della Regione Puglia, relative al progetto, sono le seguenti:
  - *WP1 – Project management and coordination activities*
    - T.1.1 Technical and financial management
    - T.1.2 Monitoring of the project's progress
    - T 1.3 Stakeholders engagement
  - *WP2 – Communication and dissemination activities*
    - T2.1 Communication plan and information materials
    - T2.2 Multi-target Awareness Campaign
    - T2.3 Citizen science campaign
    - T2.4 Media relations, social media and web
    - T2.5 5 Dissemination activities
  - *Work package WP3 – Preparatory activities*
    - T3.1 Review of the best practices-state of art methods to monitor and protect sea turtle nesting sites, to assess habitat suitability and to define nesting intensity
    - T3.2 Preliminary data collection, habitat suitability analysis and GAP analysis.
    - T3.3 Geo-morphological characterization of nest sites and analysis for planning and management framework
    - T3.4 Definition of protocols and training for detection canine units
  - *Work package WP4 – Conservation actions*
    - T4.7 Pilot interventions to reduce anthropic impacts at new regular nesting sites
    - T4.8 Geo morphological and physical-chemical analysis
    - T4.9 Guidelines on management of coastal erosion to sustain nesting habitat suitability
  - *Work package WP5 – Governance and Advocacy*
    - T5.1 Predictive Models
    - T5.2 Guide for the management and protection of emerging sea turtle nest sites in changing climate
    - T5.3 Advocacy campaign
  - *Work package WP6*
    - T6.1 Future sustainability
    - T6.2 Replication
    - T6.3 Results Exploitation
  - *Work package WP7 – Monitoring and evaluation*
    - T7.1 Evaluation of conservation actions impacts.
    - T7.2. Monitoring of socio-economic impact.
4. Di prendere atto che su un costo totale di 200.000,12 euro, la Regione Puglia riceverà un finanziamento da parte della CE di euro 138.000,12. La differenza di euro 62.000,00 euro è costituita dal co-finanziamento a carico della Regione Puglia assicurato tramite costi diretti, imputabili alla voce "Costs for employees" (Article 6 – Eligible and ineligible costs and contributions del Grant Agreement).
5. Di prendere atto che lo staff di progetto, così come indicato nella proposta progettuale, è costituito dai seguenti dipendenti incardinati nel Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità: dirigente ing. Caterina Dibitonto, dipendenti dott.ssa Fiore Maria, arch. Grifoni Enrico, dott.ssa Rubini Valentina, dott.ssa Sgarra Concetta.
6. Di procedere alla istituzione di capitoli di Entrata e di Spesa, come specificatamente riportato nella sezione copertura finanziaria.
7. Di apportare, ai sensi dell'art. 51, comma 2, punto a) del D. Lgs n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii., le variazioni

al Bilancio di Previsione 2023 e pluriennale 2023-2025, al Documento Tecnico di Accompagnamento ed al Bilancio Finanziario Gestionale 2023-2025, con l'iscrizione della somma di 138.000,12 euro nei Capitoli di Nuova Istituzione (C.N.I.), come specificatamente riportato nella sezione copertura finanziaria.

8. Di autorizzare la dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità del Dipartimento Ambiente, Paesaggio e Qualità Urbana ad adottare i conseguenti provvedimenti di accertamento delle entrate e di impegno e liquidazione delle spese.
9. Di autorizzare in via preventiva la dirigente del Servizio parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità nonché i dipendenti selezionati, in narrativa richiamati, nell'ambito del progetto e coinvolti nella gestione dello stesso, a recarsi per lo svolgimento di missioni all'estero strettamente connesse all'attuazione del citato progetto.
10. Di dare atto che, preliminarmente ad ogni missione, verrà trasmessa alla Segreteria della Giunta specifica comunicazione, da parte del Direttore del Dipartimento, con informazioni inerenti al personale interessato alla trasferta ed ai relativi dettagli.
11. Di rinviare alle procedure definite nel Regolamento approvato con D.G.R. n. 746 del 26 aprile 2011 per le singole autorizzazioni di volta in volta necessarie a comporre la delegazione che parteciperà ai diversi incontri all'estero.
12. Di dare atto che le spese per le missioni in argomento sono a totale carico delle risorse che finanziano il progetto.
13. Di approvare l'allegato "E/1", parte integrante del presente provvedimento, che sarà trasmesso dalla Sezione Bilancio e Ragioneria alla Tesoreria regionale, conseguentemente all'approvazione della presente deliberazione.
14. Di dare atto che le operazioni contabili derivanti dal presente provvedimento assicurano il rispetto dei vincoli di finanza pubblica vigenti e gli equilibri di bilancio di cui al D.lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii..
15. Di demandare al Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità gli adempimenti ai fini dell'implementazione della Sezione Amministrazione Trasparente ai sensi del decreto legislativo n. 33/2013.
16. Di disporre la pubblicazione del presente provvedimento sul BURP, ai sensi della legge regionale n.18/2023.

I sottoscritti attestano che il procedimento istruttorio loro affidato è stato espletato nel rispetto della vigente normativa regionale, nazionale e comunitaria e che il presente schema di provvedimento, dagli stessi predisposto ai fini dell'adozione dell'atto finale da parte della Giunta Regionale, è conforme alle risultanze istruttorie.

La Funzionaria  
(avv. Valentina Rubini)

Il Funzionario  
(Arch. Enrico Grifoni)

La Dirigente  
Servizio Parchi e tutela della biodiversità  
(ing. Caterina Dibitonto)

Il Direttore Dipartimento  
Ambiente, Paesaggio e Qualità Urbana  
(ing. Paolo Francesco Garofoli)

L'Assessora proponente:  
(Avv. Anna Grazia MARASCHIO)

**LA GIUNTA**

**UDITA** la relazione istruttoria e la conseguente proposta dell'Assessora proponente;

**VISTE** le sottoscrizioni poste in calce alla proposta di deliberazione;

**A VOTI** unanimi espressi nei modi di legge;

**DELIBERA**

per le motivazioni espresse in narrativa che qui si intendono integralmente riportate:

1. Di prendere atto e di approvare quanto esposto in narrativa che qui si intende integralmente riportato.
2. Di prendere atto dell'avvenuta approvazione e ammissione a finanziamento del progetto "LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584, come da Grant Agreement allegato A al presente provvedimento e sua parte integrante, di cui di cui Legambiente è il Beneficiario coordinatore e la Regione Puglia è Beneficiario associato.
3. Di prendere atto che le attività da porre in essere da parte della Regione Puglia, relative al progetto, sono le seguenti:
  - *WP1 – Project management and coordination activities*
    - T.1.1 Technical and financial management
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  - *Work package WP6*
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    - T6.3 Results Exploitation
  - *Work package WP7 – Monitoring and evaluation*
    - T7.1 Evaluation of conservation actions impacts.
    - T7.2. Monitoring of socio-economic impact.

4. Di prendere atto che su un costo totale di 200.000,12 euro, la Regione Puglia riceverà un finanziamento da parte della CE di euro 138.000,12. La differenza di euro 62.000,00 euro è costituita dal co-finanziamento a carico della Regione Puglia assicurato tramite costi diretti, imputabili alla voce "Costs for employees" (Article 6 – Eligible and ineligible costs and contributions del Grant Agreement).
5. Di prendere atto che lo staff di progetto, così come indicato nella proposta progettuale, è costituito dai seguenti dipendenti incardinati nel Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità: dirigente ing. Caterina Dibitonto, dipendenti dott.ssa Fiore Maria, arch. Grifoni Enrico, dott.ssa Rubini Valentina, dott.ssa Sgarra Concetta.
6. Di procedere alla istituzione di capitoli di Entrata e di Spesa, come specificatamente riportato nella sezione copertura finanziaria.
7. Di apportare, ai sensi dell'art. 51, comma 2, punto a) del D. Lgs n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii., le variazioni al Bilancio di Previsione 2023 e pluriennale 2023-2025, al Documento Tecnico di Accompagnamento ed al Bilancio Finanziario Gestionale 2023-2025, con l'iscrizione della somma di 138.000,12 euro nei Capitoli di Nuova Istituzione (C.N.I.), come specificatamente riportato nella sezione copertura finanziaria.
8. Di autorizzare la dirigente del Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità del Dipartimento Ambiente, Paesaggio e Qualità Urbana ad adottare i conseguenti provvedimenti di accertamento delle entrate e di impegno e liquidazione delle spese.
9. Di autorizzare in via preventiva la dirigente del Servizio parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità nonché i dipendenti selezionati, in narrativa richiamati, nell'ambito del progetto e coinvolti nella gestione dello stesso, a recarsi per lo svolgimento di missioni all'estero strettamente connesse all'attuazione del citato progetto.
10. Di dare atto che, preliminarmente ad ogni missione, verrà trasmessa alla Segreteria della Giunta specifica comunicazione, da parte del Direttore del Dipartimento, con informazioni inerenti al personale interessato alla trasferta ed ai relativi dettagli.
11. Di rinviare alle procedure definite nel Regolamento approvato con D.G.R. n. 746 del 26 aprile 2011 per le singole autorizzazioni di volta in volta necessarie a comporre la delegazione che parteciperà ai diversi incontri all'estero.
12. Di dare atto che le spese per le missioni in argomento sono a totale carico delle risorse che finanziano il progetto.
13. Di approvare l'allegato "E/1", parte integrante del presente provvedimento, che sarà trasmesso dalla Sezione Bilancio e Ragioneria alla Tesoreria regionale, conseguentemente all'approvazione della presente deliberazione.
14. Di dare atto che le operazioni contabili derivanti dal presente provvedimento assicurano il rispetto dei vincoli di finanza pubblica vigenti e gli equilibri di bilancio di cui al D.lgs. n. 118/2011 e ss.mm.ii..
15. Di demandare al Servizio Parchi e Tutela della Biodiversità gli adempimenti ai fini dell'implementazione della Sezione Amministrazione Trasparente ai sensi del decreto legislativo n. 33/2013.
16. Di disporre la pubblicazione del presente provvedimento sul BURP, ai sensi della legge regionale n.18/2023.

**Il Segretario generale della Giunta**

ANNA LOBOSCO

**Il Presidente della Giunta**

MICHELE EMILIANO

Project: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)788881-15/11/2022



## EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.D – Natural resources, climate, sustainable blue economy and clean energy  
D.2 – LIFE Environment (Nature & Circular Economy)

### GRANT AGREEMENT

#### **Project 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST**

#### PREAMBLE

This **Agreement** ('the Agreement') is **between** the following parties:

**on the one part,**

the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and**

**on the other part,**

1. 'the coordinator':

**LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB)**, PIC 986523951, established in VIA SALARIA 403, ROMA 00199, Italy,

and the following other beneficiaries, if they sign their 'accession form' (see Annex 3 and Article 40):

2. **STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN (SZN)**, PIC 999468310, established in Villa Comunale, NAPOLI 80121, Italy,

3. **ISTITUTO SUPERIORE PER LA PROTEZIONE E LA RICERCA AMBIENTALE (ISPRA)**, PIC 997905349, established in VIA VITALIANO BRANCATI 48, ROMA 00144, Italy,

4. **UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA (Sapienza)**, PIC 999987745, established in Piazzale Aldo Moro 5, ROMA 00185, Italy,

5. **UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA (UB)**, PIC 999986387, established in GRAN VIA DE LES CORTS CATALANES 585, BARCELONA 08007, Spain,

6. **FUNDACIO UNIVERSITARIA BARMES (UVIC-UCC)**, PIC 999837977, established in CARRER PEROT ROCAGUINARDA 17, VIC BARCELONA 08500, Spain,

7. **ENTE NAZIONALE DELLA CINOFILIA ITALIANA (ENCI)**, PIC 888555018, established in VIALE CORSICA 20, MILANO 20137, Italy,

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8. **CENTRE D'ETUDE ET DE SAUVEGARDE DES TORTUES MARINES EN MEDITERRANEE (CESTMED)**, PIC 888627089, established in AVENUE DU PALAIS DE LA MER, LE GRAU DU ROI 30240, France,

9. **REGIONE BASILICATA (REGBAS)**, PIC 951927737, established in Via Vincenzo Verrastro 4, Potenza 85100, Italy,

10. **REGIONE PUGLIA (REGPUG)**, PIC 999523503, established in VIA GENTILE 52, BARI 70126, Italy,

11. **AGENZIA REGIONALE PER LA PROTEZIONE AMBIENTALE DELLA TOSCANA (ARPAT)**, PIC 997237601, established in VIA PONTE ALLE MOSSE 211, FIRENZE 50144, Italy,

12. **REGIONE LAZIO (REGLAZ)**, PIC 961452361, established in VIA CRISTOFORO COLOMBO 212, ROMA 00145, Italy,

13. **REGIONE CAMPANIA (REGCAM)**, PIC 998054923, established in VIA S. LUCIA 81, NAPOLI 80132, Italy,

Unless otherwise specified, references to ‘beneficiary’ or ‘beneficiaries’ include the coordinator and affiliated entities (if any).

If only one beneficiary signs the grant agreement (‘mono-beneficiary grant’), all provisions referring to the ‘coordinator’ or the ‘beneficiaries’ will be considered — mutatis mutandis — as referring to the beneficiary.

The parties referred to above have agreed to enter into the Agreement.

By signing the Agreement and the accession forms, the beneficiaries accept the grant and agree to implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

The Agreement is composed of:

Preamble

Terms and Conditions (including Data Sheet)

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- Annex 1 Description of the action<sup>1</sup>
- Annex 2 Estimated budget for the action
- Annex 2a Additional information on unit costs and contributions (if applicable)
- Annex 3 Accession forms (if applicable)<sup>2</sup>
- Annex 3a Declaration on joint and several liability of affiliated entities (if applicable)<sup>3</sup>
- Annex 4 Model for the financial statements
- Annex 5 Specific rules (if applicable)

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<sup>1</sup> Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

<sup>2</sup> Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

<sup>3</sup> Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

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## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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## DATA SHEET

### 1. General data

Project summary:

| Project summary   |
|---|
| <p>Loggerhead turtles are expanding their nesting range into the Western Mediterranean, where beaches are becoming suitable through climate warming. However, the emerging nesting sites are threatened by coastal development and high tourist pressure. TURTLENEST unites Italy, Spain and France to mitigate these threats through knowledge-based conservation measures with the aim to protect new nesting habitats and foster successful sea turtle reproduction. Through a multi-disciplinary approach TURTLENEST will improve the conservation status of <i>Caretta caretta</i>*, a priority species of the Habitats Directive, aided by the establishment of an international network, the use of shared best-practice procedures specifically revised to mitigate the threats on emerging nesting sites, the capacity building of trained field operators, the identification of new index sites for monitoring, and the strengthening of the Natura 2000 network. The intention is to consolidate these outcomes to sustain the conservation of sea turtle nesting in the Western Mediterranean after the end of the project. Another important part of the actions is dedicated to multiscale awareness campaigns for citizens and stakeholders, that use the beaches to achieve an increase in the knowledge of the presence of turtle nests and the social consensus towards policies for the protection of turtle nesting habitats. Engagement and training programmes, especially tailored to educate and engage beach operators and volunteers will increase the detection rate of sea turtle nests that can be adequately protected. In parallel, TURTLENEST will employ next-gen genomic techniques, state-of-the-art satellite telemetry and stable isotope analysis to fill knowledge gaps in the origin of turtles, key demographic parameters and habitat connectivity. Finally, a specifically developed habitat suitability model will be a tool to guide proactive conservation management of new nest sites under current and future climatic scenarios.</p> |

Keywords:

- Areas of intervention: Safeguarding our species
- EU Birds and Habitats Directives
- EU red list
- REPTILES
- Marine

Project number: 101074584

Project name: LIFE TURTLENEST - *Caretta caretta*\* nesting range expansion under climate warming: urgent actions to mitigate threats at emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean.

Project acronym: LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST

Call: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

Topic: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE

Type of action: LIFE Project Grants

Granting authority: European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

Grant managed through EU Funding &amp; Tenders Portal: Yes (eGrants)

Project starting date: fixed date: 9 January 2023

Project end date: 8 April 2028

Project duration: 63 months

Consortium agreement: Yes

### 2. Participants

List of participants:

| N° | Role | Short name | Legal name                     | Ctry | PIC       | Total eligible costs (BEN and AE) | Max grant amount |
|----|------|------------|--------------------------------|------|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1  | COO  | LEGAMB     | LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS | IT   | 986523951 | 1 934 000.09                      | 1 450 499.60     |

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| N°           | Role | Short name | Legal name  | Ctry | PIC       | Total eligible costs (BEN and AE) | Max grant amount |
|--------------|------|------------|---|------|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 2            | BEN  | SZN        | STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN                                      | IT   | 999468310 | 1 147 999.79                      | 860 999.83       |
| 3            | BEN  | ISPRA      | ISTITUTO SUPERIORE PER LA PROTEZIONE E LA RICERCA AMBIENTALE        | IT   | 997905349 | 500 000.30                        | 375 000.22       |
| 4            | BEN  | Sapienza   | UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA                          | IT   | 999987745 | 360 000.43                        | 270 000.32       |
| 5            | BEN  | UB         | UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA  | ES   | 999986387 | 400 000.24                        | 300 000.18       |
| 6            | BEN  | UVIC-UCC   | FUNDACIO UNIVERSITARIA BARMES                                       | ES   | 999837977 | 300 000.18                        | 225 000.13       |
| 7            | BEN  | ENCI       | ENTE NAZIONALE DELLA CINOFILIA ITALIANA                             | IT   | 888555018 | 200 000.12                        | 150 000.09       |
| 8            | BEN  | CESTMED    | CENTRE D'ETUDE ET DE SAUVEGARDE DES TORTUES MARINES EN MEDITERRANEE | FR   | 888627089 | 299 999.80                        | 224 999.85       |
| 9            | BEN  | REGBAS     | REGIONE BASILICATA  | IT   | 951927737 | 200 000.12                        | 150 000.09       |
| 10           | BEN  | REGPUG     | REGIONE PUGLIA  | IT   | 999523503 | 200 000.12                        | 150 000.09       |
| 11           | BEN  | ARPAT      | AGENZIA REGIONALE PER LA PROTEZIONE AMBIENTALE DELLA TOSCANA        | IT   | 997237601 | 300 000.18                        | 225 000.13       |
| 12           | BEN  | REGLAZ     | REGIONE LAZIO   | IT   | 961452361 | 400 000.56                        | 300 000.42       |
| 13           | BEN  | REGCAM     | REGIONE CAMPANIA  | IT   | 998054923 | 200 000.12                        | 150 000.09       |
| <b>Total</b> |      |            |   |      |           | 6 442 002.05                      | 4 831 501.04     |

**Coordinator:**

- LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB)

**3. Grant****Maximum grant amount, total estimated eligible costs and contributions and funding rate:**

| Total eligible costs (BEN and AE) | Funding rate (%) | Maximum grant amount (Annex 2) | Maximum grant amount (award decision) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 6 442 002.05                      | 75               | 4 831 501.04                   | 4 831 501.04                          |

**Grant form:** Budget-based**Grant mode:** Action grant**Budget categories/activity types:**

- A. Personnel costs
  - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
  - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
  - A.5 Volunteers
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
  - C.1 Travel and subsistence
  - C.2 Equipment
  - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories
  - D.1 Financial support to third parties
  - D.2 Land purchase
- E. Indirect costs

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**Cost eligibility options:**

- Standard supplementary payments
- Limitation for subcontracting
- Travel and subsistence:
  - Travel: Actual costs
  - Accommodation: Actual costs
  - Subsistence: Actual costs
- Equipment: full costs and depreciation for listed equipment
- Costs for providing financial support to third parties (actual cost; max amount for each recipient: EUR 20 000.00)
- Indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: Yes
- Other ineligible costs

**Budget flexibility:** Yes (no flexibility cap)**4. Reporting, payments and recoveries****4.1 Continuous reporting** (art 21)**Deliverables:** see Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool**4.2 Periodic reporting and payments****Reporting and payment schedule** (art 21, 22):

| Reporting         |            |          |                                |                                       | Payments                |  |
|-------------------|------------|----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Reporting periods |            |          | Type                           | Deadline                              | Type                    | Deadline (time to pay)   |
| RP No             | Month from | Month to |                                |                                       |                         |  |
|                   |            |          |                                |                                       | Initial prefinancing    | 30 days from entry into force/ financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest                         |
| 1                 | 1          | 27       | Additional prefinancing report | 60 days after end of reporting period | Additional prefinancing | 60 days from receiving additional prefinancing report/ financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest |
| 2                 | 28         | 63       | Periodic report                | 60 days after end of reporting period | Final payment           | 90 days from receiving periodic report   |

**Prefinancing payments and guarantees:**

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| Prefinancing payment        |              | Prefinancing guarantee |                          |     |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Type                        | Amount       | Guarantee amount       | Division per participant |     |
| Prefinancing 1 (initial)    | 1 449 450.31 | n/a                    | 1 - LEGAMB               | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 2 - SZN                  | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 3 - ISPRA                | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 4 - Sapienza             | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 5 - UB                   | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 6 - UVIC-UCC             | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 7 - ENCI                 | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 8 - CESTMED              | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 9 - REGBAS               | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 10 - REGPUG              | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 11 - ARPAT               | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 12 - REGLAZ              | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 13 - REGCAM              | n/a |
| Prefinancing 2 (additional) | 2 415 750.52 | n/a                    | 1 - LEGAMB               | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 2 - SZN                  | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 3 - ISPRA                | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 4 - Sapienza             | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 5 - UB                   | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 6 - UVIC-UCC             | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 7 - ENCI                 | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 8 - CESTMED              | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 9 - REGBAS               | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 10 - REGPUG              | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 11 - ARPAT               | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 12 - REGLAZ              | n/a |
|                             |              |                        | 13 - REGCAM              | n/a |

**Reporting and payment modalities (art 21, 22):**

Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM): No

Restrictions on distribution of initial prefinancing: The prefinancing may be distributed only if the minimum number of beneficiaries set out in the call conditions (if any) have acceded to the Agreement and only to beneficiaries that have acceded.

Interim payment ceiling (if any): 90% of the maximum grant amount

No-profit rule: No

Late payment interest: ECB + 3.5%

Bank account for payments:

IT74F0306909606100000000630

Conversion into euros: Double conversion

Reporting language: Language of the Agreement

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#### **4.3 Certificates** (art 24):

Certificates on the financial statements (CFS):

Conditions:

Schedule: interim/final payment, if threshold is reached

Standard threshold (beneficiary-level):

- financial statement: requested EU contribution to costs  $\geq$  EUR 500 000.00

#### **4.4 Recoveries** (art 22)

**First-line liability for recoveries:**

Beneficiary termination: Beneficiary concerned

Final payment: Coordinator

After final payment: Beneficiary concerned

**Joint and several liability for enforced recoveries (in case of non-payment):**

Limited joint and several liability of other beneficiaries — up to the maximum grant amount of the beneficiary

Joint and several liability of affiliated entities — n/a

### **5. Consequences of non-compliance, applicable law & dispute settlement forum**

**Applicable law** (art 43):

Standard applicable law regime: EU law + law of Belgium

**Dispute settlement forum** (art 43):

Standard dispute settlement forum:

EU beneficiaries: EU General Court + EU Court of Justice (on appeal)

Non-EU beneficiaries: Courts of Brussels, Belgium (unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements)

### **6. Other**

**Specific rules (Annex 5):** Yes

**Standard time-limits after project end:**

Confidentiality (for X years after final payment): 5

Record-keeping (for X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Reviews (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Audits (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Extension of findings from other grants to this grant (no later than X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

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Impact evaluation (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

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## **CHAPTER 1 — GENERAL**

### **ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT**

This Agreement sets out the rights and obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded for the implementation of the action set out in Chapter 2.

### **ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following definitions apply:

Actions — The project which is being funded in the context of this Agreement.

Grant — The grant awarded in the context of this Agreement.

EU grants — Grants awarded by EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies (including EU executive agencies, EU regulatory agencies, EDA, joint undertakings, etc.).

Participants — Entities participating in the action as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties.

Beneficiaries (BEN) — The signatories of this Agreement (either directly or through an accession form).

Affiliated entities (AE) — Entities affiliated to a beneficiary within the meaning of Article 187 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046<sup>4</sup> which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries (obligation to implement action tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions).

Associated partners (AP) — Entities which participate in the action, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.

Purchases — Contracts for goods, works or services needed to carry out the action (e.g. equipment, consumables and supplies) but which are not part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

Subcontracting — Contracts for goods, works or services that are part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

In-kind contributions — In-kind contributions within the meaning of Article 2(36) of EU Financial

<sup>4</sup> For the definition, see Article 187 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1): "**affiliated entities** [are]:

- (a) entities that form a sole beneficiary [(i.e. where an entity is formed of several entities that satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant, including where the entity is specifically established for the purpose of implementing an action to be financed by a grant)];
- (b) entities that satisfy the eligibility criteria and that do not fall within one of the situations referred to in Article 136(1) and 141(1) and that have a link with the beneficiary, in particular a legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation".

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Regulation 2018/1046, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties.

**Fraud** — Fraud within the meaning of Article 3 of EU Directive 2017/1371<sup>5</sup> and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995<sup>6</sup>, as well as any other wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.

**Irregularities** — Any type of breach (regulatory or contractual) which could impact the EU financial interests, including irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation 2988/95<sup>7</sup>.

**Grave professional misconduct** — Any type of unacceptable or improper behaviour in exercising one's profession, especially by employees, including grave professional misconduct within the meaning of Article 136(1)(c) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

**Applicable EU, international and national law** — Any legal acts or other (binding or non-binding) rules and guidance in the area concerned.

**Portal** — EU Funding & Tenders Portal; electronic portal and exchange system managed by the European Commission and used by itself and other EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies for the management of their funding programmes (grants, procurements, prizes, etc.).

## **CHAPTER 2 ACTION**

### **ARTICLE 3 — ACTION**

The grant is awarded for the action **101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('action'), as described in Annex 1.

### **ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE**

The duration and the starting date of the action are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 1).

## **CHAPTER 3 GRANT**

### **ARTICLE 5 — GRANT**

#### **5.1 Form of grant**

<sup>5</sup> Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

<sup>6</sup> OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

<sup>7</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

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The grant is an action grant<sup>8</sup> which takes the form of a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (i.e. a grant based on actual costs incurred, but which may also include other forms of funding, such as unit costs or contributions, flat-rate costs or contributions, lump sum costs or contributions or financing not linked to costs).

## 5.2 Maximum grant amount

The maximum grant amount is set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) and in the estimated budget (Annex 2).

## 5.3 Funding rate

The funding rate for costs is 75% of the action's eligible costs.

Contributions are not subject to any funding rate.

## 5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding

The estimated budget for the action is set out in Annex 2.

It contains the estimated eligible costs and contributions for the action, broken down by participant and budget category.

Annex 2 also shows the types of costs and contributions (forms of funding)<sup>9</sup> to be used for each budget category.

If unit costs or contributions are used, the details on the calculation will be explained in Annex 2a.

## 5.5 Budget flexibility

The budget breakdown may be adjusted — without an amendment (see Article 39) — by transfers (between participants and budget categories), as long as this does not imply any substantive or important change to the description of the action in Annex 1.

However:

- changes to the budget category for volunteers (if used) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with lump sums costs or contributions (if used; including financing not linked to costs) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with higher funding rates or budget ceilings (if used) always require an amendment
- addition of amounts for subcontracts not provided for in Annex 1 either require an amendment or simplified approval in accordance with Article 6.2

<sup>8</sup> For the definition, see Article 180(2)(a) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: 'action grant' means an EU grant to finance "an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective".

<sup>9</sup> See Article 125 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

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- other changes require an amendment or simplified approval, if specifically provided for in Article 6.2
- flexibility caps: not applicable.

## **ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

In order to be eligible, costs and contributions must meet the **eligibility** conditions set out in this Article.

### **6.1 General eligibility conditions**

The **general eligibility conditions** are the following:

- (a) for actual costs:
  - (i) they must be actually incurred by the beneficiary
  - (ii) they must be incurred in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)
  - (iii) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (iv) they must be incurred in connection with the action as described in Annex 1 and necessary for its implementation
  - (v) they must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the beneficiary's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the beneficiary is established and with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices
  - (vi) they must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security and
  - (vii) they must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency
- (b) for unit costs or contributions (if any):
  - (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (ii) the units must:
    - be actually used or produced by the beneficiary in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of units relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be used or produced afterwards; see Article 21)
    - be necessary for the implementation of the action and
  - (iii) the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation (see Article 20)

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- (c) for flat-rate costs or contributions (if any):
- (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (ii) the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied must:
    - be eligible
    - relate to the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs or contributions relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)
- (d) for lump sum costs or contributions (if any):
- (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
  - (ii) the work must be properly implemented by the beneficiary in accordance with Annex 1
  - (iii) the deliverables/outputs must be achieved in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of deliverables/outputs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be achieved afterwards; see Article 21)
- (e) for unit, flat-rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any):
- (i) they must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for the type of cost concerned
  - (ii) the cost accounting practices must be applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding
- (f) for financing not linked to costs (if any): the results must be achieved or the conditions must be fulfilled as described in Annex 1.

In addition, for direct cost categories (e.g. personnel, travel & subsistence, subcontracting and other direct costs) only costs that are directly linked to the action implementation and can therefore be attributed to it directly are eligible. They must not include any indirect costs (i.e. costs that are only indirectly linked to the action, e.g. via cost drivers).

## 6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category

For each budget category, the **specific eligibility conditions** are as follows:

### Direct costs

#### A. Personnel costs

**A.1 Costs for employees (or equivalent)** are eligible as personnel costs if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are related to personnel working for the beneficiary under an employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and assigned to the action.

They must be limited to salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the

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remuneration, if they arise from national law or the employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, in accordance with the following method:

{daily rate for the person  
multiplied by  
number of day-equivalents worked on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)}.

The daily rate must be calculated as:

{annual personnel costs for the person  
divided by  
215}.

The number of day-equivalents declared for a person must be identifiable and verifiable (see Article 20).

The total number of day-equivalents declared in EU grants, for a person for a year, cannot be higher than 215.

The personnel costs may also include supplementary payments for personnel assigned to the action (including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of their nature), if:

- it is part of the beneficiary's usual remuneration practices and is paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required
- the criteria used to calculate the supplementary payments are objective and generally applied by the beneficiary, regardless of the source of funding used.

**A.2 and A.3 Costs for natural persons working under a direct contract** other than an employment contract and costs for **seconded persons by a third party against payment** are also eligible as personnel costs, if they are assigned to the action, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and:

- (a) work under conditions similar to those of an employee (in particular regarding the way the work is organised, the tasks that are performed and the premises where they are performed) and
- (b) the result of the work belongs to the beneficiary (unless agreed otherwise).

They must be calculated on the basis of a rate which corresponds to the costs actually incurred for the direct contract or secondment and must not be significantly different from those for personnel performing similar tasks under an employment contract with the beneficiary.

**A.4 The work of SME owners** for the action (i.e. owners of beneficiaries that are small and medium-sized enterprises<sup>10</sup> not receiving a salary) or **natural person beneficiaries** (i.e. beneficiaries that are

<sup>10</sup> For the definition, see Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC: micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) are enterprises

- engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of their legal form (including, in particular, self-employed persons and family businesses engaged in craft or other activities, and partnerships or associations regularly engaged in an economic activity) and

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natural persons not receiving a salary) may be declared as personnel costs, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

**A.5** The work of **volunteers** for the action (i.e. persons who freely work for an organisation, on a non-compulsory basis and without being paid) may be declared as personnel costs, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

They:

- may not exceed the maximum amount for volunteers for the action (which corresponds to 50% of the total (ineligible and eligible) project costs and contributions estimated in the proposal)
- may not exceed the maximum amount for volunteers for each beneficiary set out in Annex 2
- may not make the maximum EU contribution to costs higher than the total eligible costs without volunteers.

If also indirect costs for volunteers are declared eligible in the call conditions, the amount of indirect costs may be added to the volunteers costs category in Annex 2, at the flat-rate set out in Point E.

## **B. Subcontracting costs**

**Subcontracting costs** for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible, if they are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are awarded using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

Subcontracting may cover only a limited part of the action.

The tasks to be subcontracted and the estimated cost for each subcontract must be set out in Annex 1 and the total estimated costs of subcontracting per beneficiary must be set out in Annex 2 (or may be approved ex post in the periodic report, if the use of subcontracting does not entail changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants; 'simplified approval procedure').

## **C. Purchase costs**

**Purchase costs** for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are bought using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure purchases with

- 
- employing fewer than 250 persons (expressed in 'annual working units' as defined in Article 5 of the Recommendation) and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.

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best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are ‘contracting authorities/entities’ within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

### **C.1 Travel and subsistence**

Purchases for **travel, accommodation and subsistence** must be calculated as follows:

- travel: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary’s usual practices on travel
- accommodation: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary’s usual practices on travel
- subsistence: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary’s usual practices on travel .

### **C.2 Equipment**

Purchases of **equipment, infrastructure or other assets** specifically for the action (or developed as part of the action tasks) may be declared as full capitalised costs if they fulfil the eligibility conditions applicable to their respective cost categories.

‘Capitalised costs’ means:

- costs incurred in the purchase or for the development of the equipment, infrastructure or other assets and,
- which are recorded under a fixed asset account of the beneficiary in compliance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary’s usual cost accounting practices.

If such equipment, infrastructure or other assets are rented or leased, full costs for **renting or leasing** are eligible, if they do not exceed the depreciation costs of similar equipment, infrastructure or assets and do not include any financing fees.

### **C.3 Other goods, works and services**

Purchases of **other goods, works and services** must be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred.

Such goods, works and services include, for instance, consumables and supplies, promotion, dissemination, protection of results, translations, publications, certificates and financial guarantees, if required under the Agreement.

## **D. Other cost categories**

### **D.1 Financial support to third parties**

**Costs for providing financial support to third parties** (in the form of **grants, prizes** or similar forms of support; if any) are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the

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general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and the support is implemented in accordance with the conditions set out in Annex 1.

These conditions must ensure objective and transparent selection procedures and include at least the following:

- (a) for grants (or similar):
  - (i) the maximum amount of financial support for each third party ('recipient'); this amount may not exceed the amount set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) or otherwise agreed with the granting authority
  - (ii) the criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support
  - (iii) the different types of activity that qualify for financial support, on the basis of a closed list
  - (iv) the persons or categories of persons that will be supported and
  - (v) the criteria and procedures for giving financial support
- (b) for prizes (or similar):
  - (i) the eligibility and award criteria
  - (ii) the amount of the prize and
  - (iii) the payment arrangements.

## **D.2 Land purchase**

Costs for land purchase from private entities (or long-term lease of land or one-off compensations for land use rights) are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and:

- (a) the purchase will contribute to improving, maintaining and restoring the integrity of the Natura 2000 network set up pursuant to Article 3 of Directive 92/43/EEC, including through improving connectivity by the creation of corridors, stepping stones, or other elements of green infrastructure
- (b) land purchase is the only or most cost-effective way of achieving the desired conservation outcome
- (c) the land purchased is reserved in the long term for uses consistent with the specific objectives of the LIFE Programme
- (d) the Member State concerned ensures, by way of transfer or otherwise, the long-term assignment of such land to nature conservation purposes and the beneficiary documents this by ensuring that:
  - (i) the entry into the land register includes a condition that the land will be assigned definitively to nature conservation
  - (ii) or, if there is no land register or such a condition is not possible under national law, that

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such a condition is either included in the land sale contract or guaranteed by equivalent means

- (e) for land purchases by private entity beneficiaries: the beneficiaries ensure the long-term conservation by ensuring that:
  - (i) the entry into the land register includes a condition that, in case of their dissolution or incapacity to manage the land according to nature conservation requirements, the property will be transferred to an entity primarily active in the field of nature protection
  - (ii) or, if there is no land register or such a condition is not possible under national law, that such a condition is either included in the land sale contract or guaranteed by equivalent means
- (f) for purchases of partial rights: the entry into the land register duly reflects the long-term nature conservation objectives and the requirements set out in this Article
- (g) for land purchased to be exchanged at a later date for another parcel on which the action will be undertaken: the exchange is carried out before the end of the action and the land exchanged complies with the requirements set out in this Article
- (h) for long-term leases: the lease is of at least 20 years and includes provisions and commitments that ensure the achievement of its objectives in terms of habitat and species protection.

This cost will not be taken into account for the indirect cost flat-rate.

#### **Indirect costs**

#### **E. Indirect costs**

**Indirect costs** will be reimbursed at the flat-rate of 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any).

#### **Contributions**

Not applicable

### **6.3 Ineligible costs and contributions**

The following costs or contributions are **ineligible**:

- (a) costs or contributions that do not comply with the conditions set out above (Article 6.1 and 6.2), in particular:
  - (i) costs related to return on capital and dividends paid by a beneficiary
  - (ii) debt and debt service charges
  - (iii) provisions for future losses or debts
  - (iv) interest owed
  - (v) currency exchange losses

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- (vi) bank costs charged by the beneficiary's bank for transfers from the granting authority
  - (vii) excessive or reckless expenditure
  - (viii) deductible or refundable VAT (including VAT paid by public bodies acting as public authority)
  - (ix) costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant agreement suspension (see Article 31)
  - (x) in-kind contributions by third parties
- (b) costs or contributions declared under other EU grants (or grants awarded by an EU Member State, non-EU country or other body implementing the EU budget), except for the following cases:
- (i) Synergy actions: not applicable
  - (ii) if the action grant is combined with an operating grant<sup>11</sup> running during the same period and the beneficiary can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any (direct or indirect) costs of the action grant
- (c) costs or contributions for staff of a national (or regional/local) administration, for activities that are part of the administration's normal activities (i.e. not undertaken only because of the grant)
- (d) costs or contributions (especially travel and subsistence) for staff or representatives of EU institutions, bodies or agencies
- (e) other :
- (i) country restrictions for eligible costs: not applicable
  - (ii) costs or contributions declared specifically ineligible in the call conditions.

#### **6.4 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary declares costs or contributions that are ineligible, they will be rejected (see Article 27).

This may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION**

### **SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

#### **ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES**

<sup>11</sup> For the definition, see Article 180(2)(b) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: 'operating grant' means an EU grant to finance "the functioning of a body which has an objective forming part of and supporting an EU policy".

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The beneficiaries, as signatories of the Agreement, are fully responsible towards the granting authority for implementing it and for complying with all its obligations.

They must implement the Agreement to their best abilities, in good faith and in accordance with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

They must have the appropriate resources to implement the action and implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with Article 11. If they rely on affiliated entities or other participants (see Articles 8 and 9), they retain sole responsibility towards the granting authority and the other beneficiaries.

They are jointly responsible for the *technical* implementation of the action. If one of the beneficiaries fails to implement their part of the action, the other beneficiaries must ensure that this part is implemented by someone else (without being entitled to an increase of the maximum grant amount and subject to an amendment; see Article 39). The *financial* responsibility of each beneficiary in case of recoveries is governed by Article 22.

The beneficiaries (and their action) must remain eligible under the EU programme funding the grant for the entire duration of the action. Costs and contributions will be eligible only as long as the beneficiary and the action are eligible.

The **internal roles and responsibilities** of the beneficiaries are divided as follows:

- (a) Each beneficiary must:
- (i) keep information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date (see Article 19)
  - (ii) inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) immediately of any events or circumstances likely to affect significantly or delay the implementation of the action (see Article 19)
  - (iii) submit to the coordinator in good time:
    - the prefinancing guarantees (if required; see Article 23)
    - the financial statements and certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
    - the contribution to the deliverables and technical reports (see Article 21)
    - any other documents or information required by the granting authority under the Agreement
  - (iv) submit via the Portal data and information related to the participation of their affiliated entities.
- (b) The coordinator must:
- (i) monitor that the action is implemented properly (see Article 11)
  - (ii) act as the intermediary for all communications between the consortium and the granting authority, unless the Agreement or granting authority specifies otherwise, and in particular:

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- submit the prefinancing guarantees to the granting authority (if any)
  - request and review any documents or information required and verify their quality and completeness before passing them on to the granting authority
  - submit the deliverables and reports to the granting authority
  - inform the granting authority about the payments made to the other beneficiaries (report on the distribution of payments; if required, see Articles 22 and 32)
- (iii) distribute the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries without unjustified delay (see Article 22).

The coordinator may not delegate or subcontract the above-mentioned tasks to any other beneficiary or third party (including affiliated entities).

However, coordinators which are public bodies may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(ii) last indent and (iii) above to entities with ‘authorisation to administer’ which they have created or which are controlled by or affiliated to them. In this case, the coordinator retains sole responsibility for the payments and for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Moreover, coordinators which are ‘sole beneficiaries’<sup>12</sup> (or similar, such as European research infrastructure consortia (ERICs)) may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(i) to (iii) above to one of their members. The coordinator retains sole responsibility for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must have **internal arrangements** regarding their operation and co-ordination, to ensure that the action is implemented properly.

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 1), these arrangements must be set out in a written **consortium agreement** between the beneficiaries, covering for instance:

- the internal organisation of the consortium
- the management of access to the Portal
- different distribution keys for the payments and financial responsibilities in case of recoveries (if any)
- additional rules on rights and obligations related to background and results (see Article 16)
- settlement of internal disputes
- liability, indemnification and confidentiality arrangements between the beneficiaries.

The internal arrangements must not contain any provision contrary to this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES

<sup>12</sup> For the definition, see Article 187(2) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: “Where several entities satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant and together form one entity, that entity may be treated as the **sole beneficiary**, including where it is specifically established for the purpose of implementing the action financed by the grant.”

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Not applicable

## **ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION**

### **9.1 Associated partners**

Not applicable

### **9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action**

Other third parties may give in-kind contributions to the action (i.e. personnel, equipment, other goods, works and services, etc. which are free-of-charge), if necessary for the implementation.

Third parties giving in-kind contributions do not implement any action tasks. They may not charge costs or contributions to the action and the costs for the in-kind contributions are not eligible.

The third parties and their in-kind contributions should be set out in Annex 1.

### **9.3 Subcontractors**

Subcontractors may participate in the action, if necessary for the implementation.

Subcontractors must implement their action tasks in accordance with Article 11. The costs for the subcontracted tasks (invoiced price from the subcontractor) are eligible and may be charged by the beneficiaries, under the conditions set out in Article 6. The costs will be included in Annex 2 as part of the beneficiaries' costs.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the subcontractors.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the subcontractors.

### **9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties**

If the action includes providing financial support to third parties (e.g. grants, prizes or similar forms of support), the beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the third parties receiving the support (recipients).

The beneficiaries must also ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the recipients.

## **ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS**

### **10.1 Non-EU participants**

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Participants which are established in a non-EU country (if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use qualified external auditors which are independent and comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC<sup>13</sup>
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for checks, reviews, audits and investigations (including on-the-spot checks, visits and inspections) by the bodies mentioned in that Article (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.).

Special rules on dispute settlement apply (see Data Sheet, Point 5).

### 10.2 Participants which are international organisations

Participants which are international organisations (IOs; if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use either independent public officers or external auditors which comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for the checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the bodies mentioned in that Article, taking into account the specific agreements concluded by them and the EU (if any).

For such participants, nothing in the Agreement will be interpreted as a waiver of their privileges or immunities, as accorded by their constituent documents or international law.

Special rules on applicable law and dispute settlement apply (see Article 43 and Data Sheet, Point 5).

### 10.3 Pillar-assessed participants

Pillar-assessed participants (if any) may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in so far as they have been positively assessed and do not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries.

‘Pillar-assessment’ means a review by the European Commission on the systems, rules and procedures which participants use for managing EU grants (in particular internal control system, accounting system, external audits, financing of third parties, rules on recovery and exclusion, information on recipients and protection of personal data; see Article 154 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046).

<sup>13</sup> Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

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Participants with a positive pillar assessment may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in particular for:

- record-keeping (Article 20): may be done in accordance with internal standards, rules and procedures
- currency conversion for financial statements (Article 21): may be done in accordance with usual accounting practices
- guarantees (Article 23): for public law bodies, prefinancing guarantees are not needed
- certificates (Article 24):
  - certificates on the financial statements (CFS): may be provided by their regular internal or external auditors and in accordance with their internal financial regulations and procedures
  - certificates on usual accounting practices (CoMUC): are not needed if those practices are covered by an ex-ante assessment

and use the following specific rules, for:

- recoveries (Article 22): in case of financial support to third parties, there will be no recovery if the participant has done everything possible to retrieve the undue amounts from the third party receiving the support (including legal proceedings) and non-recovery is not due to an error or negligence on its part
- checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the EU (Article 25): will be conducted taking into account the rules and procedures specifically agreed between them and the framework agreement (if any)
- impact evaluation (Article 26): will be conducted in accordance with the participant's internal rules and procedures and the framework agreement (if any)
- grant agreement suspension (Article 31): certain costs incurred during grant suspension are eligible (notably, minimum costs necessary for a possible resumption of the action and costs relating to contracts which were entered into before the pre-information letter was received and which could not reasonably be suspended, reallocated or terminated on legal grounds)
- grant agreement termination (Article 32): the final grant amount and final payment will be calculated taking into account also costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination takes effect, if the contract was entered into before the pre-information letter was received and could not reasonably be terminated on legal grounds
- liability for damages (Article 33.2): the granting authority must be compensated for damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement only if the damage is due to an infringement of the participant's internal rules and procedures or due to a violation of third parties' rights by the participant or one of its employees or individual for whom the employees are responsible.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers procurement and granting procedures may also do

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purchases, subcontracting and financial support to third parties (Article 6.2) in accordance with their internal rules and procedures for purchases, subcontracting and financial support.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers data protection rules may rely on their internal standards, rules and procedures for data protection (Article 15).

The participants may however not rely on provisions which would breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries or call into question the decision awarding the grant, such as in particular:

- eligibility (Article 6)
- consortium roles and set-up (Articles 7-9)
- security and ethics (Articles 13, 14)
- IPR (including background and results, access rights and rights of use), communication, dissemination and visibility (Articles 16 and 17)
- information obligation (Article 19)
- payment, reporting and amendments (Articles 21, 22 and 39)
- rejections, reductions, suspensions and terminations (Articles 27, 28, 29-32)

If the pillar assessment was subject to remedial measures, reliance on the internal systems, rules and procedures is subject to compliance with those remedial measures.

Participants whose assessment has not yet been updated to cover (the new rules on) data protection may rely on their internal systems, rules and procedures, provided that they ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data.

Participants must inform the coordinator without delay of any changes to the systems, rules and procedures that were part of the pillar assessment. The coordinator must immediately inform the granting authority.

Pillar-assessed participants that have also concluded a framework agreement with the EU, may moreover — under the same conditions as those above (i.e. not call into question the decision awarding

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the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries) — rely on the provisions set out in that framework agreement.

## **SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION**

### **ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION**

#### **11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action**

The beneficiaries must implement the action as described in Annex 1 and in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement, the call conditions and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law.

#### **11.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

### **ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

#### **12.1 Conflict of interests**

The beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Agreement could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest ('conflict of interests').

They must formally notify the granting authority without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The granting authority may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

#### **12.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the beneficiary may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

### **ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY**

#### **13.1 Sensitive information**

The parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as sensitive in writing ('sensitive information') — during the implementation of the action and for at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

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If a beneficiary requests, the granting authority may agree to keep such information confidential for a longer period.

Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use sensitive information only to implement the Agreement.

The beneficiaries may disclose sensitive information to their personnel or other participants involved in the action only if they:

- (a) need to know it in order to implement the Agreement and
- (b) are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The granting authority may disclose sensitive information to its staff and to other EU institutions and bodies.

It may moreover disclose sensitive information to third parties, if:

- (a) this is necessary to implement the Agreement or safeguard the EU financial interests and
- (b) the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:

- (a) the disclosing party agrees to release the other party
- (b) the information becomes publicly available, without breaching any confidentiality obligation
- (c) the disclosure of the sensitive information is required by EU, international or national law.

Specific confidentiality rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **13.2 Classified information**

The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/444<sup>14</sup> and its implementing rules).

Deliverables which contain classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving classified information may be subcontracted only after explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

Classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

Specific security rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **13.3 Consequences of non-compliance**

<sup>14</sup> Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

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If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES**

### **14.1 Ethics**

The action must be carried out in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.

Specific ethics rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **14.2 Values**

The beneficiaries must commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

Specific rules on values (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **14.3 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION**

### **15.1 Data processing by the granting authority**

Any personal data under the Agreement will be processed under the responsibility of the data controller of the granting authority in accordance with and for the purposes set out in the Portal Privacy Statement.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission, an EU regulatory or executive agency, joint undertaking or other EU body, the processing will be subject to Regulation 2018/1725<sup>15</sup>.

### **15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries must process personal data under the Agreement in compliance with the applicable EU, international and national law on data protection (in particular, Regulation 2016/679<sup>16</sup>).

<sup>15</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

<sup>16</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC ('GDPR') (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

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They must ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subjects
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data.

The beneficiaries may grant their personnel access to personal data only if it is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement. The beneficiaries must ensure that the personnel is under a confidentiality obligation.

The beneficiaries must inform the persons whose data are transferred to the granting authority and provide them with the Portal Privacy Statement.

### **15.3 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE**

### **16.1 Background and access rights to background**

The beneficiaries must give each other and the other participants access to the background identified as needed for implementing the action, subject to any specific rules in Annex 5.

‘Background’ means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights — that is:

- (a) held by the beneficiaries before they acceded to the Agreement and
- (b) needed to implement the action or exploit the results.

If background is subject to rights of a third party, the beneficiary concerned must ensure that it is able to comply with its obligations under the Agreement.

### **16.2 Ownership of results**

The granting authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced under the action.

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‘Results’ means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

### **16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes**

The granting authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the action and materials and documents received from the beneficiaries (notably summaries for publication, deliverables, as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes — during the action or afterwards.

The right to use the beneficiaries’ materials, documents and information is granted in the form of a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence, which includes the following rights:

- (a) **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- (b) **distribution to the public** (in particular, publication as hard copies and in electronic or digital format, publication on the internet, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file, broadcasting by any channel, public display or presentation, communicating through press information services, or inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes)
- (c) **editing or redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, inserting other elements (e.g. meta-data, legends, other graphic, visual, audio or text elements), extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts, use in a compilation)
- (d) **translation**
- (e) **storage** in paper, electronic or other form
- (f) **archiving**, in line with applicable document-management rules
- (g) the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties the modes of use set out in Points (b), (c), (d) and (f), if needed for the information, communication and publicity activity of the granting authority
- (h) **processing**, analysing, aggregating the materials, documents and information received and **producing derivative works**.

The rights of use are granted for the whole duration of the industrial or intellectual property rights concerned.

If materials or documents are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

Where applicable, the granting authority will insert the following information:

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“© – [year] – [name of the copyright owner]. All rights reserved. Licensed to the [name of granting authority] under conditions.”

#### **16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background**

Specific rules regarding intellectual property rights, results and background (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

#### **16.5 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

### **ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY**

#### **17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action**

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the beneficiaries must promote the action and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex 1 and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the beneficiaries must inform the granting authority.

#### **17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement**

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by the grant must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):



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European Union



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Funded by the  
European Union



Co-funded by the  
European Union

The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the beneficiaries may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

### 17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the action must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.”

### 17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules

Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### 17.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

### 18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action

Specific rules for implementing the action (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### 18.2 Consequences of non-compliance

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If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

### **SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

#### **ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS**

##### **19.1 Information requests**

The beneficiaries must provide — during the action or afterwards and in accordance with Article 7 — any information requested in order to verify eligibility of the costs or contributions declared, proper implementation of the action and compliance with the other obligations under the Agreement.

The information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

##### **19.2 Participant Register data updates**

The beneficiaries must keep — at all times, during the action or afterwards — their information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date, in particular, their name, address, legal representatives, legal form and organisation type.

##### **19.3 Information about events and circumstances which impact the action**

The beneficiaries must immediately inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) of any of the following:

- (a) **events** which are likely to affect or delay the implementation of the action or affect the EU's financial interests, in particular:
  - (i) changes in their legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour signed before grant signature)
  - (ii) linked action information: not applicable
- (b) **circumstances** affecting:
  - (i) the decision to award the grant or
  - (ii) compliance with requirements under the Agreement.

##### **19.4 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

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## **ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING**

### **20.1 Keeping records and supporting documents**

The beneficiaries must — at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6) — keep records and other supporting documents to prove the proper implementation of the action in line with the accepted standards in the respective field (if any).

In addition, the beneficiaries must — for the same period — keep the following to justify the amounts declared:

- (a) for actual costs: adequate records and supporting documents to prove the costs declared (such as contracts, subcontracts, invoices and accounting records); in addition, the beneficiaries' usual accounting and internal control procedures must enable direct reconciliation between the amounts declared, the amounts recorded in their accounts and the amounts stated in the supporting documents
- (b) for flat-rate costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the eligibility of the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied
- (c) for the following simplified costs and contributions: the beneficiaries do not need to keep specific records on the actual costs incurred, but must keep:
  - (i) for unit costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the number of units declared
  - (ii) for lump sum costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove proper implementation of the work as described in Annex 1
  - (iii) for financing not linked to costs (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the achievement of the results or the fulfilment of the conditions as described in Annex 1
- (d) for unit, flat-rate and lump sum costs and contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any): the beneficiaries must keep any adequate records and supporting documents to prove that their cost accounting practices have been applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding, and that they comply with the eligibility conditions set out in Articles 6.1 and 6.2.

Moreover, the following is needed for specific budget categories:

- (e) for personnel costs: time worked for the beneficiary under the action must be supported by declarations signed monthly by the person and their supervisor, unless another reliable time-record system is in place; the granting authority may accept alternative evidence supporting the time worked for the action declared, if it considers that it offers an adequate level of assurance
- (f) additional record-keeping rules: not applicable

The records and supporting documents must be made available upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

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If there are on-going checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims under the Agreement (including the extension of findings; see Article 25), the beneficiaries must keep these records and other supporting documentation until the end of these procedures.

The beneficiaries must keep the original documents. Digital and digitalised documents are considered originals if they are authorised by the applicable national law. The granting authority may accept non-original documents if they offer a comparable level of assurance.

## 20.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING

### 21.1 Continuous reporting

The beneficiaries must continuously report on the progress of the action (e.g. **deliverables, milestones, outputs/outcomes, critical risks, indicators**, etc; if any), in the Portal Continuous Reporting tool and in accordance with the timing and conditions it sets out (as agreed with the granting authority).

Standardised deliverables (e.g. progress reports not linked to payments, reports on cumulative expenditure, special reports, etc; if any) must be submitted using the templates published on the Portal.

### 21.2 Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements

In addition, the beneficiaries must provide reports to request payments, in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2):

- for additional prefinancings (if any): an **additional prefinancing report**
- for interim payments (if any) and the final payment: a **periodic report**.

The prefinancing and periodic reports include a technical and financial part.

The technical part includes an overview of the action implementation. It must be prepared using the template available in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool.

The financial part of the additional prefinancing report includes a statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment.

The financial part of the periodic report includes:

- the financial statements (individual and consolidated; for all beneficiaries/affiliated entities)
- the explanation on the use of resources (or detailed cost reporting table, if required)

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- the certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Article 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3).

The **financial statements** must detail the eligible costs and contributions for each budget category and, for the final payment, also the revenues for the action (see Articles 6 and 22).

All eligible costs and contributions incurred should be declared, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Amounts that are not declared in the individual financial statements will not be taken into account by the granting authority.

By signing the financial statements (directly in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool), the beneficiaries confirm that:

- the information provided is complete, reliable and true
- the costs and contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6)
- the costs and contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documents (see Article 20) that will be produced upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Article 25)
- for the final periodic report: all the revenues have been declared (if required; see Article 22).

Beneficiaries will have to submit also the financial statements of their affiliated entities (if any). In case of recoveries (see Article 22), beneficiaries will be held responsible also for the financial statements of their affiliated entities.

### 21.3 Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros

The financial statements must be drafted in euro.

Beneficiaries with general accounts established in a currency other than the euro must convert the costs recorded in their accounts into euro, at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union* (ECB website), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

If no daily euro exchange rate is published in the *Official Journal* for the currency in question, they must be converted at the average of the monthly accounting exchange rates published on the European Commission website (InforEuro), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in euro must convert costs incurred in another currency into euro according to their usual accounting practices.

### 21.4 Reporting language

The reporting must be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

### 21.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a report submitted does not comply with this Article, the granting authority may suspend the payment deadline (see Article 29) and apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

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If the coordinator breaches its reporting obligations, the granting authority may terminate the grant or the coordinator's participation (see Article 32) or apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE**

### **22.1 Payments and payment arrangements**

Payments will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

They will be made in euro to the bank account indicated by the coordinator (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) and must be distributed without unjustified delay (restrictions may apply to distribution of the initial prefinancing payment; see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

Payments to this bank account will discharge the granting authority from its payment obligation.

The cost of payment transfers will be borne as follows:

- the granting authority bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the beneficiary bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the party causing a repetition of a transfer bears all costs of the repeated transfer.

Payments by the granting authority will be considered to have been carried out on the date when they are debited to its account.

### **22.2 Recoveries**

Recoveries will be made, if — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — it turns out that the granting authority has paid too much and needs to recover the amounts undue.

The general liability regime for recoveries (first-line liability) is as follows: At final payment, the coordinator will be fully liable for recoveries, even if it has not been the final recipient of the undue amounts. At beneficiary termination or after final payment, recoveries will be made directly against the beneficiaries concerned.

Beneficiaries will be fully liable for repaying the debts of their affiliated entities.

In case of enforced recoveries (see Article 22.4):

- the beneficiaries will be jointly and severally liable for repaying debts of another beneficiary under the Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- affiliated entities will be held liable for repaying debts of their beneficiaries under the Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4).

### **22.3 Amounts due**

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### 22.3.1 Prefinancing payments

The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float.

It remains the property of the EU until the final payment.

For **initial prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

For **additional prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are also set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2). However, if the statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment shows that less than 70% was used, the amount set out in the Data Sheet will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount used.

Prefinancing payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

### 22.3.2 Amount due at beneficiary termination — Recovery

In case of beneficiary termination, the granting authority will determine the provisional amount due for the beneficiary concerned. Payments (if any) will be made with the next interim or final payment.

The **amount due** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary for all reporting periods, by calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of the beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary.

The **balance** is then calculated by deducting the payments received (if any; see report on the distribution of payments in Article 32), from the total accepted EU contribution:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \{ \text{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary} \\ \text{minus} \\ \{ \text{prefinancing and interim payments received (if any)} \} \end{array} \right\}$$

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If the balance is **positive**, the amount will be included in the next interim or final payment to the consortium.

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount due, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered and ask this amount to be paid to the coordinator (**confirmation letter**).

The amounts will later on also be taken into account for the next interim or final payment.

### 22.3.3 Interim payments

Interim payments reimburse the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action during the reporting periods (if any).

Interim payments (if any) will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **interim payment** will be calculated by the granting authority in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will calculate the ‘accepted EU contribution’ for the action for the reporting period, by first calculating the ‘maximum EU contribution to costs’ (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions from beneficiary termination (if any). The resulting amount is the ‘total accepted EU contribution’.

#### Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

The resulting amount is then capped to ensure that the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments (if any) does not exceed the interim payment ceiling set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Interim payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries’ consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

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For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

#### **22.3.4 Final payment — Final grant amount — Revenues and Profit — Recovery**

The final payment (payment of the balance) reimburses the remaining part of the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action (if any).

The final payment will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the final periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **final grant amount for the action** will be calculated in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

##### Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the ‘accepted EU contribution’ for the action for all reporting periods, by calculating the ‘maximum EU contribution to costs’ (applying the funding rate to the total accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the ‘total accepted EU contribution’.

##### Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

If the resulting amount is higher than the maximum grant amount set out in Article 5.2, it will be limited to the latter.

##### Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

If the no-profit rule is provided for in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2), the grant must not produce a profit (i.e. surplus of the amount obtained following Step 2 plus the action’s revenues, over the eligible costs and contributions approved by the granting authority).

‘Revenue’ is all income generated by the action, during its duration (see Article 4), for beneficiaries that are profit legal entities.

If there is a profit, it will be deducted in proportion to the final rate of reimbursement of the eligible

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costs approved by the granting authority (as compared to the amount calculated following Steps 1 and 2 minus the contributions).

The **balance** (final payment) is then calculated by deducting the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments already made (if any), from the final grant amount:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{\{final grant amount} \\ \text{minus} \\ \text{\{prefinancing and interim payments made (if any)\}} \end{array} \right\}$$

If the balance is **positive**, it will be **paid** to the coordinator.

The final payment (or part of it) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the final grant amount, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and date for payment.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

### 22.3.5 Audit implementation after final payment — Revised final grant amount — Recovery

If — after the final payment (in particular, after checks, reviews, audits or investigations; see Article 25) — the granting authority rejects costs or contributions (see Article 27) or reduces the grant (see Article 28), it will calculate the **revised final grant amount** for the beneficiary concerned.

The **beneficiary revised final grant amount** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'revised accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary, by calculating the 'revised accepted costs' and 'revised accepted contributions'.

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After that, it will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting ‘revised total accepted EU contribution’ is the beneficiary revised final grant amount.

If the revised final grant amount is lower than the beneficiary’s final grant amount (i.e. its share in the final grant amount for the action), it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The **beneficiary final grant amount** (i.e. share in the final grant amount for the action) is calculated as follows:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{\{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary} \\ \text{divided by} \\ \text{total accepted EU contribution for the action\}} \\ \text{multiplied by} \\ \text{final grant amount for the action\}}. \end{array} \right.$$

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and the date for payment.

Recoveries against affiliated entities (if any) will be handled through their beneficiaries.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

#### 22.4 Enforced recovery

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the amount due will be recovered:

- (a) by offsetting the amount — without the coordinator or beneficiary’s consent — against any amounts owed to the coordinator or beneficiary by the granting authority.

In exceptional circumstances, to safeguard the EU financial interests, the amount may be offset before the payment date specified in the debit note.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, debts may also be offset against amounts owed by other Commission services or executive agencies.

- (b) by drawing on the financial guarantee(s) (if any)
- (c) by holding other beneficiaries jointly and severally liable (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- (d) by holding affiliated entities jointly and severally liable (if any, see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- (e) by taking legal action (see Article 43) or, provided that the granting authority is the European

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Commission or an EU executive agency, by adopting an enforceable decision under Article 299 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 100(2) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

The amount to be recovered will be increased by **late-payment interest** at the rate set out in Article 22.5, from the day following the payment date in the debit note, up to and including the date the full payment is received.

Partial payments will be first credited against expenses, charges and late-payment interest and then against the principal.

Bank charges incurred in the recovery process will be borne by the beneficiary, unless Directive 2015/2366<sup>17</sup> applies.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency, enforced recovery by offsetting or enforceable decision will be done by the services of the European Commission (see also Article 43).

## 22.5 Consequences of non-compliance

**22.5.1** If the granting authority does not pay within the payment deadlines (see above), the beneficiaries are entitled to **late-payment interest** at the rate applied by the European Central Bank (ECB) for its main refinancing operations in euros ('reference rate'), plus the rate specified in the Data Sheet (Point 4.2). The reference rate is the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment deadline expires, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

If the late-payment interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it will be paid to the coordinator only on request submitted within two months of receiving the late payment.

Late-payment interest is not due if all beneficiaries are EU Member States (including regional and local government authorities or other public bodies acting on behalf of a Member State for the purpose of this Agreement).

If payments or the payment deadline are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30), payment will not be considered as late.

Late-payment interest covers the period running from the day following the due date for payment (see above), up to and including the date of payment.

Late-payment interest is not considered for the purposes of calculating the final grant amount.

**22.5.2** If the coordinator breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 29) and the grant or the coordinator may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES

### 23.1 Prefinancing guarantee

<sup>17</sup> Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC (OJ L 337, 23.12.2015, p. 35).

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If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2), the beneficiaries must provide (one or more) prefinancing guarantee(s) in accordance with the timing and the amounts set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them to the granting authority in due time before the prefinancing they are linked to.

The guarantees must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a bank or approved financial institution established in the EU or — if requested by the coordinator and accepted by the granting authority — by a third party or a bank or financial institution established outside the EU offering equivalent security
- (b) the guarantor stands as first-call guarantor and does not require the granting authority to first have recourse against the principal debtor (i.e. the beneficiary concerned) and
- (c) remain explicitly in force until the final payment and, if the final payment takes the form of a recovery, until five months after the debit note is notified to a beneficiary.

They will be released within the following month.

### **23.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

If the beneficiaries breach their obligation to provide the prefinancing guarantee, the prefinancing will not be paid.

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES**

### **24.1 Operational verification report (OVR)**

Not applicable

### **24.2 Certificate on the financial statements (CFS)**

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.3), the beneficiaries must provide certificates on their financial statements (CFS), in accordance with the schedule, threshold and conditions set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them as part of the periodic report (see Article 21).

The certificates must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal, cover the costs declared on the basis of actual costs and costs according to usual cost accounting practices (if any), and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC<sup>18</sup> (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)

<sup>18</sup> Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

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- (b) the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the financial statements comply with the provisions under the Agreement and that the costs declared are eligible.

The certificates will not affect the granting authority's right to carry out its own checks, reviews or audits, nor preclude the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) or the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) from using their prerogatives for audits and investigations under the Agreement (see Article 25).

If the costs (or a part of them) were already audited by the granting authority, these costs do not need to be covered by the certificate and will not be counted for calculating the threshold (if any).

#### **24.3 Certificate on the compliance of usual cost accounting practices (CoMUC)**

Not applicable

#### **24.4 Systems and process audit (SPA)**

Not applicable

#### **24.5 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary does not submit a certificate on the financial statements (CFS) or the certificate is rejected, the accepted EU contribution to costs will be capped to reflect the CFS threshold.

If a beneficiary breaches any of its other obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

### **ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS**

#### **25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits**

##### **25.1.1 Internal checks**

The granting authority may — during the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing costs and contributions, deliverables and reports.

##### **25.1.2 Project reviews**

The granting authority may carry out reviews on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement (general project reviews or specific issues reviews).

Such project reviews may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent, outside experts. If it uses outside experts, the coordinator or beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

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The coordinator or beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted (including information on the use of resources). The granting authority may request beneficiaries to provide such information to it directly. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may be requested to participate in meetings, including with the outside experts.

For **on-the-spot visits**, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including to the outside experts) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the review findings, a **project review report** will be drawn up.

The granting authority will formally notify the project review report to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations.

Project reviews (including project review reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

### 25.1.3 Audits

The granting authority may carry out audits on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Such audits may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

The granting authority may use its own audit service, delegate audits to a centralised service or use external audit firms. If it uses an external firm, the beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data) to verify compliance with the Agreement. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

For **on-the-spot** visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings, a **draft audit report** will be drawn up.

The auditors will formally notify the draft audit report to the beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations (contradictory audit procedure).

The **final audit report** will take into account observations by the beneficiary concerned and will be formally notified to them.

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Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

## **25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities**

Where the granting authority is not the European Commission, the latter has the same rights of checks, reviews and audits as the granting authority.

## **25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding**

The beneficiaries must give the European Commission access to their statutory records for the periodic assessment of simplified forms of funding which are used in EU programmes.

## **25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations**

The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations — during the action or afterwards:

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013<sup>19</sup> and No 2185/96<sup>20</sup>
- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939
- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If requested by these bodies, the beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data, including in electronic format) and allow access to sites and premises for on-the-spot visits or inspections — as provided for under these Regulations.

To this end, the beneficiary concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (Point 6) and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

## **25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations**

### **25.5.1 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations in this grant**

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations carried out in the context of this grant may lead to rejections (see Article 27), grant reduction (see Article 28) or other measures described in Chapter 5.

Rejections or grant reductions after the final payment will lead to a revised final grant amount (see Article 22).

<sup>19</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1).

<sup>20</sup> Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/1996 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2).

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Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations during the action implementation may lead to a request for amendment (see Article 39), to change the description of the action set out in Annex 1.

Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations in any EU grant may also lead to consequences in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions ('extension to other grants').

Moreover, findings arising from an OLAF or EPPO investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.

### 25.5.2 Extension from other grants

Results of checks, reviews, audits or investigations in other grants may be extended to this grant, if:

- (a) the beneficiary concerned is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant and
- (b) those findings are formally notified to the beneficiary concerned — together with the list of grants affected by the findings — within the time-limit for audits set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned of the intention to extend the findings and the list of grants affected.

If the extension concerns **rejections of costs or contributions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings
- (b) the request to submit revised financial statements for all grants affected
- (c) the correction rate for extrapolation, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors, to calculate the amounts to be rejected, if the beneficiary concerned:
  - (i) considers that the submission of revised financial statements is not possible or practicable or
  - (ii) does not submit revised financial statements.

If the extension concerns **grant reductions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings and
- (b) the **correction rate for extrapolation**, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors and the principle of proportionality.

The beneficiary concerned has **60 days** from receiving notification to submit observations, revised financial statements or to propose a duly substantiated **alternative correction method/rate**.

On the basis of this, the granting authority will analyse the impact and decide on the implementation (i.e. start rejection or grant reduction procedures, either on the basis of the revised financial statements or the announced/alternative method/rate or a mix of those; see Articles 27 and 28).

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## **25.6 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS**

### **26.1 Impact evaluation**

The granting authority may carry out impact evaluations of the action, measured against the objectives and indicators of the EU programme funding the grant.

Such evaluations may be started during implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiaries and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent outside experts.

The coordinator or beneficiaries must provide any information relevant to evaluate the impact of the action, including information in electronic format.

### **26.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

## **CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE**

### **SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION**

## **ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **27.1 Conditions**

The granting authority will — at beneficiary termination, interim payment, final payment or afterwards — reject any costs or contributions which are ineligible (see Article 6), in particular following checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

The rejection may also be based on the extension of findings from other grants to this grant (see Article 25).

Ineligible costs or contributions will be rejected.

### **27.2 Procedure**

If the rejection does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the rejection, the amounts and the reasons why. The coordinator or

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beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the rejection (payment review procedure).

If the rejection leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

### **27.3 Effects**

If the granting authority rejects costs or contributions, it will deduct them from the costs or contributions declared and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

## **ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION**

### **28.1 Conditions**

The granting authority may — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — reduce the grant for a beneficiary, if:

- (a) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (see Article 25).

The amount of the reduction will be calculated for each beneficiary concerned and proportionate to the seriousness and the duration of the errors, irregularities or fraud or breach of obligations, by applying an individual reduction rate to their accepted EU contribution.

### **28.2 Procedure**

If the grant reduction does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the reduction, the amount to be reduced and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the reduction (payment review procedure).

If the grant reduction leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

### **28.3 Effects**

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If the granting authority reduces the grant, it will deduct the reduction and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

## **SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION**

### **ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION**

#### **29.1 Conditions**

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend the payment deadline if a payment cannot be processed because:

- (a) the required report (see Article 21) has not been submitted or is not complete or additional information is needed
- (b) there are doubts about the amount to be paid (e.g. ongoing audit extension procedure, queries about eligibility, need for a grant reduction, etc.) and additional checks, reviews, audits or investigations are necessary, or
- (c) there are other issues affecting the EU financial interests.

#### **29.2 Procedure**

The granting authority will formally notify the coordinator of the suspension and the reasons why.

The suspension will **take effect** the day the notification is sent.

If the conditions for suspending the payment deadline are no longer met, the suspension will be **lifted** — and the remaining time to pay (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) will resume.

If the suspension exceeds two months, the coordinator may request the granting authority to confirm if the suspension will continue.

If the payment deadline has been suspended due to the non-compliance of the report and the revised report is not submitted (or was submitted but is also rejected), the granting authority may also terminate the grant or the participation of the coordinator (see Article 32).

### **ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION**

#### **30.1 Conditions**

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend payments, in whole or in part for one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including

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improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or

- (b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant.

If payments are suspended for one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will make partial payment(s) for the part(s) not suspended. If suspension concerns the final payment, the payment (or recovery) of the remaining amount after suspension is lifted will be considered to be the payment that closes the action.

### 30.2 Procedure

Before suspending payments, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend payments and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

At the end of the suspension procedure, the granting authority will also inform the coordinator.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent.

If the conditions for resuming payments are met, the suspension will be **lifted**. The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned (and the coordinator) and set the suspension end date.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid to the beneficiaries concerned. For interim payments, the periodic reports for all reporting periods except the last one (see Article 21) must not contain any financial statements from the beneficiary concerned (or its affiliated entities). The coordinator must include them in the next periodic report after the suspension is lifted or — if suspension is not lifted before the end of the action — in the last periodic report.

## ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION

### 31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension

#### 31.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the suspension of the grant or any part of it, if exceptional circumstances — in particular *force majeure* (see Article 35) — make implementation impossible or excessively difficult.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

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- the reasons why
- the date the suspension takes effect; this date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request and
- the expected date of resumption.

The suspension will **take effect** on the day specified in the amendment.

Once circumstances allow for implementation to resume, the coordinator must immediately request another **amendment** of the Agreement to set the suspension end date, the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the amendment. This date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

## 31.2 EU-initiated GA suspension

### 31.2.1 Conditions

The granting authority may suspend the grant or any part of it, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant
- (c) other:
  - (i) linked action issues: not applicable
  - (ii) additional GA suspension grounds: not applicable.

### 31.2.2 Procedure

Before suspending the grant, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend the grant and the reasons why and

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- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification).

Once the conditions for resuming implementation of the action are met, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator a **lifting of suspension letter**, in which it will set the suspension end date and invite the coordinator to request an amendment of the Agreement to set the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the lifting of suspension letter. This date may be before the date on which the letter is sent.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to suspension by the granting authority (see Article 33).

Grant suspension does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant or a beneficiary (see Article 32) or reduce the grant (see Article 28).

## ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION

### 32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination

#### 32.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the termination of the grant.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the consortium ends work on the action ('end of work date') and
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no reasons are given or if the granting authority considers the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the grant terminated improperly.

#### 32.1.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report

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submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Improper termination may lead to a grant reduction (see Article 28).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

## 32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination

### 32.2.1 Conditions and procedure

The coordinator may request the termination of the participation of one or more beneficiaries, on request of the beneficiary concerned or on behalf of the other beneficiaries.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the opinion of the beneficiary concerned (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing)
- the date the beneficiary ends work on the action ('end of work date')
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

If the termination concerns the coordinator and is done without its agreement, the amendment request must be submitted by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the consortium).

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no information is given or if the granting authority considers that the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the beneficiary to have been terminated improperly.

### 32.2.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)

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- (iii) a second **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with other amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the second request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the second request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

Improper termination may lead to a reduction of the grant (see Article 31) or grant termination (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

### **32.3 EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination**

#### **32.3.1 Conditions**

The granting authority may terminate the grant or the participation of one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) one or more beneficiaries do not accede to the Agreement (see Article 40)
- (b) a change to the action or the legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation of a beneficiary is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the action or calls into question the decision to award the grant (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour)
- (c) following termination of one or more beneficiaries, the necessary changes to the Agreement

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(and their impact on the action) would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants

- (d) implementation of the action has become impossible or the changes necessary for its continuation would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (e) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is subject to bankruptcy proceedings or similar (including insolvency, winding-up, administration by a liquidator or court, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities, etc.)
- (f) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is in breach of social security or tax obligations
- (g) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has been found guilty of grave professional misconduct
- (h) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed fraud, corruption, or is involved in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking
- (i) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) was created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin (or created another entity with this purpose)
- (j) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.)
- (k) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings from other grants to this grant; see Article 25)
- (l) despite a specific request by the granting authority, a beneficiary does not request — through the coordinator — an amendment to the Agreement to end the participation of one of its affiliated entities or associated partners that is in one of the situations under points (d), (f), (e), (g), (h), (i) or (j) and to reallocate its tasks, or
- (m) other:
  - (i) linked action issues: not applicable

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- (ii) additional GA termination grounds: not applicable.

### 32.3.2 Procedure

Before terminating the grant or participation of one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to terminate and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the termination and the date it will take effect (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

For beneficiary terminations, the granting authority will — at the end of the procedure — also inform the coordinator.

The termination will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification; ‘termination date’).

### 32.3.3 Effects

- (a) for **GA termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the last open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

If the grant is terminated for breach of the obligation to submit reports, the coordinator may not submit any report after termination.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Termination does not affect the granting authority’s right to reduce the grant (see Article 28) or to impose administrative sanctions (see Article 34).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to termination by the granting authority (see Article 33).

After termination, the beneficiaries’ obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

- (b) for **beneficiary termination**:

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The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
- (iii) a **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with any amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

### **SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS**

#### **ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES**

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### **33.1 Liability of the granting authority**

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the beneficiaries or to third parties as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement, including for gross negligence.

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the beneficiaries or other participants involved in the action, as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement.

### **33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries must compensate the granting authority for any damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement, provided that it was caused by gross negligence or wilful act.

The liability does not extend to indirect or consequential losses or similar damage (such as loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts), provided such damage was not caused by wilful act or by a breach of confidentiality.

## **ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES**

Nothing in this Agreement may be construed as preventing the adoption of administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion from EU award procedures and/or financial penalties) or other public law measures, in addition or as an alternative to the contractual measures provided under this Agreement (see, for instance, Articles 135 to 145 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and Articles 4 and 7 of Regulation 2988/95<sup>21</sup>).

## **SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE**

### **ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE**

A party prevented by force majeure from fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement cannot be considered in breach of them.

‘Force majeure’ means any situation or event that:

- prevents either party from fulfilling their obligations under the Agreement,
- was unforeseeable, exceptional situation and beyond the parties’ control,
- was not due to error or negligence on their part (or on the part of other participants involved in the action), and
- proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising all due diligence.

Any situation constituting force majeure must be formally notified to the other party without delay, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.

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<sup>21</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

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The parties must immediately take all the necessary steps to limit any damage due to force majeure and do their best to resume implementation of the action as soon as possible.

## **CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES**

#### **36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management**

EU grants are managed fully electronically through the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal').

All communications must be made electronically through the Portal, in accordance with the Portal Terms and Conditions and using the forms and templates provided there (except if explicitly instructed otherwise by the granting authority).

Communications must be made in writing and clearly identify the grant agreement (project number and acronym).

Communications must be made by persons authorised according to the Portal Terms and Conditions. For naming the authorised persons, each beneficiary must have designated — before the signature of this Agreement — a 'legal entity appointed representative (LEAR)'. The role and tasks of the LEAR are stipulated in their appointment letter (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, instructions will be given on the Portal.

#### **36.2 Date of communication**

The sending date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time of sending, as indicated by the time logs.

The receiving date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time the communication is accessed, as indicated by the time logs. Formal notifications that have not been accessed within 10 days after sending, will be considered to have been accessed (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If a communication is exceptionally made on paper (by e-mail or postal service), general principles apply (i.e. date of sending/receipt). Formal notifications by registered post with proof of delivery will be considered to have been received either on the delivery date registered by the postal service or the deadline for collection at the post office.

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, the sending party cannot be considered in breach of its obligation to send a communication within a specified deadline.

#### **36.3 Addresses for communication**

The Portal can be accessed via the Europa website.

The address for paper communications to the granting authority (if exceptionally allowed) is the official mailing address indicated on its website.

For beneficiaries, it is the legal address specified in the Portal Participant Register.

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## **ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

The provisions in the Data Sheet take precedence over the rest of the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.

Annex 5 takes precedence over the Terms and Conditions; the Terms and Conditions take precedence over the Annexes other than Annex 5.

Annex 2 takes precedence over Annex 1.

## **ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES**

In accordance with Regulation No 1182/71<sup>22</sup>, periods expressed in days, months or years are calculated from the moment the triggering event occurs.

The day during which that event occurs is not considered as falling within the period.

‘Days’ means calendar days, not working days.

## **ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS**

### **39.1 Conditions**

The Agreement may be amended, unless the amendment entails changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

Amendments may be requested by any of the parties.

### **39.2 Procedure**

The party requesting an amendment must submit a request for amendment signed directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

The coordinator submits and receives requests for amendment on behalf of the beneficiaries (see Annex 3). If a change of coordinator is requested without its agreement, the submission must be done by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the other beneficiaries).

The request for amendment must include:

- the reasons why
- the appropriate supporting documents and
- for a change of coordinator without its agreement: the opinion of the coordinator (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing).

The granting authority may request additional information.

<sup>22</sup> Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of the Council of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time-limits (OJ L 124, 8/6/1971, p. 1).

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If the party receiving the request agrees, it must sign the amendment in the tool within 45 days of receiving notification (or any additional information the granting authority has requested). If it does not agree, it must formally notify its disagreement within the same deadline. The deadline may be extended, if necessary for the assessment of the request. If no notification is received within the deadline, the request is considered to have been rejected.

An amendment **enters into force** on the day of the signature of the receiving party.

An amendment **takes effect** on the date of entry into force or other date specified in the amendment.

## ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES

### 40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble

The beneficiaries which are not coordinator must accede to the grant by signing the accession form (see Annex 3) directly in the Portal Grant Preparation tool, within 30 days after the entry into force of the Agreement (see Article 44).

They will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of its entry into force (see Article 44).

If a beneficiary does not accede to the grant within the above deadline, the coordinator must — within 30 days — request an amendment (see Article 39) to terminate the beneficiary and make any changes necessary to ensure proper implementation of the action. This does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant (see Article 32).

### 40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries

In justified cases, the beneficiaries may request the addition of a new beneficiary.

For this purpose, the coordinator must submit a request for amendment in accordance with Article 39. It must include an accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

New beneficiaries will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of their accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

Additions are also possible in mono-beneficiary grants.

## ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT

In justified cases, the beneficiary of a mono-beneficiary grant may request the transfer of the grant to a new beneficiary, provided that this would not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

The beneficiary must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with

- the reasons why
- the accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool and

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- additional supporting documents (if required by the granting authority).

The new beneficiary will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

#### **ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY**

The beneficiaries may not assign any of their claims for payment against the granting authority to any third party, except if expressly approved in writing by the granting authority on the basis of a reasoned, written request by the coordinator (on behalf of the beneficiary concerned).

If the granting authority has not accepted the assignment or if the terms of it are not observed, the assignment will have no effect on it.

In no circumstances will an assignment release the beneficiaries from their obligations towards the granting authority.

#### **ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

##### **43.1 Applicable law**

The Agreement is governed by the applicable EU law, supplemented if necessary by the law of Belgium.

Special rules may apply for beneficiaries which are international organisations (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5).

##### **43.2 Dispute settlement**

If a dispute concerns the interpretation, application or validity of the Agreement, the parties must bring action before the EU General Court — or, on appeal, the EU Court of Justice — under Article 272 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

For non-EU beneficiaries (if any), such disputes must be brought before the courts of Brussels, Belgium — unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements.

For beneficiaries with arbitration as special dispute settlement forum (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5), the dispute will — in the absence of an amicable settlement — be settled in accordance with the Rules for Arbitration published on the Portal.

If a dispute concerns administrative sanctions, offsetting or an enforceable decision under Article 299 TFEU (see Articles 22 and 34), the beneficiaries must bring action before the General Court — or, on appeal, the Court of Justice — under Article 263 TFEU.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency (see Preamble), actions against offsetting and enforceable decisions must be brought against the European Commission (not against the granting authority; see also Article 22).

#### **ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE**

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The Agreement will enter into force on the day of signature by the granting authority or the coordinator, depending on which is later.

## SIGNATURES

### For the coordinator

Stefano Ciafani with ECAS id n002agz8 signed in the Participant Portal on 15/11/2022 at 17:29:03 (transaction id SigId-122523-zhRkR6nhrOEAzTnn3UIZsDTabvn085IIAM66pDFILgY3duQ1Kcq6zx8kexXki3RyDUmwX0qQqk3CbgrgRpuQky0-rS0vSrmBGYCYOonzu9chxj-zh8nfazu3OcsWrsuVOoAgyKzYdUxGPBaGynqjm)OkxRReA1N2IkUzIxHXDBjzYslHLYsPPQt5FTUFRrkYZ1s8). Timestamp by third party at 2022.11.15 17:29:09 CET

### For the granting authority

Signed by Anne BURRILL with ECAS id burrian as an authorised representative on 15-11-2022 17:42:30 (transaction id SigId-122762-4f5ztYsqDnH53q9YdRaf7Z3Fbi7MvpnlbjGpwavmpltXaWxD EyEmDGCzVhfjzbeosTEnleM3vwWeUpzmo1klisy-rS0vSrmBGYCYOonzu9chxj-civzqDdCjKwDvYnQhzzrqd6nMjlvzi0MtRlejPh8qdj3CzOjadCv443SutlpnSB7AlsThgRbsLduRUKsbEFmzzcjm) 2022.11.15 17:42:34 CET



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**ANNEX 1**



**Programme for Environment  
and Climate Action (LIFE)**

**Description of the action (DoA)**

**Part A**

**Part B**

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 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022**DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART A)****COVER PAGE***Part A of the Description of the Action (DoA) must be completed directly on the Portal Grant Preparation screens.*

| <b>PROJECT</b>  |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Enter the info.</i> |  |
| <b>Project number:</b>  | 101074584  |
| <b>Project name:</b>  | LIFE TURTLENEST - Caretta caretta* nesting range expansion under climate warming: urgent actions to mitigate threats at emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean. |
| <b>Project acronym:</b>   | LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST  |
| <b>Call:</b>  | LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT  |
| <b>Topic:</b>   | LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE   |
| <b>Type of action:</b>  | LIFE-PJG   |
| <b>Service:</b>   | CINEA/D/02   |
| <b>Project starting date:</b>   | fixed date: 9 January 2023   |
| <b>Project duration:</b>  | 63 months  |

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

### Project summary

*Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Provide an overall description of your project (including context and overall objectives, planned activities and main achievements, and expected results and impacts (on target groups, change procedures, capacities, innovation etc)). This summary should give readers a clear idea of what your project is about.*

*Use the project summary from your proposal.*

Loggerhead turtles are expanding their nesting range into the Western Mediterranean, where beaches are becoming suitable through climate warming. However, the emerging nesting sites are threatened by coastal development and high tourist pressure. TURTLENEST unites Italy, Spain and France to mitigate these threats through knowledge-based conservation measures with the aim to protect new nesting habitats and foster successful sea turtle reproduction. Through a multi-disciplinary approach TURTLENEST will improve the conservation status of *Caretta caretta*\*, a priority species of the Habitats Directive, aided by the establishment of an international network, the use of shared best-practice procedures specifically revised to mitigate the threats on emerging nesting sites, the capacity building of trained field operators, the identification of new index sites for monitoring, and the strengthening of the Natura 2000 network. The intention is to consolidate these outcomes to sustain the conservation of sea turtle nesting in the Western Mediterranean after the end of the project. Another important part of the actions is dedicated to multiscale awareness campaigns for citizens and stakeholders, that use the beaches to achieve an increase in the knowledge of the presence of turtle nests and the social consensus towards policies for the protection of turtle nesting habitats. Engagement and training programmes, especially tailored to educate and engage beach operators and volunteers will increase the detection rate of sea turtle nests that can be adequately protected. In parallel, TURTLENEST will employ next-gen genomic techniques, state-of-the-art satellite telemetry and stable isotope analysis to fill knowledge gaps in the origin of turtles, key demographic parameters and habitat connectivity. Finally, a specifically developed habitat suitability model will be a tool to guide proactive conservation management of new nest sites under current and future climatic scenarios.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### PARTICIPANTS

*Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.*

| Number | Role | Short name | Legal name  | Country | PIC       |
|--------|------|------------|---|---------|-----------|
| 1      | COO  | LEGAMB     | LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS                                      | IT      | 986523951 |
| 2      | BEN  | SZN        | STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN                                      | IT      | 999468310 |
| 3      | BEN  | ISPRA      | ISTITUTO SUPERIORE PER LA PROTEZIONE E LA RICERCA AMBIENTALE        | IT      | 997905349 |
| 4      | BEN  | Sapienza   | UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA                          | IT      | 999987745 |
| 5      | BEN  | UB         | UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA  | ES      | 999986387 |
| 6      | BEN  | UVIC-UCC   | FUNDACIO UNIVERSITARIA BALMES                                       | ES      | 999837977 |
| 7      | BEN  | ENCI       | ENTE NAZIONALE DELLA CINOFILIA ITALIANA                             | IT      | 888555018 |
| 8      | BEN  | CESTMED    | CENTRE D'ETUDE ET DE SAUVEGARDE DES TORTUES MARINES EN MEDITERRANEE | FR      | 888627089 |
| 9      | BEN  | REGBAS     | REGIONE BASILICATA  | IT      | 951927737 |
| 10     | BEN  | REGPUG     | REGIONE PUGLIA  | IT      | 999523503 |

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| <b>PARTICIPANTS</b>   |             |                   |  |                |            |
|---|-------------|-------------------|--|----------------|------------|
| <i>Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.</i> |             |                   |  |                |            |
| <b>Number</b>   | <b>Role</b> | <b>Short name</b> | <b>Legal name</b>  | <b>Country</b> | <b>PIC</b> |
| 11  | BEN         | ARPAT             | AGENZIA REGIONALE PER LA PROTEZIONE AMBIENTALE DELLA TOSCANA | IT             | 997237601  |
| 12  | BEN         | REGLAZ            | REGIONE LAZIO  | IT             | 961452361  |
| 13  | BEN         | REGCAM            | REGIONE CAMPANIA   | IT             | 998054923  |

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**LIST OF WORK PACKAGES**

| <b>Work packages</b>  |  |                         |                               |                    |                  |  |
|---|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| <i>Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.</i> |  |                         |                               |                    |                  |  |
| <b>Work Package No</b>  | <b>Work Package name</b>                       | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | <b>Effort (Person-Months)</b> | <b>Start Month</b> | <b>End Month</b> | <b>Deliverables</b>  |
| WP1   | Project management and coordination activities | 1 - LEGAMB              | 162.06                        | 1                  | 60               | D1.1 – Management kit<br>D1.2 – Stakeholder database<br>D1.3 – First Progress report<br>D1.4 – Second Progress report  |
| WP2   | Communication and dissemination activities     | 1 - LEGAMB              | 171.28                        | 1                  | 60               | D2.1 – Communication strategy<br>D2.2 – Informative materials<br>D2.3 – Dissemination Plan<br>D2.4 – Dedicated project page on Beneficiaries' websites   |
| WP3   | Preparatory activities                         | 6 - UVIC-UCC            | 74.35                         | 1                  | 15               | D3.1 – Report on the preparatory actions<br>D3.2 – Protocol for detection canine units   |
| WP4   | Conservation actions                           | 2 - SZN                 | 446.00                        | 2                  | 60               | D4.1 – Training kit<br>D4.2 – Report on nest and hatchling protection actions<br>D4.3 – Report on the genomic characterization of the nesting populations<br>D4.4 – Report on Caretta caretta population dynamics, connectivity and boundaries.<br>D4.5 – Report on ex situ conservation interventions<br>D4.6 – Report on the pilot interventions to reduce anthropic impacts<br>D4.7 – Geo morphological and physical-chemical analysis<br>D4.8 – Guidelines on coastal armouring and beach nourishment to sustain nesting habitat |

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| <b>Work packages</b><br><i>Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.</i> |   |                         |                               |                    |                  |  |
|---|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Work Package No</b>  | <b>Work Package name</b>  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | <b>Effort (Person-Months)</b> | <b>Start Month</b> | <b>End Month</b> | <b>Deliverables</b>  |
| WP5   | Governance and Advocacy   | 1 - LEGAMB              | 76,29                         | 17                 | 60               | D5.1 – Predictive map of nesting areas suitability<br>D5.2 – Illustrated practical Guide with annexed standard procedures<br>D5.3 – Report on the establishment of new sites   |
| WP6   | Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results | 1 - LEGAMB              | 37,58                         | 31                 | 60               | D6.1 – After LIFE Plan   |
| WP7   | Monitoring and evaluation                                       | 2 - SZN                 | 43,40                         | 4                  | 60               | D7.1 – Evaluation of conservation actions impacts<br>D7.2 – Monitoring of socio-economic impact<br>D7.3 – Extracts of the project data from the LIFE KPI webtool (first extract at month 9)<br>D7.4 – Extract of the project data from the LIFE KPI webtool (second extract at the end of the project) |

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**Work package WP1 – Project management and coordination activities**

|                            |  |                         |           |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Work Package Number</b> | WP1  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | 1. LEGAMB |
| <b>Work Package Name</b>   | Project management and coordination activities |                         |           |
| <b>Start Month</b>         | 1  | <b>End Month</b>        | 60        |

**Objectives**

Objectives:

ALL

Expected results:

effective and efficient project management;

reduction of risks thanks to a proper monitoring of project progress;

active involvement of the various stakeholders thanks to the settlement of the Advisory Board;

500 people representing different categories of stakeholders involved;

30% increase of social consensus towards the project and more generally towards policies in favor of the protection of nature and the environment.

**Description**

T.1.1 Technical and financial management (M1-M60)

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT;REGLAZ; REGCAM

The overall coordination of the project will be ensured by the Coordinating Beneficiary. During the first months of the project, the coordinating beneficiary will sign a Partnership Agreement with other beneficiaries based on the approved project proposal. The agreement describes all responsibilities according to the Grant Agreement signed between Coordinating Beneficiary and CINEA as well as the tasks, timetable and budget approved by the European Commission. The internal communication is another important element of the project's overall management. A proper internal communication ensures that each project beneficiary has the same level of information and knows the responsibilities and tasks of their colleagues. This also avoids duplication or overload of information (people receiving too much or irrelevant information). An Internal Communication Plan will be realised and updated during the project. It will contain the references of the project partners, operators and other relevant stakeholders. An Online Collaboration Platform for file sharing and online storage of files (i.e. Dropbox) will be open for storage of the administrative documents and the technical/scientific documents produced throughout the project. Teleconferences and phone meetings will be organized throughout the project as needed to handle upcoming issues. The kick-off meeting will be organized in the first quarter of 2023 during this meeting the main project coordination roles will be appointed, in particular one Project Manager (PM) and one Project Coordinator (PC) of the Coordinating Beneficiary, one Project Officer (PO) from each partner, one Financial Manager (FM) one Communication Manager (CM), one Scientific Coordinator (SC) and one Monitoring Officer (MR) from Legambiente as well as the members of the Executive Committee. The Steering Committee will be set-up at the beginning of the project too. It is the flight deck of the project, and the place where decisions concerning the strategic direction of the project will be taken. It will meet on average each 6 months. In those occasions (inter alia) it will be approved the executive planning for the next semester and the results of the monitoring activities will be assessed. More details and the organizational chart within section 4.2. The proper implementation of the project tasks will be ensured by the setting-up of 2 Working Teams. The Technical/Scientific Working Team (chaired by the Scientific Coordinator) is composed by all the project operators, experts and professionals who will work on the project. Its task is to define and apply the technical measures that will be developed during the project, as well as to ensure the correct scientific monitoring of the actions and the level of achievements of outputs and results. Since communication is a fundamental part of the project, a Communication Working Team is also foreseen within the project. The team, chaired by the Communication Officer, is in charge to implement all the communication, dissemination and exploitation actions foreseen in the project, as well as to ensure the proper EU and LIFE Programme visibility in all communication items. Finally, at the beginning of the project each partner will appoint the internal and external personnel, as well as will start all the procedures necessary to the prompt start-up of the administrative implementation of the project (i.e. acquisition of equipment items, external services or other goods). This task also includes the final audit which will be carried out by an independent auditor. See the organizational chart inserted in section 4.2

T.1.2 Monitoring of the project's progress (M1-M60)

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Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT;REGLAZ; REGCAM

Under the care of the Monitoring Officer, the project will be continuously monitored to identify discrepancies with the timetable, the correct implementation of the activities, the production of deliverables, the achievements of the milestones. The monitoring will be processed on average each 3 months (in coordination with the executive planning) and at the end of each year a Monitoring Report will be delivered. Project progress will be compared to the expectation of the executive plan to detect eventual delays or failures. Then, the Project Coordinator, in agreement with the Steering Committee, will define the necessary recovery actions which will be included in the next executive planning. The monitoring of the activities will be always accompanied with the monitoring of the level of expenses and the correctness of the administrative and financial issues, as well as the proper storing of the relevant administrative documentation on the Web-cloud (e.g., invoices, proofs of payments, timesheets, etc.). This process will accompany the whole project until its ending. Each partner will be asked to provide relevant data and information through the fulfilment of internal report sheets. The internal reports will be both narrative and financial. The MO will provide the beneficiaries with tables and sheets where report the activities implemented, the targets and outputs reached and problems met. A financial sheet will be provided too, to take under control the expenses flows and the correctness of the administrative supporting documentation. The results of this action will feed into the data and information of the reports to be submitted to CINEA in compliance with the Grant Agreement.

#### T 1.3 Stakeholders engagement (M1-M60)

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC–UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT;REGLAZ; REGCAM

The success of the project also depends on the active involvement of several stakeholders who have been preliminarily identified as better specified in section 3.2 of the application form. For this reason, the project plans to establish from the beginning a collaborative relationship that foresees periodic consultation with the main stakeholders both at national and local level. The task foresees a first step where a specific database and a map of stakeholders will be realized. Then, as a second step, in the first 4 months of the project an Advisory Board will be set up with the main goal to actively involve the stakeholders with different levels of interaction. 1) Information: all identified stakeholders will be regularly informed of the existence of the project, also through social channels, which will be used to disseminate the aims, objectives, project evolution and experimental and innovative practices that the project envisages. During the implementation of the project, stakeholders will also be informed of the results obtained and will be involved in the dissemination of the results. 2) Consultation: the stakeholders selected for this level of interaction will be involved in the more in-depth actions envisaged by the project. They represent a selection with respect to the first level of interaction (information) in order to involve them in the development of some actions which provide the drafting and the adoption of specific tools like plans addressed to local administrators and/or guidelines providing indications on the correct management and cleaning of beaches in order to reduce survival risks for eggs and hatchlings. 3) Co-design: on this level the subjects who will make a concrete contribution, in terms of proposals and opinions, to the drafting of some important documents such as the Beach Plans, Action Plan, Guidelines, etc. will be involved, also in the light of their direct or indirect experience in the drafting and possible adoption of different outputs. 4) Co-management: this level provides for the involvement of public bodies and private entities that will have to be protagonists in the adoption of project's plans, guidelines, etc.. The Advisory Board will be an "open place" where from time-to-time different types of stakeholders will be invited to participate according to the topics under discussion. Already in the drafting phase of the project, a series of stakeholders were identified and contacted (see stakeholders section 3.2). Some of them have already expressed interest and willingness to be involved in the project through specific supporting letters (see attachments). It is expected that 500 people representing different categories of stakeholders will be engaged thanks to the settlements of the Advisory Board.

### Work package WP2 – Communication and dissemination activities

|                            |  |                         |           |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Work Package Number</b> | WP2  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | 1. LEGAMB |
| <b>Work Package Name</b>   | Communication and dissemination activities |                         |           |
| <b>Start Month</b>         | 1  | <b>End Month</b>        | 60        |

#### Objectives

This WP foresees the implementation of a series of communication activities aimed at promoting the project and its results to a multitude of audiences, including the media and the public, and possibly engaging in a two-way exchange. The WP also includes dissemination activities that foresee the public disclosure of the results by appropriate means including

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by scientific publications and or participation in seminars and conferences to favour the circulation of knowledge and results to the ones that can best make use of them.

**Objectives:**

Obj.4; Obj.6; Obj.7.

**Expected results:**

signature of a Memorandum of understanding by 1000 beach establishment;  
 250 managers trained thanks to 50 seminars;  
 engagement of 500 fishermen and adoption of a code of conduct by 100 fishermen;  
 10.00 tourists involved in 2 editions of Sea Turtle Beach Tour  
 12.500 tourists engaged through 150 micro events;  
 5000 citizens sign the Pledge4Seaturtles initiative;  
 500 people of local communities engaged through 20 Tarta Café;  
 500 people of local communities engaged through 4 unconventional events;  
 10000 students and 2000 teachers involved in the educational program I love sea turtles;  
 1000 people participate in the citizen science campaign;  
 3.5 million people reached by media relations and social media activity;  
 dissemination of project results through networking activity with 10 different projects;  
 dissemination of project results through participation in 12 seminars and conferences;  
 10 articles published in scientific journals to disseminate project results.

**Description****T2.1 Communication plan and information materials (M1-M60)**

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

A Communication Plan will be designed and delivered within the first 4 months of the project (April 2023). The plan will state how the most effective communication can be done and include a strategy, clear communication objectives, target groups, messages and means to communicate the purpose and results of the actions. The plan will follow the whole project cycle from the beginning until the end. The Communication Plan will describe the communication strategy and tools and will define the project's brand/visual identity. This is necessary to make the project effective and immediately recognizable by the public. For this reason, a special project logo will be conceived in order to graphically represent the project's mission. The logo will be accompanied by a pay off, a short memorable and coherent text that will complete the visual identity of the project. The logo and the payoff will be part of the project's specific branding box that will also include: headed paper, business card, template for Powerpoint presentations, cover for publications and reports, etc. A specialized communication agency will be selected for the visual identity and the graphic design that will be adopted in all the communication materials.

**Information materials.**

In line with the project visual identity, 20 notice boards will be produced and placed at the partners' headquarters. 20 roll-ups will also be produced to be used during the information and communication events organized by the project. A leaflet describing the project's objectives and actions will be produced in Italian, Spanish, French and English and printed in 10.000 copies that will be distributed during the information and communication events organized during the project. A brochure on sea turtles will be produced in Italian, Spanish, French and English and printed in 10.000 copies. The brochure illustrates the characteristics of the sea turtle, its life cycle, the threats to which it is subjected especially during the nesting phase. A comic (3000 copies) tells the story of a sea turtle that after many years returns to the beach where it was born many years before and that now finds it full of annoying lights and noisy tourists. The Layman's Report will be an important communication tool for the After-LIFE work. It will mainly be addressed to the general public as it will explain the project's main messages, activities and results in a clear way and understandable for the layman. The Layman's report will be written by a professional journalist working for Legambiente and will be translated into Italian and English. Pictures, graphics, diagrams and tables will also help to communicate the issue in an understandable way. The report will be sent as PDF-File to all relevant organisations and stakeholders and will be printed in 1.000 copies. The digital version will be placed on the project website for download. In order to promote the project, a total of 2000 gadgets will be produced including: flags, T-shirts, reusable water bottles, beach towels, canvas bags, caps, brooches, pencils, etc. 5 Videoclips (60 seconds) will be created with the support of an external communication agency and will be disseminated mainly via the web and social media. A quarterly newsletter will also be published starting from the first year of the project. The newsletter will contain information on the project and will allow the consortium to stay in contact with the many stakeholders. a total of 15 numbers of the newsletter are foreseen, which will be sent to a mail list of recipients. To ensure the visibility of funding all the communication materials will show the LIFE logo and the funding sentence "Co-funded by the European Union" to highlight the EU support. To reduce the carbon footprint of the

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project, the printing of paper materials will be reduced to a minimum. QR codewill be used for a massive distribution of materials. However, for all printed materials, recycled paper and/or ecological inks (EuPia) will be used.

#### T2.2 Multi-target Awareness Campaign (M6-M60)

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

The campaign is addressed at beach establishments, fishermen and other sea operators (divers, boaters, etc.), tourists and local communities including schools for which a specific environmental education program is planned. The campaign will focus on the most important threats contributing to the deterioration of the critical habitats for the life cycle of marine turtles. The task is necessary to sensitize some main targets on the need to ensure adequate conservation measures for sea turtles as these animals represent a wealth both in terms of biodiversity and socio-economic point of view. The action is also necessary to promote awareness of the project among the general public and increase social consensus of local communities towards policies and interventions for the protection of the marine and coastal environment.

a) Activities for beach establishments (M6-M57) Starting from the first year and before the summer season starts, a special set of activities will be addressed to managers and personnel of beach establishments that represent a key stakeholder of the project. In particular a special campaign named “sea turtle friendly beaches” will be implemented through 50 training seminars for managers and their beach staff to illustrate how to clean, arrange beach equipment and how to limit the impact of light. It is estimated that a total of 250 managers/staff will be trained. Through the direct participation of the main trade associations, a Memorandum of Understanding will be developed and adopted by the end of the project by at least 1000 bathing establishment managers. Establishments that adopt the code of conduct will receive a personalized flag that they can display to demonstrate their concrete commitment to sea turtle protection.

b) Activities with fishermen Starting from the second year, a program of 25 training seminars will be created in which the aims of the project will be presented and the practices that can be adopted to mitigate the impact of professional fishing during the breeding and nesting periods of the sea turtle will be presented. The 20 seminars will take place in as many marineries adjacent to the nesting areas. Each seminar is expected to be attended by an average of 20 fishermen for a total of 500 participants. A code of conduct will be drawn up that fishermen will be asked to voluntarily sign: it is estimated that 100 fishermen will adopt the code by the end of the project. The seminars will also be an opportunity to highlight the problem of marine litter and in particular of plastic pollution. In fact, the ingestion of plastic represents a serious threat both for adult and sub-adult specimens and for hatchlings because it can cause serious damages and in some cases death. In this regard, during the meetings and during the project, the fishermen will be invited to give life to fishing for litter initiatives. These activities will be carried out in close collaboration with the main fishing associations operating on a national and territorial scale.

c) Activities for tourists and local communities To inform tourists about project activities and raise awareness of sea turtle conservation problems and interaction with human activities, it is planned to realize: Sea Turtle beach tour: a traveling event that will be carried out in Italy starting from the third year of the project for two subsequent editions. The initiative, which will take place in the summer, includes 15 stages in as many Italian seaside resorts. In each locality an entertainment program will be created which includes games, events, educational workshops and many other initiatives capable of involving adults and children. Through the 2 editions of the initiative it is estimated that a total of around 10.000 people will be reached. Discovering sea turtles: a summer program of micro-events that includes meetings with researchers and fishermen, film screenings, debates, etc. aimed at informing and sensitizing tourists about the dangers that threaten sea turtles and the problem of interaction with human activities on the beaches. The initiative will start from the second year of the project and will continue until its conclusion and will take place in the summer seasons. A total of 150 events (100 in Italy, 25 in Spain and 25 in France) will take place in the various areas of intervention during the project. It is estimated that a total of around 12.500 people will be reached.

d) Pledge4Seaturtles The Consortium, with the help of the stakeholders, will launch the initiative aimed to promote the undertaking of commitments by individual citizens, economic operators, schools and public administrations (see also T5.2) in favor of the sea turtle. It is estimated that at the end of the project at least 5000 people will join the initiative which will be promoted mainly through social media and the press. To involve local communities, the following activities will be carried out: Tarta Café: to foster knowledge, integration and dialogue between local communities and partners, develop interest and a sense of belonging to the project, starting from the second year of the project, informal events called Tarta Café will be organized at local level. A total of 20 events will be organized in different areas. The methodology of the Café allows the building of knowledge and familiarization within the local communities, strengthening the link with its own territory. It is estimated that a total of 500 people will attend these events. Turtle Blitz: To raise public awareness of the importance and urgency of ensuring adequate conservation measures for sea turtles who choose our beaches to nest, during the project, 4 Turtle Blitzes will be organized. These are unconventional events that will involve local populations and tourists from different locations. By way of example, unconventional events such as “invasions” of sea turtles made with cracking art sculptures in symbolic places of some cities or on beaches can be realized to raise public opinion and opinion leaders on the threats that endanger these animals; video mapping show on buildings, Kite Festival, balloon rallies, and sand festival on the beach to invite artists who make sand sculptures depicting sea turtles. It is estimated that a total of 500 people will attend the events. The events will be held during the summer season in very crowded seaside locations and will be an opportunity to involve the media as well. I love sea turtles: an educational program reserved for Italian middle schools. The initiative,

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which will be implemented for two successive years starting from the third year of the project, aims to inform and actively involve middle school kids in the activities of safeguarding the sea turtles, thus reinforcing the link with their territory. To facilitate the participation of schools it will be made and distributed to as many classes as 500 Digital Turtle Kits containing an original videogame dedicated to the sea turtle. The Kit will also contain a book for teachers with examples of other educational activities that they can carry out with their classrooms. To encourage the participation of schools, a contest is also planned, a merit competition in which the classes will be invited to prepare a work that can be presented in different forms (text, photo and film). The best three works of each edition will be awarded. It is estimated that a total of 10.000 students and 2000 teachers will be involved in this program Sea Turtle Day: from the first year of the project, on the June 16th in occasion of the World Sea Turtle Day, in each country will be celebrated the "Sea Turtle Day" during which microevents will be organized (sea excursions, meetings with researchers and fishermen, etc.) to inform and sensitize local communities.

**T2.3 Citizen science campaign (M6-M58)** Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAMA specific citizen science campaign will be implemented in each country to empower the general public to participate in citizen science by recording data on nesting marine turtles along the coast. Volunteers will record sea turtle tracks, nests and hatchlings using a specific multiplatform App developed in the framework of this project. The App will be open to the whole public and it will also include general information on the life cycle of sea turtles and the threats that endanger these animals. Through this app, citizens will be able to record data but also to send nesting event alerts to local authorities. The citizen science campaign, using this App, aims to increase nesting events detection and to improve the overall performance of local stakeholders in front of sea turtle nesting events, specially to reduce the response time between the alarm reception and the technical response provided by the specialists. Local environmental organizations and stakeholders will be contacted to involve local volunteer groups in these campaigns, patrolling beaches to detect sea turtle nesting events, especially during nesting season. Moreover, this App will include a specific section detailing all the environmental organizations and stakeholders involved in these citizen science campaigns to detect sea turtle nesting along the area of influence of the project, promoting new enrolments from the general public. Specific communication actions will be carried out during the project to inform about these citizen science campaigns and the existence of the App developed among the general public. In addition, the tool will be presented to the different management bodies to evaluate the interest they have to include the APP as a management tool of sea turtle nesting event detection. All the results obtained and recorded on the App will be analysed and published on the web pages of the project built up by each beneficiary. This information will be used as a dissemination action to promote the citizen science campaigns and also as a management tool to increase the current knowledge on sea turtle nesting in western Mediterranean. Indeed, the citizen science campaign will also increase public awareness of the most serious threats people pose to sea turtles, and the importance of promoting its conservation.

**T2.4 Media relations, social media and web (M1-M60)**

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

In order to make the contents, objectives, results and impact of the project known to the general public, a strong media relations activity will be carried out during the whole duration of the project. For this purpose, it will be implemented: –starting press event for the presentation of the project (March 2023); –periodic sending of press releases; 40 press releases are expected to be drafted and distributed by the end of the project, 300 press articles and 20 TV and radio services are expected to be published on the project; –production and distribution of press kit for printing on pendrive (100 copies), containing the presentation of the project and partners, video and photographic material in digital format, logos of the project and partners and infographics. LIFE and EU data, data and information on project and partnership; –realization of 2 educational tours for journalists (summer 2024, summer 2026). It is estimated that a total of 20 journalists will attend these events. –signing of 2 media partnership agreements with newspapers, magazines, radio, TV, portals, etc.; (see supporting letters) –preparation of a periodic press review with articles, news, radio and TV sections dedicated to the project. Particular attention will be paid to communicating the project and its results through social media. To strengthen the promotion of some contents, advertising activities will also be carried out (foresee at least 5K / year for the purchase of advertising space). To amplify the communication of the project on social media, the main influencers involved in protecting the environment and nature will be recruited. They will act as sea turtle ambassadors. To reach the younger people Tik Tok will also be used in an experimental way. It is expected that 500 posts will be published on social media. In addition, the project will be promoted on the participant's websites. It is estimated that 3 million people will be reached during the project through press office activities and social media.

**T2.5 Dissemination activities (M4-M60)**

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

Dissemination activities aiming at maximising the impact of project results and deliverables in the public domain (scientific community, policy makers, environmental organizations, stakeholders identified in t1.3) will be performed. Within the first six months of the project implementation a Dissemination Plan will be developed which will contain a communication strategy and a set of and of measures planned for the dissemination of project results. The plan will

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foresee: Participation to seminars and conferences. During the project rollout, project partners will attend national, European and international seminars, conferences and other events focused on the topics of sea turtle conservation, protection of marine and coastal ecosystems. The aim is sharing with public institutions, scientific community, environmental NGOs, knowledge and experience on these topics and promoting the project results among the wider set of potential stakeholders. In the last few years many conferences have been organized on these topics but we still do not know in advance which one the project partnership will attend. We can certainly include some of the following events: International and European conferences: – The International Sea Turtle Symposium (organized by the ISTS every year) – The Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles (organized with the support of the UNEP MAP-RAC/SPA, Bern Convention, the Convention for Migratory Species and the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtles Specialist Group every 4 years) – The IUCN World Conservation Congress (organized by the IUCN every 4-5 years) – The International Bio-logging Science Symposium (organized by the International bio-logging Society every 3 years) – Congreso Luso-Español de Herpetología (bi-annual congress of Herpetology). During the project rollout, at least 12 conferences/seminars (6 in Italy and 6 abroad) will be attended by all beneficiaries. In addition, during the last 3 months of the project, a Final Conference of international level will be organized in Rome to present the results achieved, good practices and lessons learnt. The conference, which will be attended by representatives of relevant European institutions (e.g. European Environmental Agency) and stakeholders (e.g. the International Union of Forest Research Organization), national bodies including e.i. the Italian Ministry of Environment, Italian Ministry of Agriculture, ISPRA, etc., international scientific community e.i. LifeWatch, Long-Term Ecological Research Network, etc., Regional Agencies for Forests Management, ARPA/APPA, Basin Authorities, management bodies of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites, environmental associations, etc. At least 100 people are expected to attend the Final Conference. Networking. The networking with other LIFE and non-LIFE projects will be essential for the dissemination activities. Emphasis will be given to working groups, networks and projects currently being implemented or already completed also in order to analyze the solutions applied and the results achieved in other geographical areas or countries. In order to promote the dissemination of results, the exchange of experiences, information, applied methodologies and best practices, the networking activity will be carried out with projects dealing with the conservation and management of sea turtle and marine and coastal habitats. The list of projects and other initiatives with which the project will create synergies and collaborations are listed in section 1.5 of this Application Form. Networking with LIFE projects will be organized during the project as follows:

- 1) from month 4 to 6. identification of at least 20 concluded or ongoing projects dealing with sea turtle conservation and marine and coastal habitats (including the ones listed above);
- 2) from month 7 to 11. selection of 10 projects, based on the affinity of the topics covered and the proposed methodologies;
- 3) from month 12 to 24. preliminary email contacts with the project's contact points to verify their interest in collaborating. At least 5 projects willing to cooperate;
- 4) from month 25 to 32 participation in at least 2 international events organized by the selected projects;
- 5) from month 33 to 60. participation of the project staff to a "study visit" in order to consolidate the collaboration. At least one study visit.

Scientific publications. The public disclosure of the project results will include scientific publications. It is estimated that during the project at least 10 articles illustrating the results of the project will be published in indexed scientific journals, specialized scientific journals and magazines.

### Work package WP3 – Preparatory activities

|                            |                        |                         |             |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Work Package Number</b> | WP3                    | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | 6. UVIC-UCC |
| <b>Work Package Name</b>   | Preparatory activities |                         |             |
| <b>Start Month</b>         | 1                      | <b>End Month</b>        | 15          |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Objectives</b>   |
| Objectives:<br>Obj.1; Obj.3; Obj.5.   |
| Expected results:   |
| – Standard operating procedures and protocols for: 1) Nest monitoring, 2) Nest and hatchling protection, 3) Nesting beach characterization, 4) Habitat suitability, 5) Biological sampling; |
| – Nest location database;   |
| – Map of the suitable nesting areas;  |
| – Map of the main research gaps for loggerhead turtle nesting;  |
| – 4 canine units trained for the detection of loggerhead turtle nests   |

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| Description   |
|---|
| <p>T3.1 Review of the best practices-state of art methods to monitor and protect sea turtle nesting sites, to assess habitat suitability and to define nesting intensity (M1-M8)<br/>Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM</p> <p>While the monitoring and protection of sea turtle nesting sites is a new challenge for Western Mediterranean conservationists and policy makers, it has set the fundamentals of sea turtle conservation projects all over the world for decades. Hence, there are numerous guidelines, protocols, project's reports and scientific publications on methods used to monitor and protect nests and nesting sites, to establish nest abundance, minimum number of male and female breeders, and to assess habitat suitability. This task is needed to critically review all practiced methods and evaluate them in terms of feasibility, applicability and effectiveness in Western Mediterranean nesting areas. Whenever available, these evaluations will be based on the results of already published scientific studies. With all methods and their evaluations at a glance, this task will then proceed to select the most appropriate monitoring and protection methods to be applied to the whole study area or, where required, to specific sub-regions, in consideration of the expected nest distribution, nest density and specific environmental characteristics. As a result of this exercise the task will deliver the standard operating procedures to be implemented in this project for the conservation actions in WP4, and specifically tasks T4.1, T4.2, T4.3, T4.4, T4.6, T4.7. These standard protocols will be available in four languages: English, Spanish, French and Italian.</p> <p>T3.2 Preliminary data collection, habitat suitability analysis and GAP analysis. (M2-M11)<br/>Participants: Sapienza; LEGAMB; UB; UVIC –UCC</p> <p>The objective is to identify the environmental factors influencing nest distribution and nesting success. We will create a spatially explicit database with all the available information about the characteristics of the nests reported in the scientific literature and technical reports during the last 20 years in Italy, Spain, and France. The database will contain nest location, laying date, emergence date, clutch size, hatching success, and any other information available consistently. The database will be published as an open access data paper, making it available for all project partners but also for the general public. We will also collect data on sand temperature at 40 cm of depth measured in Spanish and Italian beaches, including both nesting beaches and non-nesting beaches. In the same locations we will also collect atmospheric and marine climate data (e.g. sea surface temperature, air temperature, etc...). Finally, we will collect topographical data such as elevation, slope, and aspect for the single beaches. Much of the information is already available through national and/or regional databases but must be organized and standardized through the Mediterranean basin. For example, the beach temperature data set has been compiled by researchers from UB, UVIC and SZN in previous projects. All this information will be used to obtain a preliminary general-purpose habitat suitability model to predict potentially suitable areas for nesting. The expected result will be a model predicting loggerhead turtle nesting habitat suitability under current and future climate scenarios the impact of climate change on nesting for <i>Caretta caretta</i>. Such a model will help to identify other suitable nesting areas that will be monitored in task T4.2, where nests have not been detected yet and deserve a closer look. A GAP analysis will be performed also to identify the most critical issues in terms of data collection for the monitoring and understanding of loggerhead turtle nesting in the Western Mediterranean.</p> <p>T3.3 Geo-morphological characterization of nest sites and analysis for planning and management framework (M2-M11)<br/>Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM</p> <p>The definition of the potential correlations between the morphology of the beaches and the meteo-climate of the nesting sites represents a useful basis to implement safeguard actions and management measures aimed at the conservation of the morphological characteristics chosen by sea turtles. The characterization of the nesting sites will be carried out through the definition of some morphological and meteo-climatic parameters, such as the beach slope, the average beach width, the evolution trend of the shorelines, the wave climate and its trend in the last 10 years. The sampling of morphological parameters at the scale of the western Mediterranean will be conducted in GIS environment on available datasets and characterized by a spatial mesh order (approximately 1-km resolution), will then be calculated the average slope of the nearshore with a step order along the coast of 1 km. Sentinel-2 satellite images made available since 2016 by the European program Copernicus will be used for shoreline extraction with a nominal frequency of 5 days. These datasets joint with in situ validation will be the basis for the vulnerability analysis. Additionally, the analysis of the planning and management framework of beaches where loggerhead turtle nesting occurs in the study area will be conducted. The management of coastal areas is in fact particularly complex due to the rather extreme overlap of state, regional and local competences; as a result, the planning and management framework can easily vary from one region to another. The purpose of the activity will therefore be that of defining the sectoral and/or superordinate planning and management framework of the nesting beaches in the project area to ensure the consistency and compatibility of the different initiatives. ISPRA will focus this analysis on the Italian coasts that hosts, so far, more than 90% of the overall nesting in the Western Mediterranean.</p> <p>T3.4 Definition of protocols and training for detection canine units (M3-M15)<br/>Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ENCI; CESTMed</p> <p>As a pilot innovative action, the project foresees the use of canine specialized units to detect sea turtle nests. This can</p> |

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be extremely valuable in the Western Mediterranean Sea where beach cleaning operation or tourist trampling results each year in the deletion of tens of loggerhead turtle tracks preventing from the correct identification and protection of the nests. The development of an operational protocol for the training and specialisation of canine units (K9) will make it possible to standardise the use of dogs in monitoring and conservation operations with the criteria of non-invasiveness, effectiveness, flexibility and adaptability to different environmental contexts. This task will allow the definition of standardised criteria to select, train and test K9 units for operational activities in the field that will be employed in nest detection in task 4.2. The protocol will be developed through a programme that foresees: -3 technical meetings for the definition of selection criteria and intermediate tests; 3 technical meetings to define the training protocol; 3 technical meetings to define the simulations preparatory to operational activities. The development of the protocol will allow the training part to be carried out according to the following schedule: -3 meetings for the selection of K9 units (North, Centre, Islands). These meetings will be aimed at conducting entry tests for dog units; -6 months of theoretical and practical training for K9 units; -2 months of specialisation for the K9 units, aimed at imprinting the target scent and performing the search environment; -2 months of field testing aimed at starting operational activities.

### Work package WP4 – Conservation actions

|                            |                      |                         |        |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| <b>Work Package Number</b> | WP4                  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | 2. SZN |
| <b>Work Package Name</b>   | Conservation actions |                         |        |
| <b>Start Month</b>         | 2                    | <b>End Month</b>        | 60     |

| Objectives   |
|--|
| <p>Specific objectives:<br/>ALL</p> <p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 130 nests/year protected (520 during four consecutive nesting seasons and more afterwards)</li> <li>- At least 27000 hatchlings released during the entire project</li> <li>- At least 3 index site for long term monitoring of loggerhead turtle nesting identified in the western Mediterranean</li> <li>- At least 2000 volunteers and 1000 beach operators formed and certified on loggerhead turtle track detection</li> <li>- At least 25 specialized technical staff members specifically trained and authorized by the National Competent Authority for the manipulation of nesting females, sea turtle nests and hatchlings</li> <li>- 637 km of coasts monitored for 4 consecutive nesting seasons</li> <li>- At least 1000 genomic fingerprints of nests and determination of their breeding adults</li> <li>- 20 nesting females equipped with satellite tags, tracked and genotyped</li> <li>- 20 yearling juveniles equipped with satellite tags, tracked and genotyped</li> <li>- 50 nests characterized with respect to the stable isotope ratios of C and N</li> <li>- 2 nurseries equipped with eggs incubators and specifically designed Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)</li> <li>- At least 6 km of beaches at the most relevant nesting site in the western Mediterranean protected from light pollution</li> <li>- Guidelines on management of coastal erosion to sustain nesting habitat suitability</li> <li>- 1 e-learning course on nests and hatchling monitoring and management in 4 languages</li> </ul> |

| Description   |
|---|
| <p>T4.1 Training courses addressed to operators and volunteers (M2-M53)</p> <p>Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; UB; UVIC –UCC; CESTMed</p> <p>Training courses, specifically tailored to address beach operators contacted in T2.2 and volunteers patrolling the beaches involved in T4.2, will be developed and delivered in Spain, France and Italy to strengthen stakeholder's contribution to loggerhead turtle nest detection in the project area and provide them with standardized information and protocols, refined in Task T3.1. Additionally, practical training periods will be organized for technical staff involved in Task 4.3 in order to provide them with the required experience to be authorized by the National Competent Authority for the manipulation of nesting females turtles, their nests, eggs and hatchlings thus creating a solid network of specialized operators that can promptly act to protect nesting females and nests in the study area. The training course will be realized as an asynchronous e-learning course, which can be accessed by PC, mobiles, or tablets (both online and offline) and will foresee not only theoretical modules, but also a final test with the delivering of a Certificate of Attendance. Modules will include: 1) Loggerhead turtle nesting phenology, 2) Conservation issues and threats to nesting females, nest and hatchlings, 3) Best practices to reduce the impact of beach operations on loggerhead turtle nesting, 4) Data collection, 5)</p> |

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Legislation. Together with the course, a specific questionnaire on perception of sea turtle nesting and possible mitigating solutions will also be delivered, as an investigation tool for addressing the initial level of awareness on this specific issue and the best 'voluntary' actions that stakeholders are willing to undertake to reduce threats at emerging nesting sites. The course will be hosted in the e-learning platform of project partners to ensure a complete monitoring of accesses and consequently the success of the course and will remain available after the end of the project. The course will be available in 4 languages (Italian, French, Spanish and English) At least 200 courses to beach operators and 200 courses to environmental volunteers, including all those participating in T4.2 and T4.3 will be delivered in Italy (N=160), Spain (160) and France (80) before the beginning of the nesting season for 4 consecutive nesting seasons. Technical practical training will be organized and delivered to at least 25 selected environmental technicians of local municipalities, stakeholders and regular beach surveyors from Italy (N=10), Spain (N=10) and France (N=5) that will be involved in T4.2 during three years of the project. These 2 weeks practical training are essential to acquire specific skills in nesting female management, identifying location suitability for nest incubation (nest relocation decision-making) as well as nest and hatchling management and monitoring. They will be organized in Cabo Verde (the world's second-largest nesting site for loggerhead) thanks to the collaboration with the Sea Turtle Conservation Camp of BIOS.CV, a local organization which monitors 5 km of coast of the Reserva Natural das Tartarugas in Boa Vista Island which supports this project. In the surveyed area more than 100 nests per night and kilometre are recorded during the peak of the nesting season and hatcheries hold more than 1000 nests per season, making it feasible to train in nest and hatchling management every night. A final test will be done to deliver a "certificate of attendance". This action will have high-impact results guaranteeing Western Mediterranean technicians building capacity to take conservation decisions for the survival and resilience of the species in this region also after the end of the project.

T4.2 Beach patrolling of most used/high suitability areas to identify loggerhead turtle nests (M5-M58)

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; UB; UVIC -UCC; ENCI; CESTMed

Beach surveys will be conducted at existing and potential nesting sites in Italy, France and Spain using standardized protocols, refined in T3.1, to identify, enumerate, and evaluate loggerhead turtle nesting activities over at least four consecutive nesting seasons. Surveys will be done in conjunction with nest marking, nest protection and monitoring as foreseen in T4.3. Daylight beach surveys will be conducted early in the morning (sunrise to 9 a.m.) to count all fresh tracks, which are the marks left in the sand by females that have attempted or succeeded to nest, before they are obliterated by human activity on the beach, weathered by sun, wind or rain or washed away by the tide. Beach patrols will be performed by volunteers on foot, by electric sand bikes or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), depending on beach length and accessibility. Surveyors will traverse the beach along (and seaward of, if possible) the most recent high tide line for ensuring that turtle crawls are not obscured before they can be evaluated, but also for avoiding impacts to nesting shorebirds and their eggs or chicks. Each crawl will be visually examined to determine if it is a "possible nesting emergence" or a "non-nesting emergence" and documented before being crossed out to avoid duplicate reporting in successive patrolling days. Basic information on crawl location, distances from the high water mark and beach vegetation, levels of light pollution and anthropization will be acquired. Surveyors will be fully trained prior to conducting surveys (T4.1). All "possible nesting emergencies" will be communicated to and verified by highly trained and specialized operators (T4.1), specifically authorized by the National Competent Authority for the manipulation of sea turtle nests (T4.3). Two different monitoring approaches will be used: A) Intensive monitoring (minimum 5 times/week) throughout the nesting season (June to August) at pilot beaches in the western Mediterranean, where nesting has regularly occurred over the last 2 years; B) Diffuse regular monitoring (minimum 2 times/week) during the nesting season peak (July) of the areas occasionally used by females in the previous 4 years or with high nesting habitat suitability as defined in Task T3.2. Volunteers for beach patrolling will be made available through collaborations with local associations and stakeholders (see networking T2.5) and by activating volunteer programs in the different project sub-areas. On an experimental basis, starting from the second year, the monitoring will be carried out also with the support of specialized canine units trained (T3.4) in the detection of tracks and nests. The use of 4 canine units is foreseen in 4 different pilot areas.

Pilot beaches:

IT: Campania: Castel Volturno (Caserta, 7 km, on foot and sand E-bike, guesthouse) Ascea (Salerno, 5 km, on foot and E-bike), Caprioli/Palinuro (Salerno, 3 km, on foot and E-bike, UAS); Marina di Camerota (Salerno, 3 km, on foot and E-bike, UAS), Acciaroli/San Mauro (Salerno, 3 km on foot and sand E-bike)

Puglia: Torre San Giovanni (Ugento, 3 km, on foot), Torre Vado -Torre Pali (Salve, 4 km on foot), Torre dell'Orso (Melendugno, 700 mt on foot).

Toscana: Marina di Pisa-Foce Scolmatore (Pisa, 7.5 km, on-foot and e-bike), Spiagge Bianche di Vada (Livorno, 3km, on-foot), Vada (sud)-Marina di Cecina (nord) (Livorno, 6 km, on-foot), Marina di Cecina (sud)-Marina di San Vincenzo (nord) (Livorno, 22 km, on-foot), Spiaggia di Rimigliano (Livorno, 9 km, on-foot), Le Rocchette-Castiglione della Pescaia (Grosseto, 7 km, e-bike), Castiglione della Pescaia-Foce Ombrone (nord) (Grosseto, 16, e-bike), Parco Regionale della Maremma (Grosseto, 9.5 km, drone), Isola d'Elba (Livorno, 4.5 km, on-foot).

ES: Parc Natural del Delta de l'Ebre (Tarragona, 55 km, rangers -on foot, sand E-bike and drone), Parque Natural de Calblanque (Cartagena-Murcia, 5km, on foot)

FR. Camargue: Espiguette (4km, on foot), Port Camargue (1 km, on foot), La Grande Motte (3 km, on foot), Le Grau

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du Roi (2 km, on foot), Le Grand Traver (6km, on foot), Le Petit Travers (3km, on foot), Villeneuve les Maguelone (3 km, on foot)

French Riviera: Esclamandes (Fréjus, 2km, on foot), Sablettes (Fréjus, 1km, on foot)

Corsica:Palombaggia (2km, on foot), Pinia (3km, on foot) Detection dogs will be used to survey all selected beaches in France at the end of the nesting season (September). Drones and sand fat e-bikes will also be tested on one sector (to be defined)

Diffuse monitoring:

IT:Campania: Litorale Domizio(Caserta, 30 Km, e-bike), Litorale Salerno Gulf (Salerno, 30 km, e-bike), Ogliastra/Montecorice (Salerno, 2km, on foot, UAS).

Basilicata: Lato tirrenico from canale mezzatorre to Foce Noce (30 km, on-foot, on foot, e-bike, drone)

Puglia: From Marina di Chieuti to Villaggio Ippocampo (78,6 km, on foot, e-bike, drone)

Calabria: Gulf of Santa Eufemia (23 km, on-foot, on foot, e-bike, drone), Gulf of Gioia Tauro (12 km, on-foot, on foot, e-bike, drone).

Lazio:Sperlonga/Terracina (Latina, 15 km, e-bike), Terracina/SanFelice (Latina, 15.2 km, e-bike), Sabaudia (Latina, 18.4 km, e-bike), Montalto di Castro (Viterbo, 11.6 km, e-bike)

Toscana: Marina di Carrara-Foce Arno (Pisa, 42 km, on-foot and drone), Castiglioncello (Livorno, 0.7 km, on-foot), Golfo di Baratti (Livorno, 2 km, on-foot), Golfo di Follonica (Livorno, Grosseto, 17 km, on-foot), Cala Martina/Punta Ala (Grosseto, 11.8 km, on-foot); Fonteblanda/Tombolo Giannella (Grosseto, 21 km, on-foot), Torre della Tagliata-Fosso Chiarone (Grosseto, 13.3 km, on-foot), Isola del Giglio (Grosseto, 0.65 km, on-foot), Isola di Pianosa (Livorno, 0.5 km, on-foot)

Sicilia:Fiume Balestrate/Trappeto (Palermo, 5 km, on-foot), Capo Feto (Trapani, 6 km, on-foot), Tre Fontane/Selinunte (Trapani, 10 km, on-foot)ES:Tarragona coast (Tarragona, 25 km, on foot)

FR:Camargue:Beauduc (3 km, on foot).

French Riviera: Pampelonne (Saint Tropez, 3 km, on foot)

Corsica: La Marininca(3 km, on foot), San Nicolao (2 km, on foot), Capo di Feno (1 km, on foot), Plage du Maquis, Porticcio (0.5 km, on foot), Plage Meria (0.5 km, on foot)

T4.3 Nest and hatchling monitoring and protection (M5-M58).

Participants:LEGAMB; SZN; UB; UVIC –UCC; CESTMed

All loggerhead turtle nests identified thanks to reports from the Citizen Science Campaign (T2.3) and trained beach operators(T4.1) or found during beach patrolling (T4.2) will be protected against potential threats(i.e.predation, beach cleaning, vehicular traffic, recreational activities) and equipped with waterproof Bluetooth miniaturized data loggers to monitor sand temperature during the entire incubation period. Depending on the existing threats at nest locations,specific management protocols will be adopted during the emergence phase to protect hatchlings and maximize the number that safely reach the sea.Highly trained and specialized staff members, specifically authorized by the National Competent Authority for the manipulation of sea turtle nests, will inspect all “possible nesting emergencies” to confirm the presence of the eggs. The following describes all interventions that will be carried out on the nests, but keeping in mind that procedures will be subject to refinements made in T3.1. Clutches that are laid in sub-optimal conditions (e.g. below the common high wave line) and are unlikely to successfully incubate will be relocated to a different position using standardized protocols, refined in task T3.1. Nest code, GPS coordinates, nest minimum depth, operator details, samples information will be recorded. In the case of a relocated nest, the total egg count, the reason for relocation, GPS coordinates of the new location, together with its distances from the high water mark and from the vegetation will also be recorded. Human impact will be assessed to qualitatively classify the beach in terms of: 1) level of disturbance, 2) presence of obstacles, 3) permanent or mobile constructions behind the beach, 4) lightpollution. Incubation temperatures will be monitored at  $\pm 0.5$  °C accuracy, at 10 min intervals, by waterproof Bluetooth Low Energy data loggers placed inside the egg chamber according to procedures defined in T3.1. Nests will be protected against predationby burying at 5 cm of depth, directly above the egg chamber, a screen of 1 sqm with minimum mesh size 10 X 7 cm in order to eventually allow hatchling to emerge freely. On heavily utilized beaches, a fence of minimum 1 sqm will be created around the nest by using 4 stakes and an eco-cotton ribbon with the project’s logo to clearly identify the nest area and protect it from trampling or other human activities.After 40 days from the deposition, temperature data will be downloaded to predict incubation length using available mathematical models. On beaches with high human impact and evidence of light pollution, night-time monitoring of the nest will begin 2 days before the predicted emergence date and a shaded corridor will be installed to help hatchlings reaching the sea by reducing threats from disorientation or human presence. Nests that are only at risk from light pollution will be protected by installing, 2 days before the predicted emergence date, a shaded runway that extends to the water’s edge thus restricting the hatchlings’ movements between the nest and the sea; operators will then check the nest each morning to verify hatchling emergence. Clutch laid in remote areas will only be regularly checked each morning starting 2 days before the predicted emergence date. After the end of the emergence phase, nest inventory will be obtained by excavating the nest to verify the clutch size,hatching success, emergence success, embryonic developmental stage of unhatched eggs and to collect samples for genetic (T4.4) and

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stable isotope analyses (T4.5). All nest data will be imported in GIS and used for habitat suitability models developed in T5.1. Volunteers will be employed in this task.

T4.4 Genomic characterization of the nesting populations through analysis of breeding adult loggerheads and hatchlings (M2-M58)

Participants:LEGAMB;SZN; UB; CESTMed

The objective is to characterize the breeding nesting population (males and females), to determine the origin of the colonizers and to determine genomic drivers of nesting viability by using genomic data of adult breeders and hatchlings. We will analyze, using cutting edge genomic techniques, 1-2 different individuals per nest from all the nests recorded during 2023-2026 nesting seasons in the three countries (we expect ~125 nests per year). Additionally, we will analyse samples that have been collected by project partners in 2020 and 2021 (N=100). By parentage analysis we will determine the minimum number of breeding males and females in the population, thus obtaining a measure of population size and its sex ratio, and to determine if different nests have been laid by the same female. Blood samples for this study will be obtained from headstarted individuals (T4.6), and this sampling will be completed with skin samples from dead hatchlings found during nest monitoring (T4.3). From each region we will analyze additional hatchling samples (~10 per nest) from a selection of nests (5~15 nests per country) in order to estimate the degree of multiple paternity per region. We will also analyze blood or skin samples from all tracked females (T4.5, 20 females expected), as well as females found while nesting (we expect 5-10 females per year) in order to determine the population of origin using genomic approaches. We will compare the results with baseline information of regular nesting populations in the Atlantic and the Eastern Mediterranean (as potential source populations), to incorporate this information in the meta-analysis of habitat use and connectivity. Additionally, we will test new methodologies to obtain quality DNA from the female when direct samples are not available using vital eggs sampled within 12 hours from deposition (as obtained for T4.5) or the umbilical cord, as well as non-invasive methodologies of sampling living newborn hatchlings using buccal swaps. Although the development of these new sampling methods is not essential for the fulfillment of the remaining analysis of this task, it would be an important outcome of the project towards more efficient sampling protocols on nesting areas. Finally, the genomic data, the results of the parentage analysis and the results of population of origin will be combined with the data obtained during nest monitoring activity performed on T4.3 (e.g. number of eggs, fertility, hatchling success, interesting interval, nest site fidelity) in order to look for genomic drivers of viability of the nesting events. For instance, high levels of heterozygosity due to having parents of distant origins can result in a decrease of fitness due to outbreeding depression explaining high levels of hatchling mortality in some nests that remain to be tested. An additional outcome of this task is that we will have genomic fingerprinting from hundreds of hatchlings and tens of females comprising all the nests laid, thus allowing future recognition of individuals (orto which nests are associated) in case of future returns into the nesting area.

T4.5 Habitat use and connectivity for nesting females (M6-M58)

Participants:LEGAMB;SZN; UB; UVIC –UCC; CESTMed;

The objective is to identify the foraging grounds used by the females nesting in Italy and Spain, by combining satellite tracking and stable isotope analysis. Satellite tracking provides detailed information on the movements of females during and after the nesting season. Stable isotope analysis is used to identify foraging grounds used by the females prior to nesting. 20 female loggerhead turtles will be equipped with GPS satellite tags after they have finished nesting and before they return to the sea. Turtles will be restrained for 1.5 hours to allow time to clean a small portion of the carapace, apply the tag with marine non-toxic silicone adhesive and let the glue set. The tags will deliver high-resolution GPS-like positions (at least 1 per hour) to follow the turtles on their movements, for an average tracking duration of 6 months, with possibility of tracking individuals up to 2 years. Since nesting in the project area is mostly irregular and widely dispersed, it is difficult to predict when and where a turtle will come on land to nest. Thus, to increase encounter rates, two approaches will be used: 1) intensive night patrols during peak season (2 weeks in July) on selected beaches, where nesting was registered for at least 3 consecutive years or where recent nest density is at least 3 nest/year/km (beaches identified in T4.2); 2) ad-hoc night patrols on beaches where a turtle emerged but did not nest, such that chances she will emerge again and spotted by the monitoring team are enhanced. Finally, a chance to tag a female turtle might arise, as have in the past, when a turtle is observed on the beach and immediately reported, so that the satellite tracking experts can try to arrive on the beach before the female finishes nesting. The stable isotope ratios of C and N in the skin and carapace scutes of the 20 tagged females will be also analyzed. These will be combined, after appropriate correction, with stable isotope ratios obtained from skin samples of at least 50 hatchlings found dead in nests during excavation, and of the yolk of 50 fresh eggs (collected for genetic finger-printing in T4.4). Finally, the stable isotope ratios of 30  $\mu\text{m}$  layers of carapace scutes will allow reconstructing the past movements of nesting females for several years. Skin and carapace samples (1 each per animal) will be collected with a biopsy punch from the left front flipper and from the third costal carapace scute, respectively. The information of satellite telemetry and isotopic signaling will be integrated with genomic data (T4.4) to improve our understanding of population dynamics, connectivity and boundaries, and hence to identify where best to implement further conservation actions. Actually, genomic data are crucial to identify clutches from the same female laid in the same season and hence avoid pseudoreplication in stable isotope studies and also to evaluate movement tracks based on the origin of females. Information gained in this task will be useful for designing knowledge

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based conservation strategies for marine areas and to contribute to actions already set in place by other projects, which will be included in the Networking T2.5. The reconstructed migration routes, which have a strong media attraction for the general public, will be displayed on the movebank, an online platform designed to manage, share, analyze and archive animal movement data (<https://www.movebank.org/cms/movebank-main>).

T4.6 Ex situ conservation interventions. Loggerhead turtle nursery and yearling tracking(M6-M58)

Participants:LEGAMB; SZN;UB; UVIC –UCC

The objective is to increase the survival rate of hatchlings by means of a head-starting program (captive rearing) and the artificial incubation of clutches laid late in the season. Some of the yearlings from the head-starting program will be satellite tracked to assess their survival and identify and characterize their developmental habitats. Several head starting programs already exist in Spain, where the use of artificial incubators is widespread. Furthermore, yearlings have already been satellite tracked there, providing the first information on their survival at sea and their developmental habitats. However, none of these management strategies has been used previously in Italy. This task will thus involve a transfer of knowledge from Spain to Italy. Each year for three reproductive seasons, 40 hatchlings from 20 nests laid in Italy (2 hatchlings per nest) will be collected at emergence, allowing them first to crawl a few meters on the beach for imprinting, to then transfer them to the nearby head-starting facilities (nurseries). These will be set up in 2 sea turtle rescue centers already run by SZN (Portici) and Legambiente (Manfredonia), according to international hatchling rearing standards and guidance provided by the experienced Spanish Partners (UVIC, UB), and with the capacity to head-start 20 hatchlings each per year. Hatchlings will be raised for one year to a body weight of ca. 1 kg, and released the following summer in the sea at a minimum distance of 10 nm off their natal beaches. Buccal swabs of newborn individuals and blood samples from all yearlings will also be taken for genomics (T4.4), to optimize the sampling procedures across the project and to assess any influence of parental origin on survival and growth rate. Every year, 10 of the resulting yearlings will be instrumented with miniaturized solar-powered satellite tags (<10 g weight <= 1% of turtle weight) to identify their dispersal patterns and developmental habitats, and to assess post-release survivorship. Movement paths will be integrated in habitat suitability models developed in T5.1. Furthermore, the eggs from late season nests, that are hence exposed to low temperatures during the final part of their development, will be transferred to artificial incubators installed at the same rescue centers with a maximum capacity to incubate 200 eggs each (≈ 2 clutches). Hatchlings from artificially incubated eggs will be released from the beaches of origin, with the option to retain some for head-starting, depending on the space availability in the facility for that year. Finally, the nurseries will also be used for the rescue, first-aid and rearing of stranded post-hatchlings in the study area which have been increasing in numbers over the last years, undoubtedly due to the increase of nests.

T4.7 Pilot interventions to reduce anthropic impacts at new regular nesting sites (M4-M54).

Participants:LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

A pilot intervention will be conducted at the Municipality of Ascea, Campania region, south Italy, on a beach of approximately 3 km in length that is a main tourist destination during the summer months and where loggerhead turtle nesting has regularly occurred since 2015. Here we will test a series of actions to mitigate light pollution and improve beach maintenance procedures that will then be replicated in at least 1 additional site within the project area. Light pollution from street lighting and beachfront properties is one of the most pervasive challenges to loggerhead turtle nesting. Artificial lighting is known to discourage egg-bearing females from coming ashore to nest and affects hatchlings, misdirecting them inland and away from the sea. Light pollution will be minimized by using the best available technology (BAT). BAT forms the basis of light management methods that reduce the effects of artificial lighting to the greatest extent practicable by selecting those lights that can be turned off during the nesting season, controlling light so that the level reaching the beach is minimized, and ensuring that the light that does reach the beach is the least disruptive colour. In collaboration with the local Administration that supports the project, we will replace and upgrade 120 pole-mounted street lighting luminaires over the entire beach length (3km). Long wavelength Amber led lights will be used, combined with proper shielding to further reduce the amount of light reaching the beach. These types of turtle friendly lights will also be provided to managers of beachfront restaurants and bars to replace those exterior fixtures that produce bright light visible from the beach (minimum 50 luminaires). In all the cases when night time lighting is indispensable to protect valuable goods on or nearby the beach, motion detectors will be installed to reduce the detrimental effect on nesting females or hatchlings (20 light with motion detectors). This intervention will significantly reduce electrical demand and provide a sustainable and energy saving alternative to the high pressure mercury lamps that are currently installed on 70% of the beachfront pole-mounted street lighting luminaires. Best practices for beach maintenance will be enforced in collaboration with the local Administration to safeguard beach utility for loggerhead turtle reproduction and improve its health and safety for residents and tourists. The presence of obstacles to nesting will be reduced by adopting a regulation that prescribes beach resorts and hotels to stack beach furniture and recreational equipment in selected spots with the shortest side facing the water. Beach cleaning by heavy machinery will be forbidden at least on the beach sector most intensively used by nesting females (1.5 km) and only non-mechanized raking and litter removal will be allowed. At least 6 beach clean-up days will be organized each season with volunteers involved in beach patrolling (T4.2) to inform tourists on this specific issue. Project poster boards with simple, concise and clear information to alert tourists to the

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presence of nesting loggerhead turtles, emphasize appropriate behaviours and explaining the interventions that have been put in place will be installed at all the main access points to the beach (at least 20 poster boards). After one year of implementation, this pilot action, adjusted according to the results obtained, will be replicated in at least 1 additional site selected among the pilot beaches monitored in T4.2 that have emerged as the most regularly used by loggerhead turtle nesting females whose Administration have already provided their support to the project and the willingness to adopt best practises to mitigate threats to loggerhead turtle nesting females.

T.4.8 Geo morphological and physical-chemical analysis (vulnerability to sea level rise)(M11-M58)

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; UVIC –UCC; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

The response of sandy shorelines to sea level rise depends on many local environmental factors, including coastal morphology, sediment availability and transport (onshore, offshore, longshore), SLR rate, and nearshore zone dynamics. The general assumption that a sandy beach exposed to a rising sea level will exclusively retreat over-simplifies the true dynamics of the shoreline. In conditions where the shoreline has the possibility to migrate landward freely and therefore to find a new equilibrium condition, the width of the beach could be even greater than the current reference state. While in contexts where the shoreline has no margin of accommodation, climate change will inexorably lead to a progressive reduction of the width of the beach with an erosion rate that depends on the rate of sea level rise and sediment availability. Following the approach of geo-morphological characterization defined in preparatory activity T3.3, nesting sites will be classified according to their current morphological state (width and slope) and consequently will be identified thresholds of "minimum beach functionality" beyond which the future sustainability of the site for nesting will be more or less compromised. This estimate will be provided both according to current trends of shoreline positioning and beach width, and according to scenarios of sea level rise. At the same time, beach profile measurement campaigns will be carried out at some nesting sites to validate the remotely sensed data and to define a simple measurement protocol aimed to obtain a dataset of repeated measurements over time. The application of this monitoring protocol by local operators would allow us to obtain data on beach profile evolution and therefore useful data to be compared with the minimum functionality thresholds defined through the remote analysis. Moreover, the sediment characterization of turtle nesting sites will be performed. For the regular nesting sites a characterization of the entire beach will be performed sampling over regular transects defined in relation to beach size, while for occasional and new nesting sites the analysis will be performed on a sample collected in the close proximity of the nest. With respect to the granulometric and mineralogical determination the particle size analyses will be performed by sieving, with a stack of ASTM series sieves. The analysis of fractions less than 63 microns will be carried out by means of a laser granulometer. The mineralogical analysis of fractions greater than 63 microns will be performed using an optical microscope. Then the data will be integrated for the reconstruction of the granulometric curve of each sample taken. Analysis of parameters, such as organic content, total nitrogen and total phosphorus, will be conducted using an elemental analyser: VARIO MICRO Cube. An inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrophotometer (ICP-OES) is used for the determination of Total Phosphorus. Depending on the percentages of particle size fractions and organic matter the presence of significant contaminants will be investigated. Scientific protocols for monitoring and standardized data collection will be established. The collected data will be used to define possible relationships between the sand characteristics, the choice of nest site and the good success of nesting sites, also through graphic elaborations.

T4.9 Guidelines on management of coastal erosion to sustain nesting habitat suitability (M11-M58)

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; UB; UVIC –UCC; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

Among the phenomena causing the reduction of suitable turtle nesting habitats is also coastal erosion due to climate change and human activities that reduce and/or modify beaches. In recent years, coastal interventions have mainly focused on defending and protecting beaches from coastal erosion. These activities foresee the implementation of different types of defence works both hard (e.g. the construction of artificial barriers parallel to the coast, works perpendicular to the coast, groins, adherent defence works...) and soft (e.g. beach nourishment, planting of vegetation barriers). While these defence measures help to keep the shoreline unaltered, in some cases they could also be an obstacle for the loggerhead turtle nesting females to reach the beach or pose a risk for the successful incubation of the eggs. For example, an inadequately designed beach nourishment intervention can have significant effects on embryonic development due to a possible change in grain size or an alteration of the geomorphological characteristics of the coastline involved. The guidelines, also following the results of the preparatory activities, will provide technical indications that, if included in the management plans, will make it possible to maintain beaches with suitable characteristics for nesting. They will therefore be a useful tool for administrators for the effective management of the coastal zone that will also preserve nesting habitat suitability. The guidelines will have a geographical general character, but will be drafted with particular regard to the pilot sites of the project.

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### Work package WP5 – Governance and Advocacy

|                            |                         |                         |           |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Work Package Number</b> | WP5                     | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | 1. LEGAMB |
| <b>Work Package Name</b>   | Governance and Advocacy |                         |           |
| <b>Start Month</b>         | 17                      | <b>End Month</b>        | 60        |

#### Objectives

Objectives:  
Obj.4; Obj.5; Obj.6.

Expected results:

- development of predictive models to support decision making by the competent authorities;
- 200 representatives of Coastal Municipalities, Regions and managing bodies of Protected Areas and N2K sites informed and sensitized through 50 meetings;
- adoption by 50 public authorities of plan/guidelines developed during the project and able to guarantee a good state of conservation to the species;
- identification or enlargement of 12 Natura 2000 sites to be established to protect the nesting sites of Caretta caretta\*.
- Nest location database; Predictive map of potentially suitable nesting areas under different climate change scenarios.
- A guide for the management and protection of emerging sea turtle nest sites in changing climate
- the signature of the PLEDGES4SEATURTLES by 100 public bodies;
- the adoption of the guidelines by 70 public bodies;

#### Description

T5.1 Predictive Models (climate and beach shape/profile) (M17-M60)

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

The objective is to predict the impact of global change on turtle nesting in the western Mediterranean basin. We will model the impact of global warming on sea turtle nesting by calibrating a predictive model for the identification of potential suitability areas for nesting. The model will be based on data collected from tasks T4.2, T4.3, T4.6 and it will be a development of task T3.2. The data collected will be organized in a database containing: nest location, laying date, emergence date, clutch size, hatching success, and data on sand temperature at 40 cm of depth measured in previous tasks. We will consider both marine and land variables, spanning from human pressures on beaches (e.g., tourist settlements), to climate variables (e.g., sea surface temperature). We will use state of the art ecological modelling algorithms combining the expertise of different beneficiaries in a collaborative effort. The expected result will be a model predicting the future changes in potentially suitable areas for nesting of Caretta caretta in the Western Mediterranean. This model will help to identify future potentially suitable areas for nesting. The model will represent the basis for conservation gap analysis and for proposals of proactive management plans.

T5.2 Guide for the management and protection of emerging sea turtle nest sites in changing climate (M49-M60)

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

Sea turtle conservation programmes have their roots in monitoring and managing nesting beaches and protecting the eggs and hatchlings against occurring threats, and consequently there is a wealth of scientific literature, reports, best practices and guidelines that detail methods and procedures for the conservation of nesting beaches. However, the recent phenomenon of sea turtles emerging on Western Mediterranean beaches to find suitable sites to lay their eggs, poses a new challenge for wildlife conservation. This is because new colonization by sea turtles is a slow process, while current climate change is happening at an unprecedented fast rate and hence, the habitats explored by the turtles are subject to change (e.g., temperature increase, sea level rise, coastal erosion). Nesting in the WM is mostly unpredictable and widely diffused and every year female turtles crawl on a new beach that has never seen a nesting turtle before. The challenges of effective conservation management are manifold, starting from decisions on what to do in case of a nest to decisions on how to manage the nest site on the long-term. This task will develop a guide that aims to provide extensive advice, built on the experiences and results of TURTLENEST, on factors to consider for the conservation of emerging sea turtle nest sites, which will be tailored to address the themes of species and habitat management, in relation to various climate change scenarios. It will help wildlife and conservation managers determine the best management strategies applicable to their area. This will be achieved by identifying relevant data requirements and monitoring and research methods to be able to acquire and understand vital population metrics and assess current and future needs to ensure good conservation status of sea turtles. The core of the guide will be a suite of Decision Trees that systematically and progressively deal with the assessment and management process that the locally responsible entity should consider in order to ensure that

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the nesting turtle, the eggs and the hatchlings are protected from harm and that the habitats are preserved to sustain turtle nesting in the future. For the management and conservation of emerging nesting sites the decision-making process should be balanced between the relative importance of a specific nest site, the number of nests recorded at that site, the suitability of the site to sustain turtle nesting and the capacity of the responsible municipality or authority to enforce special beach management plans and protection measures. The guide will contain annexes with operating protocols that will be based on internationally approved, scientifically sound procedures and which will be revised according to the results obtained during this project (T3.1, T3.3, T4.2, T4.3-T4.5, T4.7-T4.9, T5.1).

T5.3 Advocacy campaign (M13-M60)

Participants: LEGAMB; CESTMed, UB, UVIC-UCC;REGBAS; REGPUG; REGLAZ; REGCAM

The conservation of sea turtle nesting sites requires the concrete commitment of some key public stakeholders such as the regions, coastal municipalities and managing bodies of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites who must adopt regulations and measures to reduce the anthropogenic impact on the beaches and in their immediate vicinity and protect the sea turtle nesting sites. For this reason, the project envisages an advocacy campaign aimed to strengthen governance and nature conservation policies through a set of regulations established and adopted by public authorities. Special attention will be paid in the improvement and reinforcement of the Natura 2000 networks since the project's results will favour the identification/enlargement of new Natura 2000 sites to protect the new nesting sites. The task will also allow the updating of the Standard Data Form (SDF) of the Natura 2000 sites already established but where the *Caretta caretta*\* is not considered as a nesting species. In addition, thanks to this task a proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 Prioritized Action Framework (PAF) will be drafted, including adequate measures for the conservation of nesting sites in Italian, French and Spanish areas where the species was not previously present as breeding species or reinforcing conservation measures already expected. This task also aims to make known and adopt some outputs developed during the project: we refer in particular to the Guidelines on coastal armouring and beach nourishment (T4.9) and to the Guide to support the decision making (T5.2), the adoption of which is essential to protect the nesting areas. In addition, the solutions adopted experimentally in the project in some pilot areas will be presented to reduce the light pollution that causes disturbance both during the nesting and hatching phases. This activity, carried out by Legambiente experts with experience in lobbying and public affairs with the help of the involved Regions, will take the form of a series of bilateral meetings with the political and technical staff of the Environment Department of the Regions and Municipalities concerned. All public authorities will also be invited to sign PLEDGE4SEATURTLES, a sort of Memorandum of Understanding where they are committed to do all they can to help ensure that sea turtles have their best chance at survival. The activity will be coordinated by Legambiente and implemented also through its consolidated channels and the networks represented by the institutional contacts of the other project beneficiaries. Within the end of the project, a total of at least 50 meetings are planned to take place starting from the second year of the project. As results of these tasks a set of new regulations will be established in 70 coastal areas, 100 public bodies will sign the PLEDGE4SEATURTLES initiative, 10 Natura 2000 sites will be enlarged/identified, 10 SDF will be updated, 10 PAF will be drafted including adequate measures for the conservation of nesting sites.

### Work package WP6 – Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results

|                            |   |                         |           |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Work Package Number</b> | WP6   | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | 1. LEGAMB |
| <b>Work Package Name</b>   | Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results |                         |           |
| <b>Start Month</b>         | 31  | <b>End Month</b>        | 60        |

#### Objectives

Objectives:  
ALL

Expected results:

definition of a strategy and plan for the continuation of the main project activities;  
 planning of future financial needs through a funding matrix;  
 favor the replicability of the interventions carried out in other locations during the project and after its conclusion;  
 replication kit delivered at 5.000 potential replicators;  
 100 potential replicators reached thanks to 3 panel meetings;  
 120 potential replicators reached through 1 conference;  
 planning of exploitation of the project's results through an exploitation plan;

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800 representatives of scientific community, regions, coastal municipalities, national authorities reached by 12 exploitation webinars.

### Description

#### T6.1 Future sustainability (M52-60)

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

This task is necessary to plan how to guarantee the continuation of the main activities of the project after his conclusion. In this regard, during the last 9 months of the project 3 important outputs will be prepared directly by the Steering Committee: 1) an After Life Plan where the actions that will continue are identified in detail for each WP. 2) a strategy for the future sustainability of the project: this document, contained within the After LIFE Plan, will outline how the identified action will continue by which partners and with which resources. The resources which the various partners can draw on to ensure the continuation of core activities are preliminarily described below. The long-term sustainability of the project will be ensured 3) a funding matrix: This document will outline which actions will continue, by which partners and with which resources. As already highlighted in the previous section 2.3, a preliminary survey of the funding sources that the consortium partners will be able to use to continue carrying out the main project activities has already been carried out at this stage. This can be traced back to: International, European and National/Regional/Local funds made available by public and private entities. Among the first can be considered those allocated in the different countries by the various Ministries (Environment, Fisheries, Tourism, Education and Research, Labor and Social Policies), by the Regions, Municipalities, Parks and Marine Protected Areas and by FLAGs, from direct European funding programs directly managed by European Commission (LIFE, Horizon Europe, Cosme, Erasmus) ENI CBC Med) and other multilateral and bilateral territorial cooperation programs. However it is necessary to deepen this aspect using a strategic approach which allows to define strategies for covering financial needs for the various project activities identified in the After Life Plan. The consortium will define the relevant activities aimed at implementing the After Life Plan, taking into account the time, costs and financial sources available for each of them.

The gap between available resources and costs for the implementation of the After LIFE Plan can be covered by external resources of various kinds as summarized in the following table which depicts a funding matrix.

#### T6.2 Replication M37-M60

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

The aim of this task is promoting the replicability of project approach/methodology. During the fourth year of the project a Replicability Strategy will be designed whose main objective will be the transfer of technical knowledge, experience gained, results achieved and lessons learned, including problems and criticisms, during the last phase of the project and over. This strategy will be a multiplier of the impact of the project, offering LIFE TURTLENEST solutions to a wide spectrum of relevant stakeholders involved in conservation of sea turtle's nesting sites both at a national as well as at a European and Mediterranean level. The Replicability Strategy will include the following activities: –Replication Kit: to facilitate the replicability of the LIFE TURTLENEST approach, the project consortium will elaborate a Replication Kit to define the activities beyond dissemination and to identify who could/should transfer the activities and how to do it best. The Replication Kit is a small publication that will illustrate how the project's approach can be transferred to other European geographical areas and contexts and in particular to those countries where there is a great need to monitor and protect the new sea turtle's nesting areas. The Replication Kit will be produced within the third year of the project. To reduce the carbon footprint the kit will be delivered only through a QR Code. The replication kit will be delivered to a mailing list of about 5000 people. –Panel Meetings: in the last 18 months of the project 3 Panel Meetings on different topics regarding the conservation of sea turtle's nesting sites in the western will be held respectively in Italy, Spain and France. The aim of these events, addressed mostly to public authorities and other key stakeholders, is to disseminate the LIFE TURTLENEST experience and lessons learnt and to maximize the project's replicability capacity. It is expected that at the panel meeting 100 people will participate. –Replication Conference: during the last year of the project, a replication conference mainly addressed to other countries of the Mediterranean will be organized with representatives of relevant stakeholders committed to the implementation of conservation actions for sea turtles. For this purpose, the technical Materials (protocols/guidelines/manuals/ code of conducts) produced by different actions of the project will be promoted. It is expected that at least 120 people will attend the conference. To reduce the CO2 emissions associated with the participants' travel, all the events will be organized remotely, thus favoring the participation of a greater number of people. The implementation of the Replicability Strategy will extend beyond the lifetime of the project, promoting the development of future joint activities

#### T6.3 Results Exploitation M45-M60

Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

Exploitation activities have a broader scope compared to communication and dissemination. They include actions such

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as utilizing the project results in further conservation and/or research activities other than those covered by the concerned project, developing, creating and delivering guidelines and/or plans or process, creating and providing protocols, or even in standardisation of activities. This task, which will be implemented in the last 18 months of the project, will allow the design of an Exploitation Plan whose main goal will be to make use of the results for environmental, societal, scientific and governance purposes. The plan will contain a list and description of exploitable results identifying for each result the potential users and the means and the tools that will be used to reach them. The project partners will be the first to exploit the project results themselves, by their own efforts or facilitate exploitation by others (e.g. through making results available under open licenses). The exploitation plan will be implemented during the project through a programme of 12 exploitation webinars mainly addressed to policy makers, scientific community, economic operators and civil society. The planned webinars foresee:

- 3 environmental exploitation webinars; these events (one for each involved country) are addressed mainly to Environmental Public Authorities (Ministers, Regions), environmental NGOs, management bodies of protected areas and local authorities;
- 3 scientific exploitation webinars: these events (one for each involved country) are addressed mainly to scientific community (Universities, Research Institutes, Scientific Societies, Researchers, Students)
- 3 societal exploitation webinars: these events (one for each involved country) are addressed mainly to tourism operators and local communities
- 3 governance exploitation webinars: these events (one for each involved country) are addressed mainly to tourism operators and local communities

All the events will be organized remotely through professional web platforms such as GoToMeetings, Zoom, Teams, etc. The webinars will eliminate travel and subsistence costs, reduce the carbon footprint of the projects and allow the participation of a greater number of people. It is estimated that a total of 800 people will participate in the program of exploitation webinars.

### Work package WP7 – Monitoring and evaluation

|                            |                           |                         |        |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| <b>Work Package Number</b> | WP7                       | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | 2. SZN |
| <b>Work Package Name</b>   | Monitoring and evaluation |                         |        |
| <b>Start Month</b>         | 4                         | <b>End Month</b>        | 60     |

#### Objectives

Objectives:

ALL

Expected results:

Evaluation of the impacts of conservation actions;

Evaluation of the socio economic impact of the project through a monitoring activities;

#### Description

T7.1 Evaluation of conservation actions impacts. M8-M59

Participants; LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC –UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

This task will monitor the progress of the conservation actions and evaluate their impacts. A special set of KPI's are designed specifically to monitor the various tasks for WP4. Task leaders will report and update their KPIs at predetermined dates, identified according to the nature of the action, making the monitoring process dynamic and efficient in controlling the indicators when they are expected to become available. All updated KPI will be submitted to the Monitoring Officer in intervals established in T1.2.

Progress in T4.1 Training courses addressed to operators and volunteers will be monitored by comparing the actual number of technicians, beach operators and volunteers trained and certified with respect to those expected. KPI: 1) Number of field technicians trained (months in which KPI will be updated: M8, M20, M32, M44), 2) Number of volunteers trained and certified (M8, M20, M32, M44), 3) Number of beach operators and certified (M8, M20, M32, M44). Its impact will be measured as follow: 1) the proportion of field technicians certified that were authorized within the next year by the National Competent Authority to manipulate sea turtle nest and hatchlings, 2) the %improvement

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in awareness and knowledge on best practices in trained volunteers and beach operators measured by ex-ante -ex post questionnaires.

Progress in T4.2 Beach patrolling of most used/high suitability areas to identify loggerhead turtle nests will be evaluated based on the number of km monitored each year by the project partners with respect to those foreseen. Each monitoring team will record the daily activity on a portable GPS and the total coasts covered will be obtained with GIS software. KPI: Kilometres of beach monitored (M8, M20, M32, M44). Its impact will be measured as the proportion of nests discovered by beach monitoring with respect to the total number detected each year in each sub-areas.

Progress in T4.3 Nest and hatchling monitoring and protection will be monitored based on the number of nests identified and protected in the different project sub areas each season. KPI: Number of detected nests in all monitored sites (M8, M11, M20, M23, M32, M35, M44, M47, M56, M59). Its impact will be measured based on the number of hatchlings that entered the sea from protected nests with respect to the number of hatchlings that entered the sea from unprotected nests (estimated from track counts).

Progress in T4.4 Genomic characterization of the nesting populations through analysis of breeding adult loggerheads and hatchlings will be evaluated with respect to the number of samples collected and the number of genomic fingerprints obtained. KPI: Number of samples taken from eggs/hatchlings/females for genomic analysis each season (M8, M11, M20, M23, M32, M35, M44, M47), Number of genomic fingerprints obtained from eggs/hatchlings/females before the beginning of the next nesting season. Its impact will be measured as % increase of the volume of genomic data from loggerhead turtles nesting in the western Mediterranean available to the scientific community.

Progress in T4.5 Habitat use and connectivity for nesting females will be evaluated with respect to the number of females tracked and the number of samples taken from eggs/hatchlings/females for stable isotope analysis. KPI Number of nesting females equipped with satellite tags (M8, M20, M32, M44), Number of samples taken from eggs/hatchlings/females for stable isotope analysis (M8, M11, M20, M23, M32, M35, M44, M47). Its impact will be measured as % increase of the volume of movement/behavioral and stable isotope data from loggerhead turtles nesting in the western Mediterranean available to the scientific community.

Progress in T4.6 Ex situ conservation interventions. Loggerhead turtle nursery and yearling tracking will be monitored, once the head starting facilities have been installed (ML17), based on the number of hatchlings accepted each year. KPI Number of hatchlings collected for head-starting (M23, M35, M47). Its impact will be measured instead based on the number of hatchlings reared for 1 year and released into the sea (M34, M46).

Progress in T4.7 Pilot interventions to reduce anthropic impacts at new regular nesting sites will be monitored based on the number of turtle friendly lights installed at the two different locations and the actual date of completion of the work (M42). KPI Number of friendly lights installed (M30, M42). Its impact will be measured based on the comparison of ex-ante -ex-post trials of hatchling disorientation conducted at both locations on at least 6 nests.

Progress in T4.8 Geo morphological and physical-chemical analysis will be monitored based on the number of sand samples obtained and analysed each year and the number of nesting beaches classified according to their current morphological state and "minimum beach functionality". KPI Number of sand samples analysed (M25, M37, M49), Number of beaches classified (M25, M37, M49).

T7.2 Monitoring of socio-economic impact. (M4-M60)  
Participants: LEGAMB; SZN; ISPRA; Sapienza; UB; UVIC -UCC; ENCI; CESTMed; REGBAS; REGPUG; ARPAT; REGLAZ; REGCAM

In order to assess the socio-economic impact of the project, a specific survey will be carried out on a representative sample of local administrators, economic operators, managing bodies of protected areas, citizens and other key stakeholders. The survey will consider:

- level of knowledge and awareness of the various stakeholders;
- social consensus of key stakeholders concerning public initiatives for the conservation of sea turtle and more generally for the protection of nature;
- interest & adhesion of tourism industry to the initiatives carried out by the project;
- potential for social and economic development as result of the implementation of policies for the conservation of these turtles and for the protection of the environment.

The survey methodology foresees:

- distribution of a special structured questionnaire to key stakeholders (200 questionnaire both for ex ante and ex post phase);
- interviews with 10 key witnesses selected among representatives of local communities, public institutions, companies, managing bodies of Protected Areas, scientific community, local administrators, environmental associations, etc..

Monitoring will be carried out in 2 phases:

- Ex ante monitoring to obtain a reference baseline;
- Ex post monitoring to measure the socio-economic impact compared to the initial situation.

Ex-ante monitoring (months 4 -15)

A preliminary analysis of the socio-economic context of the targeted areas will be conducted in order to better know the level of knowledge and awareness of the various stakeholders and to outline the current situation in terms of actual and/

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or potential impact of nesting sea turtles on socio-economic context. In this phase, a total of 10 structured interviews will be conducted and 200 questionnaires will be distributed to key stakeholders. The Ex-ante monitoring will be conducted from M4 to M15 and the Ex-ante Report will be released by the end of march 2024.

Ex post monitoring (months 49 -60)

Through a final evaluation, the increasing awareness and knowledge and the socio-economic impact of the project compared to the initial situation will be measured. For the collection of data, 10 interviews with privileged witnesses will be repeated as well as the distribution of questionnaires (200) to key stakeholders. This Ex-post survey will be conducted during the last 12 months of the project and the Ex-post Report will be released by the end of December2026.

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## STAFF EFFORT

| <b>Staff effort per participant</b>  |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |                     |  |
|--|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|--|
| <i>Grant Preparation (Work packages - Effort screen) — Enter the info.</i> |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |                     |  |
| Participant  | WP1    | WP2    | WP3   | WP4    | WP5   | WP6   | WP7   | Total Person-Months |  |
| 1 - LEGAMB   | 96.94  | 110.28 | 7.60  | 47.75  | 32.82 | 8.70  | 2.40  | 306.49              |  |
| 2 - SZN  | 10.87  | 13.50  | 5.50  | 132.68 | 10.47 | 5.63  | 5.50  | 184.15              |  |
| 3 - ISPra  | 5.00   | 5.00   | 15.00 | 54.00  | 5.00  | 5.00  |       | 89.00               |  |
| 4 - Sapienza   | 4.00   | 4.00   | 1.00  | 81.32  |       |       | 4.00  | 94.32               |  |
| 5 - UB   | 4.50   | 4.50   | 10.00 | 29.25  | 3.75  | 2.50  | 3.50  | 58.00               |  |
| 6 - UVIC-UCC   | 7.00   | 6.00   | 6.00  | 26.00  | 6.00  | 4.00  | 3.00  | 58.00               |  |
| 7 - ENCI   | 5.00   | 10.00  | 10.00 | 10.00  | 2.00  | 2.00  | 12.00 | 51.00               |  |
| 8 - CESTMED  | 6.00   | 5.00   | 5.00  | 22.50  | 4.50  | 2.00  | 1.50  | 46.50               |  |
| 9 - REGBAS   | 4.25   | 1.75   | 1.00  | 4.50   | 1.25  | 1.25  | 1.50  | 15.50               |  |
| 10 - REGPUG  | 4.25   | 1.75   | 1.00  | 4.50   | 1.25  | 1.25  | 1.50  | 15.50               |  |
| 11 - ARPAT   | 5.00   | 4.00   | 4.00  | 13.00  | 6.00  | 2.00  | 2.00  | 36.00               |  |
| 12 - REGLAZ  | 5.00   | 3.75   | 7.25  | 16.00  | 2.00  | 2.00  | 5.00  | 41.00               |  |
| 13 - REGCAM  | 4.25   | 1.75   | 1.00  | 4.50   | 1.25  | 1.25  | 1.50  | 15.50               |  |
| <b>Total Person-Months</b>   | 162.06 | 171.28 | 74.35 | 446.00 | 76.29 | 37.58 | 43.40 | 1010.96             |  |

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## LIST OF DELIVERABLES

| <b>Deliverables</b>   |   |                        |                         |                            |                            |                         |
|---|---|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.</i>  |   |                        |                         |                            |                            |                         |
| <i>The labels used mean:</i>  |   |                        |                         |                            |                            |                         |
| <i>Public — fully open (🚩 automatically posted online)</i>  |   |                        |                         |                            |                            |                         |
| <i>Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement</i>  |   |                        |                         |                            |                            |                         |
| <i>EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision <a href="#">2015/444</a></i> |   |                        |                         |                            |                            |                         |
| <b>Deliverable No</b>   | <b>Deliverable Name</b>                           | <b>Work Package No</b> | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | <b>Type</b>                | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | <b>Due Date (month)</b> |
| D1.1  | Management kit                                    | WP1                    | 1 - LEGAMB              | DMP — Data Management Plan | SEN - Sensitive            | 1                       |
| D1.2  | Stakeholder database                              | WP1                    | 1 - LEGAMB              | OTHER                      | SEN - Sensitive            | 3                       |
| D1.3  | First Progress report                             | WP1                    | 1 - LEGAMB              | R — Document, report       | SEN - Sensitive            | 14                      |
| D1.4  | Second Progress report                            | WP1                    | 1 - LEGAMB              | R — Document, report       | SEN - Sensitive            | 44                      |
| D2.1  | Communication strategy                            | WP2                    | 1 - LEGAMB              | OTHER                      | SEN - Sensitive            | 4                       |
| D2.2  | Informative materials                             | WP2                    | 1 - LEGAMB              | OTHER                      | PU - Public                | 60                      |
| D2.3  | Dissemination Plan                                | WP2                    | 1 - LEGAMB              | OTHER                      | SEN - Sensitive            | 3                       |
| D2.4  | Dedicated project page on Beneficiaries' websites | WP2                    | 1 - LEGAMB              | OTHER                      | PU - Public                | 12                      |
| D3.1  | Report on the preparatory actions                 | WP3                    | 6 - UVIC-UCC            | R — Document, report       | PU - Public                | 15                      |
| D3.2  | Protocol for detection canine units               | WP3                    | 7 - ENCI                | OTHER                      | SEN - Sensitive            | 6                       |
| D4.1  | Training kit                                      | WP4                    | 2 - SZN                 | OTHER                      | PU - Public                | 57                      |
| D4.2  | Report on nest and hatchling protection actions   | WP4                    | 2 - SZN                 | R — Document, report       | PU - Public                | 60                      |

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| <b>Deliverables</b><br><i>Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.</i><br><i>The labels used mean:</i><br><i>Public — fully open (🚩 automatically posted online)</i><br><i>Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement</i><br><i>EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision 2015/444</i> |  |                 |                  |                      |                     |                  |  |
|--|--|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|--|
| Deliverable No   | Deliverable Name   | Work Package No | Lead Beneficiary | Type                 | Dissemination Level | Due Date (month) |  |
| D4.3   | Report on the genomic characterization of the nesting populations                | WP4             | 2 - SZN          | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 60               |  |
| D4.4   | Report on Caretta caretta population dynamics, connectivity and boundaries.      | WP4             | 2 - SZN          | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 60               |  |
| D4.5   | Report on ex situ conservation interventions                                     | WP4             | 2 - SZN          | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 60               |  |
| D4.6   | Report on the pilot interventions to reduce anthropic impacts                    | WP4             | 2 - SZN          | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 60               |  |
| D4.7   | Geo morphological and physical-chemical analysis                                 | WP4             | 2 - SZN          | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 60               |  |
| D4.8   | Guidelines on coastal armouring and beach nourishment to sustain nesting habitat | WP4             | 2 - SZN          | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 60               |  |
| D5.1   | Predictive map of nesting areas suitability                                      | WP5             | 2 - SZN          | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 60               |  |
| D5.2   | Illustrated practical Guide with annexed standard procedures                     | WP5             | 2 - SZN          | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 60               |  |
| D5.3   | Report on the establishment of new sites   | WP5             | 1 - LEGAMB       | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 60               |  |
| D6.1   | After LIFE Plan  | WP6             | 1 - LEGAMB       | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 57               |  |
| D7.1   | Evaluation of conservation actions impacts                                       | WP7             | 1 - LEGAMB       | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 60               |  |
| D7.2   | Monitoring of socio-economic impact  | WP7             | 1 - LEGAMB       | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 60               |  |

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| <b>Deliverables</b><br>Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.<br>The labels used mean:<br>Public — fully open (⚠ automatically posted online)<br>Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement<br>EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision 2015/444 |  |                 |                  |                      |                     |                  |
|---|--|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Deliverable No  | Deliverable Name   | Work Package No | Lead Beneficiary | Type                 | Dissemination Level | Due Date (month) |
| D7.3  | Extracts of the project data from the LIFE KPI webtool (first extract at month 9)                | WP7             | 1 - LEGAMB       | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 10               |
| D7.4  | Extract of the project data from the LIFE KPI webtool (second extract at the end of the project) | WP7             | 1 - LEGAMB       | R — Document, report | PU - Public         | 60               |

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**Deliverable D1.1 – Management kit**

|                           |                            |                            |                 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D1.1                       | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB       |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Management kit             |                            |                 |
| <b>Type</b>               | DMP — Data Management Plan | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | SEN - Sensitive |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 1                          | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP1             |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |
| It contains sheets, tables, guidance documents at disposal of the partnership to proper manage the project. Then, the kit includes the executive plan of the project. The Plan is deployed in a table, exposing the activities foreseen within the concerned period, the intermediate deadlines, products and deliverables, the singular tasks per beneficiary and other useful information to allow the beneficiary to proper implement their tasks. The plan will cover an average period of 6/8 months. It will be updated and replied each 6/8 months, focusing on the next activities, but taking into account recovery measures for eventual delays or failures occurred in the previous period. Electronic format. EN language, 30 pages |

**Deliverable D1.2 – Stakeholder database**

|                           |                      |                            |                 |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D1.2                 | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB       |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Stakeholder database |                            |                 |
| <b>Type</b>               | OTHER                | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | SEN - Sensitive |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 3                    | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP1             |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Description</b>   |
| The database will contain all the information related with the private and public organisation that will be actively involved into project actions. The document will be in EN and more stakeholders will be added during the project's life. Electronic format. EN language, 15 pages |

**Deliverable D1.3 – First Progress report**

|                           |                       |                            |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D1.3                  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB       |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | First Progress report |                            |                 |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report  | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | SEN - Sensitive |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 14                    | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP1             |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Description</b>                        |
| Report on the progress project activities |

**Deliverable D1.4 – Second Progress report**

|                           |                        |                            |                 |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D1.4                   | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB       |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Second Progress report |                            |                 |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report   | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | SEN - Sensitive |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 44                     | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP1             |

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| Description                               |
|---|
| Report on the progress project activities |

### Deliverable D2.1 – Communication strategy

|                           |                        |                            |                 |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D2.1                   | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB       |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Communication strategy |                            |                 |
| <b>Type</b>               | OTHER                  | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | SEN - Sensitive |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 4                      | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP2             |

| Description  |
|--|
| The strategy will state how the most effective communication can be done and include a strategy, clear communication objectives, target groups, messages and means to communicate the purpose and results of the actions. It will also contain all the necessary information to ensure the EU e LIFE Programme visibility, as well as the compliance with the related communication standards (i.e., logos, wording, disclaimer). Electronic format. EN language, 10 pages |

### Deliverable D2.2 – Informative materials

|                           |                       |                            |             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D2.2                  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB   |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Informative materials |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | OTHER                 | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60                    | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP2         |

| Description   |
|---|
| It includes all the communication tools produced during the project. In details: •20 roll-ups; •1 leaflet; •1 brochure; •One Dedicated project page on the beneficiaries' websites •The Layman's Report; •2000 t-shirts; •5 Videoclips; •A quarterly newsletter. Electronic and printed format. EN, IT, FR and ES language, |

### Deliverable D2.3 – Dissemination Plan

|                           |                    |                            |                 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D2.3               | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB       |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Dissemination Plan |                            |                 |
| <b>Type</b>               | OTHER              | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | SEN - Sensitive |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 3                  | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP2             |

| Description  |
|--|
| This plan will describe the dissemination actions foreseen in the project. They will be articulated on three main pillars; 1) Participation in seminar and conferences; 2) Networking; 3) Scientific publications The plan will be furtherly updated during the project life. Electronic format. EN language, 20 pages |

### Deliverable D2.4 – Dedicated project page on Beneficiaries' websites

|                           |      |                         |           |
|---------------------------|------|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D2.4 | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | 1. LEGAMB |
|---------------------------|------|-------------------------|-----------|

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|                         |   |                            |             |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Name</b> | Dedicated project page on Beneficiaries' websites |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>             | OTHER   | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b> | 12  | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP2         |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Description</b>   |
| Dedicated project page on Beneficiaries' websites<br>Electronic format IT, FR, ES language |

### Deliverable D3.1 – Report on the preparatory actions

|                           |                                   |                            |             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D3.1                              | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 6. UVIC-UCC |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Report on the preparatory actions |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report              | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 15                                | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP3         |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Description</b>   |
| It is a comprehensive report about: a) The best practices-state of art methods to monitor and protect sea turtle nesting sites, b) preliminary data collection, habitat suitability analysis and GAP analysis, c) geo-morphological characterization of nest sites and review of beach management plans. Electronic format. EN language, 100 pages |

### Deliverable D3.2 – Protocol for detection canine units

|                           |                                     |                            |                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D3.2                                | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 7. ENCI         |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Protocol for detection canine units |                            |                 |
| <b>Type</b>               | OTHER                               | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | SEN - Sensitive |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 6                                   | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP3             |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Description</b>   |
| It is the regulatory framework for the using of canine specialized units to search for sea turtle tracks and nests. Printed format. EN language, 5 pages |

### Deliverable D4.1 – Training kit

|                           |              |                            |             |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D4.1         | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 2. SZN      |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Training kit |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | OTHER        | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 57           | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP4         |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |
| This deliverable includes all the didactic and informative materials developed for the training courses addressing operators and volunteers. Then, it will contain also: invitation, agenda, signed presence list, target group, number of estimated participants, duration of the event, report of the event, training material package, presentations, evaluation |

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|                                |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| report, feedback questionnaire | Electronic and printed format. EN, IT, FR and ES language | Electronic and printed format. EN, IT, FR and ES language |
|--------------------------------|---|---|

**Deliverable D4.2 – Report on nest and hatchling protection actions**

|                           |   |                            |             |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D4.2  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 2. SZN      |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Report on nest and hatchling protection actions |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report                            | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60  | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP4         |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |
| It is the comprehensive report on the protection actions implemented on the nest sites. Electronic format. EN language, 100 pages |

**Deliverable D4.3 – Report on the genomic characterization of the nesting populations**

|                           |   |                            |             |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D4.3  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 2. SZN      |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Report on the genomic characterization of the nesting populations |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report  | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60  | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP4         |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Description</b>   |
| The report will concern the breeding nesting population (males and females), to determine the origin of the colonizers and to determine genomic drivers of nesting viability by using genomic data of adult breeders and hatchlings. Electronic format. EN language, 100 pages |

**Deliverable D4.4 – Report on Caretta caretta population dynamics, connectivity and boundaries.**

|                           |   |                            |             |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D4.4  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 2. SZN      |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Report on Caretta caretta population dynamics, connectivity and boundaries. |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report  | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60  | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP4         |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Description</b>   |
| The report is about the foraging grounds used by the females nesting in Italy and Spain and will includes maps, data and other information.<br><br>Electronic format. EN language, 100 pages |

**Deliverable D4.5 – Report on ex situ conservation interventions**

|                           |  |                         |        |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D4.5   | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | 2. SZN |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Report on ex situ conservation interventions |                         |        |

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|                         |                      |                            |             |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Type</b>             | R — Document, report | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b> | 60                   | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP4         |

**Description**

The report regards the analysis of the survival rate of hatchlings and to assess (through satellite system) their survival chances and identify and characterize their developmental habitats. Electronic format. EN language, 100 pages

**Deliverable D4.6 – Report on the pilot interventions to reduce anthropic impacts**

|                           |   |                            |             |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D4.6  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 2. SZN      |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Report on the pilot interventions to reduce anthropic impacts |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report  | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60  | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP4         |

**Description**

It is a report regarding the assessment of the works and other interventions implemented to improve the nesting environments. Electronic format. EN language, 100 pages

**Deliverable D4.7 – Geo morphological and physical-chemical analysis**

|                           |  |                            |             |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D4.7   | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 2. SZN      |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Geo morphological and physical-chemical analysis |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report                             | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60   | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP4         |

**Description**

This analysis will lead TO the definition of thresholds of "minimum beach functionality" beyond which the future sustainability of the site for nesting will be more or less compromised. It includes the analysis of several items, such as coastal morphology, sediment availability and transport (onshore, offshore, longshore), SLR rate, and nearshore zone dynamics. Electronic format. EN language, 100 pages

**Deliverable D4.8 – Guidelines on coastal armoring and beach nourishment to sustain nesting habitat**

|                           |   |                            |             |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D4.8  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 2. SZN      |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Guidelines on coastal armoring and beach nourishment to sustain nesting habitat |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report  | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60  | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP4         |

**Description**

This represents a really useful tool on how to protect and manage beaches reducing the impact on the nesting habitat suitability. It will contain indications addressing both private entities and public institutions which have a direct relation with the interested sites. Electronic format. EN language, 100 pages. Some parts will be available also in IT, ES and FR.

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**Deliverable D5.1 – Predictive map of nesting areas suitability**

|                           |   |                            |             |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D5.1  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 2. SZN      |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Predictive map of nesting areas suitability |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report                        | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60  | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP5         |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Description</b>   |
| The model will predict the impact of global change on turtle nesting in the western Mediterranean basin. The model will be based on data collected from bibliographic sources, monitoring programs, and citizen science. Electronic format. EN language, 100 pages |

**Deliverable D5.2 – Illustrated practical Guide with annexed standard procedures**

|                           |  |                            |             |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D5.2   | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 2. SZN      |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Illustrated practical Guide with annexed standard procedures |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report   | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60   | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP5         |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Description</b>   |
| this represents a really useful tool on how to monitor, identify and protect loggerhead turtle nests, which factors to consider for the conservation of emerging sea turtle nest sites, tailored to address the themes of species and habitat management, in relation to various climate change scenarios. Electronic format. EN language, 1500 pages. Some parts will be available also in IT, ES and FR. |

**Deliverable D5.3 – Report on the establishment of new sites**

|                           |  |                            |             |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D5.3                                     | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB   |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Report on the establishment of new sites |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report                     | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60                                       | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP5         |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |
| Report on the establishment of new sites, the enlargement of existing sites and updating of standard data forms of SCI's. Electronic format EN language, 20 pages |

**Deliverable D6.1 – After LIFE Plan**

|                           |                      |                            |             |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D6.1                 | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB   |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | After LIFE Plan      |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 57                   | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP6         |

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| Description  |
|--|
| The plan concerns the strategy for the future sustainability of the project actions after the ending of the financed period. It will include a funding matrix, identifying the actions which will continue, by which partners and with which resources. Electronic format. EN language, 20 pages |

**Deliverable D7.1 – Evaluation of conservation actions impacts**

|                           |  |                            |             |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D7.1                                       | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB   |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Evaluation of conservation actions impacts |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report                       | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60   | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP7         |

| Description   |
|---|
| This report will resume and collect all the information already stressed by the other scientific reports developed during the project (in particular within WP3 and 4). It is a synoptic and comprehensive document, able to provide an overall vision of the environmental results gained by the project in its totality. Electronic format. EN language, 50 pages |

**Deliverable D7.2 – Monitoring of socio-economic impact**

|                           |                                     |                            |             |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D7.2                                | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB   |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Monitoring of socio-economic impact |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report                | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60                                  | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP7         |

| Description  |
|--|
| The report will include an analysis about the level of knowledge and awareness of the stakeholders; the social consensus of key stakeholders; the interest of tourism industry; the potential for social and economic development as result of the policies for the conservation of the sea turtles and for the protection of the environment. Electronic format. EN language, 100 pages |

**Deliverable D7.3 – Extracts of the project data from the LIFE KPI webtool (first extract at month 9)**

|                           |   |                            |             |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D7.3  | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB   |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Extracts of the project data from the LIFE KPI webtool (first extract at month 9) |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report  | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 10  | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP7         |

| Description  |
|--|
| Extract of KPI from the project data<br>Electronic format EN |

Project: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022**Deliverable D7.4 – Extract of the project data from the LIFE KPI webtool (second extract at the end of the project)**

|                           |  |                            |             |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Deliverable Number</b> | D7.4   | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>    | 1. LEGAMB   |
| <b>Deliverable Name</b>   | Extract of the project data from the LIFE KPI webtool (second extract at the end of the project) |                            |             |
| <b>Type</b>               | R — Document, report   | <b>Dissemination Level</b> | PU - Public |
| <b>Due Date (month)</b>   | 60   | <b>Work Package No</b>     | WP7         |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Description</b>   |
| Extract of KPI from the project data<br>Electronic format EN |

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 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7688681 - 15/11/2022

## LIST OF MILESTONES

| <b>Milestones</b>  |   |                        |                         |   |                         |  |
|--|---|------------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i> |   |                        |                         |   |                         |  |
| <b>Milestone No</b>  | <b>Milestone Name</b>   | <b>Work Package No</b> | <b>Lead Beneficiary</b> | <b>Means of Verification</b>  | <b>Due Date (month)</b> |  |
| 1  | Kick off Meeting  | WP1                    | 1-LEGAMB                | Signature list (*) of participants, Minutes of the meeting. (*) in case of on-line meeting - due to eventual Covid 19 restrictions – the screenshot of the on-line participants | 1                       |  |
| 2  | Conclusion of the preparatory activities  | WP3                    | 6-UVIC-UCC              | Internal reports, publications of related deliverables  | 15                      |  |
| 3  | Conclusion of the pilot interventions to reduce anthropic impacts at new regular nesting sites                        | WP4                    | 2-SZN                   | Internal reports, contracts with operators, agreements with local public institutions.  | 54                      |  |
| 4  | Final definitions of the Guidelines on coastal armouring and beach nourishment to sustain nesting habitat suitability | WP4                    | 2-SZN                   | Publication and public availability of the related deliverable,   | 58                      |  |
| 5  | Conclusion of the governance and advocacy actions   | WP5                    | 1-LEGAMB                | Decisions and production and adoption of signature of the MoU PLEDGES4SEATURTLES.   | 60                      |  |
| 6  | Start of the advocacy campaign  | WP5                    | 1-LEGAMB                | n/a   | 13                      |  |
| 7  | Start of the multitarget awareness campaign   | WP2                    | 1-LEGAMB                | n/a   | 6                       |  |
| 8  | Start of the replication activities   | WP6                    | 1-LEGAMB                | n/a   | 37                      |  |
| 9  | Conclusion of the first two nesting seasons   | WP7                    | 2-SZN                   | n/a   | 24                      |  |

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## LIST OF CRITICAL RISKS

| <b>Critical risks &amp; risk management strategy</b>               |   |                    |  |
|--|---|--------------------|--|
| <i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i> |   |                    |  |
| Risk number  | Description   | Work Package No(s) | Proposed Mitigation Measures   |
| 1  | Difficulties in project management due to the high number of beneficiaries (MEDIUM) | WP1                | The high number of partners and the great partnership heterogeneity (including public administrations, managing bodies, environmental associations, ONG, research institute) makes the project management potentially difficult to achieve. Therefore, a solid coordination structure will be created. The management team will consist of individuals with considerable experience in managing complex projects and with excellent problem solving skills. Furthermore, a buffer period of approximately 6 months will be foreseen in order to facilitate the resolution of any management problem. |
| 2  | Changes in staff expected during the project (LOW)                                  | WP1                | The partners will replace the missing staff with other equally qualified experts.  |
| 3  | Reduced involvement of stakeholders (MEDIUM)  | WP1                | The direct involvement of stakeholders since the beginning of activities will create the basis for a participatory process through which an attitude of motivation and co-responsibility will be established with these stakeholders. This participatory process will increase the willingness to actively collaborate to reach a shared objective.  |
| 4  | Low detection rate of nests (LOW)   | WP3                | The project deals with vast areas where a drastic increase in the number of loggerhead turtle nests detected has been registered despite the very limited standard monitoring conducted so far and the overall general lack of awareness among stakeholders and citizen. The extensive monitoring activities, the multi awareness campaign, and the establishment and consolidation of an international network to conduct standard monitoring of loggerhead turtle nesting in the project area are all the factors that concur in the expected increase in the detection rate                       |
| 5  | Low success rate of genomic analysis (LOW)  | WP4                | If appropriate sampling/storage procedures are carried out the quality and quantity of DNA extracted is usually suitable for the analysis. Furthermore, the protocol used for genomic analysis has been specifically optimized for loggerhead turtles and is capable to work even with degraded samples  |
| 6  | Low survival rate for hatchlings in the nursery centers (MEDIUM)                    | WP4                | This risk will be mitigated by using state-of-artLife Support Systems and high standard rearing facilities developed for this purpose following international guidelines. The SZN staff is experienced in rearing hatchlings and will oversee and consult the other center so that all facilities operate with the same protocol and quality control   |

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| <b>Critical risks &amp; risk management strategy</b><br><i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i> |   |                                   |  |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Risk number</b>   | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Work Package No(s)</b>         | <b>Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>  |
| 7  | Delays/difficulties in obtaining necessary permits for the realization of concrete interventions to reduce light pollution (MEDIUM) | WP4                               | A close contact with competent authorities will be pursued in the early stages of project implementation in order to ensure that all the necessary administrative permits will be obtained. Moreover, the supporting letter provided by the municipalities of Ascea and the involvement of REGCAM as associated beneficiary, will guarantee that the interventions aimed at reducing anthropic impacts on sea turtles' nests will encounter all the necessary authorizations. Finally, the numerous supporting letters received by several municipalities and management bodies will facilitate the identification and the authoritative processes in the new localities where the pilot interventions will be replicated.   |
| 8  | Difficulties in adopting management tools (MEDIUM)  | WP4                               | The presence in the partnerships of management bodies such as Basilicata, Puglia, Campania and Lazio regions will surely facilitate the adoption of Guidelines/Guide and Protocols produced within the project. Moreover, the direct involvement of ISPRA ensures both the technical-scientific contribution and the management competence in the realization of management tools for the conservation of Caretta caretta. It should also be considered that the project plans to establish from the beginning a collaborative relationship with the main stakeholder that foresees periodic consultation with them, both at national and local level. This approach will guarantee that all the management tools will be drafted through a construction process, also allowing the establishment of an attitude of motivation and co-responsibility, with respect to the opportunities provided by the tools proposed by TURTLENEST, then favoring its transposition and replication. |
| 9  | Occurrence of a new pandemic event (MEDIUM)   | WP2, WP4, WP6, WP7, WP5, WP1, WP3 | The recent worldwide experience due to circumstances with Covid-19 has allowed us to identify new working strategies to carry on the activities notwithstanding the critical situation. In case of occurrence of a new pandemic event, these strategies will be newly applied. In addition, a buffer period of 6 months has been foreseen  |



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ANNEX 1



## **Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)**

### **Description of the action (DoA)**

Part B

[LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST] ([101074584])  Annex 1 Part B — Page 2  
 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022  
 EU Grants: Description of the action (DoA) — Annex 1 (LIFE): V1.0 – 15.04.2021

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## 1. RELEVANCE

Fill in **only** sections 1.1-1.4 at stage 1. Fill in **all sections** at stage 2.

### 1.1 Background and general project objectives

#### Background and general project objectives

*Explain the problem and the needs to be addressed in the project. Describe the background, starting point / quantified baseline of the project.*

*Please explain in which location and/or sector the main activities of the project will take place and justify that choice.*

*For Nature and Biodiversity:*

*Provide a clear and quantified description of the conservation issue and threats targeted, as well as relevant background information and quantified figures defining the baseline to justify the proposed Interventions by*

*At stage 1 (concept note) when relevant, describe the main species/habitats directly targeted by the project: scientific name; refer to the Annex(es) of the EU Birds or Habitats Directive where they are listed; population size within each project area; conservation status; habitat name and Natura 2000 code; % of the cover within each project area; conservation status.*

*At stage 2 (full proposals), when relevant, provide a brief description of the areas where conservation actions will be implemented and main species and / or main habitats directly targeted by the project, and submit the following annexes:*

- maps
- description of sites
- description of species and habitats

*Describe the previous conservation efforts in the project area or for the habitats/species targeted.*

*For Circular Economy and Quality of Life (n/a to Environmental governance topics):*

*Describe the previous technical preparatory work and results of previous research and development activities, showing the status of technical development achieved for the proposed solution, including the technical readiness level (TRL) where relevant and proving its technical feasibility.*

*Explain the scale at which such results have been obtained and if prototypes have been already developed and tested. Their scale/dimension and relevant results and conclusions have to be clearly presented. Illustrate available best practices in the relevant sector (state of the art) and clearly and concisely explain the environmental, technical and economical improved performances/ advantages introduced by the proposed solution in case this is claimed to be innovative/ demonstrative.*

The ranges of many species are shifting poleward as a result of global warming because environmental temperature is one of the major determinants of geographic distribution in animals. Being ectothermic, sea turtles are particularly sensitive to variation in environmental temperature and they are expected to shift their range according to the movement of their climatic niche as an adaptive response to climate warming.

The loggerhead turtle, *Caretta caretta*\*, is a priority species included in App. II/IV of the Habitats Directive whose conservation requires to activate a strict protection regime across the species' entire natural range, both within and outside Natura 2000 sites (Habitats Directive) and the identification of core areas (e.g. nesting beaches, foraging grounds, migratory corridors) that must be designed as Site of Community Importance and managed in accordance with the ecological requirements of the species. The conservation status of the species has been assessed as Unfavourable-Inadequate (U1) in the latest Art. 17 report assessments at the EU biogeographical level (Unfavourable-Bad U2 in France, Unfavourable-Inadequate U1 in Italy and Unknown in Spain).

Located at the northern edge of the species range, the Mediterranean Sea has been colonized by individuals from the Atlantic population in at least two independent events in the late Pleistocene and the Holocene originating the current nesting populations in the central and eastern Mediterranean. The species has therefore survived past climatic changes by shifting its nesting range in accordance with the migration of its thermal niche. Yet the loggerheads' capacity to adapt to present and future **climate changes** is uncertain because of the accelerated rates of climate warming, cumulative impacts of human activities and restricted availability of alternative habitats caused by coastal development. The successful colonization of new climatically suitable areas, in fact, does not only rely on the availability of environmental conditions favorable for embryonic development but it is tightly linked to the exposure to threats on the nesting beaches deriving mostly from coastal development.

**Threats:**

**Coastal development** is associated with the permanent alteration of coastal habitats due to the presence of hotel resorts, tourism-related constructions such as restaurants, bars, houses and other businesses typically built along the beach. **Light Pollution** is one distinctive and particularly damaging form of habitat alteration caused by coastal development, defined as the introduction of artificially produced detrimental light into the environment. Hatchlings emerging from their nests at night depend upon subtle brightness cues to lead them safely to the sea. Bright artificial light sources attract hatchlings and lead them away from the ocean where the small turtles succumb to attacks by predators, exhaustion, desiccation, or strikes by vehicles on nearby roads and parking lots. Adult turtles returning to the sea after nesting can also be misdirected by shore-based lights in a similar way, wandering on the beach for hours. **Recreational activities and beach management practises** associated with coastal development are also important threats. Driving on the beach and the use of heavy machinery for beach cleaning purposes are common practices and are responsible for alterations in sand characteristics, the destruction of turtle clutches and the deletion of tracks before they can be recorded by sea turtle observers. Beach furniture, recreational equipment and other large objects left at night on the beach reduce the habitat available for nesting and prevent females from accessing suitable nesting sites. People on the beach during the night may disrupt nesting activity as females may abandon their nesting attempts or incubating nests may be destroyed through trampling or by umbrellas thrust into the sand. Moreover, recreational activities may result in an increase of **nest predation risk** from animals that are attracted to the beach due to the greater food availability. **Beach armouring and beach nourishment** are the two main engineering tactics employed to counteract the impact of erosion and to protect beachfront properties in coastal developed areas. Coastal armouring structures may impede sea turtle reproduction by limiting access to suitable nest sites while nourished sand may reduce the quality of the nesting habitat altering sand characteristics. These interventions can also exacerbate potential impacts from other climate change threats (i.e. sea-level rise and increased storm frequency) by preventing natural movement of beaches.

**Baseline:**

In the Eastern Mediterranean, where the vast majority of loggerhead turtle nesting occurs, conservation projects conducted over the last 30 years have helped mitigate these threats and also accustomed tourists and stakeholders to the presence and needs of sea turtles during the nesting season. A success attested by the overall increase in nest numbers over the past three generations reported for the Mediterranean subpopulation that led to its downgrading to "least concern" category in the most recent IUCN Red List assessment.

This has obviously not happened in the Western Mediterranean where nesting loggerhead turtles are still a reason for wonder because are the result of an ongoing colonisation, and thus people on the beach are often totally unprepared because of a general **lack of awareness** on this issue, as evidenced in Italy by a **survey** conducted by Legambiente as part of his campaign called Tartawatchers. The survey was carried out last summer on the beaches affected by the nesting through short interviews carried out by volunteers to tourists, economic operators and representatives of local communities. The interviews revealed that **almost 90%** of the **300 people interviewed** did not know that the area they were in was affected by sea turtle nesting. The same percentage did not know what behaviors to adopt to avoid disturbing the turtles during the nesting and / or hatching phase.

Until recently, in fact, nesting activity was sporadic and unpredictable with females showing no preference to a specific area or beach. The first documented nest occurred on a beach of Almeria province, south eastern **Spain**, in July 2001. For more than a decade, nesting remained occasional with only **13 nests** recorded in the entire Western Mediterranean Sea up to 2012, which generally exhibited low hatching success due to suboptimal environmental conditions for embryonic development. However, since 2013 the number of nests in the Western Mediterranean has increased rapidly, reaching record numbers of **79** in 2020 and **100** in 2021. The **majority of nests** occurred on the Tyrrhenian coasts of **Italy** (84.5%) followed by **Spain** (13.9%) and **France** (1.5%). While many of these nests were still scattered largely over the region, distinct areas of high nest encounter probability were detected along the **south-western Italian coasts in Campania** that hosts **52.1% of the overall clutches laid in the Western Mediterranean**, followed by some areas with lesser encounter probabilities in Tuscany and southeast Sardinia. Moreover, on few beaches nesting appears to have already taken a regular character (more than 3 nests/km/year) and become predictable for future nesting seasons. If confirmed, these beaches can be used as **index sites** subject to comprehensive standardized monitoring to detect trend and year to year variations in loggerhead turtle nesting in the project area. Nesting season in the Western Mediterranean is from June to August with nests laid at the end of the season that generally experience low incubation temperatures and exhibit low hatching success. Hatching period goes from July to the end of October, beginning of November. However, **the lack of standard monitoring** of potentially suitable nesting beaches in the Western Mediterranean prevents us from understanding its real extent. The number of nests identified is most likely only a portion of those actually laid in this basin

since most of the nest detections rely on private citizen or beach operators that recognize and report the presence of females/tracks (51%) or hatchlings (36%) on the beach. The latter may also be only a fraction of clutches not detected at the time of deposition since an unknown portion may be destroyed by recreational activities and beach management practises. In addition to the actual nests, more than **200 nesting attempts** have been registered in the last 10 years with females often abandoning the beach as a consequence of human disturbance.

Overall, **87%** of the nests in the Western Mediterranean (2010-2020) were located on beaches with anthropogenic impact (i.e. inside or close to beach clubs or leisure facilities built on the beaches), and **88%** were exposed to threats from light pollution. Almost a third of the clutches were relocated because the females laid them too close to the water or in otherwise unsuitable places (e.g. sand mixed with soil and pebbles) as possible response to obstacles on the beach or intense light pollution. Incubation conditions have also improved significantly with hatching success that are now comparable to those reported for Eastern Mediterranean nesting sites and hatchling sex ratios are mostly skewed towards female production which is a prerequisite for the successful colonization of these new areas. However, the actual number of nesting females is not known yet, and neither is it known whether they are of Eastern Mediterranean or even of Atlantic origin, which is their level of fidelity to these emerging nesting sites or where they forage during the interesting period which are essential informations for the management of the species and the improvement of its conservation status in the Mediterranean.

Despite these caveats, the increased nesting activity in this region can no longer be associated exclusively to few straying females, since it is one of the adaptive responses of the species to mutated environmental conditions due to climate warming and consequent opening of new suitable nesting sites. Modelling exercises have shown that nesting habitat suitability has increased in most of the western Mediterranean basin over the last decades and it is likely to further improve in the next future. Moreover, climate warming may determine the increase in the population growth at the cold end of the species range which, associated to the population growth stemming from historic or contemporary conservation efforts, may lead to a further increase in the number of exploratory females.

Unfortunately for these nesting turtles, the Western Mediterranean beaches have long been discovered and exploited by humans. Spain, France and Italy are among the top seven countries with the highest tourist pressure on Mediterranean coasts and few pristine places suitable for loggerhead turtle nesting remain. According to the UNWTO, the World Tourism Organization, in 2017 about one third of the world generated 1.326 billion arrivals in the countries surrounding this semi-enclosed sea. Tourism has therefore transformed into a large industry which often represents the main source of income for the local economy. The massive coastal tourism influx to the Mediterranean Sea, which during the summer season concentrates between 46% and 69% of the total international arrivals, with a density of 2.9 tourists per meter of Mediterranean coast exerts a considerable weight on biodiversity, affecting in particular those species such as the *Caretta caretta* that during the summer season uses the beaches to reproduce. Most coastal areas in the Western Mediterranean are now developed with project increases for further coastal development and associated threats that can drastically impact on nesting habitat suitability and females reproductive output. Without rapid intervention and proactive conservation measurements these areas will act as ecological traps slowing or preventing the successful geographic range shifts under climate change and increasing species vulnerability to climate change.

#### Main conservation issues addressed:

- Lack of coordinated network and standard effective approach for the long-term monitoring of loggerhead turtle nesting abundance and trends in the Western Mediterranean Sea;
- Lack of awareness among stakeholders (policy makers, local authorities, beach operators, tourists);
- Lack of adequate protection and management of emerging and potential nesting sites;
- Lack of standard approach to mitigate human impacts at emerging nesting sites;
- Inadequate knowledge for effective conservation and management of emerging nesting sites.
- Inadequate understanding of vulnerability of sea turtle emerging nesting grounds under climate change.

#### Intervention areas

The project will take place in 3 different countries:

- **Italy:** All the Italian sandy coasts (approximately 4800 km), specific actions will be conducted in Tuscany, Lazio, Campania, Basilicata, Calabria, Puglia, Sicilia
- **France:** All the French Mediterranean sandy coasts (approximately 1500 km), specific actions will be conducted in Camargue Région, French Riviera, Corsica.

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- **Spain:** All the Spanish Mediterranean sandy coasts (approximately 1600 km), specific actions will be conducted in Catalonia and Balearic Islands, Murcia and Andalusia. Actions in the Valencia Region will be coordinated with the Life Project MEDTURTLES. All these regions cover the Mediterranean Spanish coast.
- .

**The intervention areas include 64 Natura 2000 sites listed below**

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| LIST OF NATURA 2000 SITES INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| SITECODE  | SITENAME   | COUNTRY |
| <b>ITALY</b>                                      |  |         |
| IT9210155   | Marina di Castrocucco                                      | IT      |
| IT9210160   | Isola di S. Ianni e Costa Prospiciente                     | IT      |
| IT5120016   | Macchia lucchese   | IT      |
| IT5170001   | Dune litoranee di Torre del Lago                           | IT      |
| IT5160012   | Monte Capanne e promontorio dell'Enfola                    | IT      |
| IT5160013   | Isola di Pianosa - area terrestre e marina                 | IT      |
| IT51A0008   | Monte d'Alma   | IT      |
| IT51A0012   | Tombolo da Castiglion della Pescaia a Marina di Grosseto   | IT      |
| IT51A0015   | Dune costiere del Parco dell'Uccellina                     | IT      |
| IT5170002   | Selva Pisana   | IT      |
| IT51A0014   | Pneta Granduciale dell'Uccellina                           | IT      |
| IT51A0023   | Isola del Giglio   | IT      |
| IT51A0026   | Laguna di Orbetello  | IT      |
| IT51A0032   | Duna del Lago di Burano                                    | IT      |
| IT51A0031   | Lago di Burano   | IT      |
| IT51A0039   | Padule della Trappola, Bocca d'Ombrone                     | IT      |
| IT5160004   | Padule di Bolgheri   | IT      |
| IT6010018   | Litorale a nord ovest delle Foci del Fiora                 | IT      |
| IT6010027   | Litorale tra Tarquinia e Montalto di Castro                | IT      |
| IT6040012   | Laghi Fogliano, Monaci, Caprolace e Pantani dell'Inferno   | IT      |
| IT6040018   | Dune del Circeo  | IT      |
| IT6040021   | Duna di Capratica  | IT      |
| IT8010020   | Pneta di Castelvolturno                                    | IT      |
| IT8010021   | Pneta di Patria  | IT      |
| IT8010028   | Foce Volturno - Variconi                                   | IT      |
| IT8030009   | Foce di Licola   | IT      |
| IT8030018   | Lago di Patria   | IT      |
| IT8050010   | Fasce litoranee a destra e a sinistra del Fiume Sele       | IT      |
| IT8050012   | Fiume Alento   | IT      |
| IT8050038   | Pareti rocciose di Cala del Cefalo                         | IT      |
| IT8050041   | Scoglio del Mingardo e spiaggia di Cala del Cefalo         | IT      |
| IT9110012   | Testa del Gargano  | IT      |
| IT9110005   | Zone umide della Capitanata                                | IT      |
| IT9110016   | Pneta Marzini  | IT      |
| IT9110025   | Manacore del Gargano                                       | IT      |
| IT9150004   | Torre dell'Orso  | IT      |
| IT9150009   | Litorale di Ugento   | IT      |
| IT9330089   | Dune dell'Angitola   | IT      |
| IT8050036   | Parco marino di S. Maria di Castellabate                   | IT      |
| IT8050037   | Parco marino di Punta degli Infreschi                      | IT      |
| IT9210015   | Acquafredda di Maratea                                     | IT      |
| ITA010011   | Sistema dunale Capo Grantola, Porto Palo e Foce del Belice | IT      |
| ITA010006   | Paludi di Capo Feto e Margi Span_                          | IT      |
| ITA010018   | Foce del Torrente Calatubo e dune                          | IT      |

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| SPAIN     |   |    |
|-----------|---|----|
| ES0000020 | Delta de l'Ebre                                   | ES |
| ES5140007 | Costes del TarragonPs                             | ES |
| ES5110013 | Serres del Litoral central                        | ES |
| ES6200001 | Calblanque, Monte de las Cenizas y Peña del Guila | ES |
| ES6200029 | Franja Litoral Sumergida de la Region de Murcia   | ES |

| FRANCE    |   |    |
|-----------|---|----|
| FR9301592 | Camargue  | FR |
| FR9301624 | Corniche Varoise  | FR |
| FR9101408 | tang de Mauguio   | FR |
| FR9101410 | tangs palavasiens   | FR |
| FR9101406 | Petite Camargue   | FR |
| FR9102014 | Bancs sableux de l'Espiguette                                       | FR |
| FR9301627 | Embouchure de l'Argens  | FR |
| FR9400570 | Agriates  | FR |
| FR9400580 | Marais del Sale, zones humides priphriques et fort littoral de Pnia | FR |
| FR9400587 | Iles Cerbicale et frange littoral                                   | FR |
| FR9402012 | Capo di fenò  | FR |
| FR9402013 | Plateau du Cap Corse  | FR |
| FR9402017 | Golfe d'Ajaccio   | FR |
| FR9402014 | Grand herbier de la cte orientale                                   | FR |

#### General project objective

The project TURTLENEST aims at **improving the conservation of *Caretta caretta***\* in Italy, Spain and France (and more generally in the western Mediterranean basin) focusing on anthropogenic threats connected with human disturbance at the nesting sites and through the **improvement/reinforcement of the Natura 2000 network**. The project will also focus on the impact of **climate change** on site suitability for nesting, through the identification of new potentially suitable areas, and it intends to elucidate female abundance and key reproductive parameters of loggerhead turtles nesting in the western Mediterranean. Finally, the project will apply specific actions for the **involvement of stakeholders** for the protection of sea turtles and nest management, and it will provide authorized people involved in protection activities the necessary background for the correct management of nests and hatchlings. The project will not focus on threats affecting the species during its marine phases since several other LIFE/non-LIFE projects are already taking action to address these threats.

## 1.2 Specific project objectives

#### Specific project objectives

*Describe the specific objectives of your project (clear, measurable, realistic and achievable within the duration of the project).*

**Obj.1 Identification, protection and management of loggerhead turtle nests:** 30% increase in nests detected in Italy, France and Spain through the standard monitoring of more than 630 km of suitable nesting habitats over four consecutive nesting seasons; 30 % increase in the number of nests protected from anthropogenic threats during the nesting processes, the incubation of eggs, the emergence of hatchlings; capacity building by training future expert field technicians **to increase by 50%** the number of authorised personnel for the handling of sea turtle nests; creation of **2 head-starting facilities** in Italy (T2.2, T2.3, T3.1, T3.4, T4.1, T4.2, T4.3, T4.6, T4.7)

**Obj.2 Identification of at least 3 index sites for long term monitoring of loggerhead turtle nesting**

**trends in the Western Mediterranean under climate change**, and improvement of their management through the adoption of best practices to mitigate human disturbance (T3.1, T4.2, T4.7, T4.9). To further foster continuous monitoring effort and sharing of protocols and data a cross-nation network will be established and consolidated (T1.3, T2.3, T2.5, T5.3, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3)

**Obj.3 Increase scientific knowledge to support the effective protection of the species and the improvement of its conservation status in EU:** At least **500 nests** monitored with respect to clutch size, incubation temperatures, hatching and emergence success. Genomic fingerprints of **1.000 individuals and determination of the breeding population** in the study area to obtain baseline demographic parameters of the breeding population. **50% increase** of yearlings and **5 times** increase of nesting females tracked in the western Mediterranean and **100%** increase of nesting population samples analysed for Stable Isotope to understand habitat connectivity in the Western Mediterranean (T4.3, T4.4, T4.5, T4.6).

**Obj.4 Engagement of stakeholders** (local authorities, beach resorts, lifeguards, citizen) in the monitoring and protection of loggerhead turtle nests with a **40% increase** in the level of awareness, more than **1000 beach establishments** signing the Memorandum of Understanding to adopt best practises for beach management, at least **70 competent local Authorities** adopting specific regulation to protect sea turtle beaches and **1500 downloads** of the Citizen Scienze app (T2.2, T2.4, T2.5, T5.2, T5.3).

**Obj.5 Evaluation of climate change impact on loggerhead turtle nesting habitat suitability in the Western Mediterranean Sea** through the realization of a **state of art predictive model** incorporating physical, geo morphological and biological data obtained by project activities as a tool to evaluate changes in habitat suitability under current and future climatic scenario and to guide management decisions (T3.2, T3.3, T4.3, T4.8, T5.1).

**Obj.6 Strengthening the policies for the conservation of sea turtles** by 1) improving the **Natura 2000 network** through the designation, enlargement or update of the Standard Data Form (SDF) for at least **12 Natura 2000** sites to specifically protect loggerhead turtle emerging nesting beaches, 2) predisposition and adoption by competent authorities of a **set of new regulations for 70 nesting sites** and 3) providing a **Guide** for the management and protection of emerging sea turtle nest sites in changing climate to the local authorities and stakeholders (T5.2, T5.3).

**Obj.7. Raising public awareness on the phenomenon of loggerhead turtle nesting on Western Mediterranean beaches** by promoting the loggerhead turtle as flagship species on the impact of climate change on Mediterranean fauna and marine systems. A multi-target awareness campaign aims at an **increase by 40%** awareness of local communities, tourists, and an **increase by 30%** of the willingness of citizens to be involved in the protection activities of the sea turtle and **increase by 30%** of the social consensus towards policies for the protection of nature and the environment.

The countries involved in the LIFE project TURTLENEST are Italy, France and Spain. For any country, the study areas are as follow:

- **Italy:** All the Italian sandy coasts (approximately 4800 km), specific actions will be conducted in Tuscany, Lazio, Campania, Basilicata, Calabria, Puglia, Sicilia
- **France:** All the French Mediterranean sandy coasts (approximately 1500 km), specific actions will be conducted in Camargue Région, French Riviera, Corsica.
- **Spain:** All the Spanish Mediterranean sandy coasts (approximately 1600 km), specific actions will be conducted in Catalonia and Balearic Islands, Murcia and Andalusia. Actions in the Valencia Region will be coordinated with the Life Project MEDTURTLES. All these regions cover the Mediterranean Spanish coast

### 1.3 Compliance with LIFE programme objectives and call topic

#### Compliance with LIFE Programme objectives

*Explain how the project contributes to the specific objectives of the LIFE Programme and the sub-programme targeted by the call (Nature and Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Quality of Life, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation or Clean Energy Transition).*

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| Insert text  |   |
|--|---|
| LIFE TURTLENEST contributes to the specific objectives of the LIFE Programme and of the Sub Programme Nature and Biodiversity as follows:  |   |
| SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES  | TURTLENEST CONTRIBUTION   |
| <p>a) <i>to develop, demonstrate, promote and stimulate scale up of innovative techniques, methods and approaches (including nature-based solutions and ecosystem approach) for reaching the objectives of the EU legislation and policy on nature and biodiversity, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practices, including through the support of the Natura 2000.</i></p> | <p><b>TURTLENEST</b> will develop, demonstrate, promote techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of EU legislation and policy on sea turtle conservation and marine biodiversity.</p> <p>Indeed, <b>TURTLENEST</b> will stimulate scale up of development, build on good practices and techniques already identified and developed in other European projects (see section 1.5).</p> <p><b>TURTLENEST</b> contributes directly and significantly to the achievement of the objectives of the LIFE Programme and several other European environmental policies (see section 1.8).</p> <p><b>TURTLENEST</b> contributes to fill knowledge gaps thanks to the expertise of the partnership and through an extensive analysis and monitoring effort, also thanks to the fundamental involvement of stakeholders.</p> <p><b>TURTLENEST</b> will improve the Natura 2000 network, favouring the identification of new Natura 2000 sites to protect the new nesting sites.</p>   |
| <p>b. <i>to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of EU legislation and policy on nature and biodiversity, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society, also taking into due consideration the possible contributions provided by citizen science.</i></p>       | <p><b>TURTLENEST</b> project foresees a wide range of activities aimed at improving EU legislation and policy on nature and biodiversity favouring synergies and spillover effects. As well as the implementation of <b>Habitats Directive</b>, <b>TURTLENEST</b> can create synergies and co-benefits with:</p> <p>EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030; 8th Environment Action Programme; European Green Deal; Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD); European Blue Growth Strategy and the Blumed initiative; <u>New Circular Economy Action Plan</u>; <u>Towards a Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil</u> EU Action Plan; Common Fisheries Policy; Integrated Coastal Zone Management; European strategy for greater growth and employment in coastal and maritime tourism; Next Generation EU.</p> <p><b>TURTLENEST</b> will improve governance at all levels: National Authorities, Regions, Coastal Municipalities Managing bodies of protected areas and Natura 2000 Sites providing new regulations and tools to ensure the conservation of sea turtles. WP5 will be entirely dedicated to the improvement of governance, and two tasks (T5.2 and T5.3) will be particularly directed to the development of tools to improve the management capacities of public and private actors and other operators involved in the management of Natura 2000 sites, as well as to improve their political commitment. These objectives will be reached also through the involvement of private actors and civil society thanks to the settlement at the beginning of the project of an Advisory Board that gathers the members of the main key stakeholders. The citizens will be actively involved in the protection of the species in the activities, especially for data collection and surveillance in the framework of the citizen science concept (see T2.3, T4.1, T4.2, T4.3).</p> |

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>c. <i>to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful solutions/approaches for implementing EU legislation and policy on nature and biodiversity, by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.</i></p> | <p>The project is characterised by a high level of replicability since the Public Institutions involved, especially Regions, have the possibility of introducing new regulations that can adequately protect the new nesting sites of the <i>Caretta caretta</i>. In many cases the regions have competences over protected areas and Natura 2000 sites. This will allow the good practices implemented within the project to be replicated also in other areas, considering that, although the project's approach is mainly focused on the conservation of the EU Habitat Directive 92/43, some good practices, such as surveillance activities, nocturne lighting management of the beaches, scientific analysis on site can be transferred and replicated also in very different contexts from the ecological point of view.</p> <p>Also the actions of consensus building, mainly addressing the LAs and the economic activities involved in the project activities, represent a strong element which will be exploited and catalysed.</p> <p>Given that the presence of the sea turtle represents a great added value for the territories and considering that this constitutes a strong attraction for the coastal localities, it will be relatively easy to convince local administrators, local communities and economic operators to replicate what has been achieved with the project by mobilizing resources and investments.</p> <p>The project will not only allow the implementation of nature and biodiversity policies. In fact, the Consortium has the capacity to involve and transfer the good practices developed in TURTLENEST to different public and private sectors, allowing the integration and improvement of other policies such as those related to tourism, fishing, waste, planning and integrated management of coastal zones.</p> |
|---|--|

#### Compliance with the call topic

Indicate the call topic to which your proposal relates, and explain how the proposed project addresses the scope of the topic description in the Call document.

The proposal is related to the **call topic LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE - Nature & Biodiversity** since the project it is addressed to identify loggerhead turtle nesting areas in the western Mediterranean Sea, monitor effective population size and trend and counteract, through an integrated approach, anthropogenic threats connected with disturbance at the nesting sites of *Caretta Caretta*.

The project falls within the **intervention area "Safeguarding our species"** since it is aimed at improving the condition of *Caretta caretta*\* facing several threats affecting this sea turtle, setting up an international monitoring network for the purpose of long-term surveillance of loggerhead turtle nesting in the project area and increasing awareness among the different stakeholders (see section 1.1).

The loggerhead turtle, *Caretta caretta*\*, is a priority species included in App. II/IV of the Habitat Directive whose conservation requires to activate a strict protection regime across the species' entire natural range, both within and outside Natura 2000 sites (Habitats Directive) and the identification of core areas (e.g. nesting beaches, foraging grounds, migratory corridors) that must be designed as Site of Community Importance and managed in accordance with the ecological requirements of the species. The conservation status of the species has been assessed as Unfavourable-Inadequate (U1) in the latest EEA's Art. 17 report assessments at the EU biogeographical level (Unfavourable-Bad U2 in France, Unfavourable-Inadequate U1 in Italy and Unknown in Spain). The species is also listed in the IUCN red list of threatened species as vulnerable under the A2b criteria at the global scale while the Mediterranean subpopulation is in the least concern category although this is considered entirely conservation dependent. *Caretta caretta* is also protected under various international Conventions (Bern Convention, Bonn Convention, Washington Convention).

The project also falls within the intervention area **"Space for Nature"** since it aims at creating additional protected areas and improving the biodiversity focus of existing protected areas to specifically protect

loggerhead turtle nests and demonstrating site management approaches to mitigate anthropic threats on the species during this delicate phase of its complex life cycle.

The following table explains how the proposed project addresses the scope of the topic description in the call document and summarizes the scoping and prioritization under the Nature and Biodiversity topic.

| INTERVENTION AREA  | EU POLICY PRIORITIES FOR NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY  |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Safeguarding our species: measures targeting specific species</b> | Priority 1: The extent to which the proposal contributes to the objectives of EU Nature and Biodiversity legislation in particular under the EU Birds and Habitat Directive (incl. Natura 2000) and the regulation 1143/2014 on IAS   | Priority 2: The extent to which the proposal contributes to the targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 for a Trans-European Nature Network and EU Restoration Plan.  |
|  | <p>LIFE TURTLENEST contributes to the conservation of a priority species Community Interest (conservation status “inadequate” as stated in the most recent assessment according to Article 17 of the Habitats Directive), and it is included in App. II/IV of the Habitat Directive, listed in the IUCN red list of threatened species.</p> <p>LIFE TURTLENEST contributes to the implementation of art. 2 of the Habitat Directive since the project is addressed to the protection of biodiversity;</p> <p>LIFE TURTLENEST contributes to the implementation of art. 3 of Habitat Directive since the project will improve the Natura 2000 Network.</p> <p>LIFE TURTLENEST will affect 64 Natura 2000 sites</p> | <p>LIFE TURTLENEST contributes to the overall goal of the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030 that aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, climate and the planet.</p> <p>LIFE TURTLENEST contributes to reach the following specific commitments and actions contained in the Strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea since the project will allow to improve Natura 200 network;</li> <li>2) restoring ecosystems across land and sea since the project will help to restore and properly protect marine ecosystems reducing the adverse impacts of fishing on the targeted species;</li> <li>3) reducing pollution since the project helps to reduce plastic pollution in the seas;</li> <li>4) enabling transformative change since the project aims to stepping up implementation and enforcement of EU legislation on Natura 2000;</li> <li>5) building on an integrated and whole-of-society approach since the project improves knowledge, education and skills also promoting Citizen Science</li> </ol> |
| <b>Space for nature</b>  | <p>LIFE TURTLENEST will allow to create additional protected areas (and improving the biodiversity focus and contribution of existing protected areas) since the project will improve the Natura 2000 Network through the identification of new Natura 2000 sites to be established to protect sea turtle nesting areas.</p> <p>LIFE TURTLENEST will test and demonstrating new site management approaches since it is a project acting on pressures</p>  | <p>LIFE TURTLENEST contributes to establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea improving the level of protection of existing protected areas and through additional designations or enlargements of Natura 2000 site</p>  |



|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <p>LIFE TURTLENEST, thanks to the reduction of antropogenic origin, will help to protect other species and habitat of community interest such as n. 22 Sea dunes of the Mediterranean coasts (habitats 2210, 2230, 2240, 2250*, 2260, 2270 *) and H1150 * Coastal lagoons and some important animal and plant species associated with them. Among these it is worth remembering <i>Pancratium maritimum</i>, <i>Spartina versicolor</i>, <i>Eryngium maritimum</i>, <i>Anthemis maritima</i>, <i>Juniperus</i> spp, <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> and many other species protected under the Habitat and Birds Directives</p> |  |
|--|--|--|

#### 1.4 Concept and methodology

##### Concept and methodology

*Describe the overall intervention logic of the project, including the main idea and assumptions (i.e. how are the proposed activities and steps of your project expected to lead to the intended changes in terms of outcomes and impacts).*

*Explain the methodology, i.e. the main tools, techniques, methods and procedures you will use to implement the technical part of your project. Justify why the proposed methodology is the most suitable for achieving the project's objectives.*

##### *For Clean Energy Transition:*

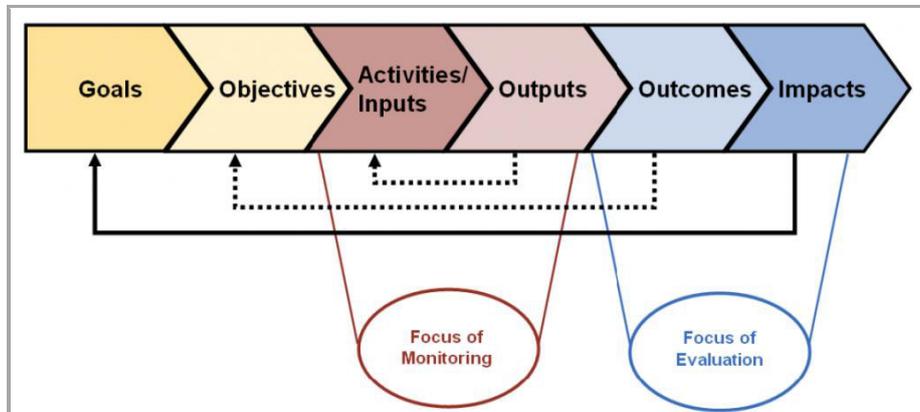
*Describe the market barriers, the needs and constraints of market actors, and how your concept will address them concretely.*

##### *For Circular Economy and Quality of Life (n/a to Environmental governance topics):*

*Describe the technical details of the proposed solution (process, material, product etc.) using a flowchart and including, where possible, the general mass and energy balance. Explain how you plan to establish your supply chain.*

*Specify the scale (e.g. production capacity) and output of the project (e.g. quantity produced/sold during the project). The chosen technical scale should be one that allows the evaluation of the technical and economic viability of the proposed solution. In case of close-to-market conditions the target should be industrial/commercial scale already during the project.*

The **challenge** addressed by LIFE TURTLENEST is the improvement of the conservation status of the *Caretta caretta*\* in the Mediterranean through the reduction of threats of antropogenic origin in the new nesting areas which, in the western portion of the basin, are progressively increasing due to the effects triggered by the climate crisis. The Consortium will face this challenge through an **integrated approach** capable of guaranteeing the resilience of this improvement in the medium to long term. To this end, the project will operate through a **multilevel strategy** that includes 3 dimensions: **environmental, socio-economic and governance**. The first one involves the implementation of a series of interventions aimed at directly countering the threats in nesting sites (WP4); the second one, foresees the active involvement of the various stakeholders to create a change in those behaviors that threaten the sea turtle (WP2); the third one, the adoption of a series of regulations capable of strengthening governance and policies in favor of the environment and nature, allowing long-term protection of the species (WP5). The intervention logic is inspired by the **Theory of Change (TOC)** which provides for the active participation and direct involvement of stakeholders as an essential element to achieve medium-long term objectives that imply social change. The following figure describes the **intervention logic** underlying the project.



This approach will allow to obtain relevant outcomes and impacts in different areas of intervention as better described in section 2 of the proposal.

From a scientific point of view, LIFE TURTLENEST will use a multidisciplinary approach to improve the conservation status of the loggerhead turtle\* in Italy, Spain and France (and more generally in the western Mediterranean basin). The project will use cutting edge techniques to fill the existing information gap on the distribution of nesting sites, the effective nesting population size, the demographic origin of adult breeders and the connectivity with foraging and developmental habitats. In summary the project will tackle the main issues responsible for the present information gap on the spatio-temporal distribution of nests,

With regard to the methodological aspects used for the implementation of the various activities, methods, techniques, tools and processes have been already developed, tested and consolidated within other LIFE and non-LIFE projects (concluded or still in progress). Consequently, this project will use where possible results and good practices already produced by these initiatives, some of them led by members of this project, (see section 1.5). The main methodologies that will be used in the implementation of some project activities are described below.

#### SEA TURTLE NESTING BEACH MONITORING

**Concept:** Monitoring of sea turtle nesting beaches has been conducted around the world for decades. Nests count are useful to estimate relative abundance, detect temporal trends and are also usually simpler and less expensive to obtain than estimates of absolute population size but there is a clear trade-off between surveying effort and accuracy and precision of these estimates (Delcroix et al. 2013). Standardization of monitoring protocols is thus essential to ensure the compatibility of the datasets obtained in the different project sub-areas and to meet the minimum quality standards necessary to reach project's goals (SWOT 2011). In the Western Mediterranean, very little standard monitoring has been conducted so far and the observed increase in the number of nests has been mainly linked to the detection of nesting females or hatchlings on highly anthropized beaches (Hochscheid, in preparation). Therefore, loggerhead turtle nesting may be significantly higher than what is currently reported, given the extent of potentially suitable nesting habitats that have not yet been surveyed.

**Methodology:** LIFE TURTLENEST will employ available best practises, refined in T3.1, to conduct standardized surveys of more than 600 km of low sandy beaches along the Italian, French and Spanish coastline, to delineate all areas with nesting activity and record shifts in area use over time due to different anthropogenic pressures (SWOT 2011, Rees 2020). Two kinds of monitoring will be conducted based on the information already available with respect to the level of frequentation of nesting females. Intensive monitoring (minimum 5 times/week) throughout the nesting season (June to August) will be conducted at pilot beaches in the Western Mediterranean, where nesting has occurred over the last 2 years. Areas where nesting activity have been only sporadically detected or that exhibit high habitat suitability will be surveyed by diffuse regular monitoring (minimum 2 times/week) during the nesting season peak (July). Project partners have already indicated the coastal sectors they are going to survey from the first season; additional areas will be identified by the predictive models of habitat suitability foreseen in T3.2 and T5.1. Daylight beach surveys will be conducted early in the morning (sunrise to 9 a.m.) to count all fresh tracks, which are the marks left in the sand by females that have attempted or succeeded to nest, before they are obliterated by human activity on the beach, weathered by sun, wind or rain or washed away by the tide. Occasional night patrols, at the peak of the nesting season on the

beaches with the highest density of nesting will be conducted to locate nesting females that will be equipped with satellite transmitters as foreseen in T4.5. Beach patrols will be performed on foot, using electric sand bikes or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), depending on beach length and accessibility. Foot patrols will be used to cover beach sectors up to 4-5 km in length while longer distances will be covered by electric sand bikes. UAV will be mostly used to detect nesting of difficult to access or remote beaches. More specifics on the organization of the beach patrols are detailed in T4.2 Threat assessments, Clutch location, Clutch relocation, Nest protection, Hatching assessment, and Nest success evaluation are all the essential activities that will be conducted during beach surveys, following standardized protocols defined in T3.1, to protect nests against threats and to assess the effectiveness of protection measures or all levels of nesting – even sporadic nesting. The underlying intention of the beach monitoring is to produce data that meet the minimum data standards established by SWOT (2011) to facilitate site-to-site comparisons in nesting abundance.

#### TRAINING COURSES

**Concept:** In recent years, a small but regular nesting activity of loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) has been recorded in the western Mediterranean. However, most of these events have occurred in beaches where no previous nesting records were registered, with high presence of human activities and coupled with a general lack of expertise of local stakeholders and also a lack of public awareness. The combination of these factors has resulted in some occasions in damage of eggs and hatchlings (Marco et al. 2016, Tomás et al., 2016), disturbance to adult females, inappropriate management decisions or loss of opportunities of gathering important scientific data. Specific training courses addressed for stakeholder and key agents like beach staff and environmental organizations will play a central role on the correct management of Western Mediterranean nesting areas, as they offer favourable nesting grounds, as well as monitoring and awareness-raising opportunities. Nevertheless, nesting areas in the western Mediterranean currently lack technicians with specific sea turtle nesting management and monitoring skills to take conservation decisions for the survival and resilience of the species in this region.

**Methodology:** Training courses will be performed at different levels according to the specific needs and the target staff to qualify. Then, two principal kind of training courses will be performed: 1) theoretical training courses addressed to volunteers and beach staff with the aim to increase nesting activity detection and guarantee nesting success (people aware of how to react when a turtle or nest is found), 2) 2 weeks practical training addressed to technicians to acquire specific skills in nesting female management, identifying location suitability for nest incubation (nest incubation decision-making) as well as nest and hatchling managing and monitoring. Theoretical training courses will be performed periodically in every country. Participants will be engaged through local authorities and environmental organizations that already have given support to this project. Participants will receive information and training materials about sea turtle nesting, how to identify sea turtle tracks, nests and the specific protocol to follow when a female, a track or hatchling are found. Training will be available for asynchronous e-learning and face-to-face learning depending on logistic possibilities and training demand. For all kinds of training, a final test will be done to deliver a "certificate of attendance". All courses will be led by local national experts in nesting management and conservation in all countries who previously have been working together to design training materials following the operating procedures that will be implemented in this project from T3.1. Asynchronous e-learning course will be a project output that can be used after the end of the project and replicated in different areas, contributing to both the future sustainability and replication of the proposed activities. In order to supply the huge lack of technicians with expertise in sea turtle nesting practical training stages will be performed to build specific and technical capacity for correct sea turtle nesting management in all countries. Participants will be selected by regional stakeholders and authorities who support this project in every country. After an exhaustive analysis of potential sea turtle nesting areas where to perform this stage, it was considered Cabo Verde loggerhead nesting area as the closest nesting area with enough nest density and female abundance (at the present considered the world's second-largest nesting site for loggerhead) where to perform a «tailor-made» training adapted to Western Mediterranean necessities. All participants will have the opportunity to manage several nesting females and nests per night/day, including nest translocation. Training will be performed in the Sea Turtle Conservation Camp of BIOS.CV, a local organization which monitors 5 km of coast of the Reserva Natural das Tartarugas in Boa Vista Island and which also supports this project. In the surveyed area, more than 100 nests per night and kilometer are recorded during the peak of the nesting season and hatcheries hold more than 1000 nests per season, making feasible to train in hatchling management every night. Participants will receive a manual of sea turtle nesting management techniques, and a final test will be done to deliver a "certificate of attendance". This action will have high-impact results guaranteeing Western Mediterranean technicians building capacity to take conservation decisions for the survival and resilience of the species in this region.

**HABITAT USE AND CONNECTIVITY**

**Concept:** The objective is to identify the critical habitats upon which loggerhead females and their offspring depend throughout their life cycles, and the pathways (i.e. connections) between them. By transforming these data into actionable knowledge (e.g. georeferenced data portals), it can more effectively be incorporated into international management and policy frameworks such as area-based planning processes to aid in the conservation of a protected species.

**Methodology:** Habitats and their connections will be explored by combining satellite tracking and stable isotope analysis. Satellite tracking can deliver with increasing detail information on the movements of females and yearling turtles. There has been substantial progress in the technological development of animal-borne satellite tags in terms of longevity, robustness, miniaturization, transmission frequency (e.g. the number of messages from the tag that are relayed via satellites), and accuracy of locations (deviation of true position < 20 m). Over 1000 tags are deployed each year on sea turtles to deliver data for the greater picture of key habitats and their connections (Hays & Hawkes, 2018). However, satellite tracking is expensive, and the number of individuals tracked are consequently low compared to population size. In addition, it will be a challenge to equip nesting females in emerging nesting areas because clutches are often detected after the departure of the females. Therefore, this outcome will be best achieved by a multi-disciplinary approach that also involves also Stable Isotope Analysis (SIA) and genomics.

SIA is inexpensive and both female and hatchling tissues can be analyzed, thus increasing sample size. The rationale is that stable isotope ratios in animals reflect those in their diet and hence are informative about the region where they have been foraging previously if they move across isotopically heterogeneous landscapes. We know from previous research on loggerhead turtles that those foraging in the Balearic Sea, the Algerian Basin and the Tyrrhenian Sea differ in their ratios of stable isotopes of C and N and hence the stable isotope ratios of C and N are good habitat tracers. Furthermore, there is a strong correlation between the stable isotope ratios of females and those of their eggs and hatchlings and hence the foraging grounds of females can be inferred even if only the nest is found and sampled. Finally, the stable isotope ratios of carapace scutes do not change after the fissure is formed and hence 30 µm layers of carapace scutes allow reconstructing the movements of females across isotopically distinct regions for several years. The main drawback of stable isotope analysis is a coarse geographic resolution, limited to huge areas such the Valencia Sill, the Algerian Basin or the Tyrrhenian Sea. Combining the information of satellite telemetry and stable isotope analysis will help to identify and delineate the foraging grounds of adult females. When integrated with genomic data (T4.4), they will improve our understanding of population dynamics, connectivity and boundaries, and hence identify where best to implement further conservation actions. Actually, genomic data are crucial to identify clutches from the same female laid in the same season and hence avoid pseudoreplication in stable isotope studies).

SIA will be analysed at the Scientific and Technological Centre of the University of Barcelona.

**GENOMICS**

**Concept:** Marine turtles are organisms that spend most of their time at sea and thus are difficult to study. Genetic approaches have been used by the University of Barcelona to study loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) sporadic nesting in the western Mediterranean (Carreras et al. 2018) and through relatedness analyses reconstruct the current population of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Cayman Islands (Barbanti et al. 2020a, 2019). Thus, the breeding population can be recovered through parentage analysis of the genotypes of their offspring and at the same time infer the area of origin of the breeders providing fundamental information of the new populations and their behaviour.

**Methodology:** Samples will be preserved on 96% ethanol and will be genotyped using the 2bRAD methodology previously optimised at the University of Barcelona (Barbanti et al. 2020b). In summary, after DNA extraction, samples will be digested with the IIB enzyme AflI and ligated with specific adapters to perform a selective base ligation to ensure good genotyping in thousands of markers (Barbanti et al. 2020a). In addition to the 2bRAD genotyping, the mtDNA D-loop of one of the hatchlings per nest (as in Carreras et al 2018) will also be sequenced in order to build an exclusion dataset (e.g. two hatchlings cannot be mother siblings if they have different mtDNA haplotype). The genotypes of all hatchlings, and the obtained females, will be used to perform a pedigree analysis using software, such as COLONY, to estimate the breeding population. In this way, a genetic census of the breeding individuals that intervened in the nesting events can be carried out and, at the same time, data of the sex ratio of the breeding population can be obtained. Additionally, a comparison of the genotypes obtained from the different nests will be performed to detect whether the same parents have been involved in any of the nesting events, including the presence of multiple paternity. Consequently, the parameters of "interesting interval" and "nest site fidelity" of the nesting females will also be estimated. This genomic data will be crossed with fitness parameters obtained in the field, such as fecundity, emergence success, number of eggs per nest or hatchling morphometry, and with the origin of the nests

obtained. This will provide some insights on the drivers of viability of sporadic nests and potential effects of inbreeding and/or outbreeding. For instance, high levels of heterozygosity due to having parents of distant origins can result in a decrease in the biological efficiency of the offspring and trigger an exogamous depression in the population. Additionally, the genotypes of the females or hatchlings of the nests will be compared to the genomic profile of potential source populations already genotyped (Barbanti 2020a) to determine the origin of these events.

#### **GEOMORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF NESTING BEACHES.**

**Concept:** Beach morphology and sand characteristics play an important, yet not completely understood, role in the selection of the nesting sites and the successful embryonic development. These are dynamic features that may change due to the natural evolution of the coastline or because of human activities. Climate change exacerbates coastal erosion at several locations and may lead to a significant reduction in nesting habitat suitability. Therefore, beach geomorphological characterization is an important component of any management strategy aiming at preserving loggerhead turtle nesting habitat suitability in the next future.

**Methodology:** The characterization of beach morphology will be performed by acquiring basic descriptive parameters of the such as the slope of the nearshore, the beach width and its temporal variability along with the main wave climate conditions using the Sentinel-2 satellite images, which are available since 2016 within the European program Copernicus.

All data are freely available and will be elaborated in the GIS. Thresholds of "minimum beach functionality" will be defined by a first statistical analysis of the distribution in time and space of the beach widths and wave climate forcing. A forecast of the future persistence of the nesting site will be then then provided. The described analysis will be performed on the areas of high nesting habitat suitability within the project area.

Furthermore, in the context of physico-chemical sand characterization, approximately 60 sites will be sampled each year from both known nesting areas and occasional sites. The number of samples will be adequate for the size of the nest area and the size of the beach. For each sample, physical-chemical analyses will be carried out to characterize the sand sampled from the site. The physical-chemical characterization of beach area within "known nests" and the characterization of new nesting sites will lead to an increase in scientific knowledge with respect to the possible links between sand characteristics, choice of site and hatching activities. The analysis will concern not only the granulometric and mineralogical characterization, but also the study of those chemical parameters that could compromise the success of nesting. The techniques used in the project are innovative and non-invasive will be incorporated in the guidelines for the management of the beach.

#### **ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES**

**Concept:** In order to achieve the objectives of the project, including conservation ones, the involvement of the main stakeholders is essential. For this very reason many of them have been previously contacted and informed about the contents and aims of the TURTLENEST project: many of them have already expressed interest in actively participating through specific support letters. To facilitate their participation during all phases of the project, the establishment of an Advisory board is foreseen from the beginning of the project.

#### **Methodology:**

The methodology to implement **awareness activities**, will be based on **2 keywords: engage and educate**. Different types of stakeholders will be invited to participate in practical activities that are expected to facilitate the development of awareness on the negative impacts on sea turtles deriving from anthropic disturbance, consequently, to induce a change in individual behaviour more quickly. Whenever possible a **Peer2Peer** approach will be used in order to increase awareness and action as the message is passed on by peers (e.g.: fisherman to fisherman) that make the message more believable and direct. The presence of tracks, nests and hatchlings on the beach will be monitored thanks to a specific citizen science campaign that will allow to engage thousands of citizens. The campaign foresees the use of a multi-platform App that will make it easy for non-specialized people to send the reports. Citizen Science activities developed during the project will be shared through **EU-Citizen.Science**, an online platform for sharing knowledge, tools, training and resources for citizen science developed thanks to a project funded by the European Commission Horizon 2020 programme, in the Science with and for Society programme of work.

### **1.5 Upscaling results of other EU funded projects (n/a for stage 1)**

**Upscaling results of other EU funded projects** (n/a for stage 1)

Explain if and how the proposal builds on or up-scales results of other EU funded projects.

Concerning the uptake of relevant projects, LIFE TURTLENEST will take into account the results of finished and ongoing other EU funded projects.

**LIFE PROJECTS**

- **LIFE SEA.NET (LIFE20 GIE/IT/000763)**. This is a new LIFE project which will start in early 2022 and which is focused on strengthening the governance of Natura 2000 marine sites. LIFE TURTLENEST will consider the “toolkit governance” developed by the SEANET project to draft new regulations for the protection of new sea turtle nesting areas in Natura 2000 sites.
- **MEDTURTLES (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000103)**. The aim of the project is the reduction of the impact of anthropogenic threats at foraging grounds and nesting sites in Spain (Valencia province) and Albania. LIFE TURTLENEST will examine the best practices developed during the project.
- **EUROTURTLES (LIFE15 NAT/HR/000997)**. This project, among other things, addresses the problem of habitat loss for nesting sea turtles caused by human activities. LIFE TURTLENEST will consider the methodology developed by the project to face this kind of threats;
- **LIFE CARETTA CARETTA (LIFE 99 NAT/IT/006271)**. This old project aimed to implement urgent action for the conservation of *Caretta caretta* in the Pelagian Islands developed a well-done action plan for the species that has been adopted by the Natural Reserve of Lampedusa. LIFE TURTLENEST will consider this plan as a best practice to draft the Guide for management and protection of emerging sea turtle nesting sites in changing climate.
- **LIFE15 IPE/ES/000012 – INTEMARES, 2017**

**HORIZON PROJECTS**

- **TURTLEHYB (H2020 ID: 844756)**. The project will study the reasons and consequences of hybridisation in sea turtles. It will investigate ancient hybridisation cases and their relationship with current populations. LIFE TURTLENEST will take into account the results relating to the genomes of hybrid parents and hatchlings for a better understanding of species hybridization and its genomic aspects.
- **EU-CITIZEN.SCIENCE (H2020 ID: 824580)**. The project will take in account this interesting project that has developed a platform and mutual learning space. TURTLENEST will consider different tools, best practice examples and relevant scientific results supplied by the platform.

**CROSS BORDER COOPERATION PROJECTS**

- **COMMON**: Project's goal of the project, funded under ENI CBC MED Programme, is the reduction of marine litter through the use of the principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Gizc). TURTLENEST will consider the integrated approach to face in particular plastic pollution at sea that represents threats for living marine organisms including sea turtles.

**OTHER PROJECTS**

The proposal builds on or up-scales results of other projects funded by international foundations and/or national authorities. Among the main Spanish projects will be taken into consideration

- **COMING**: Coordinated monitoring and management of sea turtle nesting activity in the western Mediterranean through MPA (MAVA Foundation in the framework of the MedPAN small Projects). LIFE TURTLENEST will integrate its results in the new SOPs and protocols for research, monitoring and management of sea turtle nesting in the western Mediterranean.
- **CARETTA A LA VISTA!**: Citizen Science tools to detect and recognize a possible trail or nest of sea turtle “*Caretta caretta*” (FCT-17-12045 & FCT-16-11577)
- **ACTIVITY**: Elaboration of the “Spanish national guidelines for the protection and management of sea turtle nidification” (2021) in collaboration with the public authority “Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico” from the Spanish Government.
- **ACTIVITY**: Elaboration of the “Spanish national strategy for the sea turtle conservation” (2020) in collaboration with the “Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico” from the Spanish Government. .
- **ACTIVITY**: Management and advisory services to handle sea turtle nesting along the Catalan coast (since 2018), in collaboration with the Generalitat de Catalunya.
- **MarGeCh**: Marine genomic challenges: diversity, connectivity and adaptation from genomes to populations. MarGeCh, project UB. PID2020-118550RB-C22. Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación. 2021-2024.
- **NIDOS-Caretta**: Management and assessment of the colonization of the Spanish coast as a nesting area for the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) as an adaptation to climate change. NIDOS-Caretta. Fundación Biodiversidad. 2020-2021.

- **PopCOmics:** Marine and Genomic Biodiversity: from populations to communities (PopCOmics), project UB, CTM2017-88080-C2-2-R. Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad. 2017-2020.

## 1.6 Complementarity with other actions (n/a for stage 1)

### Complementarity with other actions (n/a for stage 1)

*Explain how the project is complementary to other regional, national or international initiatives/activities/projects. How will it integrate the results from these other actions?*

Over the last few years, a series of initiatives have been carried out mainly focused on reducing the mortality of sea turtles in the sea. Only recently, initiatives and projects concerning the protection of nests have been launched. Below is a brief overview for each of the 3 countries concerned.

#### ITALY

- **Tartawatchers** - Starting from 2021 **Legambiente (Coordinating beneficiary)** has launched in Italy a national program for the monitoring of nesting sites called Tartawatchers. The monitoring is carried out thanks to the collaboration of the association's volunteers operating at local level in different regions.
- **Caretta in vista - The Zoological Station of Naples (Beneficiary)** every year carries out a monitoring activity of sea turtle nests along the coasts of Campania. Monitoring involves numerous public and private organizations (Parks, Marine Protected Areas, NGOs).
- **TartaLazio** - In recent years, the **Lazio Region (Beneficiary)** has launched a program for monitoring the nesting sites of the Caretta Caretta along its coasts. In this regard, a network called TARTALAZIO has been set up, made up of scientific and voluntary organizations operating for the protection of the sea turtle.
- **Osservatorio Toscano per la Biodiversità - Tuscany Region** has established this organism that, among others, has the task of monitoring the stranding and nesting of Caretta caretta along the coasts. Within the observatory, Arpat (Beneficiary) coordinates the regional network for the recovery of cetaceans, turtles and large cartilaginous fish.
- **Rete Regionale per la conservazione della fauna marina Sardegna** - The Sardinia Region has also activated a regional network for the conservation of marine fauna. The network, made up of parks, protected marine areas, coast guard, was created mainly to rescue sea turtles and cetaceans in distress.(see the letter of support).

Other activities for monitoring and securing the nests are carried out locally by parks and marine protected areas, Sea Turtle REscue Centers and / or by small NGOs (see attached letter of support). This is the case, for example, of Calabria where the Caretta Calabria Conservation association operates, which patrols the Ionian side of the coast.

#### SPAIN

- **NIDOS-Caretta. Fundación Biodiversidad. 2020-2021.** University of Barcelona (UB) and University De Vic (UVIC, Beneficiary) coordinated this project conducting training workshops on nest detection to volunteers and beach operators and monitoring nesting events in the Catalan region (Spain). Within this project UB and UVIC also provided Management and advisory services to handle sea turtle nesting along the Catalan coast (since 2018), in collaboration with the Generalitat de Catalunya.
- **PopCOmics 2017-2020.** Led by UB, this project obtained the genomic dataset for 11 major eastern Mediterranean nesting beaches that will represent the baseline that will be used by LIFE TURTLENEST for the genomic analysis of breeders and hatchlings in the Western Mediterranean.
- **MarGeCh 2021-2024.** Led by UB, this project aims at obtaining the genomic baseline of the Atlantic population that will be used also by LIFE TURTLENEST to detect the origin of the breeding individuals.
- **LIFE15 IPE/ES/000012 – INTEMARES, 2017:** UB and UVIC were consultants and advisers for and contributed to:
  - o Elaboration of the “Spanish national strategy for the sea turtle conservation” (2020) in collaboration with the “Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico” from the Spanish Government.
  - o Elaboration of the “Spanish national guidelines for the protection and management of sea turtle nidification” (2021) in collaboration with the public authority “Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico” from the Spanish Government.

**FRANCE**

- **Beach surveys in Camargue** - Since 2017, CESTMed (Beneficiary) has been carrying out a project (funded by Dreal Occitanie) in Camargue to survey selected beaches (thanks to parks, NGOs, volunteers, marine protected areas, etc.) on foot, by boat or with detection dogs.
- **RTMMF** - French Mediterranean stranding network for sea turtles involving trained and authorized observers in the collection of data on sea turtles in this area.
- **ObsTortueMed** - Project carried out by Marineland to gather information on sea turtles in the French Riviera.

The project will make it possible to coordinate all these initiatives by giving them a **common strategy**, proposing **shared protocols and methodologies** and transferring the **best practices** developed during the project to the various subjects operating in this sector.

**1.7 Synergies and co-benefits with other LIFE sub-programmes (n/a for stage 1)****Synergies and co-benefits with other LIFE sub-programmes (n/a for stage 1)**

*Describe synergies with other LIFE sub-programmes (Nature and Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Quality of Life, Climate Change or Clean Energy Transition). Describe spillover effects (co-benefits) in addition to those targeted by the project. If possible, quantify the contribution.*

*Identify the activities/tasks that address these policy objectives of other LIFE sub-programmes.*

The following table summarizes the synergies and co-benefits with the other LIFE sub programmes. In the table have been identified the tasks that address the policy objectives of the other LIFE sub programmes.

| LIFE SUBPROGRAMMES                       | SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES   | TURTLENEST CONTRIBUTION   |
|--|---|---|
| Circular economy and quality of life     | reducing emissions of pollutants to air and sea and ensuring clean air and seas for EU citizens in line with the EU acquis and the objectives of the zero-pollution action plan   | through information and awareness-raising activities, the project will help reduce the use and abandonment of plastic waste in the sea and on beaches. Furthermore, thanks to the involvement of fishermen, it will be possible to recover waste abandoned at sea. through fishing for litter initiatives. This contribution will be provided through the T2.2 task |
| Climate change mitigation and adaptation | support adaptation related policy development and improve adaptation strategies and plans at all levels and in all sectors, in line with the new EU Strategy on Adaption to Climate Change  | thanks to the development of predictive models, it will be possible to put in place strategies for the conservation of the sea turtle that take into account the effects of climate change in the nesting and hatching phases. This contribution will be provided through the T5.1, T5.2, T5.3 tasks  |
| Clean energy transition                  | develop demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of UE legislation and policy on the transition to sustainable renewable energy and increased energy efficiency and to contribute to the knowledge base and to application of best practices | through the replacement of stretches of street lighting necessary to reduce light pollution during the nesting and hatching phases, solutions will be adopted where possible which involve the use of energy produced by photovoltaic panels. This contribution will be provided through the T4.7 and T4.9 tasks  |

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### 1.8 Synergies and co-benefits with other EU policy areas (n/a for stage 1)

#### Synergies and co-benefits with other EU policy areas (n/a for stage 1)

*Describe the synergies and positive spillover effects (co-benefits) with other EU policy areas (for example agriculture, health, civil protection, jobs and growth, etc.). If possible, quantify the contribution.  
 Identify the activities/tasks that address these other EU policy objectives.*

The project as well as contributing to the achievement of the specific objectives of the **LIFE Programme** and the **sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity**, aims to contribute also to the development and implementation of relevant **European environmental policy and legislation** favouring synergies and spillover effects. As well as the implementation of Directive 92/43 - Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora- **Habitats Directive** (21.05.1992) LIFE TURTLENEST can create synergies and co-benefits with:

**EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. TURTLENEST will contribute to the implementation of this strategy through the improvement of Natura 2000 Network, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity.

**8th Environment Action Programme** that will guide European environmental policy until 2030 which as among his objectives protecting, preserving and restoring **biodiversity**.

**European Green Deal** since LIFE TURTLENEST includes a set of activities that can help protect our biodiversity and ecosystems.

**Marine Strategy Framework Directive** (MSFD) for community action in the field of marine environmental policy adopted in 2008 since the project contributes to the reach the objective of Good Environmental Status (GES) according Marine Strategy Framework since *C. caretta* is one of the species selected as Descriptor 1 "Biological diversity is maintained"

**European Blue Growth Strategy and the Bluemed initiative** since LIFE TURTLENEST promote development of coastal and maritime tourism without harming the marine environment.

**New Circular Economy Action Plan** since LIFE TURTLENEST through the communication and awareness activity will promote the production of less waste like plastics reducing in this way pressure on natural resources.

**Towards a Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil EU Action Plan:** since the project contributes through awareness-raising activities to the achievement of objective n. 5 which provides for the reduction of plastic waste in the seas by 50%.

**Common Fisheries Policy** since LIFE TURTLENEST - through the awareness of fishermen and the adoption of a voluntary code of conduct - promotes more sustainable fishing methods able to combine **environmental, economic and social dimensions**.

In addition the project supports the Council Recommendation on **Integrated Coastal Zone Management** as it promotes an integrated approach to planning.

LIFE TURTLENEST contributes to the achievement of goals 14 and 15 established in the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, by the General Assembly of the United Nations, as it provides support in managing and protecting marine and coastal ecosystems in a sustainable way.

LIFE TURTLENEST also intertwines **tourism policies** as it is coherent with the contents of COM (2010) 352 "Europe as the world's leading tourist destination" and with the subsequent COM (2014) 086 "**European strategy for greater growth and employment in coastal and maritime tourism**". Finally, LIFE TURTLENEST fully fits with the **Next Generation EU** since it promotes biodiversity protection.

As highlighted, the project creates synergies between **different policies and different stakeholders**: national authorities, regions, coastal municipalities, managing bodies of protected areas, fishermen, local communities, NGOs and research institutes. All stakeholders will act jointly to improve the conservation of sea turtles in harmony with local economic development.

## 2. IMPACT

Fill in **only** sections 2.1-2.3 at stage 1. Fill in **all** sections at stage 2.

### 2.1 Ambition of the impacts

#### Ambition of the impacts

Identify and quantify the effects of the project (during the implementation and up to 5 years after its end).

Be specific and provide only information about impacts that are a result of your project. The impact of other projects should not be taken into account.

Wherever possible, use quantified indicators and targets.

**Note:** In addition to the description above, include quantified indicators in Part C of the application forms (both horizontal KPIs for the LIFE programme as well as any specific KPIs relevant to the proposal).

The implementation of the project activities will produce a significant impact in several areas:

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. **Improvement of the conservation status of loggerhead turtles in the Mediterranean**, based on the application of best practice conservation measures to enhance the recruitment of hatchlings to marine habitats and to manage nesting habitat suitability under current and future climatic scenarios. More specifically, the impact can be measured as:
  - a) A **12 fold increase** in length of potentially suitable nesting areas that will be monitored through standardized approach over four consecutive seasons.
  - b) An **increase by at least 30% of the detected nests** in Italy, Spain and France achieved through the increased awareness and training programmes.
  - c) An **increase by 50% of the loggerhead turtle nests that are adequately protected** against harm through present threats.
  - d) The reduction of disturbance to sea turtle nesting sites. **The installation of turtle friendly lights on 6 km of regularly used beaches** to mitigate the threat of light pollution that may prevent females from nesting and disorientate both females and hatchlings away from their path to the sea. Currently there are no turtle friendly illuminations on the shores of the project area.
  - e) The establishment of at least **3 index sites** (compared to none at present) for the long-term monitoring of sea turtle nesting activity which are necessary for the assessment of population status and trends, identification and mapping of the most relevant nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean
2. **Capacity building to sustain conservation actions and monitoring of the turtles' nesting activity** and to deliver vital data for future assessments of population trends. This will be achieved by:
  - a) An **increase of at least 50% of the expert field technicians**, specifically trained in the field on high density nesting beaches, and who will be authorised by the competent authority to handle nesting females, their eggs and hatchlings. In addition, **3 permanent training centers and 1 e-learning course** (compared to none) will be established, where further expert field technicians can be trained. Through this capacity building it will be possible to increase the number of nests that can be adequately managed, and face up to the expected increase in nesting activity in the Western Mediterranean.
  - b) **The consolidation of an extensive international network** that operates consistent with the best practice protocols developed during this project with the participation of at least 50 entities (NGOs, research centers, local authorities) to the Project Advisory Board. The network will contribute to shared data on sea turtle nesting activities and phenology and foster the capacity building of next generation experts.
  - c) Through specific training events (T4.1) at least **1000 beach operators** will acquire the knowledge and the capacity to spot and recognize sea turtle tracks during their work on the beach and will thus contribute through reporting and preserving of the tracks to increase the number of nests that can be protected by the expert field technicians.

#### COLLATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

TURTLENEST will produce **positive collateral impacts** on the environment as described below:

1. The adoption of new regulations that reduce the anthropic impact will make it possible to protect in

some cases also **habitats of community interest** such as n. 22 **Sea dunes of the Mediterranean coasts** (habitats 2210, 2230, 2240, 2250\*, 2260, 2270 \*) and H1150 \* **Coastal lagoons** and some important animal and plant species associated with them. Among these it is worth remembering *Pancratium maritimum*, *Spartina versicolor*, *Eryngium maritimum*, *Anthemis maritima*, *Juniperus spp.*, *Charadrius alexandrinus* and many other species protected under the **Habitat and Birds Directives**. The main conservation problems faced by these habitats and species derive mainly from direct consequences and indirect effects of seaside tourism, in particular: widespread and uncontrolled urbanization, construction of tourist/recreational infrastructures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution, beaches crossing with motor vehicles, trampling of bathers, illegal camping, outdoor sport and leisure activities, abandonment of solid waste on land, mechanical cleaning of beaches, or the introduction of **alien species** for ornamental purposes such as *Carpobrotus acinaciformis*. At the same time, coastal erosion has also increased significantly in recent years due to human presence and anthropic activities (Acosta et al., 2004; Malavasi et al., 2013; Malavasi et al., 2014). Coastal sandy environments, in addition to nesting sea turtles, host therefore several endangered habitats and many endangered species, as also emerges from the activities of red listings conducted by the IUCN for these areas (De Montmollin, Strahm, 2005; Cattelod et al., 2008; Bilz et al., 2011).

2. Through the information and awareness-raising activities provided to tourists and economic operators it will be possible to **reduce the production and abandonment of waste** that often attracts predators (foxes, dogs, mice, etc.) putting the turtle nests at risk and damages other species such as the *Charadrius alexandrinus*. Moreover, the awareness activities will contribute to the **reduction of plastic pollution** in the sea that disfigures the marine environment, often causing serious damage to fish, sea turtles and cetaceans. In this way the project will also contribute to the achievement of the objectives set by the **New Circular Economy Action Plan** and **Towards a Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil EU Action Plan** favouring **synergies and co-benefits with other EU policy areas** (see section 1.8).
3. Through the involvement of fishermen, it will be possible to reduce *Caretta caretta*\* deaths due to bycatch, especially during the nesting period. Moreover, it will be possible to promote more sustainable fishing practices, also encouraging the adoption of fishing systems that reduce bycatch and that have already been successfully tested in other **LIFE projects** such as **TARTALIFE** (LIFE12 NAT/IT/000937), **DELFI** (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000942) and **ELIFE** (LIFE18 NAT/IT/000846).

#### SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

1. **Increase the involvement of the coastal tourism industry in the management of natural resources**, to minimize negative impacts on the natural ecosystem and the local economy, following the EU Blue growth Strategy towards sustainable ecotourism.
  - a) TURTLENEST will allow **40% increase** (compared to ex ante results achieved through the analysis carried on within WP7.2) in the level of **awareness, knowledge, sensitivity and attention** towards sea turtles by the managers of the bathing establishments, tourists, other tourism operators and the local populations thanks to the actions developed within WP2, encompassing **at least 1000** beach establishments, and training of at least **1000** beach operators.
  - b) Potential to create wildlife tourism: sea turtles attract tourists worldwide, because the experience of encountering these charismatic reptiles involves tourists emotionally and could influence them in choosing their holiday destination. More and more environmentally-conscious tourists value the efforts of hotels, resorts and facilities to adopt eco-friendly and -compatible management measures to run their business, such as those employed in T4.1, T4.7 and T2.2. **1000 beach resorts** that will be awarded with the **"Turtle Friend" label**.
2. **Increase engagement and participation of citizens**. Their involvement in the study will be a successful vehicle for increasing participants' engagement with nature both during the study and potentially into the future, particularly in terms of biological recording (e.g. detecting and reporting of turtle nesting activities). Through public engagement the project thrives not only to improve the public's awareness on the presence and needs of sea turtles on the coasts, but to obtain the public's appreciation of the conservation measures set in place for the sustainable use and sharing of coastal habitats. In more detail, this impact can be measured as follows:

- a) TURTLENEST will allow in the intervention areas to **increase by 30%** (compared to ex ante results achieved through the analysis carried on within WP7.2) **the social consensus** of the resident populations towards policies for the protection of nature and the environment;
  - b) TURTLENEST, by promoting active citizenship, will allow in the intervention areas to **increase by 30%** (compared to ex ante results achieved through the analysis carried on within WP7.2) **the willingness** of citizens to be involved in the protection activities of sea turtles through voluntary work in the field and citizen science campaigns.
  - c) In addition, the project will recruit and train **2000 Volunteers**, that play a key role in the planned monitoring and protection interventions on sea turtle nesting beaches [T4.1]. Participation in a wildlife study is a positive experience for many volunteers, leading to actual and potential changes in both personal and wider social outcomes. The project thus intends to maximise the personal and social benefits associated with participation. Volunteers are also well perceived by tourists who appreciate the work that they do and profit from the information that volunteers deliver.
3. TURTLENEST will also have an **economic impact** through the creation of occupational opportunities. In fact, the project will act directly on the **creation of jobs** (approximately 10 FTE for private and public partners) in scientific areas thus providing young researchers and newly graduates with the possibility to boost their academic careers and acquire experiences that will make them competitive for future job applications.

#### COLLATERAL SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The project will also produce collateral socio economic impacts on tourism in the intervention areas:

- a) TURTLENEST will contribute to the Blue Economy by promoting more sustainable tourism from an environmental, economic and social point of view;
- b) As happened in other places (an example among all the island of Lampedusa in Italy) the presence of a flag species such as the sea turtle also constitutes a powerful territorial marketing lever which if well used can have positive impacts on tourism making the destination more attractive. Hotels, residences, campings and other accommodation facilities, as well as diving centers and other tourism-related activities, can certainly obtain benefits in terms of marketing from the fact that the location is a nesting site for the sea turtle. This situation generates a virtuous circuit since the economic benefits determined by the presence of the sea turtle increase the social consensus for the conservation activities of the species and more generally for policies in favor of the environment and nature.
- c) The need to monitor beaches, protect nests and carry out awareness activities requires a significant commitment in terms of human resources. To meet this need, some beneficiaries will organize summer volunteer camps which are particular ecotourism formulas with profound socio-economic benefits.

#### SCIENTIFIC IMPACTS

1. **Filling knowledge gaps in key scientific topics that are still lacking, but which are relevant for informed conservation management.** This will be achieved revealing:

- a) The project presents a unique opportunity to study and understand the dynamics and processes of a new colonization or nesting range expansion by sea turtles in a rapidly changing environment. A **200% increase in the volume of the nest database** and associated metadata will be obtained. **1000 genomic fingerprints** of nests hatchlings/adults will be available to determine invaluable demographic parameters such as the number of nesting females and their origin, and multiple paternity of clutches.
- b) Approximately a **300% increase in the volume of data on the movements** of nesting females in the western Mediterranean, a **150% increase** in that relative to the dispersal of yearling turtles and **100% increase of stable isotope ratio from nests, hatchlings and adults** to understand population boundaries and habitat connectivity.
- c) Incubation temperatures from at least **400 nests** will be used to estimate sex ratios of clutches based on the known temperature dependent sex determination in sea turtles. Such knowledge is vital for the **assessment of climate change impacts** since there is growing concern of shifting towards feminisation of sea turtle populations as temperatures rise due to global change.

- d) For the wider scientific community, the results will be disseminated and made accessible through at least **10 publications in high-impact scientific journals** and presentations at a minimum of **12 conferences**.

2. **Capacity building and knowledge transfer**, thus increasing the performance, innovative strength, and international competitiveness of science applied to conservation. In particular, this impact will be realised through:

- a) The Partner UB will train researchers from Italy and France in next generation analytical approaches to continue monitoring important demographic parameters of sea turtle nesting populations using standard, state-of-the-art approach. For this, a **training hub for genomic analysis** will be created.
- b) Knowledge transfer from existing head-starting facilities in Spain will also help to develop and successfully run the **2 new established head-starting centers** in Italy. These facilities will remain available to on one hand to aid conservation through head-starting programmes, on the other hand as an opportunity to conduct further research on this vital first year of life of sea turtles, for which many aspects related to their survivorship are still unknown.

#### COLLATERAL SCIENTIFIC IMPACTS

- a) The project will produce scientific knowledge on the resilience of marine turtles to climate warming and the forecasted changes in the new emerging nesting sites, where proactive conservation measures can be best applied. On a wider perspective, the general effects of anthropogenic factors on sea turtle nesting habitats will be quantitatively and qualitatively assessed in the new nesting area and the best mitigation inventions already tested during the project will be applied also after the end of the project. The knowledge will be used to inform conservation managers and policy makers as also detailed in the governance impacts.
- b) The knowledge can be used to make predictions of turtle abundance in key habitats (nesting beaches, foraging grounds, nursery habitats) and proposals for the management of (some selected) habitats/areas; Tracking data can potentially help designate the location, size, and timing of conservation zones and test their efficacy. Indeed, the results from TURTLENEST could be used to identify and propose Important Marine Turtle Areas (IMTA's), an initiative of the IUCN-SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group (7th Burning Issues Workshop).
- c) At least 400 sand temperature profiles recorded over four consecutive nesting seasons will contribute to the metadata available for habitat suitability assessment and the monitoring of climate change to assess the involved impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems.
- d) The project's outcome will be applied to conservation issues on a larger scale by sharing the data with the wider scientific community in open access data repositories (e.g. Movebank [www.movebank.org](http://www.movebank.org)) and by participating in collaborative initiatives (e.g. Migratory Connectivity In The Ocean (MiCO) by Duke University, USA, or a collaborative project to support the process of defining marine turtle high use areas by University of Exeter, UK and Duke University)

#### GOVERNANCE AND POLICY IMPACTS

The implementation of the project activities will produce a significant impact also on Governance and Policy.

1. **Enhancement of governance of habitat and species conservation** through:

- a) **improvement of Natura 2000 network** thanks to designations, enlargements or update of the Standard Data Form (SDF) of at least **12 Natura 2000** sites to protect loggerhead turtle emerging nesting beaches;
- b) the implementation on a regional scale of the conservation measures for the species *Caretta caretta*\* already expected by the **PAFs - Prioritized Action Framework** drawn up according to the provisions under art. 8 of the Habitat Directive. Moreover, the results achieved by the project will contribute to increasing the relevance of measures aiming at counteracting threats and pressures for *Caretta caretta* due to anthropic presence, mechanical beach cleaning and habitat degradation. In addition the project's result will allow to prepare a draft for the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 new **PAF** including adequate measures for the conservation of nesting sites in Italian, French

and Spanish areas where the species was not previously present as breeding species or reinforcing conservation measures already expected. Since the current PAFs will remain in place until 2027, this impact will only be evident from the next MFF. In this regard, it is estimated that at least **10 new PAFs** from as many regions will contain measures for the protection of the nesting sites of the *Caretta caretta* \*

2. **Strengthening policies regarding the protection of nature and the environment**, through the following:
- a) the predisposition and adoption by competent authorities of a **set of regulations**, at national, regional and local level, to mitigate the anthropogenic threats at emerging nesting beaches in at least **70 locations**;
  - b) the adhesion by **150 public bodies** of different nature to the **Pledge4Seaturtles** initiative within the end of the project;
  - c) The production of a guide for the management and protection of emerging sea turtle nest sites in changing climate that will be distributed at Mediterranean scale (T5.2) among local authorities, stakeholders, environmental NGOs and other public entities to be used beyond the project as a management tool for turtle nests on new nesting sites.
  - d) The development of a **predictive state-of-the-art Habitat suitability model**, that integrates also data on nests and beach characteristics collected during the project, that will be provided as a tool to **evaluate changes in habitat suitability** under current and future climatic scenarios and to **guide management decisions** regarding conservation measures on the nesting habitats as well as the nests themselves.

See also indicators in Part C of application form.

## 2.2 Credibility of the impacts

### Credibility of the impacts

*Show the steps of your calculations and base yourself on the activities mentioned in your work plan. Justify and substantiate the baselines, benchmarks and assumptions you used, making reference to relevant publications, studies or statistics. Try to use the same methodologies for calculating impacts (avoid using different methodologies for each partner, region or country).*

In the following tables have been summarized the assumptions used for the different kinds of impacts

| Environmental Impacts   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| Expected impacts  | Indicators   | Tasks implemented  | Assumptions   |
| Improvement of the conservation status of loggerhead turtles in the Mediterranean | 12 fold increase in the suitable nesting areas monitored   |  | approximately 50 km/year of potentially suitable nesting habitats have been monitored in the Western Mediterranean during the past 2 years using standard protocols (Hochscheid et al. in preparation). Main limiting factors were technological (absence of e-bike and drones to cover wide areas), logistical (low number of trained operators and volunteers) or economic (lack of funds to sustain monitoring activities). All these issues will be tackled by LIFE TURTLENEST that foresees to conduct standard monitoring over more than 630 km of potentially suitable nesting habitats over 4 consecutive nesting seasons.  |
|   | 30% increase of nests detected each year with respect to the number observed in 2021                   | WP1: T1.3<br>WP2: T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T2.5<br>WP3: All tasks<br>WP4: All tasks<br>WP5: T5.3<br>WP7: T7.1 | 277 nests have been detected in the Western Mediterranean from 2010 to 2021, 100 of which in 2021 alone, with an exponential increase in the last 5 years (Hochscheid et al. in preparation). This drastic increase was registered despite the very limited standard monitoring conducted so far and the overall general lack of awareness among stakeholders and citizens with respect to loggerhead turtle nesting. Moreover, approximately 77 % of nests have been detected on highly anthropozised beaches thanks to private citizens or beach operators reporting the presence of the females or hatchlings on the beach. Large proportion of low sandy beaches with low human presence exists in the study area and have not yet been surveyed. In Italy, the Calabria nesting site, which hosts approximately 50% of loggerhead turtle nests laid in the country each year, was discovered only in 2007 following the intensive monitoring of the Ionian coasts: More recently, in Campania the first year of monitoring along 27 km of potentially suitable coasts led to the detection of 18 additional nests which concentrated in a coastal sections of 2 km. Based on these results our target of a 30% more nests detected must be seen as very conservative, given the increase in km surveyed and the multitarget awareness campaign that will be conducted. |
|   | 30% increase in the number of nests that are adequately protected against harm through present threats |  | 21% of nests reported from 2010 to 2021 in the Western Mediterranean Sea were detected only at time of hatchling emergence and therefore could not be adequately protected during the entire incubation process. Thanks to the standard monitoring of highly suitable nesting habitats a minimum increase by 30% of the number of nests identified at deposition, that will be managed according to the specific threat to which they are exposed, can be expected  |
|   | 40% increase in the number of hatchlings that enter the sea each year                                  |  | This corresponds to the increase in hatchling production due to the increased number of nests detected and protected plus an extra 10% related to the improvement of the environmental conditions for the embryonic development   |

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Capacity building to sustain conservation actions and monitoring of the turtles' nesting activity</b> | with respect to 2021 numbers  |  | forecasted for the western Mediterranean (Pike 2014). The average value of hatchling emergence success and the mean clutch size (58% and 92 respectively, Hochscheid et al in preparation) for loggerhead turtle nests in the Western Mediterranean over the 2010-2020 period was used to calculate the baseline and the expected impact. Baseline number of hatchlings entering the sea in 2021=N.nest (100) X mean clutch size (92) X mean emergence success (58%). Expected impact= N.nest+30% X mean clutch size X mean emergence success + 10%  |
|  | 3 index sites for monitoring of sea turtle nests  |  | Based on the available data, there are already 3 beaches which had regular nesting activity over the past 5 years and nest densities above 2 nests/km. At least two additional nesting sites have also been regularly used in the last two years. Thus, there is already a set of 5 candidate sites available that will be monitored intensively during the project implementation to identify those most representative for the long term monitoring of loggerhead turtle nesting in the Western Mediterranean Sea. The four consecutive seasons of nest monitoring foreseen in the project represent also an opportunity to identify additional candidate sites through intense and diffuse monitoring of highly suitable areas.   |
|  | 6 km of turtle nesting beaches equipped with turtle friendly lights   |  | This value was calculated considering the average distance between 2 consecutive pole-mounted beach front street luminaries (25 m) and the total number of lights that will be installed (240). Also considered in the calculation was of the total number of exterior spotlights that will be replaced, 1 per beach infrastructure each 200 linear meters of coast.   |
|  | 50% increase of the number field technicians specifically trained to manipulate sea turtle nests and hatchlings. Creation of 3 training centers |  | Today there are approximately 50 authorized experts working for the project partners and other NGOs operating in the study area that support the project (N= 50). The main limiting factors to increase this number is related to the difficulty of acquiring the necessary practical experience in the field to operate safely with nests, eggs, hatchlings and nesting females given the scant opportunity in Italy, France and Spain. We foresee specific practical training for 25 field technicians in Cape Verde, the second largest loggerhead turtle rookery in the world and have already acquired the necessary support letter from the training center. Moreover, we'll realize 3 permanent training centers with experienced, authorized staff and access to nearby nesting sites to train future technicians and reinforce the monitoring network also after the end of the project |
|  | Establishment and consolidation of a collaborative international network for monitoring loggerhead turtle nesting                               |  | The project involves 13 partners working on loggerhead turtle nesting monitoring and additional 48 Entities have already expressed their support to the project and their willingness to participate to the Advisory Board. TURTLENEST will foster the exchange of shared procedures and data collection between partners, as well as knowledge transfer, thus establishing a network that will persist after the LIFE. The number of  |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| activity in the Western Mediterranean   |  | participants to the network is also expected to increase through the networking activities foreseen by this project  |
| At least 1000 beach operators trained to recognize and report sea turtle tracks |  | This number has been calculated considering an average of 5 participants to each of the 200 training courses for beach operators that will be performed during the project |

**Socio Economic Impacts**

| Expected impacts   | Indicators  | Tasks implemented   | Assumptions  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Increase the involvement of the coastal tourism industry in the management of natural resources</b> | <b>40% increase</b> (compared to ex ante situation measured with T7.2) in the level of awareness, knowledge, sensitivity and attention towards sea turtles by the managers of the bathing establishments, tourists, other tourism operators and the local populations | WP1<br>T1.3<br>WP2<br>T2.2, T2.3, T2.4<br>WP4<br>T4.1, T4.2, T4.3<br>WP5<br>T5.3<br>WP7<br>T7.2 | Given that currently the level of awareness and knowledge in the intervention areas is very low (about 10% according to the preliminary survey carried out by Legambiente), thanks to information and awareness-raising activities that will make it possible to reach a total of over 3.5 million people, this percentage is likely to rise to 40%.   |
|  | 1000 beach resorts that will be awarded with the "Turtle Friend" label  |   | A lot of beach establishments have already expressed their interest in becoming "Turtle Friend". Legambiente has already contacted about 500 resorts.  |
| <b>Increase engagement and participation of citizens</b>   | <b>increase by 30%</b> (compared to ex ante situation measured with T7.2) <b>the social consensus</b> of the resident populations   |   | Given that the project will allow to contact many local communities where now the social consensus towards environmental issues is very low and considering that thanks to the project activities it will be possible to actively involve resident people and explain the benefits that the presence of turtles brings in social and economic terms to their territories, social consensus is likely to increase by 25% compared to the initial situation. |
|  | <b>increase by 30%</b> (compared to ex ante situation measured with T7.2) in  |   | Attention to environmental issues is progressively growing especially among young people interested in making a personal commitment to make their contribution to improving the health of species and habitats. Since the project will reach over 3.5 million people through communication and awareness raising activities, it is highly likely   |

|                                    |   |                  |   |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------|---|
|                                    | <p><b>the willingness</b> of citizens to be involved in the protection activities of the sea turtle through voluntary work in the field and the citizen science campaign.</p> |                  | <p>that considering the favorable context, the percentage of people interested in collaborating in environmental volunteering and citizen science activities could grow by 30% by the end of the project.</p> |
|                                    | <p><b>2000</b> Volunteers trained</p>   |                  | <p>This number has been calculated considering an average of 10 participants to each of the 200 training courses for volunteers that will be performed during the project</p>                                 |
| <p><b>Creation of new jobs</b></p> | <p><b>creation of jobs</b> (approximately 15-20 FTE for private and public partners)</p>  | <p>All tasks</p> | <p>It has been calculated 1010-person month</p>   |

| Scientific impacts                              |  |                   |  |
|---|--|-------------------|--|
| Expected impacts                                | Indicators   | Tasks implemented | Assumptions  |
| Filling knowledge gaps in key scientific topics | 200% increase in the volume of nest database   | WP4<br>All tasks  | Information on 277 nests is already available although often incomplete and not standardized. The expected number of nests detected, protected and monitored during the project has been conservatively estimated as 520 which represent approximately a 200% increase in the volume of the relative database  |
|   | 1000 genomic fingerprints of nests and determination of their breeding adults              |                   | Genomic fingerprints will be obtained from all nests that will be detected during the project (N=520, 1-2 individuals per nest) as well as from satellite tracked females (N=20) and head-started yearlings (N=120). The lower figure provided is explained by the necessity to account for eventual problems during the sampling or analytic phases   |
|   | 300% increase in the volume of data on post nesting movements in the western Mediterranean |                   | 6 nesting females have been tracked so far in the Western Mediterranean. Following intense monitoring and beach patrolling of the most used areas, the increase number of beach operators adequately trained and the improved awareness of the citizen campaign that will be obtained thank to the foreseen actions, we expected to be able to find and equip with satellite transmitters 20 additional females from the study area. |
|   | 150% increase in the volume of data of yearly juveniles movement                           |                   | 19 yearling head started juveniles have been tracked so far in the Western Mediterranean by colleagues operating at the 2 head starting facilities in Spain of which only 15 have produced usable movement data (Abalo-Mortla et al. 2018). 2 new head starting facilities will be created in Italy that are expected to rear 120 yearlings, thus will provide the 20 yearlings to be equipped with                                  |

|  |  |                |  |
|--|--|----------------|--|
|  | 100% increase of stable isotope ratio from nests, hatchlings and adults    |                | satellite tags during the project.   |
|  | incubation temperatures monitored for at least 400 nests                   |                | Samples for stable isotope analysis will be obtained from all 20 tracked female turtles, and in addition from at least 50 dead hatchlings found during excavation of nests and from at least 50 eggs collected for the genomic analysis. On average 0.8 dead hatchlings per nest are found during nest excavation, thus the sampling from 50 dead hatchlings can be certainly achieved expecting a total of ca. 400 dead hatchlings found. Also 50 eggs can certainly be collected from the expected number of nests detected.         |
|  | 10 publications in peer-reviewed journals on sea turtles nesting in the WM |                | Approximately 100 incubation temperatures have been collected opportunistically from nests over the project area, mainly to be able to predict time of hatchling emergence, based on known relationships between incubation duration and average incubation temperature, to be able to protect hatchlings from harm during their way to the sea. The project foresees a 4 fold increase in this dataset a statistically valuable sample size to estimate sex-ratios and monitor the change in temperatures with ongoing climate change |
| Capacity building and knowledge transfer | 1 training hub for genomic analysis  | WP4 T4.4, T4.6 | 3 Universities (UB, UVIC, UNIROMA), 2 National Research Institutions (SZN and ISPRA) and several scientists with a solid publication record participate to LIFE TURTLENEST. The 10 scientific publications in peer-reviewed journal are therefore a minimum and very reasonable target to achieve during project implementation also taking into consideration the amount of data and new knowledge that will be produced.   |
|  | 2 head-starting facilities in Italy  |                | The Partner UB will train researchers from Italy and France in next generation analytical approaches to continue monitoring important demographic parameters of sea turtle nesting populations using standard, state-of-the-art approaches. To this end, specific training periods have been foreseen in the project.  |
|  |  |                | SZN and Legambiente run 2 Sea Turtle Rescue Centers, respectively in Portici, Campania, and Manfredonia, Puglia, which are very active with adequate personnel and space. These centers can be upgraded by installing new recirculating sea water systems specifically designed to grow sea turtle hatchlings and egg incubators to be used in the most extreme cases to save doomed clutches. Both partners will maintain the two new facilities operative with their own funds after the end of the project                          |

| Governance Impacts                               |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Expected impacts                                 | Indicators                                   | Tasks implemented                       | Assumptions   |
| Enhancement of governance of habitat and species | Improvement of Natura 2000 network thanks to | WP1<br>T1.3<br>WP2<br>T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, | In the intervention area there are already at least 5 SCIs that do not include the Caretta caretta* as a nesting species, and this situation will be amended. In addition, since nesting is affecting numerous new coastal locations in Italy, France |

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>conservation</b>  | designations, enlargements or update of the Standard Data Form (SDF) of at least <b>12 Natura 2000</b> sites to protect loggerhead turtle emerging nesting beaches; | t2.5<br>WP4<br>All tasks<br>WP5<br>All tasks<br>WP7<br>All tasks | and Spain, it is likely that by the end of the project new SCIs can be identified or the perimeter of those already existing can be extended to allow the protection of nesting sites.   |
|  | <b>10 new PAFs</b> from as many regions will contain measures for the protection of the nesting sites   |  | Considering that the regions overlooking the sea of the 3 countries involved in the project are 20, and considering that only in Italy there are already at least 7 affected by Caretta caretta nesting, it is likely that for the next MFF at least 10 regions will include in their PAFs conservation interventions / measures to protect the nesting sites of Caretta caretta * |
| <b>Strengthening policies regarding the protection of nature and the environment</b> | Sea turtle friendly regulations adopted at <b>70</b> locations  |  | In the past years many coastal municipalities have expressed to Legambiente in enacting new regulations to ensure the protection of nesting sites.   |
|  | <b>150</b> public bodies signing the Pledge4Seaturtle   |  | In the past years dozens of coastal municipalities have expressed to Legambiente interest in taking pledges to protect sea turtles. the adhesion to the initiative by the coastal municipalities in Italy is facilitated by the ANCI (Italian association of Italian municipalities) which supports the project.   |
|  | guide for the management and protection of emerging sea turtle nest sites in WM   |  | A new guide incorporates already internationally approved best-practice, with hands-on advice on how to manage and protect a nest and the habitat that can be widely applied to all emerging nesting sites   |
|  | Predictive state-of-the-art Habitat suitability model   |  | A new tool that allows to evaluate and predict the habitat suitability for new nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean to guide information-based habitat and nest management   |

### 2.3 Sustainability of project results

#### Sustainability of project results

Describe your strategy to sustain the project's results after the EU funding ends. Consider the following aspects:

- How will the project impact be ensured and sustained? Which tasks will you carry out during the project to ensure that?
- Which parts of the project should be continued or maintained? How will this be achieved and which resources will be necessary?

After the conclusion of the project, the continuity of the actions and the project impact will be ensured through an integrated strategy that involves the use of different funds. This strategy will be built by the Consortium during the project and will be contained in the **After Life Plan** (see T6.1). This document will outline which actions will continue, by which partners and with which resources. The resources which the various partners can draw on to ensure the continuation of core activities are preliminarily described below. The long-term sustainability of the project will be ensured by the different beneficiaries in various



ways and in particular through:

- the **personnel and operational structures of each beneficiary** who will also make available their own communication channels and tools to facilitate the dissemination and the exploitation of the results;
- **ordinary funds** available to each partner for the performance of their institutional activities. In particular, inside Protected Areas, the managing bodies will ensure the continuation of the activity thanks to the ordinary funds that the Ministry of the Environment annually makes available for these authorities;
- Private Entities such as Legambiente, ENCI and CESTMed will instead use the **membership fees** of their members;
- ISPRA, ARPAT, and the Regions will use the funds available to them in their **annual budget** for the implementation of this type of interventions;
- SZN, Universities and other Research Institutes will use the funds coming from their **annual budget** for this kind of activity. In addition they could use other funds made available by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Research, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry which also has responsibilities for fishing activities.
- **national and regional funds** available only In Italy for Non Profit Organizations. These funds are disbursed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies on the occasion of annual calls for proposals on the presentation of specific projects that may concern various areas of intervention including the protection and enhancement of the environment.
- **national funds** offered by the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage and the Regions for the enhancement of natural heritage;
- **payment of ecosystem services** that the MPAs, Parks and Natural Reserves may in perspective introduce for the provision of some services, for example of a recreational nature;
- **regional funds** that finance measures for the monitoring, management, conservation and/or enhancement of the Natura 2000 network which can be drawn on by managing bodies and other entities such as environmental associations such as Legambiente;
- **European Funds** available for projects that can be financed through the EMFF funds, the LIFE, Programme, Horizon Europe, Erasmus and Cosme programme and through calls for both bilateral and multilateral territorial cooperation.
- funds disbursed, directly or through special calls, by public and private **foundations** at national and international level for the protection of the environment and biodiversity. Among those of international importance we remember the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Mava Foundation, the Aramco Foundation and others; among the Italian ones there are Enel Foundation, Fondazione con il Sud, Nando Peretti Foundation and many others active on a local scale that can finance interventions in the area in which they operate;
- **sponsorships and donations** by companies engaged in Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives aimed at raising awareness and protecting the natural environment. This activity will be carried out mainly by Legambiente thanks to its link with the business world. However, also the National Parks and the MPAs have recently developed this form of corporate fundraising because they may be contacted directly by private companies interested in supporting projects and initiatives of these bodies;
- **fundraising** through Cause Related Marketing initiatives with private companies that can allocate a percentage of the revenues from the sale of their product or service to a project or other initiative. This type of activity can be carried out by Legambiente and by other partners such as the MPAs and National Parks which have already carried out this type of fundraising on other occasions;
- **donations** to protected marine species such as sea turtles, dolphins, whales, sharks, etc. carried out through symbolic adoption campaigns;
- **collective funding** for specific initiatives collected through donation crowdfunding. In this regard, the partners (in particular Legambiente, AMP and National Parks) will be able to make use of one of the many collaborative platforms (Eppela, Crowdfunding, CrowdfundMe, Ecomill) which have been developed in recent years and which have made it possible to significantly increase this type of collection. funds for environmental projects.

#### Continuation of activities

Thanks to the commitments of all the beneficiaries, the following core actions will continue after the end of the project:

#### WP1 - PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

Task 1.3 Stakeholders engagement: the project's beneficiaries will continue to involve the key stakeholders since their support is essential to protect nesting sites. In Italy this activity will be mainly carried out by Legambiente that is very widespread on the territories.

## **WP2 - COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES**

Task 2.1 Communication plan and information materials: all the information materials created will be distributed even after the conclusion of the project thanks to the qr code which will avoid using paper for printing.

Task 2.2 Multi-target Awareness Campaign: the continuation of information and awareness-raising activities will be guaranteed directly by some partners such as Legambiente and CESTMed and indirectly by some key stakeholders (e.g. NGOs, protected areas, voluntary associations, etc.) who will act as multipliers.

Task 2.3 Citizen science campaign: the collection of reports of tracks, nests and hatchlings will continue thanks to the use of the App.

Task 2.4 Media relations, social media and web: Legambiente and the other beneficiaries will continue to promote the project's activities through press, social media and web.

Task 2.5 Dissemination activities: the scientific partners will continue to participate in numerous conferences which will make it possible to promote the results of the project

## **WP3 - PRELIMINARY ACTIONS**

T3.4 Definition of protocols and training for detection canine units: the protocols developed by the ENCI may also be disseminated abroad and will allow the training of other canine units to be used for monitoring the beaches during the nesting period.

## **WP4 - CONSERVATION ACTION**

Task 4.1 Training courses addressed to operators and volunteers: thanks to the creation of 3 training centers it will be possible to continue to train operators to be employed in monitoring the beaches

Task 4.2 Beach patrolling of most used/high suitability areas to identify loggerhead turtle nest: the monitoring of the beaches will continue thanks to the commitment of many of the beneficiaries, thanks to the involvement of the many volunteer organizations, thanks to the organization of summer volunteer camps, citizen science activities and the support of lifeguards working along the coasts.

Task 4.3 Nest and hatchling monitoring and protection (Data collection on sand characteristics): thanks to the building of a network involving NGOs, Universities, Research Institutes, Public Bodies, Beach Establishment and many volunteers, these activities will continue in each country.

T4.4 Genomic characterization of the nesting populations through analysis of breeding adult loggerheads and hatchlings: this activity will be continued by UB, as reference hub for genomic analysis, and SZN thanks to the specific training and knowledge transfer foreseen by the task.

Task 4.5 Habitat use and connectivity for nesting females: Legambiente, SZN, UB and CESTMed will seek other funds from public and private entities to continue satellite monitoring of breeding females.

Task 4.6 Ex situ conservation interventions. Loggerhead turtle nursery and yearling tracking: The beneficiaries who will manage the nurseries will guarantee their functioning even after the end of the project through their own staff.

Task 4.7 Pilot interventions to reduce anthropic impacts at new regular nesting sites: Legambiente and SZN will propose interventions to reduce light pollution to other coastal municipalities

Task 4.9 Guidelines of beach management plans: Legambiente and the Regions involved will invite the coastal municipalities to adopt the guidelines for the beach plans.

## **WP5 - GOVERNANCE AND ADVOCACY**

Task 5.1 Predictive Models (climate and beach shape/profile): the models will be updated and used to predict the more suitable beach for nesting.

Task 5.2 Guide for the management and protection of emerging sea turtle nest sites in changing climate: this tool will be used also after the end of the project by the same partners or other organizations operating in different geographical contexts. The guide will be updated on the basis of new knowledge.

Task 5.3 Advocacy campaign: all the beneficiaries will be committed in the prosecution of the advocacy campaign to ensure the conservation of new nesting sites.

## **WP6 - SUSTAINABILITY, REPLICATION AND EXPLOITATION OF PROJECT RESULTS**

All the beneficiaries will be committed in ensuring the replication and exploitation activities to make concrete use of the results for environmental, societal, scientific and governance purposes and favouring their uptake from different users. All the beneficiaries will also be committed in searching other funding sources.

How the implementation of these actions will be achieved and which resources will be necessary will be explained in the **After Life Plan (T6.1)**. Please see **section 2.3 (Sustainability of project results)** to have an overview of the main financial resources that could be used to guarantee the continuation of the



activities after the funding EU ends

## 2.4 Exploitation of project results (n/a for stage 1)

### Exploitation of project results (n/a for stage 1)

Do you foresee other ways of exploiting the project's results (e.g. utilisation in further research, in developing / creating / marketing a product or process, in creating / providing a service, in standardisation activities etc.)? Who are the targeted users?

*For close-to-market projects:* Describe the reference market: actual and potential market size, features of prospective customers and of their demand, competitors, market and regulatory barriers, etc. Explain the economic feasibility of the proposed solution comparing cost, price or other economic investment variables (e.g. payback period, net present value, etc.).

**Note:** Don't forget to include the activities in the mandatory Work Package for Sustainability, replication, and exploitation of project results.

The project provides for an exploitation activity that aims to make concrete use of the results for environmental, societal, scientific and governance purposes. For this reason, the beneficiaries, during and after the end of the project, will take measures aiming to ensure 'exploitation' of its results using them in further activities dealing with sea turtle conservation and more generally with the protection and the management of habitat and species. The **Exploitation Plan**, drafted during the implementation of task T7.3, will represent a pillar of the exploitation activity. The Exploitation Plan has the objective to define the strategy to multiply the impact of the proposed solutions by the project favouring the uptake of the results from different users. The EP will describe the activities to be undertaken (how and by whom) in order to ensure the exploitation beyond the project itself.

The exploitation strategy will reflect and will be built-up as a result of analysis of the conservation's issues, potential users, and financial sustainability. The target users will be precisely identified and analysed in terms of specific needs and objectives. However, the **main target users categories** have been already identified and are represented by:

- **National Authorities.** The Ministries of the Environment of the countries where the project takes place and which are responsible for the protection of species and habitats such as the Caretta caretta will be one of the main actors whose exploitation activity will be addressed.
- **Regions.** Considering that the phenomenon of sea turtle nesting will affect an increasing number of regions bordering the western part of the Mediterranean, the regional administrations represent another target user.
- **Municipalities.** Also, the coastal municipalities represent one of the main key stakeholders who can make concrete use of the results for environmental and governance purposes.
- **Managing Bodies of Protected Areas.** National Parks, Regional Parks, Natural Reserves and other management bodies of Natura 2000 sites which have been established to protect the coastal and marine environment will be other important actors since they can play a crucial role in the conservation of nesting sites.
- **Tourism operators.** Bathing establishments, hotels and resorts, tourist villages, campsites, diving, boat rentals and other tourism operators represent potential users of the project's results since they can use some outputs developed by the project to contribute to the conservation of the species.
- **Environmental and voluntary organizations.** Thanks to some output of the project, several NGOs and voluntary organizations involved in the monitoring and surveillance of nesting sites will be interested in the exploitation activities.
- **Universities and Research Institutes.** Members of the scientific community will represent other users of the project results.

All these potential users will be reached through the task T6.3 that foresees a **programme of 12 webinars** that will allow to reach **800 people**.

To boost exploitation activities effective channels will be used to engage potential users (stakeholder networks and platforms, domain specific platforms, EEN, project website, social channels). The project will also consider useful **tools provided by the European Commission** for other programmes. The Consortium will explore the tools and their functionalities to understand how to properly use them and how to choose the best tool fitting with the exploitation of project's results.

## 2.5 Catalytic potential: Replication and upscaling

### Catalytic potential: Replication and upscaling

*Describe the potential for the results to be replicated in the same or other sectors or places. Which factors might favour or limit the replication?*

*Describe the potential for the results to be up-scaled by public/private actors or through mobilising larger investments or financial resources. What is the coverage and size of the market? Who are the potential users of the results?*

*Describe the strategy and tasks to multiply the impact of the project (during implementation or afterwards). How will its main actions and results be replicated elsewhere?*

*Note: Don't forget to include the activities in the mandatory Work Package for Sustainability, replication, and exploitation of project results.*

The project is characterized by a **high level of replicability and upscaling** since the phenomenon of nesting, due to the effects of climate changes, will affect an increasing number of coastal locations of the Western Mediterranean. This will make it possible to replicate the good practices implemented within the project also in other areas of the interested countries and in different other mediterranean countries too. Considering that, although the approach of the project is focused on the conservation of *Caretta caretta* nesting sites, some good practices can be transferred and replicated even in very different contexts from an ecological point of view.

It is believed that the project will offer good practices, methodologies, approaches, protocols, guidelines, and other products suitable for replication and upscaling. Specifically, these are:

- the **methodology** to engage the stakeholders (T1.3);
- the **multi-target awareness campaign** addressed to the main key stakeholders (T2.2);
- the **citizen science activities** that can be replicated in other area and extended to other species; (T2.3);
- the **monitoring and surveillance protocols and instruments** (T3.1) that can be used in other areas that need to be monitored;
- the **analysis of habitat suitability** that can be extended in other locations (T3.2);
- The **guidelines on management of coastal erosion** to sustain nesting habitat suitability (T4.9) that can be applied in all coastal regions and municipalities;
- the **training modules** (T4.1) that can be used in other interventions areas where operators and volunteers are involved in beach patrol and the surveillance of nests;
- the **genetic mark recapture analysis** (T4.4);
- the **habitat use and connectivity maps** (T4.5) that can help to forecast the nesting areas;
- the **ex situ conservation interventions** (T4.6) that in Mediterranean represents a novelty and that can be replicated also in other locations;
- the **pilot intervention to reduce light pollution** (T4.7) that can be replicated in different geographical areas affected by the same problem;
- **The guide for the management and protection of emerging sea turtle nest sites in changing climate** (T.5.2) that can be applied in all coastal regions and municipalities;
- the **predictive modules** (T5.1) that relate nesting habitat suitability to climate change and that can constitute a decision-making support tool in different contexts;
- the **new regulations** (T5.3) at different levels to ensure the conservation of the nesting areas.

To boost the replicability of project approach/methodology, a **replicability strategy** will be designed during the last phase of the project. The main objective of the strategy will be the transfer of technical knowledge, experience gained, results achieved and lessons learned, including problems and criticisms. This strategy will be a multiplier of the impact of the project, offering LIFE TURTLENEST solutions to a wide spectrum of relevant stakeholders involved in conservation of sea turtle's nesting sites both at a national as well as at a European and Mediterranean level. The replicability strategy will include a **set of activities** to be implemented during the project as highlighted in the **Task 6.2**. These activities include the dissemination of a **replication kit**, the holding of **3 panel meetings** and the organization of a conference.

All these activities will allow the consortium to reach more than **5000 people** who represent potential

replicators

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION

Fill in **only** section 3.1 – 3.2 at stage 1. Fill in **all sections** at stage 2.

#### 3.1 Work plan

##### Work plan

*Provide a brief description of the overall structure of the work plan (list of work packages or graphical presentation (Pert chart or similar)).*

The project will last 63 months in total and it is divided in 7 WPs and a total of 29 tasks. Each work package is led by one of the partners (called "WP leader"), with support provided by other beneficiaries. Also, each task will be coordinated by the beneficiary, among the consortium, which has the proper experience and capacity to play this role. Each work package has clearly defined objectives as well as specific tasks and deliverables in support of the overall project goal. The work plan is summarized in the following table.

The general structure of the project is the following.

The project is divided in three main phases.

- The first one, which will cover the first 15 months of implementation is devoted to systematising and organising the information and the data already available on the field dealt with the project and to setting-up the managerial structure of it, as well as to appoint internal and external operators. Those activities are mainly referred to WPs 1 and 3.  
In parallel it will also be started also the first communication activities, and, in particular, the development of the communication plan, the graphic and the informative materials (WP2). Then, some preliminary technical and scientific actions related to the WP4 will start, even if they will be fully developed within the next phase. It is important to underline that the advocacy campaign (see Task 5.3 - aimed at actively involve the policy makers) and the training for operators and volunteers (Task 5.1) will start too at the beginning of the project and it will be continuously implemented during all the project duration.
- The second phase is the core activity of the project and it is mainly represented in the actions described within WP4. Those technical and scientific activities will cover 3 fully years of the project implementation and covering 4 consecutive nesting seasons, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 54<sup>th</sup> month. During this period, it will be implemented a series of actions devoted to plan and apply the solutions to improve the natural habitat of the Caretta caretta and to monitor the development of those protection actions and their level of success. The development of the Guide for the management and protection of emerging sea turtle nest sites in changing climate is the overall major output of these actions. It is a technical guidance document, mainly addressing policy makers and economic operators, which provides technical indications that, if included in the management plans, will make it possible to maintain beaches with suitable characteristics for nesting.
- The third and last phase of the project, which covers the last semester (even if some actions will start in parallel with the other previous actions), are aimed at ensure the proper dissemination, future sustainability, replication and exploitation of the results and achievements of the project. The actions are described within WPs 5 and 6. As said within phase 1, the advocacy campaign (T5.3), even if conceptually belonging to this WP, will be implement throughout the project, from the beginning on.

Finally, the environmental and the socio-economic monitoring and assessment of the project (WP7) will run in parallel for all the project duration.

It is following a synoptic table of the project structure:

| WP   | TASKS                                | SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES        | EXPECTED RESULTS  |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| WP1 Project management and coordination activities | T1.1, T1.2, T1.3                     | ALL                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- effective and efficient project management;</li> <li>- reduction of risks thanks to a proper monitoring of project progress;</li> <li>- active involvement of the various stakeholders thanks to the settlement of the Advisory Board;</li> <li>- <b>500 people</b> representing different categories of stakeholders involved;</li> <li>- <b>30%</b> increase of social consensus towards the project and more generally towards policies in favor of the protection of nature and the environment.</li> </ul>  |
| WP2 Communication and dissemination activities     | T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T2.5         | Obj.4.<br>Obj.6.<br>Obj.7. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- signature of a Memorandum of understanding by <b>1000 beach establishment</b>;</li> <li>- <b>250 managers trained</b> thanks to <b>50 seminars</b>;</li> <li>- engagement of <b>500 fishermen</b> and adoption of a code of conduct by <b>100 fishermen</b>;</li> <li>- <b>10.00 tourists involved</b> in 2 editions of Sea Turtle Beach Tour</li> <li>- <b>12.500 tourists</b> engaged through 150 micro events;</li> <li>- <b>5000 citizens</b> sign the Pledge4Seaturtles initiative;</li> <li>- <b>500 people</b> of local communities engaged through 20 Tarta Café;</li> <li>- <b>500 people</b> of local communities engaged through 4 unconventional events;</li> <li>- <b>10000 students</b> and <b>2000 teachers</b> involved in the educational program I love sea turtles;</li> <li>- <b>1000 people</b> participate in the citizen science campaign;</li> <li>- <b>3.5 million people</b> reached by media relations and social media activity;</li> <li>- dissemination of project results through networking activity with 10 different projects;</li> <li>- dissemination of project results through participation in 12 seminars and conferences;</li> <li>- <b>10 articles published</b> in scientific journals to disseminate project results.</li> </ul> |
| WP3 Preparatory activities                         | T3.1, T3.2, T3.3<br><br>T3.4         | Obj1.<br>Obj.3.<br>Obj.5.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard <b>operating procedures</b> and <b>protocols</b> for: 1) Nest monitoring, 2) Nest and hatchling protection, 3) Nesting beach characterization, 4) Habitat suitability, 5) Biological sampling;</li> <li>- Nest location database;</li> <li>- Map of the suitable nesting areas;</li> <li>- Map of the main research gaps for loggerhead turtle nesting;</li> <li>- <b>4 canine units trained</b> for the detection of loggerhead turtle nests</li> </ul>  |
| WP4 Conservation actions                           | T4.1<br>T4.2<br>T4.3<br>T4.4<br>T4.5 | ALL                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least <b>130 nests/year</b> protected (520 during four consecutive nesting seasons and more afterwards)</li> <li>- At least <b>27000 hatchlings</b> released during the entire project</li> <li>- At least 3 <b>index</b> site for long term monitoring of loggerhead turtle nesting identified in the western Mediterranean</li> <li>- At least <b>2000 volunteers</b> and <b>1000 beach</b></li> </ul>  |



|  |                              |                           |   |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
|  | T4.6<br>T4.7<br>T4.8<br>T4.9 |                           | <p><b>operators</b> formed and certified on loggerhead turtle track detection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least <b>25 specialized technical staff</b> members specifically trained and authorized by the National Competent Authority for the manipulation of nesting females, sea turtle nests and hatchlings</li> <li>- <b>637 km of coasts</b> monitored for 4 consecutive nesting seasons</li> <li>- At least <b>1000 genomic fingerprints</b> of nests and determination of their breeding adults</li> <li>- <b>20 nesting females</b> equipped with satellite tags, tracked and genotyped</li> <li>- <b>20 yearling juveniles</b> equipped with satellite tags, tracked and genotyped</li> <li>- <b>50 nests</b> characterized with respect to the stable isotope ratios of C and N</li> <li>- <b>2 nurseries</b> equipped with eggs incubators and specifically designed Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)</li> <li>- <b>At least 6 km of beaches</b> at the most relevant nesting site in the western Mediterranean protected from light pollution</li> <li>- Guidelines on management of coastal erosion to sustain nesting habitat suitability</li> <li>- <b>1 e-learning course</b> on nests and hatchling monitoring and management in 4 languages</li> </ul> |
| WP5<br>Governance<br>and<br>Advocacy   | T5.1<br>T5.2<br>T5.3         | Obj.4.<br>Obj.5.<br>Obj.6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- development of predictive models to support decision making by the competent authorities;</li> <li>- <b>200 representatives</b> of Coastal Municipalities, Regions and managing bodies of Protected Areas and N2K sites informed and sensitized through <b>50 meetings</b>;</li> <li>- adoption by <b>50 public authorities</b> of <b>plan/guidelines</b> developed during the project and able to guarantee a good state of conservation to the species;</li> <li>- identification or enlargement of <b>12 Natura 2000 sites</b> to be established to protect the nesting sites of <i>Caretta caretta</i>*.</li> <li>- Nest location database; Predictive map of potentially suitable nesting areas under different climate change scenarios.</li> <li>- A guide for the management and protection of emerging sea turtle nest sites in changing climate</li> <li>- the signature of the PLEDGES4SEATURTLES by <b>100 public bodies</b>;</li> <li>- the adoption of the guidelines by <b>70 public bodies</b>;</li> <li>-</li> </ul>  |
| WP6<br>Sustainability<br>, replication<br>and<br>exploitation<br>of project<br>results | T6.1<br>T6.2<br>T6.3         | ALL                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- definition of a <b>strategy</b> and <b>plan</b> for the continuation of the main project activities;</li> <li>- planning of future financial needs through a <b>funding matrix</b>;</li> <li>- favor the <b>replicability of the interventions</b> carried out in other locations during the project and after its conclusion;</li> <li>- <b>replication kit</b> delivered at <b>5.000 potencial replicators</b>;</li> <li>- <b>100 potencial replicators</b> reached thanks to <b>3 panel meetings</b>;</li> <li>- <b>120 potencial replicators</b> reached through 1</li> </ul>  |

|  |                  |     |   |
|--|------------------|-----|---|
|  |                  |     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– conference;</li> <li>– planning of exploitation of the project's results through an <b>exploitation plan</b>;;</li> <li>– <b>800 representatives</b> of scientific community, regions, coastal municipalities, national authorities reached by <b>12 exploitation webinars</b>.</li> </ul> |
| WP7<br>Monitoring<br>and<br>Evaluation | T7.1<br><br>T7.2 | ALL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Evaluation of the impacts of conservation actions;</li> <li>– Evaluation of the socio-economic impact of the project through a monitoring activity;</li> </ul>   |

### 3.2 Stakeholder input and engagement

#### Stakeholder input

Identify any key stakeholders outside the consortium that are required to ensure the success of the project. How will you mobilise them to contribute to your project activities or participate in these?

Annex Letters of support to demonstrate the type and level of commitment already secured (if any). (n/a stage 1)

For Nature and Biodiversity: If your project (or a part of it) depends on support of the competent authority or stakeholders, provide letters of support to show their commitment to the project (needed for stage 2, n/a for stage 1)

The implementation of the project is also made possible by the active involvement of some stakeholders who have been preliminarily identified and contacted. Below is the list of main stakeholders categories who will be involved in the project.

**National Authorities.** The Ministries of the Environment of the countries where the project takes place and which are responsible for the protection of species and habitats such as the *Caretta caretta* will be actively involved in the project. In particular, the project outputs necessary to guarantee the protection of the nesting areas will be shared with them.

**Regions.** Considering that the phenomenon of sea turtle nesting affects many regions bordering the western part of the Mediterranean, the regional administrations represent another important stakeholder that can contribute significantly to the conservation of the species by adopting safeguard measures where there are no protected areas or even establishing new ones to protect these animals.

**Municipalities.** Also, the municipalities of the coastal localities represent one of the main stakeholders who will be involved in the project given their responsibilities in terms of cleaning and management of beaches, waste, street lighting. On these issues they will be called to give their contribution in order to find shared solutions able to reduce the impacts during the nesting and hatching period.

**Managing Bodies of Protected Areas.** During the project, it is expected the direct involvement of this key stakeholder which includes subjects of different nature. These are Marine Protected Areas, National Parks, Regional Parks, Natural Reserves and other management bodies of Natura 2000 sites: they are public bodies which have been established to protect the coastal and marine environment and which may play a crucial role in the conservation of nesting sites.

**Tourism operators** (bathing establishments, hotels and resorts, tourist villages, campsites, diving, boat rentals tourism operators). Sea turtles choose to nest on beaches that are almost always a destination for seaside tourism and where the impacts of anthropogenic origin are such as to endanger these animals. For this reason, particular attention will be given to the involvement of a series of tourism operators with whom it will be necessary to identify and adopt shared solutions able to reconcile the conservation needs of the species with those of the use of these important locations for the socio-economic development of these territories. Particular attention will be paid to operators of bathing establishments, hotels, resorts and campsites that overlook the sea and that have private beaches.

**Operators of fishing sector.** The project provides a set of information and awareness activities dedicated to the operators of the fishing sector (Fishermen, Fishing Companies and FLAG) considered key stakeholders to be involved as users of the marine environment. Through the communication and awareness initiatives that will see them as protagonists, the fishermen and other operators of this sector, will therefore be able to develop a new sensitivity during the project and in the years to come that will allow them to pay particular attention to sea turtles during the mating, nesting and hatching period.

**Local communities.** Local communities will also play an important role in the conservation of the sea turtle. Together with them, the most suitable strategies will be agreed to ensure adequate



conservation measures for these animals which, in addition to representing a wealth from the point of view of biodiversity, can also constitute a resource from a socio-economic point of view.

**Citizens and schools.** A special attention will be paid to citizens, students and teachers schools with special programmes of citizen's science and environmental education.

**Media.** The involvement of this stakeholder is essential for communicating and disseminating the contents, aims and results of the project to a wide audience. In particular, journalists from the press, TV and radio as well as web publications will be involved.

**Environmental and voluntary organizations.** In recent years, the monitoring of nesting sites and the surveillance of the nests has often been made possible by the involvement of organizations of environmental and voluntary associations operating on a national and local scale. their involvement will be essential in order to continue and intensify this activity during and after the project.

**Universities and Research Institutes.** Members of the scientific community will also be actively involved to share data collection protocols, conservation measures and results deriving from the scientific activities of the project.

To ensure the direct and continuous involvement of all stakeholders, in the initial phase of the project an **Advisory Board (AB)** will be set up (see task T1.2). The AB is a consultative structure that will support the **Steering Committee** of the project and that will be used by the beneficiaries to collect advice and suggestions in the preparation of guidelines, plans, procedures to be adopted.

Here below the list of organizations that have already expressed their interest in actively taking part in the project: some of them sent a supporting letter (see the annexes):

#### ITALY

##### National Authorities

1. Ministero della Transizione Ecologica
2. Comando Generale delle Capitanerie di Porto

##### Protected areas

3. Federparchi
4. Ente Parchi Marini della Calabria
5. Parco Nazionale del Cilento Vallo di Diano
6. Parco Nazionale del Gargano
7. Parco Nazionale del Circeo
8. Parco Nazionale dell'Arcipelago Toscano
9. Parco Nazionale dell'Asinara
10. Parco Regionale della Maremma
11. Parco Naturale Migliarino San Rossore
12. Parco Regionale del Litorale di Punta Pizzo
13. Area Marina Protetta Isole Egadi
14. Area Marina Protetta Punta Campanella
15. Area Marina Protetta Regno di Nettuno
16. Area Marina Protetta di Torre Guaceto
17. Area Marina Protetta Isola di Ventotene
18. Area Marina Protetta Porto Cesareo
19. Area Marina Protetta Isole Pelagie
20. Area Marina Protetta Torre del Cerrano
21. Area Marina Protetta Secche di Tor Paterno
22. Area Marina Protetta del Plemmirio
23. Riserva Naturale Isola di Lampedusa
24. Riserva Foce del Volturno/Costa Licola e Lago Falciano
25. Riserve Naturali Regionali Orientale del Litorale Tarantino Orientale

##### Regions

26. Regione Sardegna
27. Regione Calabria
28. Regione Toscana
29. Regione Liguria
30. Regione Veneto
31. Regione Molise
32. Regione Marche
33. Regione Sicilia
34. Regione Emilia Romagna

**Municipalities**

- 35. ANCI - Associazione Nazionali Comuni Italiani
- 36. ANCI Toscana
- 37. Comune di Rosignano Marittimo
- 38. Comune di San Vincenzo
- 39. Comune di Pollica
- 40. Comune di Jesolo
- 41. Comune di Camerota
- 42. Comune di Ascea
- 43. Comune di Maruggio
- 44. Comune di Orbetello
- 45. Comune di Capalbio
- 46. Comune di Follonica
- 47. Comune di Scarlino
- 48. Comune di Castiglione della Pescaia
- 49. Comune di Bibbona
- 50. Comune di Livorno
- 51. Comune di Pisa
- 52. Comune di Campo nell'Elba
- 53. Comune di Capoliveri
- 54. Comune di Portoferraio
- 55. Comune di Porto Azzurro
- 56. Comune di Marciana Marina
- 57. Comune di Gallipoli
- 58. Comune di Napoli

**Tourism operators**

- 59. Confesercenti Campania
- 60. FIBA Confesercenti
- 61. SIB - Sindacato Italiano Balneari
- 62. Assobalneari
- 63. Assobalneari Campania
- 64. Assobalneari Ostia
- 65. Unionmare Veneto
- 66. Federturismo
- 67. Federalberghi
- 68. Coop Spirito Salentino
- 69. Astrolabio
- 70. Vento Refoio
- 71. Posto 9
- 72. Med Società Cooperativa
- 73. Profilo Greco

**Universities and Research Institutes**

- 74. Università di Firenze
- 75. Università degli Studi di Siena
- 76. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale Lazio Toscana
- 77. Università degli Studi di Pisa - Museo di Storia Naturale

**ONGs, Sea Turtle Rescue Center and Aquariums**

- 78. Centro Recupero Tartarughe Marine Calimera
- 77. Acquario di Livorno
- 78. Federazione Italiana Nuoto (FIN)
- 79. Federazione Italiana Vela (FIV)
- 80. Società Nazionale di Salvamento
- 81. Confraternita Misericordia

**Media**

- 82. La Nuova Ecologia
- 83. ANSA
- 84. ADN Kronos
- 85. Federazione Italiana Media Ambientali

**SPAIN**

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- 86. Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge
- 87. Department of Environment of the Balearic Government
- 88. Generalitat de Catalunya
- 89. Government of Andalusia
- 90. Government of Murcia
- 91. Fundacio CRAM
- 92. Fundacion Palma Aquarium
- 93. Bios Cabo Verde

**FRANCE**

- 94. Societe Herpetologique de France (SHF)
- 95. CNRS - Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique
- 96. Marineland
- 97. Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle

**OTHERS**

- 98. MedPAN
- 99. RAC-SPA

**3.3 Timetable (n/a for stage 1)**

| ACTIVITY  | MONTHS |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|---|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
|   | M 1    | M 2 | M 3 | M 4 | M 5 | M 6 | M 7 | M 8 | M 9 | M 10 | M 11 | M 12 | M 13 | M 14 | M 15 | M 16 | M 17 | M 18 | M 19 | M 20 | M 21 | M 22 | M 23 | M 24 |  |
| Task 1.1 - Technical and financial management         |        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| Task 1.2 - Monitoring of the project's progress       |        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| Task 1.3 Stakeholders engagement                      |        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| Task 2.1 Communication plan and information materials |        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| Task 2.2 Multi-target Awareness Campaign              |        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| Task 2.3 Citizen science campaign                     |        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| Task 2.4 Media relations, social media and web        |        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| Task 2.5 Dissemination activities                     |        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
| Task 3.1 Review of the best practices-state of art    |        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |

Timetable (projects up to 2 years) (n/a for stage 1)

Fill in cells in beige to show the duration of activities. Repeat lines/columns as necessary.

Note: Use the project month numbers instead of calendar months. Month 1 marks always the start of the project. In the timeline you should indicate the timing of each activity per WP.





### 3.4 Impact monitoring and reporting (n/a for stage 1)

#### Impact monitoring, evaluation and reporting strategy (n/a for stage 1)

*Describe your overall approach to monitor and evaluate the impact indicators during your project. Ensure that you include specific tasks to monitor, evaluate and report impacts in the work plan (section 2 of this template).*

Proper monitoring of the progress of the activities and the impact of the project is essential for proper management and to promptly introduce any measures to ensure the achievement of the expected results.

The LIFE TURTLENEST project therefore includes a series of monitoring and reporting activities that cover all the most relevant aspects of the development of the project.

#### Monitoring of the progress of the project

The monitoring of the progress (T1.2) aims to verify the correct and timely development of the project and the control of its technical and financial performances, with the aim of guaranteeing the full achievement of the expected results and the objectives set.

The monitoring will be carried out during the entire duration of the project thanks to constant contacts between the monitoring officer and the technical representatives of the various tasks and will be based on the system of indicators and on the program of activities drawn up. Following the logical framework methodology, the monitoring will constantly follow the progress of the project and will take into account:

- relationship between proposed objectives, results achieved and activities carried out;
- comparison between the times foreseen in the design phase and the actual execution of the activities;
- achievement of goals and final results;
- identification of the critical aspects of the project and solutions to overcome them;
- evaluation of the technical and scientific results of the project;
- ratio between budget and actual expenses to determine cost compliance and real spending capacity;
- media impact of the project.

The monitoring and evaluation activities will be carried out through a system of indicators (financial achievement indicators; implementation indicators; result indicators; impact indicators) which will be identified to monitor the impact of the proposed solution even after the end of the project.

#### Monitoring of indicators (KPI)

The KPIs have been defined on the portal as required. As expected, the performance indicators were formulated to monitor the impact of the project at the end of the project and 5 years after.

The KPIs will be monitored for the entire duration of the project, as required by the LIFE indications. As required, in fact, the KPIs will be uploaded to the LIFE KPI web tool within 9 months of signing the Grant Agreement and verified at the end of the project (T1.2).

#### Scientific monitoring

A technically complex project such as LIFE TURTLENEST cannot be separated from rigorous scientific monitoring (T7.1). The consortium includes several research institutions as partners whose participating researchers are experts in the fields of science employed in this project, thus guaranteeing the accuracy and solidity in the execution of the workplan and in the monitoring of the progress in data collection, analysis and dissemination of results. Details on the monitoring process and KPI's used are provided in T7.1. In addition, the Task leader of T7.1 will also monitor the following aspects of research:

- a) All activities involving the sampling and handling of nesting turtles, eggs and hatchlings will be carried according to the ethical principles of using animals in research. This will be monitored through the approval of the foreseen activities by the ethical committees of the respective institute/university to which the research staff is affiliated. The task leader of T7.1 will collect and archive the protocolled documents with the ethical approvals.
- b) All activities involving the sampling and handling of nesting turtles, eggs and hatchlings will be carried out by scientific personnel which have obtained authorization notwithstanding the Council Directive 92/43/EEC from the competent authority, that includes all activities to be carried out. The task leader of T7.1 will collect and archive the protocolled documents with the authorisations and verify their congruity.
- c) The impact of the scientific publications on the results of this project will be monitored through the recording and updating of the scientometric indices of each published paper defined as i) the number of citations; ii) the number of views of the publication on the journal's webpage; iii) the number of downloads of the paper; iv) the number of citations of the paper in the social media

#### Socio-economic monitoring

As part of WP7, the social and economic impact (T7.2) generated by the project on the sectors concerned and the stakeholders involved will also be measured, in order to assess the effects in terms of policies, economic and social benefits. The monitoring activity also takes into account the effects of the project on the awareness of the actors and stakeholders with respect to the topic dealt with. From a methodological point of view, the monitoring process is therefore structured in order to find data and information respectively on the initial and final state of the initiative.

#### Reporting

All the results of the monitoring actions will flow into the preparation of specific monitoring reports, which will illustrate the progress of the project with respect to the achievement of the results, analyzing the activities implemented and the results achieved and providing some indications and recommendations to improve the implementation of the project in subsequent stages of implementation. The information contained in the monitoring reports will also be useful for the preparation of periodic technical reports to be submitted to the European Commission.

### 3.5 Communication, dissemination and visibility (n/a for stage 1)

#### Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding (n/a for stage 1)

*Define your target audience(s). Describe the planned communication and dissemination activities to promote the action and its results and maximise the impact (to whom, which format, how many copies, etc.). Clarify how you intend to reach each target audience, and explain the choice of the dissemination channels. Describe the methods and indicators (quantitative and qualitative) to monitor and evaluate the outreach and coverage of the communication and dissemination activities and results.*

*Describe how the visibility of EU funding will be ensured.*

**LIFE TURTLENEST** provides for the implementation of a set of **communication activities** which have both the purpose of making known the aims and contents of the project and actively involving the various stakeholders in the planned activities.

A communication plan will be designed and delivered within the first 4 months of the project. The plan will state how the most effective communication can be done and include a strategy, clear communication objectives, target groups, messages and means to communicate the purpose and results of the actions. The plan will follow the whole project cycle from the beginning until the end.

For the implementation of the communication activities the following **materials** will be realized: **20 roll ups; 20 notice boards; 10.000 copies of a general leaflet that describes the project; 10.000 copies of brochure on sea turtles; 3.000 copies of a comic for kids; 1.000 copies of the Layman's Report; 15 numbers of a e-newsletter; 2000 gadgets; 5 videos.**

All the material will be disseminated during the many events planned during the project and also through the channel of beneficiaries and stakeholders involved in the project (e.g. protected areas, beach establishments, hotels, campings, schools, tourist information desk, etc.)

For more details about communication and dissemination activities and information about materials and tools please see T2.1, T2.4, T2.5.

Please note that to reduce the **carbon footprint** of the project, the printing of paper materials will be reduced to a minimum. **QR code** will be used for a massive distribution of materials.

Furthermore, whenever possible for **printing materials** will be used EU **Eco labelled paper** from 100% recovered paper fibers or at least 75% recovered paper fibres for regular copies or FSC/PEFC certified paper (for special publications). Paper must be at least ECF but TCF will be preferred. Whenever possible also **gadgets** will be made of recycled or organically produced materials.

#### TARGET AUDIENCES

Thanks to the project activities, a wide range of audience will be reached. Below are described the main target audience identified of key importance and how they will contribute toward the project objectives.

- **Representatives of regional authorities, coastal municipalities, protected areas and managing bodies of Natura 2000 sites.** The project will directly involve **policy makers** mainly represented by Regional Administrations, coastal municipalities and managing bodies of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites. These entities represent important key stakeholders that can contribute significantly to the conservation of the species by adopting specific regulations and

safeguard measures to protect nesting areas. Around **800 people** representing these stakeholders will be reached through the project activities and in particular through tasks T5.3.

- **Beach establishments.** During the projects **800 people** representing the managers and staff of beach establishment will be reached by training activities (T2.2) aimed at making these operators adopt more sustainable and turtle-friendly management measures.
- **Beach operators/Lifeguards.** Special attention will be paid to lifeguards who through the task 4.1 will be trained to recognize the signs of the presence of sea turtles and trained to immediately secure any sea turtle nest. The project provides for the training of **1000 lifeguards**.
- **Tourism operators.** As well as for the managers of the bathing establishments, a series of activities are planned for other tourism operators such as managers of accommodation facilities (hotels and resorts, tourist villages, campsites), diving and boaters (T2.2). At least **750 people** representing tourism operators will take part in the project's activities giving their own contribution to the safeguard of the species.
- **Tourists.** Tourists represent an important target group since they can be considered "users" of the coastal and marine environment. Their behavior can affect the nesting of the sea turtle. For these reasons they will be informed (T2.2) and involved in special engagement events. At least **22.550 tourists** will take part in the project's activities.
- **Fishermen.** The project provides a set of information and awareness activities dedicated to the operators of the fishing sector (Fishermen, Fishing Companies) considered key stakeholders to be involved as users of the marine environment. Through the communication and awareness initiatives that will see them as protagonists, the fishermen and other operators of this sector, will therefore be able to develop a new sensitivity during the project and in the years to come that will allow them to pay particular attention to sea turtles during the mating, nesting and hatching period. It is estimated that **500 fishermen** will be engaged through the task T2.2
- **Local communities, schools and citizens.** Local communities, schools and citizens will also play an important role in the conservation of the sea turtle at local level. Together with them, the most suitable strategies will be agreed to ensure adequate conservation measures for these animals which, in addition to representing a wealth from the point of view of biodiversity, can also constitute a resource from a socio-economic point of view. Thanks to the project, **1000 citizens** will be directly involved and other **1000 people** will be engaged in the Citizen Science Campaign. Furthermore, the educational program implemented with task T2.2 will involve **10000 students** and **2000 teachers**. It is estimated that during the project **2500 volunteers** will be involved in beach monitoring (T4.2), nests protection (T4.2) and outreach activities (T2.2).
- **Media.** The involvement of this stakeholder is essential for communicating and disseminating the contents, aims and results of the project to a wide audience. In particular, journalists from the press, TV and radio as well as web publications will be involved thanks to task T2.4. It is estimated that at least **3 millions people** will be reached and informed about the project's activities and results through media relations activities
- **Scientific community.** Universities, research institutes will be the main target of the dissemination and exploitation activities. Through these activities it is estimated that about **500 scientists and researchers** will be reached thanks to tasks T2.5, T6.2 and T6.3.
- **Civil society.** The project will allow the Consortium to enter in touch with organizations representing civil society. Environmental and voluntary organizations (NGOs), local groups, committees and associations committed to the defense of nature and the environment will be actively involved in the activities. Their involvement will be essential in order to continue and intensify this activity during and after the project. They will be mainly interested in tasks T4.1, T4.2, T4.3, T6.2 and T6.3. It is estimated that these activities will engage about **50 organizations** and at least **250 members**.

#### DISSEMINATION

The project will also devote particular importance to dissemination activities whose main purpose is to make the results available for use, enabling their use and uptake by specific audiences, which may use the results in their own work (e.g. scientific community, policy makers, environmental organizations, etc). For this reason a specific task (T2.5) will be implemented and a **dissemination plan** will be developed. dissemination will be carried out through:

#### Participation in seminar and conferences

During the project rollout, project partners will attend national, European and international seminars, conferences and other events focused on the topics of sea turtles conservation, protection of marine and coastal ecosystems. The aim is sharing with public institutions, scientific community, environmental NGOs, knowledge and experience on these topics and promoting the project results among the wider set of potential stakeholders.

#### Networking

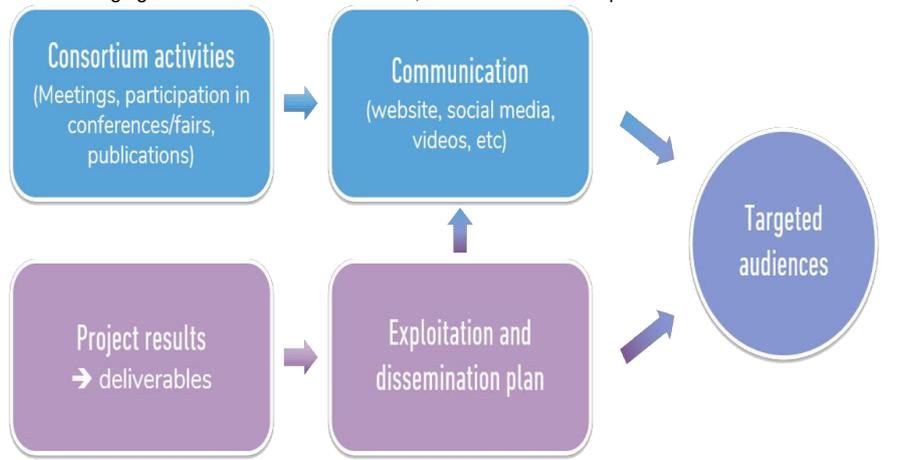
In order to promote the dissemination of results, exchange of experiences, information and best practices, networking will be carried out with projects dealing with sea turtle conservation and marine and coastal habitats. Among the selected **LIFE Projects**, the following should be noted:

**Scientific publications**

The public disclosure of the project results includes scientific publications. It is estimated that during the project at least **10 articles** illustrating the results of the project will be published in specialized scientific journals and magazines.

For more details about the dissemination activities please see task 2.5.

The following figure shows how communication, dissemination and exploitation will work.



Instead, in the next table have been summarized for each target audience, the means involved and the indicator regarding communication, dissemination and exploitation activities.

| COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION ACTIVITIES |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| TARGET AUDIENCE  | MEANS INVOLVED   | INDICATORS   |
| Regions, Coastal Municipalities and Protected Ares       | 50 meetings  | n. of participants (800)<br>n. of adopted guidelines/plan (100)  |
| Beach establishments                                     | 50 training seminars   | n. of participants (800)<br>n. of adopted guidelines/plan (100)  |
| Tourism operators  | 50 info days   | n. of participants (750)   |
| Tourists   | 1 Beach Tour (2 editions)<br>250 micro-events  | n. of people reached by beach tour (10.000)<br>n. people involved in the micro-events (12.500)   |
| Fisherman  | 25 training seminars   | n. of participants (500)<br>n. of signed MoU (100)   |
| Local communities  | 20 Tarta Café<br>4 Turtle Blitz  | n. participants to Tarta Café (500)<br>n. participants to Turtle Blitz (500)   |
| Schools  | 1 educational program<br>500 edukit  | n. students involved (10.000)<br>n. teachers involved (2.000)  |
| Citizens   | 1 Citizen Science Campaign   | n. of citizens engaged (1000)<br>n. of reports (1000)  |
| Media  | 1 press event, 40 press releases, 100 press kit, 2 educational tour, 500 posts on social media | n. participant to press event (50)<br>n. published news (300)<br>people reached by media relations (3 million)<br>people reached by social media (500.000) |

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|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Scientific Community                               | Networking activities<br>conferences and seminars<br>publications | n. of other projects involved (10)<br>n. of conferences attended (12)<br>n. scientific articles |
| Scientific Community, Public<br>Bodies<br>and NGOs | 12 exploitation webinars  | n. of participants (800)  |

#### VISIBILITY OF EU FUNDING

Visibility of EU funding is an important element that will be taken into due consideration during the project since ensuring full transparency on how EU taxpayers' money is spent is a political priority. LIFE logo will be used to highlight the visibility of EU funding. In addition the funding statement "Co-funded by the European Union" will always be spelled out in full and placed next to the emblem. The LIFE logo and the funding statement will be always used in all information materials and in all the initiatives/activities/events that will be carried out to communicate and promote the project. To multiply the visibility the support of the EU will be highlighted in media relations and social media activities as well as on the web pages that will be set up to promote the project.

## 4. RESOURCES

Fill in **only** section 4.1 at stage 1. Fill in **all sections** at stage 2.

### 4.1 Consortium set-up

#### Consortium cooperation and division of roles (if applicable)

*Describe the consortium composition. How will all the partners together bring the necessary expertise?*

*In what way does each of the participants contribute to the project? Show that each has a valid role and adequate resources to fulfil that role.*

*Fill out the Participant information (annex) with more details on the participants and their project teams (key staff).*

The Consortium is made up of partners with multidisciplinary and complementary skills able to guarantee the achievement of the project objectives. The consortium brings together different types of actors: national authorities, regions, universities, research institutes and NGOs working in the environmental field. All beneficiaries have solid experience on the topics covered by the project proposal and many of them have participated in other LIFE projects.

**1.LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB):** The most widespread Italian environmental organization with solid experience in managing EU Funding projects, dealing with biodiversity, N2K network, endangered species, sea protection, climate change, water and air pollution. Role: Coordinating beneficiary.

**2.STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA NAPOLI (SZN):** The most influential research Institutions in the field of marine biology and ecology with long-term experience in sea turtle nesting in Italy and abroad. It manages all nests in the Campania Region.

**3. ISTITUTO SUPERIORE PER LA RICERCA AMBIENTALE (ISPRA):** The ISPRA is an Italian public research body, established by Law No 133/2008, and supervised by the Ministry of Ecological Transition.

It deals with environmental protection, including marine protection, environmental emergencies and research. ISPRA is also the guiding and coordinating body for the regional environmental protection agencies (ARPA) and cooperates with the European Environment Agency and with national and international institutions and organisations working in the field of environmental protection.

**4. UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA (Sapienza):** The Dept. is highly multidisciplinary, with teaching and research activities spanning diverse biological topics. A strong background is available on species distribution modelling, macroecology, global change biology with a focus on terrestrial and marine vertebrates.

**5. UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA (UB):** The University of Barcelona is a leading institution in the research of marine turtles, particularly *Caretta caretta*. The research team is multidisciplinary and covers a wide range of the techniques and it has intensively worked with the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta*

caretta) in the Mediterranean Sea.

**6. FUNDACIÒ UNIVERSITARIA BALMES (UVIC – UCC):** It has wide experience in conservation and management of sea turtle populations, focusing in nesting behavior and nest ecology, being experts' advisors for several regional and main governments.

**7. ENTE NAZIONALE DELLA CINOFILIA ITALIANA (ENCI):** ENCI is a breeder's association of a technical-economic nature, with the aim of preserving pure recognized dog breeds, improving and increasing their breeding, as well as regulating and promoting their use and valorization for zootechnical and sporting purposes; promotes studies and researches concerning dog technology and helps qualified initiatives aimed at the study, control, improvement and diffusion of dog breeding and helps qualified initiatives aimed at the study, control, improvement and diffusion of dog breeds.

**8. CENTRE D'ETUDE ET DE SAUVEGARDE DES TORTUES MARINES DE MÉDITERRANÉE (CESTMed):** It is a non-profit association committed to sea turtle conservation. It manages the only Rescue Center of the French Mediterranean coast.

**9. REGIONE BASILICATA (REGBAS):** The progress of the governance processes of environmental and forestry policies is one of the main institutional tasks and commitments of the Basilicata Region. The internal PARKS, BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE PROTECTION OFFICE deals with the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and the implementation of the Natura 2000 Network on the regional territory.

**10. REGIONE PUGLIA (REGPU):** The Regional Service Parks and Biodiversity Protection is responsible for Natura 2000 sites, including the proposal of the institution of new Sites of Community Importance and special areas of conservation, the evaluation of the management plans and the measures for conservation of the Sites of Community Importance. The Regional Service is involved in the implementation of the European programs, with the participation in LIFE+ projects sustaining environmental projects and natural protection and conservation.

**11. AGENZIA REGIONALE PER LA PROTEZIONE AMBIENTALE DELLA TOSCANA (ARPAT):** ARPAT, established by Regional Law n. 66/1995, has been active since 1996. Through its structures, located throughout the region, ARPAT ensures the implementation of regional guidelines in the field of environmental prevention and protection, operating in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of services and activities of ARPAT.

**12. REGIONE LAZIO (REGLAZ):** Regione Lazio is the regional administrative authority of Latium. The Environmental Bureau deals up with administrative and technical matters about environment. It is the regional point of reference for the management of regional parks and protected areas, including Natura 2000 areas. A special task force, named "TartaLazio" has institutionally been formed. Every year Tartalazio collects between 40 and 100 specimens of Caretta caretta stranded along the Latium coast; about 20% of them are still alive and carried to First aid points or to the Stazione Zoologica di Napoli to be recovered.

**13. REGIONE CAMPANIA (REGCAM):** The Campania Region is a Regional Authority responsible for the Natura 2000 Network in the administered area, pursuant to Presidential Decree 357/97. The Campania Region is the guardian of an immense protected natural heritage consisting of 123 Natura 2000 Network Sites, 2 National Parks, 5 National Nature Reserves, 5 Marine Protected Areas, 1 Submerged Archaeological Park, 12 Regional Parks and Nature Reserves, 2 Unesco MAB Reserves, 2 Ramsar areas of international interest for bird migration and 1 Unesco Geopark. The competent regional office is the Directorate General for the Environment, Soil Defense and Ecosystem (50.06.000), and in particular the Management Operating Unit of protected natural resources - Protection and safeguarding of the marine and coastal habitat - Parks and natural reserves (UOD 500607) deals with the management of community resources intended for environmental protection and safeguarding. Network of environmental education centers and laboratories. Activities of the sea system and sea resources.

To know more details on the beneficiaries and their project teams (key staff) see the attached **Participant information Forms** (annex).

The roles of each beneficiary have been summarized in the following table.

#### RATIONALE OF PROJECT CONSORTIUM

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| FULL NAME   | SHORT NAME | COUNTRY | ROLE IN THE PROJECT  |
|---|------------|---------|--|
| LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS                                      | LEGAMB     | Italy   | Coordination and leader of technical and financial management of the project (WP1). communication and dissemination activities (WP2), governance and advocacy activities (WP5), sustainability, replication and results exploitation (WP6). It also participates in the implementation of all the tasks of the other WPs. Leader of the following tasks: T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.4, T5.3, T6.1, T6.2, T7.2. |
| STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA NAPOLI   | SZN        | Italy   | Scientific Coordinator of the project, leader of WP4 and WP7. It cooperates at the implementation of all the other WPs. Leader of the following tasks: T2.5, T4.2, T4.3, T4.6, T4.7, T5.2, T6.3. It is also actively involved in the following tasks: T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T3.1, T3.3, T3.4, T4.1, T4.4, T4.5, T4.8, T4.9, T5.1, T5.2, T5.3, T6.1, T6.2, T7.1, T7.2.                            |
| ISTITUTO SUPERIORE PER LA RICERCA AMBIENTALE                        | ISPRA      | Italy   | Participates in the implementation of all WPs and it is leader the following tasks: T3.3, T4.8, T4.9. It is also actively involved in the following tasks: T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T2.5, T3.1, T3.3, T4.7, T5.2, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2.   |
| UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA                          | Sapienza   | Italy   | Participates in the implementation of all WPs and it is leader of the following tasks: T3.2, T5.1. It is also actively involved in the following tasks: T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T2.5, T3.1, T3.3, T4.7, T5.2, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2.  |
| UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA  | UB         | Spain   | Participates in the implementation of all WPs and it is leader of the following tasks: T4.4, T4.5. It is also actively involved in the following tasks: T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T2.5, T3.1, T3.2, T3.3, T3.4, T4.1, T4.2, T4.3, T4.6, T4.7, T4.9, T5.1, T5.2, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2.  |
| FUNDACIÒ UNIVERSITARIA BARMES                                       | UVIC - UCC | Italy   | Leader of WP3. Participates in the implementation of all WPs and it is leader the following tasks: T2.3, T3.1, T4.1. It is also actively involved in the following tasks: T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.4, T2.5, T3.1, T3.2, T3.3, T3.4, T4.1, T4.2, T4.3, T4.5, T4.7, T4.8, T4.9, T5.1, T5.2, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2.  |
| ENTE NAZIONALE DELLA CINOFILIA ITALIANA                             | ENCI       | Italy   | Participates in the implementation of all WPs and it is leader of the following task: T3.4. It is also actively involved in the following tasks: T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T2.5, T3.1, T3.3, T3.4, T3.1, T3.3, T4.7, T5.2, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2.   |
| CENTRE D'ETUDE ET DE SAUVEGARDE DES TORTUES MARINES DE MÉDITERRANÉE | CESTMed    | Italy   | Participates in the implementation of all WPs and it is actively involved in the following tasks: T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T2.5, T3.1, T3.3, T4.1, T4.2, T4.3, T4.4, T4.5, T4.6, T4.7, T4.9, T5.2, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2.  |
| REGIONE BASILICATA  | REGBAS     | Italy   | Participate in the implementation of all WPs and it is actively involved in the following tasks: T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T2.5, T3.1, T3.3, T4.7, T5.2, T5.3, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3.   |

|  |        |       |   |
|--|--------|-------|---|
| REGIONE PUGLIA   | REGPUG | Italy | T7.1, T7.2.<br>Participate in the implementation of all WPs and it is actively involved in the following tasks:<br>T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T2.5, T3.1, T3.3, T4.7, T5.2, T5.3, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2 |
| AGENZIA REGIONALE PER LA PROTEZIONE AMBIENTALE DELLA TOSCANA (ARPAT) | ARPAT  | Italy | Participate in the implementation of all WPs and it is actively involved in the following tasks:<br>T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T2.5, T3.1, T3.3, T4.7, T5.2, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2.                     |
| REGIONE LAZIO  | REGLAZ | Italy | Participate in the implementation of all WPs and it is actively involved in the following tasks:<br>T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T2.5, T3.1, T3.3, T4.7, T5.2, T5.3, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2.               |
| REGIONE CAMPANIA   | REGCAM | Italy | Participate in the implementation of all WPs and it is actively involved in the following tasks:<br>T1.1, T1.2, T1.3, T2.1, T2.2, T2.3, T2.4, T2.5, T3.1, T3.3, T4.7, T5.2, T5.3, T6.1, T6.2, T6.3, T7.1, T7.2.               |

#### 4.2 Project management (n/a for stage 1)

##### Project management, quality assurance and monitoring of progress (n/a for stage 1)

*Describe the management structures and decision-making mechanisms within the consortium. Explain how decisions will be taken and how regular and effective communication will be ensured.*

*Describe the measures and methods planned to ensure good quality, monitoring, planning and control of project implementation.*

The governance of the project will be guaranteed by a solid management coordination structure. It is following a list of the managerial roles foreseen in the project and their main tasks.

**1) Project Manager:** the PM is a highly qualified technical figure with many years of experience in the management of LIFE projects, which will guarantee the operation of the project and which will act as a hub for communication between partners, for the organization and operation of Working Groups, for the preparation of reports to CINEA, the preparation of policy documents and the quality control of documentation.

The major tasks are:

- To guarantee the political and strategic coordination of the project;
- To convene and chair the Steering Committee;
- To represent the project toward the EC and third parties and deals with institutional relations with the various bodies supporting the project, first of all the European Commission, stakeholders and the External Monitoring Group of the European Commission;
- to supervise and support the Project Coordinator and the Financial Manager in all their activities.

**2) Project Coordinator:** The PC has an operative role in the project and is in charge of the daily management of all technical and operative activities. The major tasks are:

- To monitor the general implementation of project, supporting partners and establishing an open communication flow with them, as well as circulating relevant information within the consortium;
- To ensure the Partners' Managers and the WP leaders have sufficient support to implement their assigned tasks and work packages;
- To ensure the coordination of the technical and scientific activities with the formal and procedural requirements of the LIFE Programme and the actions as described in the Application Form;

- To draft Executive Plans of the activities and ensure their implementation. At the beginning of the project a detailed and executive plan will be drafted and proposed to the Steering Committee within the first meeting. It will contain the forecast of the actions to be implemented in a period of 6/8 months. This planning goes through details, identifying internal deadlines and intermediate outputs and products, the quality standards of them, specific tasks and responsibilities of project beneficiaries and operators related to the concerned period. The plan will take into account the eventual failures or delays occurred in the previous period and identify the necessary recovery measures. The executive planning will be furtherly replicated during the project each 6/8 months, to cover all the project duration. Obviously, this activity is strictly connected with the internal monitoring system of the project and the risk management.

**3) Financial Manager.** He/she in charge of the overall project financial management and the accounting of the project, will be appointed by the coordinating beneficiary. The FM outlines the common rules for financial reporting according to the LIFE program General Conditions and agrees with the **Financial Officers** of each partner the procedures and methods for periodic cost reporting. The FM is in charge of preparing financial reports as well as collecting and storing the accounting documents. The FM provides assistance to the **External Auditor** for the audit of the Final Report. All beneficiaries will use a professional bookkeeping system and will create a cost center for the project. They are responsible for their individual budgets and costs and for the orderly processing of all financial aspects. Time sheets of the staff involved in the project will prove, that the work within this project is done in line with the requirements of the LIFE Programme.

**4) Scientific Coordinator.** He/she is a high skilled expert in the technical and scientific contents of the project and he/she in charge to coordinate all the scientific actions, standing over the production of the outputs and deliverables and giving guidance and assistance to the project operators.

**5) Monitoring Officer (MR).** He/she is in charge to coordinate the gathering and the analysis of the information and to draft the internal reports as well as the official reports of the project to be submitted to CINEA. The role is better explained within the next action.

**6) Communication Manager.** He/she will supervise and stand over all the external communication activities foreseen in the project and ensure that the visibility and communication standards of LIFE Programme will be respected, as better described within the WP2 Communication and dissemination activities.

**7) The Steering Committee.** The Steering Committee defines the guidelines for the project management and implementation and verifies the progress of the activities, both from the technical and administrative point of view. The Steering Committee is chaired by the Project Manager and By the Project Coordinator and attended by the POs of each partner. Steering Committee meetings are foreseen at least twice per year (hosted, in rotation, by each partner) to debate the development of the project and its timetables, deliverables and costs. Necessary changes regarding actions, timetable or budget will be discussed during the meetings and – depending on the level of change – communicated by the coordinating beneficiary to the LIFE Monitoring Team and CINEA. All the beneficiaries will be permanently involved in the decision process in order to achieve a balanced management drawing on the experience and expertise of the entire consortium. The main decisions affecting the project will be taken at majority of 2/3 of participants. In any case, the management team and the partners will strive to achieve unanimity for all decisions taken. Decisions taken will be officially included within the minutes of meetings, or through the signature of appropriate documents if those decisions are taken outside of SC meetings (included the executive plans).

The **Steering Committee** is in charge of the following tasks:

- Project team meetings;
- Approving of major changes of the project and budget;
- Overall coordination of the actions and approving of the semestral executive plans;
- Assessment of actions technical and financial progress;
- Supervision of project monitoring;
- Relations with CINEA and External Monitoring Team,
- Drafting and approving of the After Life Plan where a strategy to sustain the project's results after the LIFE financed period expiry.

**8) The Executive Committee** is the operational structure responsible for the technical and scientific implementation of the project. It will be set within the first two months of the project; is chaired by the Project Coordinator and attended by the technicians of all the project partners. The Executive

Committee coordinates **2 Working Teams** composed by the technical staff of each partner and dedicated respectively to technical and scientific aspects and communication. The operation of the project and its continuity will be also ensured by specific **Working Groups** which will be set up for each task. The Executive Committee will meet at least 4 times a year but will maintain a continuous and constant level of communication and exchange. Whenever possible face-to-face meetings will be organized; alternatively skype conferences, emails and phone calls will be used. Additionally, a monthly call will be organized by the PC with all members of the Executive Committee and will be used for a regular project update and planning of the next steps.

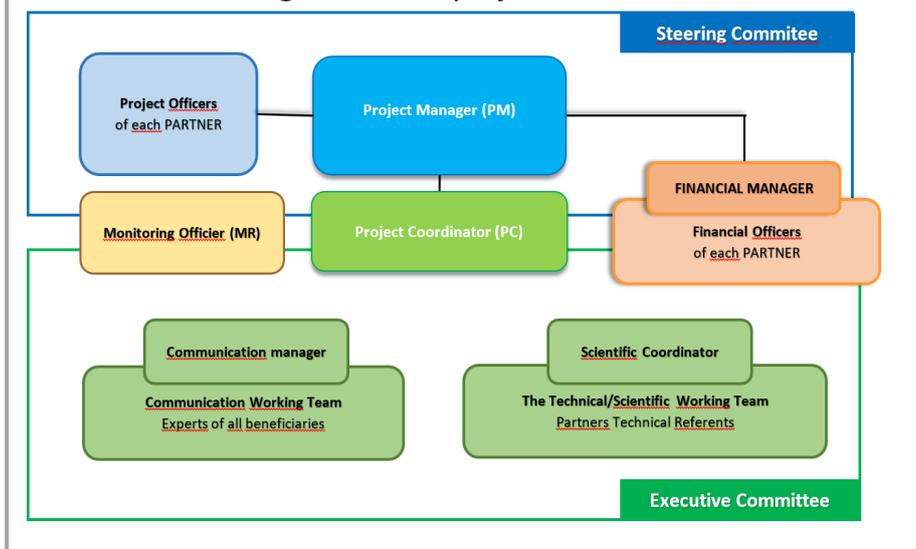
**9) The Advisory Board.** It is a consultative structure that will support the Steering Committee and that will be used by the beneficiaries to collect advices and suggestions in the preparation of guidelines, plans and procedures. The Advisory Board will be an "open place" where from time-to-time different types of stakeholders will be invited to participate according to the topics under discussion. Most of public and private organisations have been already involved in the current project preparation phase, as shown by the letters of support received.

**10) The Technical/Scientific Working Team** is composed by all project operators, experts and professionals who will be responsible for the project contents activities implementation. The Scientific Coordinator will chair the group and it is responsible for the scientific standards of the actions implemented during the project. The team will meet regularly in plenary session or in smaller groups, depending on the topics to be developed at the time. The meetings will be on-line.

**11) The Communication Working Team.** Communication is a paramount aspect of the project, as well as its dissemination towards other interested subjects and the scientific exploitation of the results achieved. The acknowledgement and acceptance of the project outputs, as well as the full success of the project, passes by its knowledge and involvement of the public. The impact and the sustainability after the LIFE project financed period of TURTLENEST experience can be facilitated by the peer disseminations and the exploitation of the achieved results. For this reason, it is necessary to implement a strong and comprehensive communication dissemination and exploitation action, fit to be implemented in three different Countries and beyond the partnership itself. The main task of the team is to ensure the effectiveness of the actions and the respecting of LIFE Programme visibility standards. The team will meet regularly in plenary sessions or in smaller groups, depending on the topics to be developed at the time. The meetings will be on-line.

It is following the Organizational chart of the project:

### Organizational project chart



#### 4.3 Green management (n/a for stage 1)

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#### Green management *(n/a for stage 1)*

*Describe the measures proposed to reduce the environmental impact of your project, for example through the use of green procurement, environmental management systems, etc.*

The project partnership adheres to the **Green Public Procurement system**.

**Travels:** whenever possible, tele conference calls will be used for networking and coordination; the use of public transport means will be preferred or sharing a vehicle as well, whenever possible. All partners will **minimize their carbon footprint** as they implement project actions. **Remote meetings** will be preferred, although we value the experience gained in physically meeting partners and visiting project sites. Physical coordination meetings will maximise the time partners share in the same location, dealing with different tasks in an organised manner, and concentrating their stay, in order to avoid multiple travels.

**Food and catering services:** the **guidelines for "sustainable events"** will be considered with regard to food products and catering services; suppliers and producers will be chosen within the local, organic supply chain and where possible choosing **Fair Trade**. Food and catering services will guarantee use of reusable tableware and offer GMO-free food and vegetarian/gluten free options. Whenever possible, we will favour local products (**farm-to-fork approach**) with organic labels (nationally certified in accordance with EU Regulation 2092/91) and/or products from integrated production.

**Paper and materials:** EU **Eco Labelled paper** from 100% recovered paper fibers or at least 75% recovered paper fibres for regular copies or FSC/PEFC certified paper (for special publications). Paper must be at least ECF but TCF will be preferred. Gadgets (e.g., cotton bags, pen drives, water bottles) will be made of recycled or organically produced materials. We will use rechargeable batteries as much as possible.

**Computers, monitors and imaging equipment:** **ENERGY STAR** certified equipment will be preferred. In addition, we will use rechargeable batteries as much as possible. Selection procedures for services will always include requirements for low-impact practices. All equipment acquired, necessary for the implementation of the project, will continue to be used definitively for conservation activities, beyond the end of the LIFE project.

In Italy, the use of the GPP system has been mandatory for Public Administrations since 2 Feb 2016. The normative reference is the art. 34 D.Lgs. of 18th April 2016, n. 50 (new Code of public contracts) that currently governs the GPP obligation at national level. Therefore, all Italian public beneficiaries have integrated the GPP into their own procedures for the purchase of goods and services. Private partners do not have specific procedures related to GPP. For this reason, specific provisions for the application of GPP will be included in the Partnership Agreement, taking into account the training gpp toolkit made available by the EU Commission at [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit_en.htm). The private partners will be required to comply with the Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM) in force or under definition <https://www.minambiente.it/pagina/i-criteri-ambientali-minimi>. The CAMs are defined as the environmental requirements for the various stages of the purchase process, aimed at identifying the design solution, the best product or service from an environmental point of view throughout its life cycle, considering market availability. The CAMs are part of the "Plan for the environmental sustainability of consumption in the public administration sector" and are adopted by Decree of the past Minister of the Environment for the Protection of the Territory and the Sea. Their systematic application makes it possible to spread innovative environmental technologies, to encourage the use of products with reduced environmental impact (possibly EU Ecolabel) and produce a leverage effect on the market, encouraging the economic operators to become more virtuous.

#### 4.4 Budget *(n/a for stage 1)*

##### Estimated budget — Resources *(n/a for stage 1)*

See detailed budget table (annex 1 to Part B).

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## 5. OTHER

### 5.1 Ethics

| Ethics         |
|----------------|
| Not applicable |

### 5.2 Security

| Security       |
|----------------|
| Not applicable |

## 6. DECLARATIONS

| Higher funding rate <i>(for Nature and Biodiversity; n/a for stage 1)</i>   | YES/NO |
|---|--------|
| Do you fulfil the conditions set out in the Call document for a higher funding rate (75% or 67%)?<br>If YES, explain and provide details.   | YES    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caretta caretta* is a priority species for the implementation of the EU Habitat Directive 92/43, as listed in the relevant annexes of this Directive;</li> <li>According to EEA's Article 17, the conservation status of the species has been assessed as unfavourable in the Mediterranean biogeographical region.</li> </ul> |        |

| Double funding <i>(n/a for stage 1)</i>  | YES/NO |
|--|--------|
| <b>Information concerning other EU grants for this project</b><br>⚠ Please note that there is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions).   | YES/NO |
| We confirm that to our best knowledge neither the project as a whole nor any parts of it have benefitted from any other EU grant (including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, e.g. Erasmus, EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, European Investment Bank, etc.). If NO, explain and provide details.            | YES    |
| We confirm that to our best knowledge neither the project as a whole nor any parts of it are (nor will be) submitted for any other EU grant (including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, e.g. Erasmus, EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, European Investment Bank, etc.). If NO, explain and provide details. | YES    |

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**Financial support to third parties (if applicable) *(n/a for stage 1)***

*If in your project the maximum amount per third party will be more than the threshold amount set in the Call document, justify and explain why the higher amount is necessary in order to fulfil your project's objectives.*

N/A

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## ANNEXES

### LIST OF ANNEXES

Maps (annex 1 to Part B)  
 Description of species and sites (annex 2 to Part B)  
 Description of sites (annex 3 to Part B)  
 Participant information (annex 4 to Part B)  
 Letters of support (annex 5 to Part B)

| HISTORY OF CHANGES |                  |   |
|--------------------|------------------|---|
| VERSION            | PUBLICATION DATE | CHANGE  |
| 1.0                | 15.04.2021       | Initial version (new MFF).  |
| 1.1                | 22.09.2022       | First version of DoA (RP1- KPI; RP3 – Requested additional support letters and defined additional MS and D for WP5; RP4 additional milestones; RP5 additional deliverables; RP6 – category costs revised; RP14 additional progress reports; RP8, 9, 10, 11, 12 – budget revision; RP13 revised section 1.5) |
| 1.2                | 18.10.2022       | Third version of DoA(update of cover page, correction of the header, RP15 added networking activities with Intemares; additional support letters, update of the list of annexes)  |
|                    |                  |   |

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**MAPS**

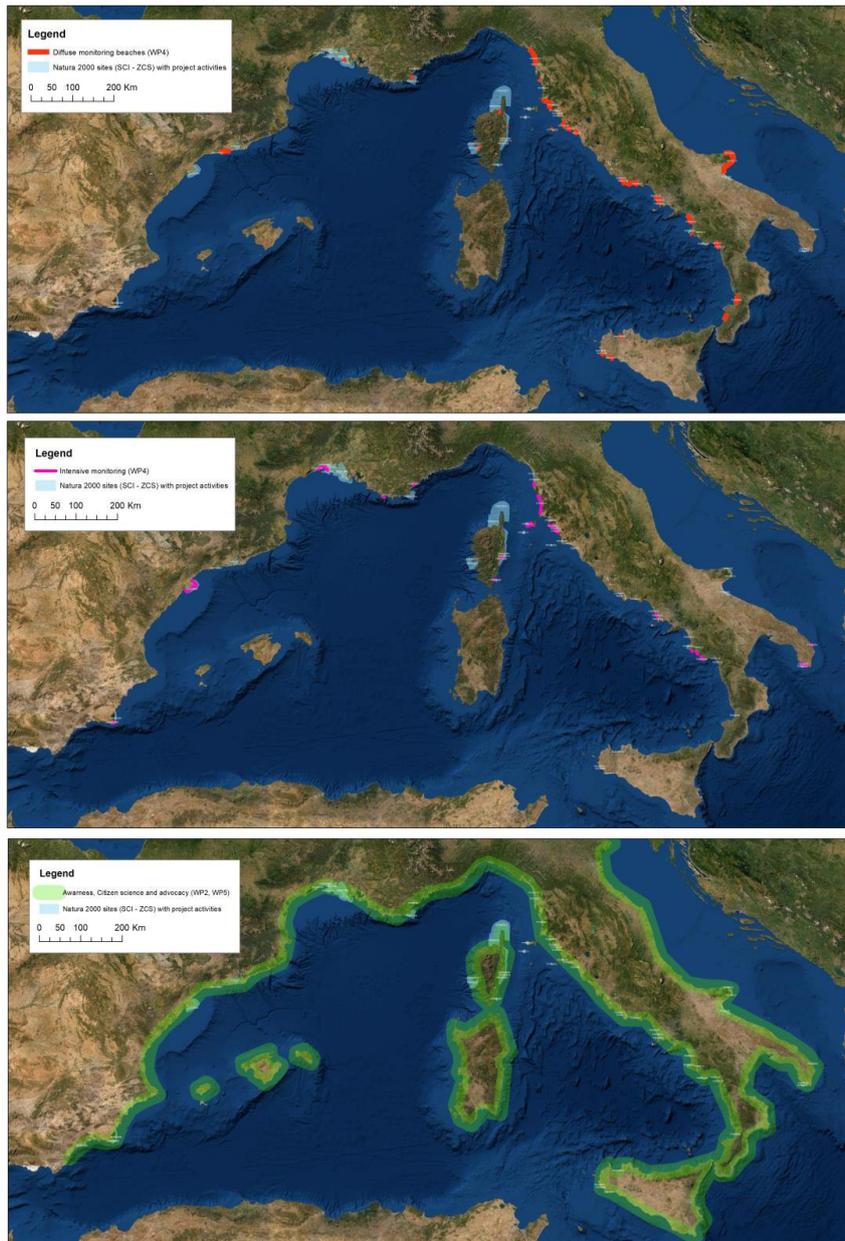


Figure 1. Intervention areas of western Mediterranean



Figure 2. Intervention areas in Italy

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Figure 3. Intervention areas in Spain



Figure 4. Intervention areas in France

**DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES AND HABITATS**

(To be filled in and uploaded as part of the application.)

| DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES AND HABITATS  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Project name and acronym:</b>   | <i>Caretta caretta</i> * nesting range expansion under climate warming: urgent actions to mitigate threats at emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean-LIFE TURTLENEST |
| <p><b>Species</b></p> <p>For each of the <u>main</u> species <u>directly</u> targeted by the project, please indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scientific name (in Latin). If the species is a priority species according to Annex II of the Habitats Directive or is on the list of priority bird species, please mark with an asterisk</li> <li>• the Annex(es) of the EU Birds or Habitats Directive where the species is listed, if relevant</li> <li>• population size within the project area. In case the project does not include actions targeting a well-defined area, please indicate the population size at regional, national or multinational level, as relevant</li> <li>• the conservation status within the project area. Please provide quantitative details. In case the project does not include actions targeting a well-defined area, please indicate the conservation status at regional, national or multinational level, as relevant</li> <li>• for bird species, please indicate whether the project area (if relevant) is used for breeding, wintering or staging.</li> </ul>  |   |
| <p>The loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>, Annexes II* and IV HD, Conservation status MMED: Unfavourable-Inadequate; IUCN: LEAST CONCERN at regional level with the condition that conservation efforts are maintained) is the most abundant sea turtle species in the Mediterranean Sea.</p> <p>This semi-enclosed sea was colonized by individuals from the Atlantic population in at least two independent events in the late Pleistocene and the Holocene, thus the regional population survived several cold periods using warm refuges across the south-eastern parts of the Mediterranean Sea, and re-expanding its nesting range in accordance with the northward migration of its thermal niche (Carreras et al. 2007, Saied et al. 2012, Clusa et al. 2013).</p> <p>Today, loggerhead turtle nesting is concentrated in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea with biggest nesting colonies in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and Libya that host more than 96% of the clutches laid in this region. Secondary nesting sites are found in Tunisia, Israel, Egypt, Lebanon and the south eastern coast of Italy (Casale et al. 2018). Due to female natal philopatry, the Mediterranean loggerhead turtle sub-population is demographically independent from the Atlantic ones and constitutes a Regional Management Unit (RMU, sensu(Wallace et al. 2010)). Moreover, a clear genetic structure has been observed among Mediterranean nesting rookeries with at least seven independent Management Units (MUs, sensu (Moritz 1994) identified so far using mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) markers (Garofalo et al. 2009, Saied et al. 2012, Clusa et al. 2013). The estimated annual number of nests laid in the Mediterranean Sea is &gt;7,200 with a positive trend observed in the last years as results of more than three decades of conservation projects on the major nesting beaches in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus (Casale et al. 2018). Based on this, in the most recent IUCN Red List assessment, the status the Mediterranean loggerhead RMU was downgraded to the threat category “least concern” although this status is considered entirely conservation-dependent and any decrease of the current conservation effort would very likely be detrimental for the local nesting rookeries ((Casale 2015), Casale et al 2018). Up to a decade ago, only minor and infrequent nesting was reported along the western basin coastline of Spain, France and Italy and their offshore islands (Casale et al 2018). However, evidence is accumulating of new regular nesting areas at least along the southern border of the basin (Maffucci et al 2016, Casaler et al. 2018).</p> <p>Loggerhead turtles can be encountered throughout the entire Mediterranean region. The highest density of loggerhead turtles appears to occur in the westernmost part of the Mediterranean Sea (from the Alboran Sea to the Balearic Islands), the Sicily Straight, the Ionian Sea, the Gulf of Gabès in Tunisia, the Adriatic Sea, and</p> |   |



the south-east coast of Turkey (Casale et al. 2018). As the other sea turtle species, the loggerhead turtle possesses a complex life cycle and depending on the life stage, it occupies different ecological compartments. Post hatchlings and early juveniles live in the open ocean and disperse over vast areas under the influence of the prevailing ocean currents, foraging in the epipelagic layer. Very little is known about post hatchlings nursery areas in the Mediterranean Sea but simulation models suggest a very limited exchange between the eastern and the western basin during the first six months of life. Later juveniles can be found in all oceanic areas within the Mediterranean Sea where individuals from the local nesting beaches mixed with juveniles from the Atlantic RMUs that enter this basin through Gibraltar and disperse with the prevailing surface currents both in the western and eastern Mediterranean Sea. Larger juveniles and adults usually recruit to neritic habitats but they may return occasionally or for extended periods to the pelagic realm. In the open sea loggerhead turtle movements are often associated with mesoscale oceanographic features that concentrate prey and may create temporary foraging hot spots that can be opportunistically used. Several studies showed that significant inter basin exchange occurs regularly through the Strait of Sicily, the Strait of Messina, the Strait of Otranto and the Sardinia Channel. In general, however, information on the actual distribution and seasonality of loggerhead turtle presence in the Mediterranean oceanic areas are still scant and mostly based on bycatch data, satellite telemetry and mark-release-recapture studies. As adults, they migrate from their foraging areas to breeding areas that can be hundreds or thousands of kilometres away. They mate in the offshore waters of the breeding areas, following which adult females heave themselves up above the high tide line, excavate a nest with their hind flippers, lay 100 or more eggs and cover them up with sand. Females can lay more than one clutch of eggs each nesting season. The eggs remain in the nesting beach for about 50-70 days (the exact period depending on overall sand temperature), and are vulnerable to various predators and impacts of many anthropogenic activities. For the eastern Mediterranean nesting population age at sexual maturity has been estimated at 21-34 years. Average clutch size is 110 eggs and mean hatching success ranges between 56 and 86%. No such information is available for the western Mediterranean (Casale et al. 2018).

The incidental capture of turtles in fishing gears is the single most important threat at marine habitats with recent studies estimating the total annual number of captures to 132,000 resulting in 44,000 deaths per year for all gear combined. Its negative impact has been therefore addressed by several LIFE projects, both ongoing and finished. Boat strikes, marine debris pollution and chemical pollutants constitute additional threats.

Anthropogenic threats in terrestrial habitats are related to the intense coastal development which is largely the result of recreational/ tourist activity and is associated with the presence of hotel resorts and other tourism-related constructions such as restaurants, bars, houses and other businesses typically built along the beach, impacting the original coastline in several ways (Casale et al. 2018).

Climate warming is also a major threat that may impact natural sex ratios of hatchlings; escalate the frequency of extreme weather events; increase the likelihood of disease outbreaks; and result in loss of nesting beaches. However, sea turtle populations may respond to the increased environmental temperatures by shifting their distributional range, occupying new suitable areas. In the last decade the number of nests detected beyond the loggerhead turtle nesting range in the Mediterranean Sea has drastically increased, which has been associated with an ongoing colonization of the west northern areas (Maffucci et al 2016, Carreras et al 2018)

Carreras C, Pascual M, Cardona L, Aguilar A, Margaritoulis D, Rees A, Turkozan O, Levy Y, Gasith A, Aureggi M, Khalil M (2007) The genetic structure of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the Mediterranean as revealed by nuclear and mitochondrial DNA and its conservation implications. *Conservation Genetics* 8:761-775

Casale P (2015) *Caretta caretta* (Mediterranean subpopulation). In: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015: eT83644804A83646294

Casale P, Broderick AC, Camiñas JA, Cardona L, Carreras C, Demetropoulos A, Fuller WJ, Godley BJ, Hochscheid S, Kaska Y, Lazar B, Margaritoulis D, Panagopoulou A, Rees AF, Tomás J, Turkozan O (2018) Mediterranean sea turtles: current knowledge and priorities for conservation and research. *Endangered Species Research* 36:229-267

Clusa M, Carreras C, Pascual M, Demetropoulos A, Margaritoulis D, Rees AF, Hamza AA, Khalil M, Aureggi M, Levy Y, Turkozan Oz, Marco A, Aguilar A, Cardona L (2013) Mitochondrial DNA reveals Pleistocene colonisation of the Mediterranean by loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*). *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 439:15-24

Garofalo L, Mingozzi T, Mico A, Novelletto A (2009) Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) matrilineal lines in the Mediterranean: further evidence of genetic diversity and connectivity. *Marine Biology* 156:2085-2095

Moritz C (1994) Defining "Evolutionarily Significant Units" for conservation. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 9

Saied AM, Maffucci F, Hochscheid S, Dryag S, Swayeb B, Borra M, Ouerghi A, Procaccini G, Bentivegna F (2012) Loggerhead turtles nesting in Libya: an important management unit for the Mediterranean stock. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 450:207-218

Wallace BP, DiMatteo AD, Hurley BJ, Finkbeiner EM, Bolten AB, Chaloupka MY, Hutchinson BJ, Abreu-Grobois FA, Amoroch D, Bjørndal KA, Bourjéa J, Bowen BW, Dueñas RB, Casale P, Choudhury BC, Costa A, Dutton PH, Fallabrino A, Girard A, Girondot M, Godfrey MH, Hamann M, Lopez-Mendilaharsu M, Marcovaldi MA, Mortimer JA, Musick JA, Nel R, Pilcher NJ, Seminoff JA, Troang S, Witherington B, Mast RB (2010) Regional Management Units for Marine Turtles: A Novel Framework for Prioritizing Conservation and Research across Multiple Scales. *Plos One* 5:e15465

**Habitats**

[LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST] ([101074584]) —  Annex 1 Part B — Page 67  
Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7886681 - 15/11/2022  
EU Grants: Description of the action (DoA) — Annex 1 (LIFE): V1.0 – 15.04.2021

For each of the main habitats directly targeted by the project, please indicate:

- name and Natura 2000 code, as indicated in the EU Habitats Directive. If the habitat is a priority habitat (according to Annex I of the Habitats Directive), please mark with an asterisk
- the % of the cover of the habitat type over the whole project area and for each sub-area
- the conservation status within the project area. Please provide quantitative details.

Insert text

**DESCRIPTION OF SITES**

(Describe the areas and / or site(s) targeted by your project and upload as part of the application. If your project involves several distinct sub-areas / sub-sites, please fill in one form for each (copy table as many times as necessary). Please note that maps are mandatory for projects with area-based activities.)

| DESCRIPTION OF SITES  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Project name and acronym:</b>  | LIFE TURTLENEST - Caretta caretta* nesting range expansion under climate warming: urgent actions to mitigate threats at emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean. |
| <b>Name of the project area:</b><br>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B   | ITALY  |
| <b>Surface area (ha):</b><br>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals  | All the Italian low sandy or delta coastlines, Approximately 4.800 km.   |
| <b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>   | <b>SCI</b> [Insert the corresponding Natura 2000 site code]  |
|   | <b>SAC</b> [Insert the corresponding Natura 2000 site code]  |
|   | <b>SPA</b> [Insert the corresponding Natura 2000 site code]  |
| <b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>   | [Not applicable] Insert international, national and/or local protection status]]   |
| <b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b><br>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. |  |

In the last century, the Italian coastal system suffered a very strong anthropisation process that, in some areas, has considerably changed and altered the natural and environmental features of the territory. Due to their accessibility, low coastal areas are more densely occupied by residential settlements and considerable business activities (even for tourism) as well as road and sea transport infrastructures. Indeed, in Italy more than 300 km of coasts host commercial and leisure port facilities.

According to surveys carried out by the National Statistics Institute (ISTAT), 16.8 million inhabitants permanently live in the 642 coastal municipalities, which represent about 30% of the total population. This gives an idea of how populated coastal areas actually are in Italy, given that both seasonal and tourism flows are not included. Coast urbanization has transformed the evolution of littorals and has turned the natural phenomenon of coastal erosion into a serious problem, particularly near urban centres where homes, infrastructures and economic activities are at risk. There are many human activities in coastal zones (industries, tourism, fishing, aquaculture, etc.). Problems arise when these activities tend to develop together on the narrow coastal strip and come into conflict both with each other and with the interest of protecting natural environments and landscape. Data on land use collected by the Corine Land Cover 2000, covering an area of 10 km from the coast towards the hinterland, shows that 58.7% of land is used for agriculture and 6.6% is occupied by urban centres, industries and road, air and sea transport infrastructures. In other words, in Italy two thirds (over 65%) of land included within the 10 km strip from the shore, is used for human activities and is moulded even by invasive and irreversible human intervention on the environment.

The concentration of activities in a reduced space has a considerable influence on the natural dynamics of coastal zones, with specific reference to sandy shores. These are further complicated by strong variations induced by tourist activities and by environmental pressure over the years. Indeed, with effect from the 1950s, the coast is not only considered an area for trading of goods and construction of ports facilities. In general, it is not only used for maritime activities. It is also an area used for living, leisure and profit-making through tourist activities. This has caused an additional occupation of land, due to urbanization, and a further irreversible invasion of the coastal environment.

**Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)**

Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.

The Italian coast has a length of 8,353 km, of which 4,863 km are low sandy or delta coastlines. From a physical point of view, the latter are more vulnerable to sea action and subject to intense geomorphological dynamics. Indeed, in Italy coastal zone risks are mainly related to erosion phenomena and to storms or floods, which are mostly relevant for low and sandy coasts and for coastal alluvial plains.

The Italian peninsula lies in the center of the Mediterranean and the surrounding marine areas are among the most frequented by turtles in the basin. Most data on turtle presence and size of turtles derive from stranding data and fisheries by-catch data. The north Adriatic Sea is an important neritic developmental area for juveniles as well as a foraging area for adult turtles. Further to the south of the Italian Adriatic coast lies the Gulf of Manfredonia which also hosts a neritic foraging habitat for small juveniles through adult turtles. Although stranding data suggest that turtles occur all around Italy no publication confirm the presence of other neritic foraging habitats, apart from a study demonstrating that loggerhead turtles use the abundant prey in the shallow soft-bottom habitats in the Naples areas, SW Italy. It is frequented by turtles from at Greece, Turkey, and also from the Atlantic, although the latter make a smaller proportion. Oceanic developmental and foraging habitats can be found in the southern Adriatic, northwestern and central-western Ionian. Stranding data show a higher occurrence of small turtles a higher occurrence of small turtles frequented by turtles from at least Greece, Turkey and the Atlantic. Also the south Tyrrhenian Sea has recently been shown to be of importance for foraging turtles, albeit for larger and adults sized turtles. A migratory corridor is present along the Italian Adriatic coast for turtles moving southwards, either seasonally when the northern waters become too cold, or at the beginning of the reproductive season when turtles migrate towards their nesting grounds. The Strait of Sicily and the Strait of Messina are obligatory pathways between the western and the eastern Mediterranean, as also directly observed through satellite tracking.

Based on the available data, Italy hosts only minor nesting sites for loggerhead turtles, and most of the nesting activities are dispersed over large stretches of coastline. The Ionian coastline of Calabria has been only recently identified as a regular nesting area following the first intensive survey of a total of 175 km of coasty beaches that led to the discovery of an important site which counts 30 – 40 nests year-1. Nesting occurs also along the south-western coast of Sicily facing the Sicily Channel and on the Pelagian Islands of Lampedusa and Linosa, however, there may be years at these sites without any nest. Only the Ionian coastline of Calabria, Lampedusa and Linosa have been systematically monitored, but there are no recent updates on these monitoring efforts with respect to the previous report. There is, however, evidence of a new regular nesting area on the southern Tyrrhenian coast of Campania, where the first report on a nest dates back to the mid-1960s, and where nesting is now being observed every year since 2012. Apart from these, there are occasional reports of single nests in Sardinia, on the whole Tyrrhenian coastline up to high northern latitudes in Tuscany, and along the Adriatic coastline from Apulia up to the region of Abruzzo. Clutch size and emergence success reported for these areas range between 93 and 99 eggs and between 70.7 and 86%, respectively, and are thus well within the ranges of eastern Mediterranean nesting beaches.

The Italian nesting population is still poorly quantified. More research is needed on the distribution (needed to identify priority sites for conservation) and the level of nesting activity as well as on remigration interval and clutch frequency. Although incubation duration may provide a rough indication, hatchling sex ratio has not been estimated yet.

General coastal development (human presence, coastal construction, pollution, artificial lighting, beach cleaning, vehicles driving on the beach) is the main threat impacting on nesting females, nests and hatchlings and is further threatening the coastal tracts that could support nesting activity in the future.

Casale P and Hochscheid S. (2020) Italy. In: Casale P., Hochscheid S., Kaska Y., Panagopoulou A. (Eds.). Sea Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: MTSG Annual Regional Report 2020. Report of the IUCN-SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, 2020.

| LIST OF NATURA 2000 SITES ALONG THE COASTS INTERESTED BY THE PROJECT |  |         |                    |
|--|--|---------|--------------------|
| SITECODE   | SITENAME   | COUNTRY | CARETTA IN THE SDF |
| IT9210155  | Marina di Castrocuoco                                    | IT      | No                 |
| IT9210160  | Isola di S. Ianni e Costa Prospiciente                   | IT      | No                 |
| IT5120016  | Macchia lucchese   | IT      | No                 |
| IT5170001  | Dune litoranee di Torre del Lago                         | IT      | No                 |
| IT5160012  | Monte Capanne e promontorio dell'Enfola                  | IT      | No                 |
| IT5160013  | Isola di Pianosa - area terrestre e marina               | IT      | Yes                |
| IT51A0008  | Monte d'Alma   | IT      | No                 |
| IT51A0012  | Tombolo da Castiglion della Pescaia a Marina di Grosseto | IT      | No                 |
| IT51A0015  | Dune costiere del Parco dell'Uccellina                   | IT      | No                 |

EU Grants: Description of Sites (LIFE): V1.0 - 15.04.2021

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7886681 - 15/11/2022

|           |   |    |     |
|-----------|---|----|-----|
| IT5170002 | Selva Pisana  | IT | No  |
| IT51A0014 | Pineta Granducale dell'Uccellina                            | IT | No  |
| IT51A0023 | Isola del Giglio  | IT | No  |
| IT51A0026 | Laguna di Orbetello   | IT | No  |
| IT51A0032 | Duna del Lago di Burano                                     | IT | No  |
| IT51A0031 | Lago di Burano  | IT | No  |
| IT51A0039 | Padule della Trappola, Bocca d'Ombrone                      | IT | No  |
| IT5160004 | Padule di Bolgheri  | IT | No  |
| IT6010018 | Litorale a nord ovest delle Foci del Fiora                  | IT | No  |
| IT6010027 | Litorale tra Tarquinia e Montalto di Castro                 | IT | No  |
| IT6040012 | Laghi Fogliano, Monaci, Caprolace e Pantani dell'Inferno    | IT | No  |
| IT6040018 | Dune del Circeo   | IT | No  |
| IT6040021 | Duna di Capratica   | IT | No  |
| IT8010020 | Pineta di Castelvolturno                                    | IT | No  |
| IT8010021 | Pineta di Patria  | IT | No  |
| IT8010028 | Foce Volturmo - Variconi                                    | IT | No  |
| IT8030009 | Foce di Licola  | IT | No  |
| IT8030018 | Lago di Patria  | IT | No  |
| IT8050010 | Fasce litoranee a destra e a sinistra del Fiume Sele        | IT | No  |
| IT8050012 | Fiume Alento  | IT | No  |
| IT8050038 | Pareti rocciose di Cala del Cefalo                          | IT | No  |
| IT8050041 | Scoglio del Mingardo e spiaggia di Cala del Cefalo          | IT | No  |
| IT9110012 | Testa del Gargano   | IT | No  |
| IT9110005 | Zone umide della Capitanata                                 | IT | No  |
| IT9110016 | Pineta Marzini  | IT | No  |
| IT9110025 | Manacore del Gargano  | IT | No  |
| IT9150004 | Torre dell'Orso   | IT | No  |
| IT9150009 | Litorale di Ugento  | IT | No  |
| IT9330089 | Dune dell'Angitola  | IT | No  |
| IT8050036 | Parco marino di S. Maria di Castellabate                    | IT | No  |
| IT8050037 | Parco marino di Punta degli Infreschi                       | IT | No  |
| IT9210015 | Acquafredda di Maratea                                      | IT | No  |
| ITA010011 | Sistema dunale Capo Granitola, Porto Palo e Foce del Belice | IT | No  |
| ITA010006 | Paludi di Capo Feto e Margi Span_                           | IT | Yes |
| ITA010018 | Foce del Torrente Calatubo e dune                           | IT | No  |

**DESCRIPTION OF SITES**

(Describe the areas and / or site(s) targeted by your project and upload as part of the application. If your project involves several distinct sub-areas / sub-sites, please fill in one form for each (copy table as many times as necessary). Please note that maps are mandatory for projects with area-based activities.)

| DESCRIPTION OF SITES   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Project name and acronym:</b>   | LIFE TURTLENEST - Caretta caretta* nesting range expansion under climate warming: urgent actions to mitigate threats at emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean. |
| <b>Name of the project area:</b><br>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B  | SPAIN  |
| <b>Surface area (ha):</b><br>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals   | All the Spanish Mediterranean low sandy or delta coastlines.<br>Approximately 1600 km  |
| <b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>  | <b>SCI</b> [Insert the corresponding Natura 2000 site code]  |
|  | <b>SAC</b> [Insert the corresponding Natura 2000 site code]  |
|  | <b>SPA</b> [Insert the corresponding Natura 2000 site code]  |
| <b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>  | [Not applicable] Insert international, national and/or local protection status]  |
| <b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b><br>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.  |  |
| <p>Spain has one of the longest coastlines in the Mediterranean with a length of over 1,600 kilometres. The Mediterranean coast of Spain is located on the territory of the autonomous regions of Andalusia, Murcia, Valencia and Catalonia (listed from south to north). Low-lying areas are abundant and a few are linked to the existence of sedimentary basins where rivers have formed coastal plains with deltas while others are linked to heavily human impacted environments. Several large coastal cities with ports, and a significant number of ancient towns with interesting sights are located along the Mediterranean Spanish coastline. This is one of the warmest and most favourable summer holiday regions in Spain and in Europe, with an increasing tourism pressure along all the coastline.</p> <p>At the beginning of the 20th century Spain began to develop tourism infrastructure in several places along the coast. The most active tourism developing on the Mediterranean coast of Spain began in the post-war years. A common problem, also in the Spanish Mediterranean, is 'coastal squeeze' which takes place when a coastline is prevented from its landward migration by seawalls or other man-made structures as a consequence of coastal development. Erosive processes due to sediment imbalances or associated with sea level rise and increasing storminess can cause the complete disappearance of the beach or salt marsh.</p> |  |
| <b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b>   |  |
| Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.  |  |

All size classes of loggerhead sea turtles are very common throughout the Spanish Mediterranean and the Atlantic adjoining waters. These areas are inhabited by turtles from three different RMUs, as detected using genetic markers and tagging-recapture. Turtles from the Mediterranean RMU are the most abundant in the north-western Mediterranean coast up to the Ibiza channel, although may be found also in the remaining Spanish Mediterranean waters, and some individuals of Mediterranean origin have been detected crossing the Straits of Gibraltar. Despite the admixture of loggerhead turtles from different origins in the same foraging areas, the individuals from the Atlantic and Mediterranean

1

RMUs remain genetically isolated. Turtles from Mediterranean RMU are thought to arrive to Spain through the Messina channel and following the Liguro Provençal current. Based in all the scientific information, the neritic waters around the Ebro river Delta (provinces of Castellón and Tarragona, East Spain) are considered as neritic foraging ground and wintering site for loggerhead turtles *Caretta caretta* from the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. The gulf of Cádiz (South West Spain, outside the Mediterranean) may also represent a neritic habitat used by the sea turtles from the Atlantic. In the rest of the Spanish Mediterranean region, turtles mainly inhabit the oceanic waters.

Sporadic nesting is found along the Spanish Mediterranean coast. The detection of nesting events has been steadily increasing since the beginning of the XXI century and has been associated, using genetic markers, to colonisation events of the Mediterranean and Northwestern Atlantic RMUs. Since 2014, 6-7 nesting records/attempts are reported every year in Spain's Mediterranean coast, but numbers are increasing yearly (9 nesting events, 5 of them with successful nests in 2019). However, nesting is still scattered and sporadic, with no stable nesting beach identified yet.

The Mediterranean Spanish coast is heavily affected by tourism and coastal development. Thus, it should be considered as the major threat to the sporadic nesting events and included in regional management plans to prevent its impact on the ongoing colonization of the beaches by the loggerhead turtle

Tomas J, Caminas JA, Baez C, Carreras C, Cardona L (2020) Spain. In: Casale P., Hochscheid S., Kaska Y., Panagopoulou A. (Eds.). Sea Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: MTSG Annual Regional Report 2020. Report of the IUCN-SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, 2020.

#### LIST OF NATURA 2000 SITES ALONG THE COASTS INTERESTED BY THE PROJECT

| SITECODE  | SITENAME   | COUNTRY | CARETTA IN THE SDF |
|-----------|--|---------|--------------------|
| ES0000020 | Delta de l'Ebre                                    | ES      | No                 |
| ES5140007 | Costes del TarragonPs                              | ES      | No                 |
| ES5110013 | Serres del Litoral central                         | ES      | Yes                |
| ES6200001 | Calblanque, Monte de las Cenizas y Peña del Águila | ES      | No                 |
| ES6200029 | Franja Litoral Sumergida de la Region de Murcia    | ES      | Yes                |

2

**DESCRIPTION OF SITES**

(Describe the areas and / or site(s) targeted by your project and upload as part of the application. If your project involves several distinct sub-areas / sub-sites, please fill in one form for each (copy table as many times as necessary). Please note that maps are mandatory for projects with area-based activities.)

| DESCRIPTION OF SITES   |            |  |
|--|------------|--|
| <b>Project name and acronym:</b>   |            | LIFE TURTLENEST - Caretta caretta* nesting range expansion under climate warming: urgent actions to mitigate threats at emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean. |
| <b>Name of the project area:</b><br>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B  |            | FRANCE, CORSE  |
| <b>Surface area (ha):</b><br>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals   |            | 1500 km (length) - 150 ha  |
| <b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>  | <b>SCI</b> | NA   |
|  | <b>SAC</b> | [Insert the corresponding Natura 2000 site c   |
|  | <b>SPA</b> | [Insert the corresponding Natura 2000 site code]   |
| <b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>  |            | arrêté ministériel du 14 octobre 2005  |
| <b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b><br>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.  |            |  |
| The south coast of France is conveniently divided into two sections, west of the Rhone (Languedoc), and east of the Rhone (Provence - Riviera). Languedoc offers mile upon mile of sandy seashores - though the Mediterranean being non-tidal, these sandy beaches are not generally as broad as those of the Atlantic coast. On the other hand, the water is usually warmer. Collioure, near the Spanish border is popular in all seasons. The Languedoc coast is a popular tourist destination. Around the Rhone delta, between the Camargue and Marseilles, the coast is not particularly touristy; with the proximity of shipping ports - Fos and Marseilles, and the water coming from the River Rhone. The Camargue itself has long beaches, not always very accessible as this is a protected wetland area. The main tourist beaches, with their long expanses of sand, lie between the western end of the Rhone delta and the start of the Pyrenees, south of Perpignan. Côte d'Azur Nice East of Marseilles, is the start of the Provence and the French Riviera, a rocky jagged coast characterised by its small inlets, shingly or sandy beaches, and beautiful landscapes. This is the region with the most famous of French seaside resorts - Saint Tropez, Juan les Pins, Saint Raphael, Cannes, Nice, and many others. It is an area that is extremely popular in summer with very high touristic presence. |            |  |
| <b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b><br>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.  |            |  |

EU Grants: Description of Sites (LIFE): V1.0 - 15.04.2021

Associated with document Ref. Area/2022/7388681 - 15/1/2022

The French Mediterranean waters lie from the French continental coast to South of the Corsica Mediterranean. Most data on turtle occurrence and size derive from stranding data, fisheries by-catch data and at-sea observations collected by the French network RTMMF1. From 2007 to 2019 around 1986 marine turtles were observed either caught, stranded or observed at sea (annual average of 150 individuals). *Caretta caretta* is the major species observed with 96% of identified individuals, followed by *Dermochelys coriacea* (3%) and *Chelonia mydas* (1%). Most turtles observed at sea, not clearly identified (n = 403) were likely loggerhead subadults. In addition to these data regularly collected by the RTMMF, 647 undetermined cheloniidae and 2 leatherbacks turtles were observed during aerial surveys in 2011, 2012, 2019 (SAMM), in 2014, 2017 (Marineland Association), and 2018 (ACCOBAMS). Moreover, the movements of 16 loggerhead turtles were tracked between 2008 and 2017 using telemetry techniques. Satellitetransmitting archival tags were deployed on rescued turtles rehabilitated at the "Centre d' Etude et de Sauvegarde des Tortues marines de Méditerranée", the Sea turtle Rescue Center (CESTMed2; Grau du Roi). All these turtles measured between 54 and 65 cm (CCL) and were released in the Gulf of Lions. The tracks showed that all the loggerhead turtle remained in western

EU Grants; Description of Sites (LIFE); V1.0 - 15.04.2021

Associated with document Ref. Area/2022/7889681 - 15/1/2022

Mediterranean, but tended to move south towards Italy, Spain and even down to north Africa. Interestingly, several individuals spent a significant time in lagunas off the French coast (étang de Berre, Leucate) and two turtles migrated to the Gulf of Oristano, an important area for mussel production. Densities of occurrences were estimated based on data collected over the entire study period and aggregated by trimester. It is important to note that these preliminary results were obtained using turtles that had remained in captivity for variable periods of time (up to several month) before they were tagged and released. These data, along with stranding data, at sea observations and aerial surveys suggest that the Loggerhead is present throughout the year long in French EEZ Mediterranean waters and occur all along French coasts. Digestive tract content analysis of dead specimens, satellite tracking and trawl by-catches suggest that the continental shelf of the Gulf of Lions is an important foraging and wintering area for sub-adult Loggerheads occurring in these waters. Other foraging areas are also suspected close to river mouths and lagoons of the Gulf of Lions and Corsica. Pelagic waters of Catalan Liguro-Provençal current could also be an important foraging area for juvenile loggerheads. In addition, some individuals have been observed mating offshore in the eastern part of the Gulf of Lions. While no migratory corridor has been clearly identified yet, preliminary genetic analyses of 99 blood and soft tissue samples from juveniles (including two turtles < 10 cm and one embryo from the St Tropez 2006 nest) suggest that loggerhead entering the French EEZ may originate from three nesting areas: West Atlantic, East Atlantic and East Mediterranean.

Up to date, no regular nesting sites has been detected in France but four loggerhead nests were recorded during the last ten years, two on the Provençal coast (St Tropez, 2006, 171 eggs; St Aygulf, 2016, 74 eggs), one on the coast of Languedoc (Maguelone, 2018, 60 eggs) and, last year, one in Corsica (Ghisonaccia, 2019; 120 eggs). Moreover, several nesting attempts with nest remains have been observed on the Corsica coast (Porto Vecchio, 2002; San Nicolao, 2014; Cap Corse, 2016).

There is an important need to develop genetic and habitat connectivity analyses with the aim to determinate the origin of those straying females nesting along the French Mediterranean coastline and the different habitats they use.

Gérigny, O., Claro, F., Moisson, P., Flori, G., Galgani, F., Gambaiani, D., Cesarini, C. 2020. Hatching events of the loggerhead turtle in Corsica Island, France. Marine Turtle Newsletter. 161:15-18. <http://www.seaturtle.org/mtn/archives/mtn161/mtn161-3.shtml>.

Sacchi J, Cesarini C, Gambaiani D, Claro F, Girard F, Poisson F. (2020) France. In: Casale P., Hochscheid S., Kaska Y., Panagopoulou A. (Eds.). Sea Turtles in the Mediterranean Region: MTSG Annual Regional Report 2020. Report of the IUCN-SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, 2020.

#### LIST OF NATURA 2000 SITES ALONG THE COASTS INTERESTED BY THE PROJECT

| SITECODE  | SITENAME  | COUNTRY | CARETTA IN THE SDF |
|-----------|---|---------|--------------------|
| FR9301592 | Camargue  | FR      | No                 |
| FR9301624 | Corniche Varoise  | FR      | Si                 |
| FR9101408 | tang de Mauguio   | FR      | No                 |
| FR9101410 | tangs palavasiens   | FR      | No                 |
| FR9101406 | Petite Camargue   | FR      | No                 |
| FR9102014 | Bancs sableux de l'Espiguette   | FR      | Yes                |
| FR9301627 | Embouchure de l'Argens  | FR      | No                 |
| FR9400570 | Agriates  | FR      | No                 |
| FR9400580 | Marais del Sale, zones humides priphriques et fort littorale de Pinia | FR      | No                 |
| FR9400587 | Iles Cerbicale et frange littoral                                     | FR      | Yes                |
| FR9402012 | Capo di feno  | FR      | No                 |
| FR9402013 | Plateau du Cap Corse  | FR      | No                 |
| FR9402017 | Golfe d'Ajaccio   | FR      | Yes                |
| FR9402014 | Grand herbier de la cte orientale                                     | FR      | Yes                |

EU Grants: Description of Sites (LIFE): V1.0 - 15.04.2021  
 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)788661 - 15/11/2022

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>PROJECT</b>  |  |
| <b>Project name and acronym:</b>  | LIFE TURTLENEST - <i>Caretta caretta</i> * nesting range expansion under climate warming; urgent actions to mitigate threats at emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean. |
| <b>Participant 1</b> (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).  |  |
| <b>Legal name (short name):</b>   | Legambiente Nazionale APS Onlus (LEGAMB)   |
| <b>Description of participant</b>   |  |
| <i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>   |  |
| <p>Legambiente is the most widespread environmental association in Italy and it is recognized as an "association of environmental interest" by the Italian Ministry for the Environment. It includes more than 1.000 local groups and 20 regional committees, over 115.000 members and supporters. The main aim of Legambiente is to safeguard biodiversity, protect natural areas, promote an efficient use of natural resources and foster sustainable territorial development. It has also been working against environmental illegalities, promoting solidarity and peace as fundamental values of our society. Legambiente carries out national awareness and information campaigns which involve other associations, public administrations, educational institutes and students, companies and citizens in general. Legambiente acts at local, national and EU levels to lobby for sustainable development, green economy, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Since 2000, Legambiente has been carrying out several projects financed by the LIFE program. Our key mission is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific environmentalism to build policies and to advocate change towards local, national and international stakeholders and institutions</li> <li>• To engage communities, stakeholders and people and enable them be the leading actors of change</li> <li>• To drive the economy towards new models of green and circular economy</li> <li>• To improve the quality of life for everyone (environmentally and socially).</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>Key staff</b>  |  |
| <i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>  |  |
| [Di Marco] [Stefano], [Male], [Projects Dept. Coordinator], [Geologist]   |  |
| MSc in geology has over 30 years of professional experience in the field of environment, nature, wildlife, ecotourism and cultural heritage. Expert of project design and project management is the Head of Projects Dept. of Legambiente. Expert of communication, advocacy, fundraising and EU Programs, since 1990 he managed many European projects including several LIFE projects concerning the conservation of species and habitats, Natura 2000 sites, and other topics. Project manager of 4 LIFE Nature projects regarding the conservation of loggerhead turtles.   |  |
| [Antonino] [Morabito], [Male], [Head of Wildlife Conservation Office], [Naturalist]   |  |
| Degree in Natural Sciences with an ethological focus, a post-graduate master's degree in Environmental Impact Assessment and several post-graduate courses in planning and management of protected areas. Over 30 years' experience in natural heritage governance, biodiversity conservation and management with a focus on wildlife and Natura 2000 sites. For Legambiente Head of Wildlife Conservation Office and national focal point of the voluntary environmental watchdog service.   |  |
| [Chiara] [Braschi], [Female], [Project Manager], [Zoologist]  |  |
| Degree in Biology with a specialization in zoology. PhD in Animal Ecology. Expert in wildlife monitoring, management and conservation, with a long time experience in the coordination of international projects. She has also gained experience in the rescue and care of <i>Caretta caretta</i> and nest monitoring. For Legambiente she deals with the management and coordination of international projects in the field of nature conservation.  |  |
| [Furii] [Giovanni], [Male], [Senior scientific expert], [Naturalist]  |  |
| Master's Degree in Natural Sciences (marine ecology) at the Faculty of Natural, Chemical and Physical Sciences of the University of Trieste. Since 2007 he has been Scientific Director of the Sea Turtle Recovery Center of Legambiente in Manfredonia, in the Gargano National Park.  |  |



[Raimondi] [Stefano], [Male], [Senior scientific expert], [Naturalist]

Graduated in Natural Sciences at the University of Rome "Sapienza" with specialization in the conservation of nature and its resources. Coordinates the protected areas and biodiversity office of Legambiente for which he follows in particular the strategies and projects relating to issues relating to nature conservation and the Natura 2000 Network

[Soddu] [Fabrizio], [Male], [Project Manager], [Naturalist]

Master's degree in Natural Sciences with specialization in Conservation of Nature and its Resources, and Master in Science Communication from the International School of Advanced Studies (SISSA) of Trieste. For Legambiente deals with the drafting and technical management of conservation projects financed by the LIFE program and other European programs.

[Dominici] [Milena], [Female], [Head of Communication], [Journalist]

Journalist, expert in media relations. head of the communication office of the Legambiente projects department; she has several journalistic experiences (mostly in press offices, but also in Rai and Mediaset television editions and paper prints). She has over 20 years of experience in environmental projects' communication. She managed communication activities in several Life projects.

#### Projects or Activities

List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.

LIFE SEA.NET - Urgent actions for the implementation of marine Natura 2000 Network – LIFE20 GIE/IT/000763

LIFE DELFI – Dolphin experience: Lowering Fishing Interactions - LIFE18 NAT/IT/000942

TARTALIFE - Reduction of sea turtle mortality in professional fishing activities - LIFE12 NAT/IT/000937

LIFE CARETTA CALABRIA - Land and sea actions for conservation of of Caretta caretta in its most important nesting ground (Ionian Calabria) - LIFE12 NAT/IT/001185

LIFE TARTANET - A network for the conservation of marine turtles in Italy - LIFE04 NAT/IT/000187

TARTAWATCHERS - Campaign for the monitoring and protection of loggerhead turtle nesting sites in Italy

#### affiliated Entities / Associated Partners

Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.

NA

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Participant 2</b> (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).  |                                      |
| <b>Legal name (short name):</b>   | Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (SZN) |
| <b>Description of participant</b>   |                                      |
| <i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>   |                                      |
| <p>The Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (National Institute of Marine Biology, Ecology and Biotechnologies) is a National Governmental Research Institute under the Ministry of University and Research (MUR), with the mission of improving our understanding of the structure and functioning of marine ecosystems, their biology and ecology and the evolution of marine life. SZN conducts research in marine biology, ecology and biotechnology and develops research infrastructures able to support the Italian researchers and to support the sustainable development of the Country. SZN also collaborates with national and international research institutions, SMEs and industries. The Institute has 5 main research departments: 1) Biology and Evolution of Marine Organisms; 2) Integrative Marine Ecology; 3) Services and Infrastructures for Marine Research, 4) Department of Marine Biotechnologies and 5) Marine Animal Conservation and Public Engagement Department. In the latter operates Marine Turtle Research Group that coordinates a conservation program based on practical applications (e.g. data collection, monitoring of nesting beaches, rescue and rehabilitation of injured animals and public awareness) and scientific research, in particular on the migratory and at-sea behaviour of <i>C. caretta</i>* authorized by the Italian Competent Authority. The SZN also coordinates the Regional Sea Turtle Stranding and Monitoring Network. To date, SZN took part in approximately 210 National and International research projects, including 79 EU-funded projects, taking advantage also from the Grant and Innovation Office (GIO) and the Administrative Offices which provide a full range of project management support.</p> |                                      |
| <b>Key staff</b>  |                                      |
| <i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>  |                                      |
| <b>Sandra Hochscheid, female, Senior Researcher</b>   |                                      |
| <p>Sandra Hochscheid is a marine biologist with a PhD in zoology from the University of Aberdeen (UK) and started her work on sea turtles on the nesting beaches in north Cyprus in 1997. She has developed an expertise in sea turtle biology and conservation, with a major interest in sea turtle movements, reproductive biology, and husbandry. Since 2013 she is the responsible researcher for the SZN's sea turtle research and conservation project. Since 2015 she is a member of the IUCN-SSC Marine Turtle Specialists Group for which she serves as Regional Vice Chair for the Mediterranean Region. In 2021 she was elected as member of the Board of Directors of the International Sea Turtle Society. She has participated to and led many field work campaigns and currently coordinates five funded projects on the monitoring of sea turtle nesting, at-sea abundance and distribution and the assessment of anthropogenic impact on sea turtle populations.</p>   |                                      |
| <b>Fulvio Maffucci, male, Technologist</b>  |                                      |
| <p>Fulvio Maffucci is a sea turtle expert, working on sea turtle research and conservation at the SZN since 2002. He obtained his PhD in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Analysis at the University of ROMATRE in 2016. His main interest lays in the conservation and management of large marine vertebrates. He uses a variety of approaches to address complex problems of sea turtle biology and conservation, conducting research at all scales from studies of population genetic structure to in water ecology of the species. Since 2008, he has been involved in the organization and management of the regional sea turtle stranding network and has been responsible for the teams of volunteers involved in loggerhead turtle nests identification and protection in Campania.</p>   |                                      |
| <b>Andrea Affuso, male, Technologist</b>  |                                      |
| <p>Andrea Affuso is a Doctor in Veterinary Medicine (DVM). Since 2015, he is full time employed in care and veterinary management of sea turtles rescued, due to health problems, and hospitalized at the SZN. Since 2017, he is in charge as animal health director at the Turtle Point in Portici. For the last five years, during the sea turtles' reproductive season, he gave contribution for the nest monitoring and the hatching assistance on the Campanian coasts. His scientific interest is to increase knowledge and to improve the understanding on several physiological and pathological pathways of the sea turtles life cycle in order to refine animal care protocols and medical approaches finalized to a faster and more complete recovery of injured sea turtles, and to avoid serious risks resulting from impact with anthropogenic activities for these animals.</p>  |                                      |
| <b>Projects or Activities</b>   |                                      |
| <i>List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.</i>   |                                      |

Project (2020/21): COMING - Coordinated monitoring and management of sea turtle nesting activity in the western Mediterranean through MPA; funded by MAVA Foundation in the framework of the MedPAN small Projects

Project (2019-22): Protective interventions and scientific data collection on sea turtle nests on the coasts of Cilento, SW Italy, funded by operative programme of the Memorandum of Understanding between SZN and the National Park of Cilento.

Activity (2020-): Caretta in vista. Citizen Science tools to detect and recognize a possible trail or nest of sea turtle *Caretta caretta* in Campania, SW Italy.

Project (2019-21): CarMoCuma - The shores of ancient Greek settlements in Italy: An index site for Mediterranean Sea turtle monitoring; funded by National Geographic Explorer Grant (NGS-58553R-19)

Project (2014-2020): Conservation actions for loggerhead turtles *Caretta caretta* in Campania, funded by Campania Region UOD 7 in the framework of INFEA

#### affiliated Entities / Associated Partners

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*

NA

**Participant 3** (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).**Legal name (short name):**

Istituto Superiore per la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)

**Description of participant***Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal..*

The Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), established by law 133/2008, is a public research body. ISPRA supplies technical scientific support to the Ministry of the Environment by means of its research and scientific activity; it is organized in Departments, National Centers and Services.

ISPRA is coordinator of Sistema Nazionale per la Protezione dell' Ambiente (SNPA - law 132/2016), composed by all Regional Agency of environmental protection (ARPA - Agenzia Regionale Protezione Ambientale). The Institute has about 1200 employees.

ISPRA performs technical and scientific functions on several environmental sectors, and facilitates the coherent implementation of National Environmental Policies. It coordinates the National Board on Coastal Erosion (TNEC) established by the MiTE with a "Memorandum of understanding to protect the coast from erosion and climate change effects".

Competences of ISPRA CN-COS are: marine and maritime climatology; monitoring and assessment of the state and the evolution of environmental matrices in the coastal zone in relation to anthropogenic impacts on coastal and transitional waters; developing methods, tools and innovative operational procedures on the issues above. The experiences relevant are: -Participation in Interreg program and national projects on coastal erosion, climate change, action plan measures and environmental monitoring program related to the coastal defense works and habitat mapping -Implementation of the Marine Strategy (MSFD) and Directive 2000/60/EC -Participation of the TNEC -Redaction of EU and National Guide Lines on environmental studies associated with coastal defense works

National Centre of Laboratories (CN-LAB) have proven experience in the physical and chemical characterization of sands and sediments in the marine environment. Therefore, it is able to carry out the activities of analysis on sand physical-chemical characteristics and to collaborate in guidelines drafting, also for its institutional tasks.

Moreover, ISPRA has a good experience in EU funded projects, being involved as Lead Partner in several projects, for these reasons the involvement of ISPRA is of fundamental importance for the activities of the project.

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**Key staff***Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.***[Luisa] [Nicoletti], [female], [senior technologist]**

Marine biologist, a degree in Biological Science at "La Sapienza" University of Rome in 1992 and PhD on Animal Biology at the University of Rome (ITALY). Senior Researcher at the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) on environmental impacts of CC and human activity (erosion, coastal defence works and sand dredging) on benthic communities, protected habitat and species, ecosystem. Project manager of several Italian and European research projects. Recently involved in European projects concerning CC, erosion, coastal defense works, and coastal zone management.

**[Sara] [Dastoli], [female], [researcher]**

Environmental engineer, a degree in Environmental engineering at "La Sapienza" University of Rome in 2005 and PhD on Environmental engineering at the University of Rome (ITALY) in 2014. Researcher at the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) on development of methodologies and guidelines to support issues of interest in the coastal marine environment, in particular concerning coastal erosion, dredging and treatment of dredged sediments and studies on the coastal environment before, during and after coastal defence works through participation in several interdisciplinary national and European research projects.

**[Laura] [Sinapi], [female], [technologist]**

Laura Sinapi geologist, a degree in Geological Science at "La Sapienza" University of Rome in 1989. Technologist at the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) on EIA and coastal erosion. Involved on environmental impacts on coastal zones of human activity and CC, on development of methodologies and guidelines to support and to manage issues of interest in the coastal environment, in particular concerning coastal erosion. Participation in national and European interdisciplinary research projects regarding coastal areas.

**[Saverio] [Devoti], [male], [Researcher III fascia IV], [geologist]**

MSc in geology at University of Rome "La Sapienza", researcher at the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) the research focuses upon coastal morphological processes mainly on sandy coasts

and on monitoring of beach and sand dunes morphology. Moreover, he deals with Italian tide gauge network and in the recent years the research topics has been on sea level morphological markers of past standing.

**[Luca] [Parlagreco], [male], [Researcher III fascia III], [geologist]**

MSc in geology at University of Rome "La Sapienza" and a PhD on Geological Sciences at Ferrara University on "Coastal Videomonitoring of the nourished beach of Terracina". Actually researcher at the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) in the "Group for Monitoring of the Physical State of the Sea and for the Marine Climatology Group". Research activities focus on monitoring of beach dynamics and management of the National Tidal Network. Particularly involved in the development of remote observation techniques of sandy beaches.

**[Chiara] [Maggi], [female], [researcher III fascia IV], [chemist]**

Chiara Maggi has been scientific responsible for several research projects and staff activities with particular regard to chemical monitoring for the environmental assessment of impacts on the marine ecosystem following the presence of anthropic activities. She has been carrying out scientific and technical support to the Italian Ministry of the Environment in terms of development of guidelines, quality control measures and research outputs on a variety of issues related to the chemical monitoring of water bodies.

**[Francesco] [Venti], [male], [Researcher III fascia III], [geologist]**

Dr Francesco Venti is a geologist who worked in the Sedimentology Laboratory of ICRAM (Central Institute for Scientific and Technological Research applied to the sea) and he is currently working as a researcher in the Physics Area of the National Center of Laboratories of ISPRA. His expertise is related to sediments and beach sampling, granulometric analysis, GIS processing and numerical modelling in the context of environmental characterization.

**[Maria] [Celia Magno], [female], [Researcher III fascia III], [geologist]**

Maria Celia Magno is an Italian marine geologist. She's been working at ISPRA in the Sedimentology Laboratory since October 1999. She has several years of experience in grain size analysis of marine and beach sediments but also in activities of marine sediments sampling (on-field) using several core devices (gravity corer and vibro corer) and grabs. She uses his expertise for the interpretation and processing of grain size data to evaluate the sedimentological characteristics of the seabed, as well as for the drafting of technical reports. She participated in the drafting of guidelines on particle size analyses of marine sediments (Analisi granulometriche dei sedimenti marini. Linee Guida SNPA 18/2018). In addition, she is currently working on the inter-calibration circuit for particle size analyses within the SNPA system, for the preparation of reference samples of marine sediment. She had collaborated with the Department of Earth Science of the University "La Sapienza" in Rome from May 1998 to May 2000.

**[Giancarlo] [Pierfranceschi], [male], [Researcher III fascia III], [geologist]**

Dr. Giancarlo Pierfranceschi holds a BSc in Geological Sciences from the University "La Sapienza" of Rome (Italy). He is currently working as a Researcher at the ISPRA Sedimentology laboratory. His activity consists of the sedimentological and mineralogical characterization of marine sediments and beach. Above all, he uses his experience in the use of the optical microscope for the recognition of the main sediment and beach components (terrigenous fraction, bioclastic fraction, and presence of anthropogenic granules), as well as for the drafting of technical reports. He also participated to several campaigns for the collection of coastal marine sediments in different marine areas of Italy.

**[Maria Teresa] [Berducci], [female], [Researcher III fascia II], [chemist]**

Dr Maria Teresa Berducci holds a degree in Chemistry from the La Sapienza University of Rome and she works in Chemistry Area of the National Centre of Laboratories of ISPRA as specialized in the determination of contaminants. She has an experience in the field of the marine environmental characterization and monitoring, and she collaborates in several project and activities in this field.

**[Isabel] [Mercatali], [female], [Researcher III fascia II], [biologist]**

Holds a degree in Biology, a Masters in Biomonitoring and Coastal Management. He is currently Head of the Nutrient Analysis Laboratory in marine and lagoon ecosystems. In particular, the Laboratory monitors and assesses the nutritional load of marine sediment, beach and soil as a result of anthropic activities, studying its environmental compatibility through the analytical determination of carbon (organic and total), total nitrogen and phosphorus.

**[Piera] Innocenzi], [female], [Technologist III fascia IV], [chemist]**

She has a degree in chemistry and works in the Nutrient Analysis Laboratory in marine and lagoon ecosystems. She deals with the characterisation of the sediment, beach and soil through the analysis of elements such as carbon (total and organic), nitrogen and phosphorus to study the chemical and physical conditions that determine the choice of nesting sites and the study of the water column through the assessment of the nutritional load with the analysis of nitrites, nitrates, ammonia, orthophosphates, total nitrogen and total phosphorus.

### Projects or Activities

*List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.*

ISPRA participates in numerous projects funded by EU Programmes relating to research and development, information sharing, training and capacity building (FP7, LIFE , ENPI, INTERREG) and a number of international initiatives. In particular:

SeResto- Habitat 1150 (Coastal lagoon) recovery by SEagrasses RESTOration (LIFE+)

MASTER-ADAPT – Mainstreaming Experiences at Regional and local level for adaptation to CC (LIFE+);

MARINA-Marine Knowledge Sharing Platform for Federating Responsible Research and Innovation Communities, Integrating Society in Science and Innovation (H2020);

MERMAID -Innovative Multi-purpose offshore platforms (FP7);

MYOCEAN 2 -Prototype Operational Continuity for the GMES Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting Service- (FP7);

MYWAVE-A pan-european concerted and integrated approach to operational wave modelling and forecasting (FP7);

BALMAS Ballast Water Management System For Adriatic Sea Protection (IPA Adriatic Strategic Project).

CHANGE WE CARE Climate cHallenges on coAstal and traNsitional chanGing arEas: WEaving a Cross-Adriatic REsponse (Interregg IT-HR)

EUROSEA Improving and integrating the European Ocean Observing and Forecasting System (Horizon 2020)

INDICIT- Implementation of the Indicator of Marine Litter on Sea Turtles and Biota in Regional Sea Conventions and Marine Strategy Framework Directive Areas Contract n. 11.0661/2016/748064/SUB/ENV.C2

INDICIT II-Implementation of the indicator Impacts of marine litter on sea turtles and biota in RSC and MSFD areas - II

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#### **Affiliated Entities / Associated Partners**

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entities, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*

N/A

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|---|--|
| <b>Participant 4</b> (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).  |  |
| <b>Legal name (short name):</b>   | Università degli Studi di Roma «Sapienza» (Sapienza) |
| <b>Description of participant</b>   |  |
| <i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>   |  |
| <p>Sapienza University of Rome (<a href="http://en.uniroma1.it">http://en.uniroma1.it</a>), founded in 1303 by Pope Boniface VIII, is one of the oldest universities in the world and the largest university in Europe. Sapienza enrolls &gt;110,000 students, of which 9,000 are international, and more than 3,000 among professors and researchers. The main campus hosts 54 libraries and 18 museums. Sapienza offers a vast array of academic courses including 287 degree programmes, 85 PhD courses, 190 professional courses and several Specialization Schools run by 58 Departments and 11 Faculties. Sapienza fosters international exchange through special programmes for visiting researchers and professors and through an active participation to European and international projects. Sapienza is a high performer in international rankings: it is 1st in Italy and 114th globally for Cwur, while according to the QS it ranks as 3rd in Italy and 171st globally. Sapienza fosters international exchange, know-how sharing and institutional collaboration through special programs for visiting scholars and through an active participation to European and international projects. Sapienza endorses the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers and in the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.</p>  |  |
| <b>Key staff</b>  |  |
| <i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>  |  |
| <b>Maiorano Luigi, man, Associate Professor</b>   |  |
| <p><b>Prof. Luigi Maiorano</b> received his PhD in 2007 from the University of Idaho (Moscow, USA) and is now Associate Professor (Zoology, Global Change Biology) in the BBCD Department at Sapienza. LM will supervise the overall project and manage it, guide the researcher to accomplish the different objectives and will help him to build the analyses and write the associated papers. LM is based in the Department of Biology and Biotechnologies Charles Darwin (BBCD, <a href="http://bbcd.bio.uniroma1.it">http://bbcd.bio.uniroma1.it</a>), which offers a vibrant and multidisciplinary research environment, currently enrolling 76 faculty members with a variety of scientific expertise, from molecular biology to ecosystems science. The Department has been strongly involved in the H2020 programme, and 10 H2020 projects are currently active (including both ERC and MSCA grants). The Department is also very active in disseminating science with ca. 1,400 articles published in the WoS core collection since 2010, including all the top-impact multidisciplinary journals. Within the BBCD department, LM is one of the 4 principal investigators contributing to the Macroecology and Biodiversity Conservation research group (MBC). The MBC is a research unit focused on global challenges to ecology and biodiversity conservation. The 4 research labs in the MBC have more than 400 publications (<a href="https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=RVG8UQQAAAAJ&amp;hl=en&amp;authuser=1">https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=RVG8UQQAAAAJ&amp;hl=en&amp;authuser=1</a>) with almost 25000 citations, and with active research on themes spanning global change biology, conservation biology and macro-ecology. LM has published 102 peer-reviewed papers (Clarivate Web of Science), with an H-index = 39 and more than 5000 citations (checked on October 1, 2021). LM is currently supervising 3 PhD students and 2 post-docs (plus a number of master degree students).</p> |  |
| <b>Mancino Chiara, woman, PhD Researcher</b>  |  |
| <p><b>Chiara Mancino</b> holds a BSc in Natural Sciences from the University of Turin (Italy) and a MSc in Marine Biology and Ecology from the University of Tuscia (Italy). She is currently a PhD student in Environmental and Evolutionary Biology. The main aim of her research is to study and predict how global changes will affect the distribution and biology of <i>Caretta caretta</i> and <i>Chelonia mydas</i> in the Mediterranean Sea during their entire life cycles, and to provide a complete conservation plan including explicitly existing EU policies. She is interested in conservation biology, marine biology, biogeography, and animal ecology with a particular focus on sampling methods and analysis of sea turtles' ecology and spatial distribution. She was also involved in different citizen science projects, she has a significant experience in the field of monitoring and protection of sea turtle nests, and sea turtle care and rehabilitation activities at rescue centers.</p> <p>etc.</p>   |  |
| <b>Projects or Activities</b>   |  |
| <i>List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.</i>   |  |
| AtlantECO: assess and predict changes in the status and dynamics of Atlantic ecosystems at regional and basin scales to improve the sustainability of ecosystem services and enhance Blue Growth for Atlantic communities.  |  |

**Affiliated Entities / Associated Partners**

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*

NA

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|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Participant 5</b> (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).  |                               |
| <b>Legal name (short name):</b>   | Universitat de Barcelona (UB) |
| <b>Description of Participant</b>   |                               |
| Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.  |                               |
| <p>The University of Barcelona is a leading institution in the research of marine turtles, particularly <i>Caretta caretta</i>. The research team is multidisciplinary and covers a wide range of the techniques needed to fulfil the scientific needs of this project and includes genetics/genomics, habitat use by combining satellite telemetry and stable isotope analysis, oceanographic modelling or analysis of incubation temperatures among others. The research team has intensively worked with the loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) in the Mediterranean, from the nesting to foraging areas and more recently with the new nesting events in the western Mediterranean. In this context, it has actively participated in the study, management and public awareness of nesting events along the Spanish Mediterranean coast including scientific assistance to national and regional administration in the development of conservation strategies on marine turtles.</p>  |                               |
| <b>Key staff</b>  |                               |
| Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.   |                               |
| <p><b>Carreras Huergo CARLOS, male, Lecturer, PhD</b></p> <p>His research is focused in genetic and genomics of marine organisms, with a focus on marine turtles. He has experience working with six different marine turtle species around the world providing basic knowledge on population structuring, connectivity and adaptation directed towards a scientifically based management and conservation of these megavertebrates. His research with the loggerhead sea turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) has provided the basis to define the genetic structuring of Mediterranean and Atlantic nesting populations, the genetic heterogeneity of foraging areas and the first insights into the colonisation of the western Mediterranean as a new area for nesting.</p>  |                               |
| <p><b>Pascual Berniola MARTA, female, Professor, PhD</b></p> <p>Her research lines focus on the analysis of evolutionary processes and population genetic studies with different native and introduced taxa. Her genome-wide studies of recent colonization processes at the laboratory and natural conditions show that most changes occur within the first generations, indicating that both selection and drift act shaping the genetic makeup of populations. Her genomic studies are fundamental to unveil the architecture of new colonisations that help to understand evolution in action.</p>  |                               |
| <p><b>Cardona Pascual LUIS, male, Associate Professor, PhD</b></p> <p>His research focuses on the biology, ecology and management of large marine vertebrates. His studies on the environmental factors determining the distribution of marine mammals, sea turtles and large fish, their ecological roles in marine food webs and their interactions with fisheries and other anthropogenic stressors help to identify strategies for reducing the human impacts on them, protect their habitats and preserve their ecological roles in marine food webs.</p>  |                               |
| <b>Projects or Activities</b>   |                               |
| List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.  |                               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project:</b> Marine genomic challenges: diversity, connectivity and adaptation from genomes to populations. MarGeCh, project UB. PID2020-118550RB-C22. Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación. 2021-2024.</li> <li>• <b>Project:</b> Management and assessment of the colonization of the Spanish coast as nesting area for the loggerhead sea turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) as an adaptation to climate change. NIDOS-Caretta. Fundación Biodiversidad. 2020-2021.</li> <li>• <b>Project:</b> Coordinated monitoring and management of sea turtle nesting activity in the western Mediterranean through MPA-UB Project. COMING. MedPAN. 2020-2021.</li> <li>• <b>Project:</b> Marine and Genomic Biodiversity: from populations to communities (PopCOmics), project UB, CTM2017-88080-C2-2-R. Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad. 2017-2020.</li> <li>• <b>Project:</b> Assessment of the impact of the Cayman Turtle Farm release program to the wild populations of the green turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) in the Cayman Islands using genetic markers". FBIG 9013 and 10084. Department of Environment, Cayman Islands Government. 2014-2016.</li> </ul> |                               |
| <b>Affiliated Entities / Associated Partners</b>  |                               |

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*

N/A

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| <b>Participant 6</b> <i>(use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).</i>   |  |
| <b>Legal name (short name):</b>   | Fundació Universitària Balmes (UVic-UCC) |
| <b>Description of Participant</b>   |  |
| <i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>   |  |
| <p>Fundació Universitària Balmes (UVic-UCC), established on January 9, 1985, is the owner and legal entity of the University of Vic - Central University of Catalonia (UVic-UCC). Since then, UVic-UCC has promoted academic quality and R&amp;D activities, by promoting technological innovation, sustainability and strong cooperation with the world of entrepreneurship. Research at UVic-UCC is organised around 30 research groups in the fields of experimental science, medicine, humanities and social sciences, and through different chairs and research centres. The Technological Centre in Biodiversity, Ecology and Environmental and Food Technology was born in June 2014, to give a definitive boost to the research activity in the field of the environmental technologies at the Universitat de Vic-Universitat Central de Catalunya (UVic-UCC). The main mission of the BETA Technological Centre is to be a relevant actor for the technological development, the improvement of the competitiveness and the quality of life of rural societies. The impulse for fulfilling this mission comes from both the execution of R&amp;D&amp;I projects and the transfer of knowledge to the private and public sector.</p> <p>The Centre is organized into three main strategic areas and two transversal lines: a) Area of Environmental Technologies &amp; Circular Bioeconomy: The main line of the BETA Technological Centre, focused in the development of sustainable and efficient technologies to treat, value and manage organic waste, wastewater, gases and odours of livestock and industrial activities. b) Applied Ecology &amp; Global Change: this line promotes the study of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, with an emphasis on assessing their response and resilience to different impacts. c) Soil &amp; Nutrient Management: this line addresses the adequate and responsible management of soils and fertilizing products, with a view to furthering the rural circular economy and improving the sustainability of agricultural practices. d) Transversal line on Sustainability Accounting &amp; Optimization: Mainly involved in environmental impact assessment (e.g., life cycle analysis, carbon footprint, water footprint, product environmental footprint), economic impact assessment (analysis of the cycle of costs) and evaluation of social impacts (analysis of the cycle of social life). e) Transversal line on Governance for Sustainability: it promotes initiatives and projects that seek to improve the governance in the field of sustainability based on the principles of coordination and cooperation among stakeholders of the quadruple helix.</p> <p>At present, the centre has wide experience in conservation and management of sea turtle populations, focusing in nesting behaviour and nest ecology, being expert's advisors for several regional and main governments.</p> <p>In addition, the centre is collaborating with a large network of research groups in Europe, America and Asia, and has long-term collaborations with relevant institutions worldwide. From last 5 years, BETA Tech Center has been involved in several competitive R+D+I project funded by EU calls (H2020, Interreg MED, Interreg POCTEFA, ENICBCMED LIFE), Spanish Government, international cooperation entities, etc. Furthermore, since 2014, BETA Tech Center has had more than 50 contracts with agri-food industry and regional entities for the provision of technical services, among these the participation in European-funded operational groups.</p> |  |
| <b>Key staff</b>  |  |
| <i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>  |  |
| <b>Abella Elena, woman, Collaborating researcher, Dr</b>  |  |
| <p><b>Dr. Elena Abella</b> is an Oceanographer, PhD Ecology and Management of Living Marine Resources by the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC) and the Spanish Scientific Research Council (CSIC). Her expertise is related to sea turtle conservation and management, focusing in nesting behaviour and nest ecology. She has a deep expertise in sea turtle conservation and outreach projects in the field, both as biologist and as project manager. Currently, she is an expertise advisor of several regional and main governments in Spain and Cabo Verde Republic. She is also an active member of the board of the NGO BIOS.CV of Cabo Verde (Associação para a Conservação do Meio Ambiente e o Desenvolvimento), the West Africa Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG/SSC/UICN), and she promotes the Spanish Sea Turtle Networking (AHE). In the last years, she has developed social and educational projects as a director.</p>  |  |
| <b>Aguilera Mireia, woman, Researcher</b>   |  |
| <p><b>Mireia Aguilera</b> is an Oceanographer and Project Manager, she worked as R&amp;D project manager in the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC) until 2013 and then she moved to the University of Vic – Central University of Catalonia (UVic-UCC) where she has been working as technical project manager in the Centre for Health and Social Care Research (CESS) and in the Research Transfer Office (OTRI). She has managed several EU-funded project under a broad range of programmes such as FP7, Horizon2020, Erasmus+, BEST Programme, Interregs, LIFE+, etc., both in ULPGC and UVic-UCC. She is currently the financial manager of international projects in BETA Center. She is also involved in sea turtle conservation projects, in UVic-UCC and NGOs working on the field.</p>   |  |

**Abril Meritxell, woman, Senior Researcher, Dr**

Dr. Meritxell Abril holds a BSc in Biology (2009) from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain) and a MSc in Environmental Management and Restoration (2010) from the University of Barcelona (Spain). She earned a PhD in Fundamental and Applied Ecology (2017) from the University of Barcelona. Her research focuses on understanding how different natural and anthropogenic stressors affect the structure and functioning of aquatic ecosystems, with a special emphasis on looking for management and restoration tools to conserve them. She is currently working as a senior researcher at the Applied Ecology & Global Change research line of BETA Technological Center, where she is involved in different projects regarding the ecological impact evaluation of different anthropogenic impacts on aquatic ecosystems. Furthermore, she is also involved in different citizen science projects, and the principal investigator of a citizen science project called Pescadors de Plàstic that aims to explore plastic pollution in freshwaters and their transport to the sea.

**Proia Lorenzo, men, Senior Researcher, Dr**

Dr. Lorenzo Proia holds a degree in Biology, MSc in Fundamental and Applied Ecology and a PhD in Experimental Science and Sustainability (2012). He is currently a Senior Researcher and the Head of the Aquatic Ecology and Ecotoxicology research area at CT BETA (UVIC-UCC). Dr. Proia has a significant experience in the field of the applied aquatic ecology and ecotoxicology.

**Projects or Activities**

List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.

- PROJECT\_COMING: Coordinated monitoring and management of sea turtle nesting activity in the western Mediterranean through MPA (MAVA Foundation in the framework of the MedPAN small Projects)
- PROJECT\_CARETTA A LA VISTA!: Citizen Science tools to detect and recognize a possible trail or nest of sea turtle "Caretta caretta" (FCT-17-12045 & FCT-16-11577)
- ACTIVITY\_Elaboration of the "Spanish national guidelines for the protection and management of sea turtle nidification" (2021) in collaboration with the public authority "Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico" from the Spanish Government.
- ACTIVITY\_Elaboration of the "Spanish national strategy for the sea turtle conservation" (2020) in collaboration with the "Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico" from the Spanish Government. .
- ACTIVITY Management and advisory services to handle sea turtle nesting along the Catalan coast (since 2018), in collaboration with the Generalitat de Catalunya.

**Affiliated Entities / Associated Partners**

Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.

N/A

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| <b>Participant 7</b> <i>(use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).</i>  |  |
| <b>Legal name (short name):</b>  | Ente Nazionale Della Cinofilia Italiana (ENCI) |
| <b>Description of Participant</b>  |  |
| <i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>  |  |
| <p>The Italian kennel club (ENCI) is an association recognized with R.D. June 13, 1940 n. 1051 and subject to the supervision of the Ministry for Agricultural Policies, by D.L. of the Provisional Head of State of 23 December 1947 n. 1665.</p> <p>ENCI is a breeder's association of a technical-economic nature, with the aim of preserving pure recognized dog breeds, improving and increasing their breeding, as well as regulating and promoting their use and valorization for zootechnical and sporting purposes; promotes studies and researches concerning dog technology and helps qualified initiatives aimed at the study, control, improvement and diffusion of dog breeding and helps qualified initiatives aimed at the study, control, improvement and diffusion of dog breeds.</p> <p>ENCI carries out its activity throughout the national territory. It includes 221 members (breed associations) and beyond 50.000 associated with breed associations.</p> <p>ENCI has developed projects concerning the training and use dogs for conservation projects, in collaboration with public organizations and administrations, universities, research institutes.</p> |  |
| <b>Key staff</b>   |  |
| <i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>   |  |
| <p><b>[Selene] [Festa], [female], [Projects Coordinator], [Biologist]</b></p> <p>Bachelor's degree in animal husbandry and welfare, master's degree in veterinary biotechnology and state examination for biologist profession. In ENCI she deals with the training course entitled "Master Dog Breeders", the procedure for recognizing kennel names and doping controls in zootechnical events.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>[Clarissa] [Biagini], [female], [Project Manager], [Biotechnologist]</b></p> <p>Bachelor's degree in animal husbandry and welfare and master's degree in veterinary biotechnology. In ENCI she deals with trainers office and follows courses organized by canine centers recognized by ENCI. In the past she worked for the organization of a course for professional dog trainers.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>[Serena] [Donnini], [female], [Project Manager], [Professional dog trainer]</b></p> <p>Professional detection and tracking dog trainer. She has more than 10 years' experience in training for private and companies. She managed K9 training in several conservation projects and has participated also as dog handler in conservation projects concerning species of conservation interest and also invasive species</p>   |  |
| <b>Projects or Activities</b>  |  |
| <i>List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.</i>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCAT DETECTION DOG conservation of Italian hare (<i>Lepus corsicanus</i>) Abruzzo 2017</li> <li>- ASP Project (african swine fever) CARCASS DETECTION DOG - detection of wild boar carcasses, to be used in monitoring operations, as part of African Swine Fever prevention and control projects. Italy 2019-2021</li> <li>- SAFA project (anti poaching detection dogs) Italy 2018-2019</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>Affiliated Entities / Associated Partners</b>   |  |
| <i>Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.</i>   |  |
| N/A  |  |

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| <b>Participant 8</b> <i>(use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens)</i>   |   |
| <b>Legal name (short name):</b>  | Centre d'Etude et de Sauvegarde des Tortues marines de Méditerranée (CESTmed) |
| <b>Description of Participant</b>  |   |
| <i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>  |   |
| <p>Created in 2003, CESTMED is a rescue center for sea turtles on the French Mediterranean coast. The center has also a rehabilitation center in a seminatural environment. In 2022, CESTMED will open a new rescue center with the possibility of welcoming the public and schools to raise awareness about the protection of sea turtles.</p> <p>Since 2017, CESTMed has carried out :</p> <p><b>beach surveys on selected beaches</b> (mainland and Corsica) using :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Volunteers (some coming by boat)</li> <li>•Fieldworkers (natural parks, MPAs, coastal cities employees, agents in charge of beach cleaning, etc.)</li> <li>•Detection dogs</li> <li>•Drones</li> <li>•Develop tools to carry out : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Campaign awareness</li> <li>-Training sessions (in the field, via videoconference, with videos...)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |   |
| <b>Key staff</b>   |   |
| <i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>   |   |
| <p><b>Jean-Baptiste Sénégas, man, rescue centre (CESTMed, France)</b></p> <p>Jean-Baptiste Sénégas is the director of CESTMED at Grau du Roi and Grande Motte. He is a sailor, and organizes surveys on beaches and missions at sea to observe and tag sea turtles.</p> <p><b>Delphine Gambaiani, woman (CESTMed, France):</b> Biologist at CESTMed</p> <p><b>Gaëlle Darmon, woman (CESTMed, France):</b> Biologist at CESTMed</p> <p><b>Nicolas Chereau, man (CESTMed, France):</b> Biologist at CESTMed</p>  |   |
| <b>Projects or Activities</b>  |   |
| <i>List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.</i>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partner of the UE programme DG ENV "Implementation of the indicator Impacts of marine litter on biota in RSC and MSFD areas" (INDICIT-II). (2019-2020)</li> <li>- Partner of the UE programme DG ENV "Implementation of the indicator Impacts of marine litter on sea turtles in RSC and MSFD areas (INDICIT). 10 partners, (2017-2019).</li> <li>- Partner in the UE INTEREG MED program "Developing standard protocols in the Mediterranean sea to protect biodiversity from litter impacts à the basin scale and in Marine Protected Areas (MEDSEALITTER). 6 partners (2016-2019).</li> <li>- Coordinator of the patrolling beaches project on the French Mediterranean coast.</li> <li>- Partenaire of the MNHN program TARTACAP (2021, 2022)."monitoring and marine turtle observation"</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>Affiliated Entities / Associated Partners</b>   |   |
| <i>Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.</i>   |   |
| N/A  |   |

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| <b>Participant 9</b> (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).  |                             |
| <b>Legal name (short name):</b>   | Regione Basilicata (REGBAS) |
| <b>Description of participant</b>   |                             |
| <i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>   |                             |
| <p>The progress of the governance processes of environmental and forestry policies is one of the main institutional tasks and commitments of the Basilicata Region. A need that arises from the central role that territorial and forest resources play on an environmental, economic and social level. The improvement of the knowledge bases obtained thanks to the development of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has increased the understanding of the dynamic processes of the territorial and environmental systems, increased their monitoring capacity, made it possible to highlight the operational contexts and the tools to be used on site programming. The protection of the environment and biodiversity is pursued through actions to contrast and mitigate the causes of degradation linked to various phenomena. In particular, the PARKS, BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE PROTECTION OFFICE deals with the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy; implementation of the Natura 2000 Network on the regional territory: protection and conservation of flora, fauna and habitats in implementation of the Community directives; realization of the Regional Ecological Network and integration with the Regional Landscape Plan; drafting of monitoring and control plans in application of P.d.G. and M.T.C. on SAC-ZPS in synergy with the regional observatory on biodiversity and faunal words; implementation of the Marine Strategy Directive; implementation of the Prioritizen Action Framework (PAF).</p> |                             |
| <b>Key staff</b>  |                             |
| <i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>  |                             |
| [Biagio] [Sampogna], [Male], [Project Manager], [Forestry Technician]   |                             |
| Degree in Forestry and Environmental Sciences; currently serving at the Environment and Energy Department - Parks, Biodiversity and Nature Protection Office; technical member of the Regional Observatory for Natural Biodiversity with activities related to the following projects: control of fauna species in protected areas; monitoring of species at risk and of wildlife and hunting interest both as a field technician and as a project manager; technician specialized in control and monitoring of alien species.  |                             |
| [Sandrino] [Caffaro], [Male], [Officer], [Wildlife Technician]  |                             |
| Fuanist technician, expert in census and selective control of ungulates (cervids, bovids and wild boars), expert in census and control of opportunistic species, expert in techniques and management of wild animal captures; member of the working group of the Basilicata Regional Fish Charter 2004: expert in the census and control of alien fish species  |                             |
| <b>Projects or Activities</b>   |                             |
| <i>List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.</i>   |                             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LIFE SEA.NET - Urgent actions for the implementation of marine Natura 2000 Network – LIFE20 GIE/IT/000763</li> <li>• LIFE EGYPTIAN VULTURE - Measures for the conservation of the Egyptian vulture in Italy and the Canary Islands - LIFE16 NAT/IT/000659</li> </ul>   |                             |
| <b>Affiliated Entities / Associated Partners</b>  |                             |
| <i>Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.</i>  |                             |
| N/A   |                             |

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| <b>Participant 10</b> (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).  |                         |
| <b>Legal name (short name):</b>  | Regione Puglia (REGPUG) |
| <b>Description of Participant</b>  |                         |
| <i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>  |                         |
| <p>The Regional Service Parks and Biodiversity Protection is responsible for Natura 2000 sites, including the proposal of the institution of new Sites of Community Importance and special areas of conservation, the evaluation of the management plans and the measures for conservation of the Sites of Community Importance and of the minimum uniform conservation criteria for Special Protection Areas for their approval, the promotion of monitoring activities to evaluate the conservation status of the sites through the coordination of competent units and delegated authorities. Moreover, it is responsible for the policy about natural conservation through the network of regional protected areas, with the approval of the Plans of regional parks and the expression of advices for the approval of the Plans of national parks and by means of surveillance activities. The Regional Service is involved in the implementation of the European programs, with the participation in LIFE+ projects sustaining environmental projects and natural protection and conservation. Finally, it represents the Regional Observatory for Biodiversity, promoting the knowledge and the conservation and valorization of biodiversity and of the environmental value of Apulia territories, together with the participation of citizens in the framework of sustainable development and environmental protection.</p> <p>All these tasks perfectly fit to project activities.</p> |                         |
| <b>Key staff</b>   |                         |
| <i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>   |                         |
| [DIBITONTO ] [CATERINA], [FEMALE], [DIRIGENTE], [MSc]  |                         |
| <p>MSc in Chemical Engineering at Politecnico di Torino, with a Master in Risk Analysis. For more than 20 years she has been working in Public Administration in the environmental field at ARPA Piemonte (environmental regional agency) and Regione Puglia. From 2010 she has directed the sectors responsible for environmental and incidence assessments. Currently she governs the Regional sectors responsible for environmental control, for parks and biodiversity (including Natura 2000 sites and regional parks) and for regional planning in the fields of territory and environment.</p>  |                         |
| [FIORE] [MARIA], [FEMALE], [TECHNICAL OFFICIAL], [qualification(s)]  |                         |
| <p>She is responsible for the planning of Natura 2000 sites, including the monitoring of the PAF (Prioritized Action Framework), the evaluation of Management plans of Natura 2000 sites, the monitoring of the implementation of foreseen actions. Moreover, she contributes to the definition and implementation of projects for the protection of biodiversity. She is responsible for the collection and diffusion of data concerning protected habitats and species and for the definition of the measures of conservation for Natura 2000 sites. Finally, she provides support in infringement procedures concerning the Directives 2009/147/EC and 92/43/EEC.</p>   |                         |
| [GRIFONI] [ENRICO], [MALE], [TECHNICAL OFFICIAL], [qualification(s)]   |                         |
| <p>He is responsible for the planning of natural national and regional protected areas, including the procedure for the institution of regional protected areas and the procedure for the approval of management plans of these areas. He is responsible for the advice of the Service in the framework of Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>   |                         |
| [RUBINI] [VALENTINA], [FEMALE], [TECHNICAL OFFICIAL], qualification(s)]  |                         |
| <p>She is responsible for the coordination and control of the managing bodies of natural protected areas and of the regional economic contribution for the management of these areas. She coordinates co-planning processes for the Plan of the Park and for the Socio-economic plan for compatible activities (regional law 19/97). She supports legislative activities in the field of natural protected areas and Natura 2000 sites. She is involved in the management of LIFE projects (LIFE16 NAT/IT/000659 EGYPTIAN VULTURE - Misure per la conservazione del capovaccaio, Zone Umide Sipontine, Un Falco per Amico) and of other financed projects in the field of biodiversity.</p>  |                         |
| [SGARRA] [CONCETTA], [FEMALE], [TECHNICAL OFFICIAL], qualification(s)]   |                         |
| <p>She is responsible for advices on the implementation of the conservation measures for Natura 2000 sites, on the definition of guidelines for impact assessment in Natura 2000 sites, on the adoption of compensative measures. She is responsible for the collection of data about of captures and accidental killing of specific faunal species included in the Annex D, letter a) of DPR 357/97. She updates the Natura 2000 database and the relevant standard forms. She performs any other task connected with the conservation of habitats and species in the framework of Directives 2009/147/EC and 92/43/EEC.</p>  |                         |
| <b>Projects or Activities</b>  |                         |

List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.

- LIFE Egyptian vulture (LIFE Capovaccaio – area di progetto: Terra delle Gravine)
- LIFE "Sipontine Wetlands" (Area progetto: Zone Umide Sipontine)
- LIFE "Un Falco per amico" - Lesser Kestrel (LIFE Grillaio)
- INTERREG Grecia – Italia - Addressing joint Agro- and Aqua-Biodiversity pressures Enhancing SuSTainable Rural Development – Best
- INTERREG Italia – Croazia - CoAStal and marine waters integrated monitoring systems for ecosystems proteCtion AnD management – Cascade

With particular regards to previous projects related to *Caretta caretta*:

- Tartanet LIFE 2004 NAT/IT/187
- Tartalife+ Progetto LIFE+12 NAT/IT/000937,
- Progetto "ProAct - Natura 2000" relativo al Programma di Cooperazione Territoriale Europea 2007/2013 "Grecia / Italia cbc"
- Progetto strategico "Mediterranean Youth, NEETs and women advancing Skills, Employment and Awareness in the blue and green economy" (MYSEA)

#### **Affiliated Entities / Associated Partners**

Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.

N/A

**Participant 11** (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).

Legal name (short name):

ARPAT (ARPAT)

**Description of Participant**

Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.

ARPAT, established with regional law n. 66/1995, has been active since 1996 and was reformed with regional law no. 30/2009. The agency has about 600 employees.

Through its own structures, located throughout the region, ARPAT guarantees the implementation of regional guidelines in the field of environmental prevention and protection, operating in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of Services and Activities of ARPAT.

ARPAT performs technical and scientific functions on several environmental sectors, and facilitates the coherent implementation of National Environmental Policies.

The Agency works at the service of institutions and citizens and monitors the state of the environment; carries out assessments on the sources of pollution and the resulting impacts, dealing with the identification and prevention of risk factors for the human health and environment safety. ARPAT works in a network with other Italian environmental agencies, recently formalized with the establishment of the National System for Environmental Protection (SNPA).

ARPAT, thanks to the activity of its Sea Sector, is involved in marine-coastal environment studying and monitoring, with particular attention to marine biodiversity especially related to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) 2008/56/CE and Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.

ARPAT play an important role in supporting Tuscany Region for the implementation of new marine protected areas and SIC (*sensu* Habitat Directive 92/43/CE), coordinating the regional network for the recovery of stranded and accidentally captured sea turtles, cetacean and cartilaginous fishes, as stated in L.R. 30/2015 on Tuscany Biodiversity and Tuscan Biodiversity Observatory (OTB).

Competences of ARPAT are:

- monitoring and assessment of the state and the evolution of environmental matrices in the coastal zone in relation to anthropogenic impacts on coastal and transitional waters; developing methods, tools and innovative operational procedures on the issues above.
- Sea Sector have proven experience in monitoring sea turtles nesting along Tuscan coasts since 2013, performing measure of temperature by data logger during all the incubation period, assistance to all the stages of hatching of the eggs and emergence of the young from the sand, investigation of the nest material after hatching (shells, unhatched eggs, dead embryos, any turtles still alive): sampling for veterinary investigations (bacteriological, virological, parasitological, etc.), ecotoxicological, morpho-biometric,
- Local departments and laboratories have experience in physical, chemical and microbiological characterization of sands and sediments in the marine environment.
- Cooperation for the recovery of alive stranded animals, their hospitalisation in a recovery centre, mark and release
- Cooperation to all level with the various realities active on the regional territory such as environmental associations, parks, universities, private research centres, aquariums, museums, private associations, port authorities, municipalities

Moreover, ARPAT has a good experience in EU funded projects, being involved in some projects as leader or partner.

ARPAT will be involved in:

- updating the Natura 2000 standard formulary and the identification of new objectives/measures for the conservation of *Caretta caretta*;
- Cooperation for the writing and the adoption of action plans and guidelines, in order to improve the conservation status of the species;
- Monitoring sea turtle stranding and/or accidentally captures in order also to contribute to estimate adult female abundance in Tuscany area;
- Conservation action (WP4): training courses, beach patrolling, nest and hatchling monitoring and protection, physical and geo-morphological analysis and characterization of nesting sites, contribution to Guidelines;
- Communication and dissemination (WP2): to increase awareness of local communities, tourist, beach resort and managers through communication plan, media relations and social media, citizen science, networking, participation in seminars and conferences,

**Key staff**

Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.

**Alessandro [Voliani], [male], [manager]**

Degree in Agricultural Sciences, has worked in ARPAT since 1996 as a manager in the "Fish Resources and Marine Biodiversity" Operating Unit (RIBM) of the Sea Sector, of which he has been Head since 2021. He is involved in studies of fish management, stock assessment, taxonomy, biology and population dynamics in marine and freshwater environments; landings and discards monitoring programs; study of the diet (stomach contents) of marine vertebrate (cetaceans, fishes)

**[Cecilia] [Mancusi], [female], [CTP] [biologist]**

Degree in Biological Science, employee in ARPAT since 2004 as biological technical collaborator (cat. D). She is involved in studies of fish management, stock assessment, cartilaginous fish taxonomy, biology and population dynamics; landings and discards monitoring programs; sea grass *Posidonia oceanica* monitoring; national and international programs on marine biodiversity, strandings and accidental catches of marine vertebrate (cetaceans, sea turtles, large cartilaginous fishes); study of the diet (stomach contents) and marine litter ingestion.

**[Francesca] [Chiostrì], [female], [communication]**

Degree in Political Science, employed in ARPAT since 2001 as an expert professional administrative collaborator (cat. Ds) in the Communication, Information and Documentation Sector. She is involved in communication, information and relations with the public. She is registered as a publicist with the Order of Journalists and works in the press office and in the editorial office of the newsletter Arpatnews, where she is particularly involved in marine monitoring, marine strategy and marine biodiversity.

 Assoc
**Giorgio Cognigni, [CTP] geologist male**

Degree in Geological Science, Master degree in Multimedia content design, European certificate as Multimedia technician and designer; developing multimedia projects since 1998, employee in ARPAT since 2000. Professional technical collaborator (cat. D) in the Communication, information and documentation sector, he is mainly involved in content project and editing of the ARPAT Website ([www.arpato.toscana.it](http://www.arpato.toscana.it)).

**Carlotta Alaura [Tecnico della Prevenzione Ambientale] Female**

Degree in Environmental Prevention Technician, Master degree in Multimedia content design Communication; employee in ARPAT since 1995. Expert in digital media management (website, social, media), information and documentation.

**Alessandra Grandi, [CTP] administrative female**

Degree in classical literature, employee in ARPAT since 2002 as educational/formation expert processes; ARPAT administrative and accounting management.

**Projects or Activities**

List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.

ARPAT participates in some projects funded by EU Programmes relating to research and development, information sharing, training and capacity building (LIFE, INTERREG). In particular:

GIONHA - GOVERNANCE of INTERREGIONAL OBSERVATORY ON cetacean's HABITAT (Transfrontaliero Marittimo)

- IMPACT - Impatto Portuale su Aree Marine protette: azioni Cooperative Transfrontaliere

- SEPOSSO (LIFE16 GIE/IT/000761)- Supporting Environmental governance for the POSidonia oceanica Sustainable transplanting Operations

**Affiliated Entities / Associated Partners**

Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.

N/A

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>Participant 12</b> (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).   |                        |
| <b>Legal name (short name):</b>   | Regione Lazio (REGLAZ) |
| <b>Description of participant</b>   |                        |
| <i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>   |                        |
| <p>La Regione Lazio is the regional administrative authority of Latium, central Italy. The Direzione Ambiente (Environmental Bureau) deals up with administrative and technical matters about environment. It is the regional point of reference for the management of regional parks and protected areas, including Natura 2000 areas. It conducts some conservation program for threatened species like the bear of the National Park of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise. Since 2016 a new Office about the conservation of the sea and of the coastal environments, deals up with monitoring and conservation of sea turtles. A special task force, named "TartaLazio" has institutionally been formed. In the same year, the first nest was discovered along the coasts of Latium: since then, even thanks to a great effort in the monitoring of the coasts and to strategic links and partnerships with national and local research institutions, maritime authorities and environmental groups, twenty nest have been discovered. Last summer, 2021, 10 nest were took care of and more than 550 hatchlings reached the sea; the staff, who is authorized by central authorities of Environment Ministry, because of the peculiar nature of the beaches of Latium, too often too narrow or interest by touristic activities, has been particularly skilled in the activities for the conservation ex situ of the nests with a very high percentage of success in the hatching.</p> <p>Every year Tartalazio collects between 40 and 100 specimens of <i>Caretta caretta</i> stranded along the Latium coast; about 20% of them are still alive and carried to First aid points or to the Stazione Zoologica of Napoli to be recovered. A very large part of them succeeds in being bring back to the sea.</p> <p>TartaLazio carries out campaigns to raise awareness among citizens, stake holders and fishermen about the conservation of sea turtles.</p> <p>More, the Direzione Ambiente is directly involved in the management of coasts for their planning and use for productive and touristic purposes.</p> |                        |
| <b>Key staff</b>  |                        |
| <i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>  |                        |
| <p>[Marini] [Luca], [Male], [manager of the Office for the conservation of the coasts and the sea of the Direzione Ambiente della Regione Lazio, TartaLazio Coordinator], [Naturalist]</p> <p>PhD in evolutionary biology and a marine biologist has over 35 years of professional experience in the field of conservation of environment, research on marine vertebrates, wildlife.</p> <p>Expert of management of marine protected areas, has been in the panel expert of ICRAM (now ISPRA) for the planning and management of some Italian marine protected areas. He has been one of the first to conduct studies on free ranging cetacean in the Mediterranean Sea, particularly about migration of fin whales and very first observations about interactions between dolphins and fisheries.</p> <p>After about 20 years in managing regional protected areas, now is the Direzione Ambiente of Regione Lazio where he founded TartaLazio (see above).</p> <p>[Marrone] [Nicola], [Male], [Senior naturalist in Riviera di Ulisse regional Park], [Naturalist]</p> <p>Degree in Natural Sciences. He manages a Rescue Centre for Wild Animals in Gaeta and coordinates conservation activities and research projects for wild birds in Riviera di Ulisse regional Park where also manages activities on invasive alien species and problematic wild fauna. He is the vice-coordinator of TartaLazio. Since 2004 he has been involved in safeguarding sea turtles, and in TartaLazio manages all the aspects of coastal monitoring and management of nests in the southern Lazio. He got all the necessary authorizations by the competent authorities do deal up with handling nests of sea turtles.</p>  |                        |
| <b>Projects or Activities</b>   |                        |
| <i>List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.</i>   |                        |
| <p>2016 - "TARTALAZIO" – Regional network for the recovery, rescue and management of sea turtles - operational lines.</p> <p>2020 - Awareness, conservation, and research project on the <i>Caretta caretta</i> sea turtle present on the Lazio coast.</p>  |                        |

**Affiliated Entities / Associated Partners**

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*

NA

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Participant 13</b> (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).  |                           |
| <b>Legal name (short name):</b>  | Regione Campania (REGCAM) |
| <b>Description of participant</b>  |                           |
| <i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>  |                           |
| <p>The Campania Region is a Regional Authority responsible for the Natura 2000 Network in the administered area, pursuant to Presidential Decree 357/97. The Campania Region is the guardian of an immense protected natural heritage consisting of 123 Natura 2000 Network Sites, 2 National Parks, 5 National Nature Reserves, 5 Marine Protected Areas, 1 Submerged Archaeological Park, 12 Regional Parks and Nature Reserves, 2 Unesco MAB Reserves, 2 Ramsar areas of international interest for bird migration and 1 Unesco Geopark. The competent regional office is the Directorate General for the Environment, Soil Defense and Ecosystem (50.06.000), and in particular the Management Operating Unit of protected natural resources - Protection and safeguarding of the marine and coastal habitat - Parks and natural reserves (UOD 500607) deals with the management of community resources intended for environmental protection and safeguarding. Network of environmental education centers and laboratories. Activities of the sea system and sea resources.</p> |                           |
| <b>Key staff</b>   |                           |
| <i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>   |                           |
| <p>[Rosa Caterina] [Marmo], [Female], [Dirigente], [Veterinarian]</p> <p>Graduated in veterinary medicine. She is currently manager of the operational unit Management of protected natural resources - Protection and safeguarding of the marine and coastal habitat - Parks and natural reserves of the Campania Region.</p> <p>[Michele] [Palmieri], [Male], [General Manager], [Geologist]</p> <p>Degree in Geological Sciences - at the University of Naples he has held numerous executive positions within the public administration. He currently holds the position of General Manager for the Environment and the ecosystem of the Campania Region.</p>  |                           |
| <b>Projects or Activities</b>  |                           |
| <i>List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.</i>  |                           |
| LIFE SEA.NET - Urgent actions for the implementation of marine Natura 2000 Network – LIFE20 GIE/IT/000763  |                           |
| <b>Affiliated Entities / Associated Partners</b>   |                           |
| <i>Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.</i>   |                           |
| N/A  |                           |



**MINISTÈRE  
DE LA TRANSITION  
ÉCOLOGIQUE**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

*Direction générale de l'aménagement,  
du logement et de la nature  
Direction de l'eau et de la biodiversité  
Sous-direction de la protection et de la restauration  
des écosystèmes littoraux et marins*

**LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT**

**DICHIARAZIONE DI SUPPORTO AL PROGETTO LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST**

Name and legal status: Ministry of ecological transition

 Assc

Full address: DEB/SDELM/ELM3

Tour Séquoia, 1 place Carpeaux – 92800 PUTEAUX - France

Contact person (name and function): Florian Expert, policy advisor Threatened marine species

Tel: +33 1 40 81 32 09

Email: [florian.expert@developpement-durable.gouv.fr](mailto:florian.expert@developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

The Ministry of ecological transition confirms its interest in the LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST project which can significantly contribute to the conservation of *Caretta Caretta* through the identification and protection of the emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean resulting from the geographic range expansion of the species in response to climate change.

Specifically, the project results will be used, to the extent of our competence, in the process for the designation of new Natura 2000 sites and/or the expansion or updating of the Standard Data Forms (SDF) of those already existing, to specifically protect the emerging loggerhead turtle nesting sites that will be identified in the project area.

Our participation in the project is free of charge.

We invite the European Commission to consider this project positively.

Date 22/03/2022

Signature

Name and status of signatory : Fabienne RICARD, Sub-director for protection and restauration of marine and seashore ecosystems

m amte.MiTE.REGISTRO UFFICIO LIFE ASCITA.0108543.08-09-2022

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022



*Ministero della Transizione Ecologica*  
DIREZIONE GENERALE PATRIMONIO NATURALISTICO E MARE

IL DIRETTORE GENERALE

All'Associazione Legambiente Onlus  
legambiente@pec.legambiente.it

alla c.a. del dott. Stefano di Marco  
Coordinatore Ufficio Progetti

OGGETTO: lettera supporto progetto LIFE TURTLENEST

Il Ministero della Transizione Ecologica – Direzione Generale Patrimonio Naturalistico e Mare viste le finalità del progetto LIFE Turtlenest di favorire la protezione dei siti di nidificazione della specie *Caretta caretta*, specie di rilevante interesse conservazionistico in quanto prioritaria per la Direttiva Habitat, esprime il formale sostegno al progetto e ne condivide gli obiettivi.

Pertanto, questa Direzione, per quanto di competenza, e sulla base dei risultati del monitoraggio previsto dal progetto LIFE, si impegna a facilitare l'eventuale designazione di nuovi pSIC o l'ampliamento di SIC o ZSC, nonché l'aggiornamento dei Formulari Standard da parte delle Regioni interessate, competenti in materia, nelle aree che risultassero avere una frequentazione stabile da parte della specie per la nidificazione.

Dr. Oliviero Montanaro  
(documento informatico firmato digitalmente ai sensi  
dell'art. 24 D.Lgs. 82/2005 e ss.mm.ii)

PNM-3 I.p./a.i.

ID Utente: 10906  
ID Documento: PNM\_03-10906\_2022-0011  
Data stesura: 07/09/2022

✓ Resp. Div.: Duprè E.  
Ufficio: PNM\_03  
Data: 08/09/2022

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Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44 – 00147 Roma Tel. 06-57223401-57228368-57228104  
E-mail: [PNM-UDG@mite.gov.it](mailto:PNM-UDG@mite.gov.it) [Pec: PNM@pec.mite.gov.it](mailto:PNM@pec.mite.gov.it)

Firmato digitalmente in data 08/09/2022 alle ore 13:18

**LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT****DECLARATION OF SUPPORT TO THE LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST PROJECT**

Name and legal status:  
Fernando Magdaleno Mas  
Deputy General Director of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity

Full address:  
Ministry for the Ecological Transition and The Demographic Challenge  
Plaza San Juan de la Cruz, 70. Madrid SPAIN

Contact person (name and function):  
Ms. Helena Moreno Colera (Chief of Technical section of the marine species service)  
Tel: (+34) 915976229 hmoreno@miteco.es

The Deputy Director General for Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, which is the competent authority for the protection of marine species in Spain confirms the interest of this administration in the LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST project which can significantly contribute to the conservation of *Caretta caretta* through the identification and protection of the emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean, resulting from the geographic range expansion of the species in response to climate change.

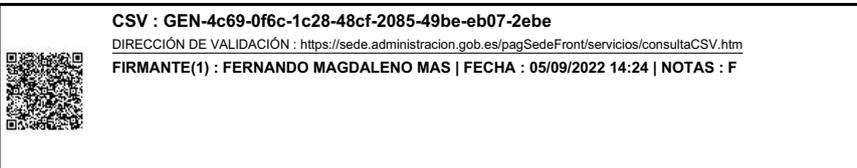
In particular, the project results will be used, to the extent of our competence, in the process for the designation of future marine Natura 2000 sites and/or the expansion or updating of the information available of those already existing, aiming to an appropriate management of loggerhead turtle species and nesting areas that will be identified in the project area.

Our support to the project does not entail any financial contribution from our side.

We invite the European Commission to consider this project positively.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL  
FOR TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY

Fernando Magdaleno Mas





Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament d'Acció Climàtica,  
Alimentació i Agenda Rural  
**Direcció General de Polítiques  
Ambientals i Medi Natural**  
Parc Natural del Delta de l'Ebre

**LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT**

**DECLARATION OF SUPPORT TO THE CHIARAZIONE DI SUPPORTO AL PROGETTO LIFE21-  
NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST**

The Parc Natural del Delta de l'Ebre confirms its interest in the LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST project which can significantly contribute to the conservation of *Caretta Caretta* through the identification and protection of the emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean resulting from the geographic range expansion of the species in response to climate change.

Specifically, the project results will be used, to the extent of our competence, in the process for the designation of new Natura 2000 sites and/or the expansion or updating of the Standard Data Forms (SDF) of those already existing, to specifically protect the emerging loggerhead turtle nesting sites that will be identified in the project area.

Our participation in the project is free of charge.

We invite the European Commission to consider this project positively.

Francesc Vidal Esquerré  
Director  
Electronically signed

Av. Catalunya, 46  
43680 Deltabre  
Tel. 977 48 21 81



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Francesc Vidal Esquerre  
06/09/2022

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06/09/2022 14:43:57

Pàgina 1 de 1



**Región de Murcia**  
**Consejería de Agua, Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca, Medio Ambiente y Emergencias**  
 Dirección General de Medio Natural  
 Subdirección General de Patrimonio Natural y Cambio Climático

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

**D. Juan Faustino Martínez Fernández**, Subdirector General de Patrimonio Natural y Cambio Climático de la Director General del Medio Natural de la Consejería de Agua, Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca, Medio Ambiente y Emergencias de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, por la presente

### MANIFIESTA:

Que considero de interés el proyecto LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST que puede contribuir significativamente a la conservación de *Caretta caretta* a través de la identificación y protección de los lugares de anidación emergentes en el Mediterráneo occidental como resultado de la expansión del rango geográfico de la especie en respuesta al cambio climático.

Que considero dicho proyecto de interés en la conservación y recuperación de esta especie y los datos y resultados obtenidos servirán para la toma de decisiones estratégicas que garanticen la conservación, mejora y restauración del patrimonio natural y de la biodiversidad. En concreto, los resultados del proyecto se utilizarán, en la medida de nuestras competencias, en el proceso de designación de nuevos espacios Natura 2000 y/o la ampliación o actualización de los Standard Data Forms (SDF) de los ya existentes, para proteger específicamente las áreas emergentes de anidación de tortuga careta que se identificarán en el proyecto.

Que nuestra participación en el proyecto no requiere ningún tipo de coste,

Desde esta Dirección General quisiera manifestar el interés por el desarrollo de la presente propuesta de conservación y estar informados de los avances del proyecto, ofreciendo a los proponentes toda colaboración técnica que precisen.

Igualmente se da la autorización para publicar el nombre de esta entidad y su imagen corporativa entre las entidades que apoyan el proyecto.

Por lo que expresamos a la Comisión Europea nuestro apoyo e interés en el mencionado proyecto y a considerarlo positivamente. Para que así conste firmo la presente carta en el lugar y fecha indicados más abajo.

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Associated with the project Ref. Area (2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

**Consejería de Sostenibilidad,  
Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul**  
Delegación Territorial en Almería

**Date: 13 /09 /2022 (o la de la firma electrónica)**

**Universidad de Vic**

**Ref: Sv. GMN/FSF**

**Universidad Central de Cataluña**

**Carretera de Ronda 70**

**Asunto: 2ª confirmation of support to the life-turtlenest project. LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT**

**08500 -VIC - BARCELONA**

**LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT**

#### **DECLARATION OF SUPPORT TO THE PROJECT LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST**

Environment Andalusian Council; **“Consejería de Sostenibilidad, Medio Ambiente y Economía Azul”** represented by director of **Delegación Territorial en Almería** confirms its interest in the LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST project which can significantly contribute to the conservation of *Caretta Caretta* through the identification and protection of the emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean resulting from the geographic range expansion of the species in response to climate change.

Specifically, the project results will be used, to the extent of our competence, in the process for the designation of new Natura 2000 sites and/or the expansion or updating of the Standard Data Forms (SDF) of those already existing, to specifically protect the emerging loggerhead turtle nesting sites that will be identified in the project area.

Our participation in the project is free of charge.

We invite the European Commission to consider this project positively.

**EL DELEGADO TERRITORIAL**

**Manuel de la Torre Francia**



C/Canónigo Molina Alonso, 8  
04004 ALMERÍA

T: 950101720 - 950101676





G CONSELLERIA  
O MEDI AMBIENT  
I I TERRITORI  
B DIRECCIÓ GENERAL  
/ ESPAIS NATURALS  
I BIODIVERSITAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

Emissor: IRT/eaf  
Document: ofici

### **LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT**

## **DECLARACIÓN DE APOYO AL PROYECTO LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST**

Nombre: Ivan Ramos Torrens

Dirección completa: Gremi Corredors, 10 07004 Palma de Mallorca

Persona de contacto: Ivan Ramos Torrens, jefe del Servicio de Protección de Especies del Gobierno de las Islas Baleares

Tel: 971176586

Email: iramos@dgmambie.caib.es

Ivan Ramos Torrens confirma su interés en el proyecto LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST que puede contribuir significativamente a la conservación de *Caretta caretta* a través de la identificación y protección de los sitios de anidación emergentes en el Mediterráneo occidental como resultado de la expansión del rango geográfico de la especie en respuesta al cambio climático.

En concreto, los resultados del proyecto se utilizarán, en la medida de nuestras competencias, en el proceso de designación de nuevos espacios Natura 2000 y/o la ampliación o actualización de los Standard Data Forms (SDF) de los ya existentes, para proteger específicamente las áreas emergentes de anidación de tortuga careta que se identificarán en el proyecto.

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

Nuestra participación en el proyecto no requiere ningún tipo de coste, e invitamos a la Comisión Europea a considerar este proyecto positivamente.

Palma, 7 de octubre de 2022

El jefe del Servicio de Protección de Especies

Ivan Ramos Torrens

C/ del Gremi de Corredors, 10  
(Polígon de Son Rossinyol)  
07009 Palma  
Tel. 971 17 66 66  
[maap.caib.es](http://maap.caib.es)



Generalitat de Catalunya  
 Departament d'Acció Climàtica,  
 Alimentació i Agenda Rural  
**Direcció General de Polítiques  
 Ambientals i Medi Natural**

**LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT**
**DICHIARAZIONE DI SUPPORTO AL PROGETTO LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST**

Name and legal status: Servei de Fauna i Flora de la Direcció General de Polítiques Ambientals i Medi Natural del Departament d'Acció Climàtica, Alimentació i Agenda Rural de la Generalitat de Catalunya

Full address: Provença 204-208 08036 BARCELONA

Contact person (name and function): Ricard Casanovas Urgell, Cap del Servei de Fauna i Flora  
 Tel: 93 1029385 Email: [arcasur@gencat.cat](mailto:arcasur@gencat.cat)

Ricard Casanovas Urgell, Cap del Servei de Fauna i Flora confirms its interest in the LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST project which can significantly contribute to the conservation of *Caretta caretta* through the identification and protection of the emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean resulting from the geographic range expansion of the species in response to climate change.

Specifically, the project results will be used, to the extent of our competence, in the process for the designation of new Natura 2000 sites and/or the expansion or updating of the Standard Data Forms (SDF) of those already existing, to specifically protect the emerging loggerhead turtle nesting sites that will be identified in the project area.

Our participation in the project is free of charge.

We invite the European Commission to consider this project positively.

Ricard Casanovas Urgell  
 Cap del Servei de Fauna i Flora

Firmado electrónicamente

Carrer de Provença, 204-208  
 08036 Barcelona  
 Tel.: 93 4958000



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 Ricardo Casanovas Urgell  
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REGIONE BASILICATA

DIREZIONE GENERALE  
DELL'AMBIENTE, DEL TERRITORIO E  
DELL'ENERGIA

Viale Verrastro n. 5, 85100 Potenza (PZ)  
Uff. Tel. 0971 669062-9012  
ufficio.tutela.natura@cert.regione.basilicata.it

## DICHIARAZIONE INTEGRATIVA DEL PARTNER DEL PROGETTO LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST

Nome e stato giuridico: **Roberto TRICOMI DIRIGENTE GENERALE DELLA DIREZIONE  
GENERALE DELL'AMBIENTE, DEL TERRITORIO E DELL'ENERGIA**

Indirizzo completo: **REGIONE BASILICATA Direzione Generale dell'ambiente, del Territorio e  
dell'Energia - Via Verrastro,5 85100 Potenza**

 Assc

Persona di riferimento (nome e funzione): Dott. For. Antonella LOGIURATO Responsabile della P.O.  
Biodiversità - Rete Ecologica Regionale  
Tel: - tel. 0971 669012 Email: antonella.logiurato@regione.basilicata.it

La Regione Basilicata è l'autorità competente in materia di gestione e implementazione dei Siti  
Natura 2000 sul territorio regionale, inclusi i marini. Partecipa al progetto **LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE  
TURTLENEST**, condividendone pienamente finalità ed obiettivi, in quanto può contribuire  
significativamente alla conservazione della *Caretta caretta* nel Mediterraneo.

In particolare, i risultati del progetto potranno essere impiegati, per quanto di propria competenza,  
nell'ambito delle procedure per la designazione di nuovi siti Natura 2000 e/o l'espansione o  
l'aggiornamento dei Standard Data Form (SDF) di quelli già esistenti, al fine di tutelare  
specificatamente i siti di nidificazione regolare della tartaruga marina comune che il progetto andrà a  
individuare.

Per questo motivo la scrivente sarà attivamente coinvolta in molteplici task progettuali ma con  
particolare enfasi nelle azioni previste dal WP5 Governance and Advocacy, task T5.2 e task T5.3.

Distinti Saluti

Data 14.09.2022

Firma

Ing. Roberto TRICOMI  
Direttore Generale



PROT. N. 389423 REG. CAL.  
066 05/09/2022

**Regione Calabria**

**Dipartimento Territorio e Tutela dell'Ambiente**

*Il Dirigente del Settore 3 "Parchi ed Aree Naturali Protette"*

LEGAMBIENTE ONLUS  
VIA SALARIA, 403  
00199 ROMA

**Oggetto: lettera supporto progetto LIFE TURTLENEST**

Ass

Con la presente intendiamo esprimere il nostro apprezzamento e il nostro sostegno al progetto denominato **LIFE TURTLENEST** che si propone di favorire la tutela delle nuove aree di nidificazione della tartaruga marina *Caretta caretta* lungo le coste occidentali del mediterraneo e in particolare lungo le coste italiane.

Visti i contenuti e le finalità della proposta progettuale, che prevede l'implementazione di una serie di azioni destinate a garantire a questa specie adeguate misure di conservazione e in parte ricomprese nel PAF della Regione Calabria e considerato che le nostre coste ospitano annualmente un elevato numero di nidificazioni, la nostra Amministrazione intende supportare concretamente il progetto rendendosi disponibile a partecipare all'*Advisory Board* con lo scopo di fornire il proprio contributo alla stesura di alcuni *output* quali ad esempio le linee guida per i ripascimenti e quelle per la predisposizione dei piani spiaggia. Siamo inoltre interessati a conoscere le soluzioni che saranno sperimentate dal progetto per ridurre l'impatto antropico sulle spiagge al fine di valutarne la replicabilità anche lungo le nostre coste.

In particolare questa amministrazione s'impegna ad attivarsi entro la fine del progetto a:

1. eventuale istituzione di nuovi siti Natura 2000 in aree dove è ricorrente la nidificazione della *Caretta caretta*;
2. eventuale estensione del perimetro di siti Natura 2000 già esistenti al fine di ricomprendere al loro interno anche l'area di nidificazione di *Caretta caretta*;
3. all'aggiornamento dei formulari standard per quei siti Natura dove non è stata inserita la *Caretta caretta* come specie nidificante.

Nel rinnovare il nostro apprezzamento per questa importante iniziativa, vi chiediamo di tenerci informati sull'iter di valutazione del progetto che ci auguriamo possa essere finanziato dalla Commissione Europea.

Distinti Saluti

Il Dirigente  
Dott. Giovanni Aramini

  
Giunta Regionale della Campania  
Direzione Generale per  
la Difesa del Suolo e l'Ecosistema  
Il Direttore Generale  
  
Il Direttore generale

Direzione Generale 50 06

REGIONE CAMPANIA

Prot. 2022. 0447735 13/09/2022 14,22

Mitt. : 5006 Direzione Generale per la dife...

Dest. : DOTT. STEFANO DI MARCO LEGA AMBIENTE

Classifica : 52.5. Fascicolo : 1 del 2022



LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

**DICHIARAZIONE INTEGRATIVA DEL PARTNER DEL PROGETTO LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE  
TURTLENEST**

Nome e stato giuridico: **Regione Campania - Direzione Generale per la Difesa del Suolo e l'Ecosistema** (50.06.00) - UOD Gestione delle risorse naturali protette - Tutela e salvaguardia dell'habitat marino e costiero – Parchi e riserve naturali (50.06.07)

 Ass

Indirizzo completo: Centro Direzionale Isola C/3 – 80133 Napoli

Persona di riferimento (nome e funzione): Dott.ssa Rosa Caterina Marmo

Tel: 081/7969969 - 9732 - Email: [rosacaterina.marmo@regione.campania.it](mailto:rosacaterina.marmo@regione.campania.it);  
Pec: [uod.500607@pec.regione.campania.it](mailto:uod.500607@pec.regione.campania.it)

La UOD Gestione delle risorse naturali protette - Tutela e salvaguardia dell'habitat marino e costiero – Parchi e riserve naturali (50.06.07) della Regione Campania è l'autorità competente in materia di gestione e implementazione dei Siti Natura 2000 sul territorio regionale, inclusi i marini. Partecipa al progetto **LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST**, condividendone pienamente finalità ed obiettivi, in quanto può contribuire significativamente alla conservazione della *Caretta caretta* nel Mediterraneo.

In particolare, i risultati del progetto potranno essere impiegati, per quanto di propria competenza, nell'ambito delle procedure per la designazione di nuovi siti Natura 2000 e/o l'espansione o l'aggiornamento dei Standard Data Form (SDF) di quelli già esistenti, al fine di tutelare specificatamente i siti di nidificazione regolare della tartaruga marina comune che il progetto andrà a individuare. Per questo motivo la scrivente sarà attivamente coinvolta in molteplici task progettuali ma con particolare enfasi nelle azioni previste dal WP5 Governance and Advocacy, task T5.2 e task T5.3.

Distinti Saluti

Data  
13/09/2022

Nome e stato del firmatario  
Dott. Michele Palmieri Direttore Generale

Firma

Documento  
firmato da:  
MICHELE  
PALMIERI  
13.09.2022  
12:04:39 UTC





**REGIONE  
LAZIO**

DIREZIONE REGIONALE AMBIENTE  
IL DIRETTORE

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

**LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT**

**DICHIARAZIONE INTEGRATIVA DEL PARTNER DEL PROGETTO LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE  
TURTLENEST**

Nome e stato giuridico: Regione Lazio – Direzione Ambiente

Indirizzo completo: Via di Campo Romano, 65 – 00173 Roma

Persona di riferimento (nome e funzione): Luca Marini – Dirigente Ufficio Tutela naturalistica delle coste e del mare della Direzione Ambiente

Tel: 3341169929 Fax:

Email: [imarini@regione.lazio.it](mailto:imarini@regione.lazio.it)

La Direzione regionale Ambiente è l'autorità competente in materia di gestione e implementazione dei Siti Natura 2000 sul territorio regionale, inclusi i Siti marini. Partecipa al progetto **LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST**, condividendone pienamente finalità ed obiettivi, in quanto può contribuire significativamente alla conservazione della *Caretta caretta* nel Mediterraneo.

In particolare, i risultati del progetto potranno essere impiegati, per quanto di propria competenza, nell'ambito delle procedure per la designazione di nuovi siti Natura 2000 e/o l'espansione o l'aggiornamento dei Standard Data Form (SDF) di quelli già esistenti, al fine di tutelare specificatamente i siti di nidificazione regolare della tartaruga marina comune che il progetto andrà a individuare.

Per questo motivo la scrivente Direzione sarà attivamente coinvolta in molteplici task progettuali ma con particolare enfasi nelle azioni previste dal WP5 Governance and Advocacy, task T5.2 e task T5.3.

Distinti Saluti

Data

Firma

Nome e stato del firmatario

Vito Consoli – Direttore della Direzione regionale Ambiente





**REGIONE  
PUGLIA**

**DIPARTIMENTO AMBIENTE, PAESAGGIO E  
QUALITÀ URBANA  
DIREZIONE**



**Legambiente Nazionale APS Onlus**  
[legambiente@pec.legambiente.it](mailto:legambiente@pec.legambiente.it)

**Oggetto: Dichiarazione integrativa del partner del progetto LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE  
TURTLENEST**

*Nome e stato giuridico:* Regione Puglia - Ente pubblico

*Indirizzo completo:* via Gentile n. 52, 70126 BARI

*Persona di riferimento:* Dibitonto Caterina, Dirigente del Servizio Parchi e tutela della biodiversità

Tel: +390805406816; Email: [c.dibitonto@regione.puglia.it](mailto:c.dibitonto@regione.puglia.it)



La Regione Puglia è l'autorità competente in materia di gestione e implementazione dei Siti Natura 2000 sul territorio regionale, inclusi i marini. Partecipa al progetto **LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST**, condividendone pienamente finalità ed obiettivi, in quanto può contribuire significativamente alla conservazione della *Caretta caretta* nel Mediterraneo.

In particolare, i risultati del progetto potranno essere impiegati, per quanto di propria competenza, nell'ambito delle procedure per la designazione di nuovi siti Natura 2000 e/o l'espansione o l'aggiornamento dei Standard Data Form (SDF) di quelli già esistenti, al fine di tutelare specificatamente i siti di nidificazione regolare della tartaruga marina comune che il progetto andrà a individuare.

Per questo motivo, la scrivente sarà attivamente coinvolta in molteplici task progettuali ma con particolare enfasi nelle azioni previste dal WP5 Governance and Advocacy, task T5.2 e task T5.3.

**Il Direttore del Dipartimento  
Ambiente, Paesaggio e Qualità Urbana  
ing. Paolo Garofoli**

[www.regione.puglia.it](http://www.regione.puglia.it)

Via Gentile 52 - 70126 Bari - ITALY Tel: +39 080 5407836  
mail: [dipartimento.ambiente.territorio@regione.puglia.it](mailto:dipartimento.ambiente.territorio@regione.puglia.it)  
pec: [dipartimento.ambiente.territorio@pec.rupar.puglia.it](mailto:dipartimento.ambiente.territorio@pec.rupar.puglia.it)



REGIONE AUTONOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

ASSESSORADU DE SA DEFENSA DE S'AMBIENTE  
ASSESSORATO DELLA DIFESA DELL'AMBIENTE

Direzione generale della Difesa dell'Ambiente  
Servizio Tutela della Natura e Politiche Forestali



### **LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT**

## **DICHIARAZIONE DI SUPPORTO AL PROGETTO LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST**

Nome e stato giuridico: REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA – ASSESSORATO DELLA DIFESA DELL'AMBIENTE – SERVIZIO TUTELA DELLA NATURA E POLITICHE FORESTALI

Indirizzo completo: Cagliari, via Roma 80

Persona di riferimento: Giuliano Patteri, Direttore del Servizio

Tel: 0706066818 Fax: 0706066705 Email: amb.naturaforeste@regione.sardegna.it

La REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA – ASSESSORATO DELLA DIFESA DELL'AMBIENTE – SERVIZIO TUTELA DELLA NATURA E POLITICHE FORESTALI conferma il proprio interesse a seguire lo svolgimento del progetto **LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** in quanto può contribuire significativamente alla conservazione della *Caretta caretta* andando a realizzare una serie di interventi per individuare e tutelare i nuovi siti di nidificazione nel Mediterraneo occidentale al fine di supportare l'espansione dell'areale geografico della specie in risposta al cambiamento climatico.

In particolare, i risultati del progetto potranno essere impiegati, per quanto di propria competenza, nell'ambito delle procedure per la designazione di nuovi siti Natura 2000 e/o l'espansione o l'aggiornamento dei Standard Data Form (SDF) di quelli già esistenti, al fine di tutelare specificatamente i siti di nidificazione regolare della tartaruga marina comune che il progetto andrà a individuare.

L'adesione al progetto è a titolo non oneroso.

Invitiamo la Commissione Europea a considerare positivamente questo progetto.

Distinti Saluti

Data



Firma

Il Direttore del Servizio Giuliano Patteri



Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

**REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA**  
**REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA**ASSESSORADU DE SA DEFENSA DE S'AMBIENTE  
ASSESSORATO DELLA DIFESA DELL'AMBIENTEDirezione generale della Difesa dell'Ambiente  
Servizio Tutela della Natura e Politiche Forestali**LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT****DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR PROJECT LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST**

Name and legal status: REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA – ASSESSORATO DELLA DIFESA DELL'AMBIENTE – SERVIZIO TUTELA DELLA NATURA E POLITICHE FORESTALI

Full address: Cagliari, via Roma 80

Contact person: Giuliano Patteri, Department Manager

Tel: +390706066818 Fax: +390706066705 Email: amb.naturaforeste@regione.sardegna.it

The REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA – ASSESSORATO DELLA DIFESA DELL'AMBIENTE – SERVIZIO TUTELA DELLA NATURA E POLITICHE FORESTALI confirms its interest in the LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST project which can significantly contribute to the conservation of the *Caretta caretta* through the identification and protection of the emerging nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean resulting from the geographic range expansion of the species in response to climate change.

Specifically, Project results will be used, to the extent of our competence, in the process for the designation of new Natura 2000 sites and / or the expansion or updating of the Standard Data Forms. (SDF) of those already existing, to specifically protect the emerging loggerhead turtle nesting sites that will be identified in the project area.

Our participation in the project is free of charge.

We invite the European Commission to consider this project positively.

Date

Signature

Giuliano Patteri, Department Manager



REGIONE TOSCANA



Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

Giunta Regionale

*Assessore all'ambiente, all'economia circolare,  
alla difesa del suolo, lavori pubblici e alla protezione civile*

**LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT****DICHIARAZIONE DI SUPPORTO AL PROGETTO LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST**

Nome e stato giuridico: REGIONE TOSCANA

Indirizzo completo: Via di Novoli 26 – 50127 FIRENZE

Persona di riferimento (nome e funzione): Dott.ssa Valentina Menonna

Tel: 055-4383927 Email: valentina.menonna@regione.toscana.it

La REGIONE TOSCANA conferma il proprio interesse a seguire lo svolgimento del progetto **LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** in quanto può contribuire significativamente alla conservazione della *Caretta caretta* andando a realizzare una serie di interventi per individuare e tutelare i nuovi siti di nidificazione nel Mediterraneo occidentale al fine di supportare l'espansione dell'areale geografico della specie in risposta al cambiamento climatico.

In particolare, i risultati del progetto potranno essere impiegati, per quanto di propria competenza, per valutare l'opportunità di attivare le procedure per la designazione di nuovi siti Natura 2000 e/o l'espansione o l'aggiornamento dei Standard Data Form (SDF) di quelli già esistenti, al fine di tutelare specificatamente i siti di nidificazione regolare della tartaruga marina comune che il progetto andrà a individuare.

L'adesione al progetto è a titolo non oneroso.

Invitiamo la Commissione Europea a considerare positivamente questo progetto.

Distinti Saluti

Data 15 settembre 2022

Firma

Nome e stato del firmatario

Monia Monni

Segreteria Assessora all'Ambiente, all'Economia circolare,  
alla Difesa del suolo, Lavori pubblici e alla Protezione civile

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

| Detailed Budget Table  |               |  |                             |   |   |   |   |                       |
|--|---------------|--|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| <b>LIFE TURTLENEST</b>   |               |  |                             |   |   |   |   |                       |
| <b>Important:</b><br>You may add rows but no additional tabs. This may result in your proposal being considered inadmissible.<br>Please ensure that the file can be printed on a format of 1 page wide (number of pages depending on the number of participants).<br>Please make sure that the figures in this table are consistent with the total budget provided in part A section 3 of the application.<br>In case of inconsistencies, part A will prevail.   |               |  |                             |   |   |   |   |                       |
| <b>Staff effort allocation</b><br>Fill in the effort per work package and Beneficiary/Affiliated Entity.<br>Please indicate the number of person-months over the whole duration of the planned work.<br>Adapt the columns to the number of work packages in your proposal.<br>Identify the work-package leader for each work package by showing the relevant person-month figure in bold.  |               |  |                             |   |   |   |   |                       |
| Participant Number/Short Name  | WP1           | WP2  | WP3                         | WP4   | WP5   | WP6   | WP7   | Total                 |
| SZN  | 10,87         | 13,5   | 5,5                         | 132,68  | 10,47   | 5,63  | 5,5   | <b>184,15</b>         |
| Sapienza   | 4             | 4  | 1                           | 81,32   | 0   | 0   | 4   | <b>94,32</b>          |
| ARPAT  | 5             | 4  | 4                           | 13  | 6   | 2   | 2   | <b>36</b>             |
| REGBAS   | 4,25          | 1,75   | 1                           | 4,5   | 1,25  | 1,25  | 1,5   | <b>15,5</b>           |
| REGLAZ   | 5             | 3,75   | 7,25                        | 16  | 2   | 2   | 5   | <b>41</b>             |
| REGPUGL  | 4,25          | 1,75   | 1                           | 4,5   | 1,25  | 1,25  | 1,5   | <b>15,5</b>           |
| REGCAM   | 4,25          | 1,75   | 1                           | 4,5   | 1,25  | 1,25  | 1,5   | <b>15,5</b>           |
| UVIC-UCC   | 7             | 6  | 6                           | 26  | 6   | 4   | 3   | <b>58</b>             |
| UB   | 4,5           | 4,5  | 10                          | 29,25   | 3,75  | 2,5   | 3,5   | <b>58</b>             |
| CESTMED  | 6             | 5  | 5                           | 22,5  | 4,5   | 2   | 1,5   | <b>46,5</b>           |
| ISPRA  | 5             | 5  | 15                          | 54  | 5   | 5   | 0   | <b>89</b>             |
| ENCI   | 5             | 10   | 10                          | 10  | 2   | 2   | 12  | <b>51</b>             |
| LEGAMB   | 96,94         | 110,28   | 7,6                         | 47,75   | 32,82   | 8,7   | 2,4   | <b>306,49</b>         |
| <b>Total person-months</b>   | <b>162,06</b> | <b>171,28</b>  | <b>74,35</b>                | <b>446</b>  | <b>76,29</b>  | <b>37,58</b>  | <b>43,4</b>   | <b>1011</b>           |
| <b>Personnel costs</b><br>Present your estimated "Personnel costs" split into 3 categories as per the table below. If you do not have any personnel costs falling under "A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries" or "A.5 Volunteers", all personnel costs should be budgeted under "A1. Employees (or equivalent); A2. Natural persons under direct contract and A3. Seconded Persons".<br><br>For A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries: please note that as per Annex 2a of the LIFE General Model Grant Agreement (MGA), a unit cost is applied to this cost category. The units are the days spent working on the action (rounded up to the nearest half-day) and the amount per unit (daily rate) is calculated according to the following formula:<br>(EUR 5 080 / 18 days = EUR 282,22 per day) multiplied by (country-specific correction coefficient of the country where the beneficiary is established)<br>Note that the country specific correction coefficient to use is the one applied for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). Yearly rates are published in the Horizon Europe Work Programme – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under the funding and tender portal Reference Documents (work programme and call documents section), available at <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=HORIZON">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=HORIZON</a> . |               |  |                             |   |   |   |   |                       |
| Participant Number/Short Name  | Country       | Number of person months (staff effort per beneficiary) | Average monthly salary rate | A1. Employees (or equivalent); A2. Natural persons under direct contract and A3. Seconded Persons (costs) | A.4 SME owners and natural person (sole trader) beneficiaries (Unit costs in €) | Subtotal personnel costs without volunteers (A1+A2+A3+A4) - must be the same as in part A section 3 | A.5 Volunteers (Unit costs) must be the same as in part A section 3 | Total Personnel costs |
| SZN  | IT            | 184  | 2.887 €                     | 531.643 €   |   | 531.643 €   |   | 531.643 €             |
| Sapienza   | IT            | 94   | 2.774 €                     | 261.600 €   |   | 261.600 €   |   | 261.600 €             |
| ARPAT  | IT            | 36   | 5.000 €                     | 180.000 €   |   | 180.000 €   |   | 180.000 €             |
| REGBAS   | IT            | 16   | 4.000 €                     | 62.000 €  |   | 62.000 €  |   | 62.000 €              |
| REGLAZ   | IT            | 41   | 3.512 €                     | 144.000 €   |   | 144.000 €   | 73.000 €  | 217.000 €             |
| REGPUGL  | IT            | 16   | 4.000 €                     | 62.000 €  |   | 62.000 €  |   | 62.000 €              |
| REGCAM   | IT            | 16   | 4.000 €                     | 62.000 €  |   | 62.000 €  |   | 62.000 €              |
| UVIC-UCC   | SP            | 58   | 4.163 €                     | 241.448 €   |   | 241.448 €   |   | 241.448 €             |
| UB   | SP            | 58   | 4.000 €                     | 232.000 €   |   | 232.000 €   |   | 232.000 €             |
| CESTMED  | FR            | 47   | 2.000 €                     | 93.000 €  |   | 93.000 €  | 27.000 €  | 120.000 €             |
| ISPRA  | IT            | 89   | 4.500 €                     | 400.500 €   |   | 400.500 €   |   | 400.500 €             |
| ENCI   | IT            | 51   | 3.137 €                     | 160.000 €   |   | 160.000 €   |   | 160.000 €             |
| LEGAMB   | IT            | 306  | 4.104 €                     | 1.257.687 €   |   | 1.257.687 €   | 393.000 €   | 1.650.687 €           |
| <b>Total</b>   |               | <b>0</b>   |                             | <b>3.687.878 €</b>  | <b>0 €</b>  | <b>3.687.878 €</b>  | <b>493.000 €</b>  | <b>4.180.878 €</b>    |
| <b>Subcontracting</b>  |               |  |                             |   |   |   |   |                       |

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

| Give details on subcontracted action tasks (if any) and explain the reasons why (as opposed to direct implementation by the participants).<br>Subcontracting — Subcontracting means the implementation of action tasks, i.e. specific tasks which are part of the action and are described in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.<br>Note: Subcontracting concerns the outsourcing of a part of the action to a party outside the Consortium. It is not simply about purchasing goods or services. We normally expect the participants to have sufficient operational capacity to implement the project activities themselves. Sub-contracting should therefore be exceptional.<br>Include only subcontracts that comply with the rules (i.e. best value for money and no conflict of interest; coordinator tasks can normally not be subcontracted). |   |  |    |   |
|---|---|--|----|---|
| Participant Number/Short Name   | Subcontract Description   | Cost (€)   | WP | Justification (Why is subcontracting necessary?)  |
| LEGAMB  | Communication agency for visual identity and Communication plan. The communication plan will allow for a coordinated project visual identity and a communication strategy that can maximise project results. The agency will take care of the graphic design of all informative and promotional materials | 18.000 €   | 2  | The subcontract is necessary to obtain a high quality communication materials. The costs were estimated through a preliminary market survey.  |
| LEGAMB  | Socio-economic survey and analysis to assess the social and economic effects of the project using a multi-level approach  | 20.000 €   | 7  | The subcontract is necessary to obtain a professional high quality analysis. In fact the survey will be done by experts in sociology and economics. The costs were estimated through a preliminary market survey. |
| <b>Total estimated costs</b>  |   | <b>38.000 €</b>  |    |   |
| If subcontracting for the entire project goes beyond 30% of the total eligible costs, give specific reasons.  |   |  |    |   |
| n/a   |   |  |    |   |
| Other direct costs  |   |  |    |   |
| Please complete the table below for each participant. If required add further tables at the end of this work sheet (one per participant).<br>Please ensure that sufficient details are provided in part B. For major cost items add lines below, in order to provide a detailed breakdown within one cost category.<br>For major items listed in the justification column, indicate the work package to which they belong.<br>For equipment and infrastructure, please explain if the cost represents the full cost or the depreciation.  |   |  |    |   |
| LEGAMB  | Cost (€)  | Justification  |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 12.000 €  | 6 travel in Italian intervention areas (2 persons - 3 days for 500 euro each) + 4 travel in Spanish/French intervention areas (2 persons - 3 days for 750 euro each)                         |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 7.500 €   | 5 travel for per 2 person (3 days roma-EU)   |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 6.000 €   | 50 daily travel in Italy (120 euro)  |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 12.000 €  | Training in nest detection in Cape Verde 13 people (only Airplane ticket)  |    |   |
| Equipment   | 15.000 €  | 10 electric fat bike (1500X10)   |    |   |
| Equipment   | 48.800 €  | 1 nursery Recirculating Aquaculture System 10000L  |    |   |
| Equipment   | 1.200 €   | 1 Egg incubator  |    |   |
| Other goods, works and services   | 10.000 €  | advertising costs  |    |   |
| Other goods, works and services   | 5.000 €   | Subsistence for press tour   |    |   |
| Other goods, works and services   | 13.000 €  | Independent external audit   |    |   |
| Other goods, works and services   | 14.000 €  | 15 roll up, 15 notice board, 10.000 leaflets, 10.000 brochure, 1000 layman's report  |    |   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>144.500 €</b>  |  |    |   |
| SZN   | Cost (€)  | Justification  |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 864 €   | Travel and subsistence to participate to kick-off meeting. 1 travel, national, 3 people, train ticket, 1 night in hotel, 4 pasti   |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 8.582 €   | Travel and subsistence to participate to Steering Committee meetings. 7 travels national, 2 travels international, 1 PO/Senior Researcher, flight ticket, 1 night in hotel, 4 pasti          |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 7.776 €   | Travel and subsistence to participate to Executive Committee meetings. 9 travels national, 3 task leaders, train ticket, 1 night in hotel, 4 pasti   |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 4.188 €   | Travel and subsistence to participate to international conference during (1 person, 4 days, fly ticket (2 Europe, 2 extra Europe), 3 night at hotel, 8 pasti)                                |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 3.144 €   | Travel and subsistence to participate to national conference during (1 person, 3 days, train ticket, 2 night at hotel, 6 pasti)  |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 864 €   | Travel and subsistence to participate to 3 technical meetings for the training of detection dogs (1 person, national, 2 days, train, 1 night at hotel, 4 pasti)                              |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 6.176 €   | Training in nest detection in Cape Verde 4 people  |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 9.373 €   | Travel from/to field camps to nesting beaches (20km /day), (5 intensive, 5days/week, 12 weeks)+(3 diffuse, 2 days/week, 6 weeks)   |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 2.856 €   | Travel from to nests to collect sample and perform nest inventories (60/season, 50km/each)   |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 2.830 €   | Travel training in Barcelona on genomic (2 month, 1 person)  |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 4.485 €   | 15 1-day field trips for 1 expert to nesting beach to attach satellite tag to nesting female and take sample   |    |   |
| Travel & subsistence  | 1.286 €   | Travel to check on the progress and impact of pilot intervention 2year per 4 year  |    |   |
| Equipment   | 12.600 €  | 6 sand e bike per beach patrolling   |    |   |
| Equipment   | 4.000 €   | 2 drone C2   |    |   |
| Equipment   | 3.000 €   | 20 Field weight scales   |    |   |
| Equipment   | 400 €   | 20 Analog calipers   |    |   |
| Equipment   | 1.200 €   | 1 Egg incubator  |    |   |
| Equipment   | 45.000 €  | 1 nursery Recirculating Aquaculture System 10000L  |    |   |
| Other goods, works and services   | 164.000 €   | Replacement of pier high bulb with turtle friendly lights + 50 exterior fixtures replaced with turtle friendly lights+ 20 exterior fixtures with motion detectors. 2 sites                   |    |   |
| Other goods, works and services   | 76.800 €  | Rental of a guest house, to accommodate participants in monitoring activities, for 4 seasons, 3 field camp, 4months/season (used also in T4.3), (1,600 €/month for 48 months - 4people each) |    |   |
| Other goods, works and services   | 3.672 €   | 72 X nest protection kits (4 poles, 1m2screen, 25 m ribbon, 2poster boards),   |    |   |
| Other goods, works and services   | 450 €   | 3 X A2 drone license course - EU Remote Pilot certificate.   |    |   |

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|                                 |                  |   |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Other goods, works and services | 7.800 €          | 150 X bluetooth BLE dataloggers (52 euro each). These will be made available to monitor nest temperature over the entire Italian coast                                      |
| Other goods, works and services | 15.300 €         | 30 X hatching emergence kit (20 poles, 30m shading net, 30m low border, 1 restraining cage, 1 gazebo for volunteers involved in h24, 4 chairs)                              |
| Other goods, works and services | 8.064 €          | 288 X sampling kits (20 vials, 0.5l alcohol 96%, 0.2 nitrile glove pack, 10 scalpels, 5 ziplock bags)   |
| Other goods, works and services | 64 €             | 4 X Cites permit to send nest samples to UB   |
| Other goods, works and services | 280 €            | 4 X Nest sample carrier services  |
| Other goods, works and services | 6.000 €          | costs for data transmission through satellite system for 20 tags transmitting each 12 months  |
| Other goods, works and services | 500 €            | adhesive and antifouling paint for satellite tags   |
| Other goods, works and services | 50.000 €         | 20 X GPS satellite tags for tracking female loggerhead turtles  |
| Other goods, works and services | 66.860 €         | 20 X solar miniature satellite tags for head-started yearling turtles, each tag 2740 € + IVA 22% = 66.865€  |
| Other goods, works and services | 8.840 €          | 500 USD per tag for satellite fees for tracking head-started yearling turtles   |
| Other goods, works and services | 14.000 €         | 40 X eco-poster boards for pilot action   |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>541.254 €</b> |   |
| <b>ISPRA</b>                    | <b>Cost (€)</b>  | <b>Justification</b>  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 4.790 €          | participation partner board meeting   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 5.000 €          | workshops and conferences   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 45.000 €         | Participation in sampling campaigns. Costs for Rental of a guest house, to accommodate participants in monitoring activities, (1,600 €/month for 48 mounts - 2 people each) |
| Travel & subsistence            | 7.000 €          | participation in meetings on replication sites  |
| Other goods, works and services | 5.000 €          | field instrumentation and facilities  |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>66.790 €</b>  |   |
| <b>Sapienza</b>                 | <b>Cost (€)</b>  | <b>Justification</b>  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 5.000 €          | participation partner board meeting   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 10.000 €         | participation in sampling campaigns   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 5.000 €          | workshops and conferences   |
| Other goods, works and services | 9.849 €          | publishing costs on open access journals  |
| Other goods, works and services | 10.000 €         | computing server  |
| Other goods, works and services | 30.000 €         | database server with server software licenses (8.000) and 4 ArcGIS licenses with extensions (22.000)  |
| Other goods, works and services | 5.000 €          | inscriptions to congresses  |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>74.849 €</b>  |   |
| <b>UB</b>                       | <b>Cost (€)</b>  | <b>Justification</b>  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.050 €          | Kick of meeting   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 800 €            | travel costs to engage stakeholders   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.000 €          | Travel costs talks/seminars   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 3.860 €          | travel costs 20 nests   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.163 €          | cost travel satellite deployment 6 females  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.000 €          | Travel costs for meetings with stakeholders   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 5.000 €          | Attendance to congresses 1-2 persons per year (mean 800€)   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.000 €          | Costs associated to the final project conference  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.500 €          | Travel costs to perform questionnaires or similar   |
| Equipment                       | 1.500 €          | Renewal obsolete/broken laboratory equipment  |
| Other goods, works and services | 8.000 €          | Publishing costs on open access journals (4 papers *2000)   |
| Other goods, works and services | 24.000 €         | 5000 comics, 2000 gadget, 5 videoclip   |
| Other goods, works and services | 3.000 €          | fungible samples  |
| Other goods, works and services | 17.400 €         | sequencing services   |
| Other goods, works and services | 51.459 €         | DNA extraction and library preparation  |
| Other goods, works and services | 1.400 €          | Courier expenses to send samples  |
| Other goods, works and services | 2.000 €          | fixation material transmitters  |
| Other goods, works and services | 11.200 €         | service stable isotopes reading   |
| Other goods, works and services | 2.000 €          | fungible stable isotopes  |
| Other goods, works and services | 3.500 €          | Inscriptions to congresses 1-2 persons per year (mean 500€)   |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>141.832 €</b> |   |
| <b>UVIC-UCC</b>                 | <b>Cost (€)</b>  | <b>Justification</b>  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 10.526 €         | Travel Project meetings   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 6.000 €          | Turtle nest monitoring  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.400 €          | International conferences   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.500 €          | Training courses  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 3.000 €          | Training course 'Cabo Verde'  |
| Other goods, works and services | 4.000 €          | Consumables tracking turtles  |
| Other goods, works and services | 4.000 €          | Communication costs (videos, dissemination material, etc.)  |
| Other goods, works and services | 3.000 €          | Open Access fees  |
| Other goods, works and services | 1.500 €          | Assistance to scientific conferences  |
| Other goods, works and services | 2.000 €          | Organization project meetings   |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>38.926 €</b>  |   |
| <b>ENCI</b>                     | <b>Cost (€)</b>  | <b>Justification</b>  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 15.000 €         | travel costs for teams made up of trained men and dogs  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 11.916 €         | travel costs for teams made up of trained men and dogs  |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>26.916 €</b>  |   |

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| CESTMED                         | Cost (€)         | Justification   |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.200 €          | kick off meeting  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 3.200 €          | ISTS, meeting, MED conference   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.200 €          | field work  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 4.500 €          | Training in nest detection in cape verde 4 people   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 10.000 €         | field work  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.500 €          | conference  |
| Other goods, works and services | 8.000 €          | Technical assistance for comunication activities WP2  |
| Other goods, works and services | 13.500 €         | Technical assistance definition of protocols and training for detection canine units  |
| Other goods, works and services | 6.000 €          | Technical assistance for geomorphologic characterization of nest sites  |
| Other goods, works and services | 10.000 €         | Technical assistance for best practice and state of the art   |
| Other goods, works and services | 20.000 €         | Field assistance for nests monitoring and surveillance, hatching assistance WP4   |
| Other goods, works and services | 20.000 €         | Field assistance for beach monitoring WP4   |
| Other goods, works and services | 15.000 €         | tagging, GPS  |
| Other goods, works and services | 3.000 €          | Promorionals materials for communication at local level (poster, leaflet, etc.)   |
| Other goods, works and services | 43.540 €         | Renting boat for about 50 days  |
| Other goods, works and services | 1.500 €          | Promorionals materials for communication at local level (poster, leaflet, etc.)   |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>162.140 €</b> |   |
| <b>REGCAM</b>                   | <b>Cost (€)</b>  | <b>Justification</b>  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.000 €          | Travel for partneship coordination (steering and executive committee)   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 5.000 €          | Travel for dissemination and replicability  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.000 €          | Travel for survey on projet areas   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.000 €          | Travel for conference   |
| Other goods, works and services | 25.000 €         | Technical assistance for the coordination activities WP1  |
| Other goods, works and services | 13.000 €         | Communication agency  |
| Other goods, works and services | 60.000 €         | Technical assistance for scientific activities (T.4.7, T.4.8, T.4.9)  |
| Other goods, works and services | 5.000 €          | Technical assistance for the draft of the strategic plan; support to the draft of the funding matrix and fo the replication kit, support in the organization of the panel meeting (T.6.1, T.6.2, T.6.3)                   |
| Other goods, works and services | 5.000 €          | Technical assistance for monitoring of the project activities and impact (T.7.1, T.7.2)   |
| Other goods, works and services | 6.916 €          | Promorionals materials for communication at local level (poster, leaflet, etc.)   |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>124.916 €</b> |   |
| <b>REGBAS</b>                   | <b>Cost (€)</b>  | <b>Justification</b>  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.000 €          | Travel for partneship coordination (steering and executive committee)   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 5.000 €          | Travel for dissemination and replicability  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.000 €          | Travel for survey on projet areas   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.000 €          | Travel for conference   |
| Other goods, works and services | 25.000 €         | Technical assistance for the coordination activities WP1  |
| Other goods, works and services | 13.000 €         | Communication agency  |
| Other goods, works and services | 60.000 €         | Technical assistance for scientific activities (T.4.7, T.4.8, T.4.9)  |
| Other goods, works and services | 5.000 €          | Technical assistance for the draft of the strategic plan; support to the draft of the funding matrix and fo the replication kit, support in the organization of the panel meeting (T.6.1, T.6.2, T.6.3)                   |
| Other goods, works and services | 5.000 €          | Technical assistance for monitoring of the project activities and impact (T.7.1, T.7.2)   |
| Other goods, works and services | 6.916 €          | Promorionals materials for communication at local level (poster, leaflet, etc.)   |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>124.916 €</b> |   |
| <b>REGPUGL</b>                  | <b>Cost (€)</b>  | <b>Justification</b>  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.000 €          | Travel for partneship coordination (steering and executive committee)   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 5.000 €          | Travel for dissemination and replicability  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.000 €          | Travel for survey on projet areas   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.000 €          | Travel for conference   |
| Other goods, works and services | 25.000 €         | Technical assistance for the coordination activities WP1  |
| Other goods, works and services | 13.000 €         | Communication agency  |
| Other goods, works and services | 60.000 €         | Technical assistance for scientific activities (T.4.7, T.4.8, T.4.9)  |
| Other goods, works and services | 5.000 €          | Technical assistance for the draft of the strategic plan; support to the draft of the funding matrix and fo the replication kit, support in the organization of the panel meeting (T.6.1, T.6.2, T.6.3)                   |
| Other goods, works and services | 5.000 €          | Technical assistance for monitoring of the project activities and impact (T.7.1, T.7.2)   |
| Other goods, works and services | 6.916 €          | Promorionals materials for communication at local level (poster, leaflet, etc.)   |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>124.916 €</b> |   |
| <b>ARPAT</b>                    | <b>Cost (€)</b>  | <b>Justification</b>  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.000 €          | Travel for partneship coordination (steering and executive committee)   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 1.000 €          | Travel for dissemination and replicability  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 5.000 €          | Travel for survey on projet areas   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.000 €          | Travel for conference   |
| Other goods, works and services | 90.374 €         | Scientific Assistance to plan and coordinate the monitoring activities, coordination of surveillance, support in hatching assistance, sample collection, in Tuscany. (4 person for 4 season (3 months) at 1.883 €/months) |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>100.374 €</b> |   |
| <b>REGLAZ</b>                   | <b>Cost (€)</b>  | <b>Justification</b>  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.000 €          | Travel for partneship coordination (steering and executive committee)   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.000 €          | Travel for survey on projet areas   |
| Travel & subsistence            | 4.000 €          | Travel for dissemination and replicability  |
| Travel & subsistence            | 2.000 €          | Travel for conference/training in Capo Verde 2 people   |

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|                                 |                  |  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Equipment                       | 30.000 €         | Purchase of monitoring systems and equipments (8 sand e bike per beach patrolling, 17,600 €; 4 drone, 6,400 €; 3 action camera, 1,500; 3 professional cameras, 2,400; 3 webcam system, 2,100)  |
| Equipment                       | 40.000 €         | Purchase of technological systems to monitoring the nests (10 remote nest video monitoring systems (cameras, data transmission system, power supply), 20 data loggers.)  |
| Equipment                       | 25.000 €         | Purchase of equipment for scientific activities (5 Sieves and sieves for particle size, oven to prepare sand for sieving, 1 oven for organic matter contained in sand, 1 albedometer. Dissection materials.)   |
| Equipment                       | 29.000 €         | Equipment for safety and data collecting (light pollution: 5 Cameras (lenses, tripods, camera guards for night work, softwareLens Circular Fisheye). 500 m of fencing . 10 Anti-predator grids. 1 Beach profiler. 2 incubators. 7 Isothermal containers) |
| Other goods, works and services | 5.608 €          | Attending meetings   |
| Other goods, works and services | 10.000 €         | Data logger, video cameras, GPS  |
| Other goods, works and services | 2.000 €          | Facilities for meetings and conferences WP5  |
| Other goods, works and services | 5.000 €          | Facilities for meetings and conferences WP6  |
| Other goods, works and services | 5.000 €          | Facilities for meeting and conferences WP7   |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>161.608 €</b> |  |

|                      |                          |  |                       |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Proposal Info</b> |                          |  Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022 |                       |
| <b>Proposal ID</b>   | <b>Call for Proposal</b> | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Type of Action</b> |
| SEP-210787541        | LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT        | LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE   | LIFE-PJG              |

## LIFE Programme – Application Forms (Part C – KPI)

Horizontal KPIs for all LIFE applicants (Mandatory to report on all the KPIs of this section).

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Innovation</b></p> <p>Is your project proposal developing, demonstrating and promoting innovative techniques and approaches?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes<br/><input type="radio"/> No</p>   | <p><b>Governance</b></p> <p>Is your project proposal improving governance through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes<br/><input type="radio"/> No</p>   | <p><b>Plans &amp; strategies</b></p> <p>Is your project proposal implementing key plans or strategies?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes<br/><input type="radio"/> No</p>  |
| <p><b>Catalytic effect - Financial</b></p> <p>Will your project trigger additional investments?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes<br/><input type="radio"/> No</p>  | <p><b>Catalytic effect - Spatial</b></p> <p>Will the results of your project be replicated beyond its intended geographical scope?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes<br/><input type="radio"/> No</p>  | <p><b>Catalytic effect - Thematic</b></p> <p>Will the results of your project be replicated (transferred) beyond its intended thematic scope?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes<br/><input type="radio"/> No</p> |
| <p><b>Catalytic effect - Societal</b></p> <p>Will your project :</p> <p>a) Contribute to the development of new or existing national legislation, policies, regulations, incentives and voluntary commitments?</p> <p>b) Achieve a step-change in more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union environmental and climate legislation and/or in policy implementation?</p> <p>c) Achieve a step-change in awareness and support of environmental and climate matters?</p> <p>d) Establish a new macroregional or national model of cooperation (networking)?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes<br/><input type="radio"/> No</p> | <p><b>Rio markers for climate, biodiversity and air quality</b></p> <p>Please indicate if your proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has climate change/ biodiversity/ air quality as their primary objective</li> <li>• Has climate change/ biodiversity/ air quality as their secondary objective and provide substantial contributions to these objectives</li> <li>• Does not contribute significantly to climate change/ biodiversity/ air quality</li> </ul> <p><b>Climate change</b><br/>Secondary Objective</p> <p><b>Biodiversity</b><br/>Primary Objective</p> <p><b>Air quality</b><br/>Not contributing</p> |  |

### LIFE Programme - Context selection

|   |
|---|
| <p>Please select the EU Member State(s) or/and Associated Countries (if any) or/and potential Associated Countries (if any) that best describe the geographical context of your project proposal, i.e. the area(s) of work or/and area(s) of impact.</p> <p>Please select the type of country you wish to add</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> EU Member States<br/><input type="radio"/> Associated Countries</p> |
|---|

|   |
|---|
| <input type="radio"/> To Be Associated Countries <span style="float: right;"> Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022</span>   |
| Italy(IT)   |
| <p><b>Please select the EU Member State(s) or/and Associated Countries (if any) or/and potential Associated Countries (if any) that best describe the geographical context of your project proposal, i.e. the area(s) of work or/and area(s) of impact.</b></p> <p><b>Please select the type of country you wish to add</b></p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> EU Member States<br><input type="radio"/> Associated Countries<br><input type="radio"/> To Be Associated Countries |
| France(FR)  |
| <p><b>Please select the EU Member State(s) or/and Associated Countries (if any) or/and potential Associated Countries (if any) that best describe the geographical context of your project proposal, i.e. the area(s) of work or/and area(s) of impact.</b></p> <p><b>Please select the type of country you wish to add</b></p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> EU Member States<br><input type="radio"/> Associated Countries<br><input type="radio"/> To Be Associated Countries |
| Spain(ES)   |

**LIFE Programme - Annex II - Section 2 - Specific KPIs - (Please report on KPIs you consider relevant).**

| <p><b>Please select the relevant indicators for your project. For each selected indicator please provide any required values and comments. Please note that if you deselect an indicator, all values entered will be lost.</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Air quality</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (Invasive Alien Species)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (habitats)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (number of Species)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> C2M projects</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (environment)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (humans)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Climate area vulnerability reduction</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Climate vulnerability (humans)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Employment</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Energy savings</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> GHG emissions</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> GHG sequestration</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Investments and Financing</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Noise</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other project specific KPIs</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Renewable energy</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Resource efficiency</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Soil quality</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Waste management</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Water efficiency</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Water quality</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (Invasive Alien Species) | <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (habitats) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (number of Species) | <input type="checkbox"/> C2M projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (environment) | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (humans) | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate area vulnerability reduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate vulnerability (humans) | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy savings | <input type="checkbox"/> GHG emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> GHG sequestration | <input type="checkbox"/> Investments and Financing | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other project specific KPIs | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource efficiency | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste management | <input type="checkbox"/> Water efficiency | <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality  | <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (Invasive Alien Species) | <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (habitats)               |  |  |                                       |  |   |   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (number of Species)  | <input type="checkbox"/> C2M projects                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (environment)               |  |  |                                       |  |   |   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (humans)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate area vulnerability reduction  | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate vulnerability (humans)        |  |  |                                       |  |   |   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment   | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy savings                        | <input type="checkbox"/> GHG emissions                         |  |  |                                       |  |   |   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GHG sequestration  | <input type="checkbox"/> Investments and Financing             | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                                 |  |  |                                       |  |   |   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other project specific KPIs   | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable energy                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource efficiency                   |  |  |                                       |  |   |   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil quality   | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste management                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Water efficiency                      |  |  |                                       |  |   |   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality  |  |  |  |  |                                       |  |   |   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| <p><b>Biodiversity (number of Species)</b></p> <p><b>Number of species whose population loss is being halted and reversed</b></p> <p>The start-value is pre-set to 0. In the end-value please provide an estimate of the number of species whose population loss is being halted and reversed due to your project, at project-end. The end-value is expected to be higher than the start-value, demonstrating an increase in the number of species positively affected, due to the project actions. Please also provide the estimated number, 3/5 years after the project-end, to demonstrate if further species will be positively affected. Please also provide relevant comments (e.g. 3 most relevant species addressed , their populations, ranges/areas, etc).</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Project-Start Value (Baseline)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Project-End Value</th> <th style="text-align: left;">3/5 years beyond Project-End Value</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Unit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">0</td> <td style="text-align: left;">3</td> <td style="text-align: left;">8</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Number of species</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.</b></p> <p>The project will directly benefit Caretta caretta populations nesting in the Western Mediterranean coasts. Moreover, through the implementation of interventions aimed at improving coastal habitats and the adoption of new regulations that reduce the anthropic impacts, the project will also benefit the populations of at least two bird species (Charadrius alexandrinus and Charadrius dubius) and at least five plant species (Panicum maritimum, Spartina versicolor, Eryngium maritimum, Anthemis maritima, Juniperus spp)</p> | Project-Start Value (Baseline)                                 | Project-End Value  | 3/5 years beyond Project-End Value               | Unit   | 0                                     | 3  | 8   | Number of species   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| Project-Start Value (Baseline)  | Project-End Value  | 3/5 years beyond Project-End Value                             | Unit   |  |                                       |  |   |   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| 0   | 3  | 8  | Number of species                                |  |                                       |  |   |   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| <p><b>Other project specific KPIs</b></p> <p><b>Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.</b></p> <p><b>Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Project-Start Value (Baseline)</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Project-End Value</th> <th style="text-align: left;">3/5 years beyond Project-End Value</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Unit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">6</td> <td style="text-align: left;">18</td> <td style="text-align: left;">22</td> <td style="text-align: left;">SCIs</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>   | Project-Start Value (Baseline)                                 | Project-End Value  | 3/5 years beyond Project-End Value               | Unit   | 6                                     | 18   | 22  | SCIs  |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| Project-Start Value (Baseline)  | Project-End Value  | 3/5 years beyond Project-End Value                             | Unit   |  |                                       |  |   |   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| 6   | 18   | 22   | SCIs   |  |                                       |  |   |   |   |                                     |   |  |  |  |                                |   |   |  |                                       |   |   |  |  |  |

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**Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.**

The project will improve the SDF of SCIs with regards to Caretta caretta. Referring to the baseline, only 6 out of 63 potentially suitable SCIs for Caretta caretta in the study area include this species. At the end of the project the numbers of SCIs including SDF for Caretta caretta will increase (expected number after 3/5 years 22). The achievement of this result will be assured by the involvement of 4 regions as associated beneficiaries and thanks to the support provided by Italian and Spanish ministries and management bodies (see supporting letters)

**Other project specific KPIs**  
**Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.**

**Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.**

| Project-Start Value (Baseline) | Project-End Value | 3/5 years beyond Project-End Value | Unit       |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 0                              | 3                 | 5                                  | index site |

**Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.**

Identification of at least 3 index sites for long term monitoring of Caretta caretta nesting trend in the Western Mediterranean at the end of the project, and at least 5 index sites after 3/5 years. These index sites will allow the assessment of population status and trends, identification and mapping of the most relevant nesting sites in the Western Mediterranean.

**Other project specific KPIs**  
**Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.**

**Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.**

| Project-Start Value (Baseline) | Project-End Value | 3/5 years beyond Project-End Value | Unit   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 100                            | 130               | 143                                | Number of nests detected at time of egg laying (nest/year) |

**Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.**

KPI title: Number of nests detected and protected at the emerging nesting sites per year. Stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations:  
 Less than 100 nests per year have been detected in the project area over the last decade. 21% of these only at time of hatchling emergence and therefore could not be adequately protected during the entire incubation process. Thanks to the standard monitoring of highly suitable nesting habitats and the multitarget awareness campaign, that will be conducted for four consecutive seasons, a minimum increase by 30% of the number of nests identified and protected is expected

**Other project specific KPIs**  
**Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.**

**Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.**

| Project-Start Value (Baseline) | Project-End Value | 3/5 years beyond Project-End Value | Unit  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 0                              | 70                | 90                                 | Number of local authorities adopting specific sea turtle friendly regulations |

**Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.**

KPI title: Number of local authorities adopting specific sea turtle friendly regulations to protect and manage emerging nesting sites. Stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations:  
 Loggerhead turtle nesting in the western Mediterranean is relatively recent and the vast majority of local authorities where this important biological phenomenon is occurring do not possess specific regulations to protect sea turtle nesting habitats. Thanks to the conservation activities foreseen in WP4 and the strong advocacy campaign in WP5 we expect that at least 70 local authorities will adopt specific sea turtle friendly regulations to protect and manage emerging nesting sites by the end of the project. We foresee that the project will create a momentum where more local authorities will follow and implement regulations for beaches where turtles will come to nest.

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Associated with document [LEER MGA-Aes\(2023\)888889-V15912022](#)

ANNEX 2

ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE ACTION

| Forms of funding              | Estimated eligible <sup>1</sup> costs (per budget category) |                      |   |                   |                    |                            |                          |                                     |  |                   |                   | Estimated EU contribution <sup>2</sup> |                                      |                           |                                   |                       |                     |              |                     |                     |                     |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|---|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                               | Direct costs  |                      |   |                   |                    |                            | Indirect costs           |                                     |  |                   |                   | EU contribution to eligible costs      |                                      | Requested EU contribution | Maximum grant amount <sup>6</sup> |                       |                     |              |                     |                     |                     |
|                               | A. Personnel costs  |                      | B. Subcontracting costs                         |                   | C. Purchase costs  |                            | D. Other cost categories |                                     | E. Indirect costs <sup>3</sup>         |                   |                   | Funding rate % <sup>4</sup>            | Maximum EU contribution <sup>5</sup> |                           |                                   |                       |                     |              |                     |                     |                     |
| A.1 Employees (or equivalent) | A.2 Natural persons under direct contract                   | A.3 Seconded persons | A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries | A.5 Volunteers    | B.1 Subcontracting | C.1 Travel and subsistence | C.2 Equipment            | C.3 Other goods, works and services | D.1 Financial support to third parties | D.2 Land purchase | E. Indirect costs | F. Flat-rate costs <sup>8</sup>        | U                                    | g = f * U%                | h                                 | m                     |                     |              |                     |                     |                     |
| Actual costs                  | Unit costs <sup>7</sup>                                     | a3                   | Unit costs <sup>7</sup>                         | a4                | Actual costs       | b                          | Actual costs             | c1                                  | Actual costs                           | c2                | Actual costs      | c3                                     | Actual costs                         | d1                        | d2                                | f = a + b + c + d + e | 75                  | 1 450 500,07 | 1 450 499,60        | 1 450 499,60        |                     |
| 1 - LEGAMB                    | 1 237 087,00  | 0,00                 | 393 000,00                                      | 0,00              | 37 500,00          | 65 000,00                  | 42 000,00                | 0,00                                | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 100 813,09        | 75 102,79                              | 1 147 999,79                         | 75                        | 860 999,84                        | 860 999,83            | 860 999,83          | 75           | 860 999,84          | 860 999,83          | 860 999,83          |
| 2 - SZN                       | 531 043,00  | 0,00                 | 0,00  | 0,00              | 52 424,00          | 66 200,00                  | 422 630,00               | 0,00                                | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 32 710,30         | 5 000,00                               | 500 000,30                           | 75                        | 375 000,23                        | 375 000,22            | 375 000,22          | 75           | 375 000,23          | 375 000,22          | 375 000,22          |
| 3 - ISPA                      | 400 500,00  | 0,00                 | 0,00  | 0,00              | 61 750,00          | 20 000,00                  | 0,00                     | 54 849,00                           | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 23 551,43         | 0,00                                   | 360 000,43                           | 75                        | 270 000,32                        | 270 000,32            | 270 000,32          | 75           | 270 000,32          | 270 000,32          | 270 000,32          |
| 4 - Spinaza                   | 261 600,00  | 0,00                 | 0,00  | 0,00              | 20 000,00          | 0,00                       | 1 500,00                 | 123 959,00                          | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 26 168,24         | 0,00                                   | 400 000,24                           | 75                        | 300 000,18                        | 300 000,18            | 300 000,18          | 75           | 300 000,18          | 300 000,18          | 300 000,18          |
| 5 - UB                        | 232 000,00  | 0,00                 | 0,00  | 0,00              | 16 373,00          | 24 426,00                  | 0,00                     | 14 500,00                           | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 19 626,18         | 0,00                                   | 300 000,18                           | 75                        | 225 000,14                        | 225 000,13            | 225 000,13          | 75           | 225 000,14          | 225 000,13          | 225 000,13          |
| 6 - UVIC-LICC                 | 241 448,00  | 0,00                 | 0,00  | 0,00              | 26 916,00          | 0,00                       | 0,00                     | 0,00                                | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 13 084,12         | 0,00                                   | 200 000,12                           | 75                        | 150 000,09                        | 150 000,09            | 150 000,09          | 75           | 150 000,09          | 150 000,09          | 150 000,09          |
| 7 - ENCI                      | 160 000,00  | 0,00                 | 0,00  | 0,00              | 21 600,00          | 10 000,00                  | 0,00                     | 140 540,00                          | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 17 859,80         | 0,00                                   | 299 999,80                           | 75                        | 224 999,85                        | 224 999,85            | 224 999,85          | 75           | 224 999,85          | 224 999,85          | 224 999,85          |
| 8 - CESTMED                   | 93 000,00   | 0,00                 | 0,00  | 0,00              | 27 000,00          | 0,00                       | 0,00                     | 114 916,00                          | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 13 084,12         | 0,00                                   | 200 000,12                           | 75                        | 150 000,09                        | 150 000,09            | 150 000,09          | 75           | 150 000,09          | 150 000,09          | 150 000,09          |
| 9 - REGBAS                    | 62 000,00   | 0,00                 | 0,00  | 0,00              | 10 000,00          | 0,00                       | 0,00                     | 114 916,00                          | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 13 084,12         | 0,00                                   | 200 000,12                           | 75                        | 150 000,09                        | 150 000,09            | 150 000,09          | 75           | 150 000,09          | 150 000,09          | 150 000,09          |
| 10 - REGPUG                   | 62 000,00   | 0,00                 | 0,00  | 0,00              | 10 000,00          | 0,00                       | 0,00                     | 114 916,00                          | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 13 084,12         | 0,00                                   | 200 000,12                           | 75                        | 150 000,09                        | 150 000,09            | 150 000,09          | 75           | 150 000,09          | 150 000,09          | 150 000,09          |
| 11 - ARPAT                    | 180 000,00  | 0,00                 | 0,00  | 0,00              | 10 000,00          | 0,00                       | 0,00                     | 90 374,00                           | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 19 626,18         | 0,00                                   | 300 000,18                           | 75                        | 225 000,14                        | 225 000,13            | 225 000,13          | 75           | 225 000,14          | 225 000,13          | 225 000,13          |
| 12 - REGLAZ                   | 144 000,00  | 0,00                 | 0,00  | 0,00              | 10 000,00          | 124 000,00                 | 0,00                     | 27 608,00                           | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 21 392,56         | 0,00                                   | 400 000,56                           | 75                        | 300 000,42                        | 300 000,42            | 300 000,42          | 75           | 300 000,42          | 300 000,42          | 300 000,42          |
| 13 - REGGAM                   | 62 000,00   | 0,00                 | 0,00  | 0,00              | 10 000,00          | 0,00                       | 0,00                     | 114 916,00                          | 0,00                                   | 0,00              | 13 084,12         | 0,00                                   | 200 000,12                           | 75                        | 150 000,09                        | 150 000,09            | 150 000,09          | 75           | 150 000,09          | 150 000,09          | 150 000,09          |
| <b>Σ consortium</b>           | <b>3 687 878,00</b>   | <b>0,00</b>          | <b>38 000,00</b>                                | <b>493 000,00</b> | <b>311 029,00</b>  | <b>256 700,00</b>          | <b>1 266 208,00</b>      | <b>1 266 208,00</b>                 | <b>0,00</b>                            | <b>0,00</b>       | <b>389 187,05</b> | <b>0,00</b>                            | <b>6 442 002,05</b>                  | <b>75</b>                 | <b>4 831 501,55</b>               | <b>4 831 501,04</b>   | <b>4 831 501,04</b> | <b>75</b>    | <b>4 831 501,55</b> | <b>4 831 501,04</b> | <b>4 831 501,04</b> |

1 See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).  
 2 See Annex 2 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).  
 3 Indirect costs are calculated on a different amount than the EU funding (see the algorithm in Article 6.3). Therefore, a beneficiary/affiliated entity that receives an operating grant during the action duration cannot declare indirect costs for the year(s) reporting period(s) covered by the operating grant, unless they can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please immediately contact us via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal for details.  
 4 See Data Sheet for the funding rates.  
 5 This is the theoretical amount of the EU contribution to costs, if the reimbursement rate is applied to all the budgeted costs. This theoretical amount is then capped by the 'maximum grant amount'.  
 6 The 'maximum grant amount' is the maximum grant amount decided by the EU. It normally corresponds to the requested grant, but may be lower.  
 7 See Annex 2a. Additional information on the estimated budget for the details (units, cost per unit).  
 8 See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

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## ANNEX 2a

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIT COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

#### **SME owners/natural person beneficiaries without salary** (Decision C(2020) 7115<sup>1</sup>)

Type: unit costs

Units: days spent working on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)

Amount per unit (daily rate): calculated according to the following formula:

{EUR 5 080 / 18 days = **282,22**}  
multiplied by  
{country-specific correction coefficient of the country where the beneficiary is established}

The country-specific correction coefficients used are those set out in the Horizon Europe Work Programme (section Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions) in force at the time of the call (see [Portal Reference Documents](#)).

#### **Volunteers** (Decision C(2019)2646<sup>2</sup>)

Type: unit costs

Units: days spent working on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)

Amount per unit (daily rate):

| Country  | Daily rate in € |
|--|-----------------|
| Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Liechtenstein, Norway  | 157             |
| Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Finland, United Kingdom, Iceland  | 131             |
| Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia   | 78              |
| Bulgaria, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia  | 47              |
| Australia, Canada, Hong King, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Macao, New Zealand, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Switzerland.   | 92              |
| Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Dominica, Gabon, Grenada, Ivory Coast, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Mexico, Montenegro, Nigeria, Peru, Saint Kitts And Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent And the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe | 45              |
| Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El   | 32              |

<sup>1</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7115).

<sup>2</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646).

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|  |    |
|--|----|
| Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Micronesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Senegal, South Africa, Surinam, Swaziland, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, Vanuatu   |    |
| Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Myanmar, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo – Democratic Republic of the-, Cuba, Korea (DPR), Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji Island, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Solomon, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste – Democratic Republic of, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen | 17 |

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### ANNEX 3

#### **ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN (SZN)**, PIC 999468310, established in Villa Comunale, NAPOLI 80121, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('the Agreement')

**between LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Grant Agreement number: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### **ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**ISTITUTO SUPERIORE PER LA PROTEZIONE E LA RICERCA AMBIENTALE (ISPRA)**,  
PIC 997905349, established in VIA VITALIANO BRANCATI 48, ROMA 00144, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('the Agreement')

**between LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Grant Agreement number: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

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### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA (Sapienza)**, PIC 999987745,  
established in Piazzale Aldo Moro 5, ROMA 00185, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('the Agreement')

**between LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Marco OLIVERIO with ECAS id novermrc signed in the Participant Portal on 15/11/2022 at 18:16:52 (transaction id SigId-123236-jzyR3VkrzuZzsWiNtuZgkWpyDF76xuzspivRlPSdpzuOl2g8jmCWwZlZrvRziySzqALpsOkvldgbbX5G5k1UxkC1-r50vSrmBGYCYOonzu9chxj-ezzRhxlWzHzTN8IQCoGPZ0Z9OyQ1ENQJbzy1Fcwwy2MfxtxgfHnBELEszjrGX7CG8AVUu5vgV3jwHD0uhzVqB00). Timestamp by third party at 2022.11.15 18:16:57 CET

Grant Agreement number: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

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### ANNEX 3

#### **ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA (UB)**, PIC 999986387, established in GRAN VIA DE LES CORTS CATALANES 585, BARCELONA 08007, Spain,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('the Agreement')

**between LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Grant Agreement number: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**FUNDACIO UNIVERSITARIA BALMES (UVIC-UCC)**, PIC 999837977, established in CARRER PEROT ROCAGUINARDA 17, VIC BARCELONA 08500, Spain,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('the Agreement')

**between LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Marc Mussons Torras with ECAS id ncodinjo signed in the Participant Portal on 15/11/2022 at 17:55:33 (transaction id SigId-122973-Je8Rk8 ITEG8fCFLh5cgRSuD5zZaizx1baS9zLlsvtjueiKkevZcHXMIa3OGBBduh KSzdzTIXjGw3M4zzklv2LI74-r50vSrmBGYCYOonzu9chxj-Hi9tjKjr02QX IHq6bPADyo4FWWzNuTj796gTKoiw6rPy3eZWfPeIaus3AfYEoim5YqIP ZshsvZHK9QkXc5UAzQ). Timestamp by third party at 2022.11.15 17:55:38 CET

Grant Agreement number: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**ENTE NAZIONALE DELLA CINOFILIA ITALIANA (ENCI)**, PIC 888555018, established in VIALE CORSICA 20, MILANO 20137, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('the Agreement')

**between LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Grant Agreement number: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**CENTRE D'ETUDE ET DE SAUVEGARDE DES TORTUES MARINES EN MEDITERRANEE (CESTMED)**, PIC 888627089, established in AVENUE DU PALAIS DE LA MER, LE GRAU DU ROI 30240, France,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('the Agreement')

**between LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Grant Agreement number: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### **ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**REGIONE BASILICATA (REGBAS)**, PIC 951927737, established in Via Vincenzo Verrastro 4, Potenza 85100, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('the Agreement')

**between LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Grant Agreement number: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**REGIONE PUGLIA (REGPUG)**, PIC 999523503, established in VIA GENTILE 52, BARI 70126, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('the Agreement')

**between LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

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By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Grant Agreement number: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**AGENZIA REGIONALE PER LA PROTEZIONE AMBIENTALE DELLA TOSCANA (ARPAT)**, PIC 997237601, established in VIA PONTE ALLE MOSSE 211, FIRENZE 50144, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('the Agreement')

**between LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Grant Agreement number: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### **ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES**

**REGIONE LAZIO (REGLAZ)**, PIC 961452361, established in VIA CRISTOFORO COLOMBO 212, ROMA 00145, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('the Agreement')

**between LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

Grant Agreement number: 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST — LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

### ANNEX 3

#### ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

**REGIONE CAMPANIA (REGCAM)**, PIC 998054923, established in VIA S. LUCIA 81, NAPOLI 80132, Italy,

**hereby agrees**

**to become beneficiary**

**in Agreement No 101074584 — LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE TURTLENEST** ('the Agreement')

**between LEGAMBIENTE ASSOCIAZIONE ONLUS (LEGAMB) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and mandates**

**the coordinator** to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

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SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary



**ANNEX 5****SPECIFIC RULES****INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS —  
ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE (— ARTICLE 16)****Rights of use of the granting authority on results for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes**

The granting authority also has the right to exploit non-sensitive results of the action for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes, using any of the following modes:

- **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- **distribution to the public** in hard copies, in electronic or digital format, on the internet including social networks, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file
- **editing** or **redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, changing, correcting, cutting, inserting elements (e.g. meta-data, legends or other graphic, visual, audio or text elements extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts or use in a compilation
- **translation** (including inserting subtitles/dubbing) in all official languages of EU
- **storage** in paper, electronic or other form
- **archiving** in line with applicable document-management rules
- the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties, including if there is licensed background, any of the rights or modes of exploitation set out in this provision
- **processing**, analysing, aggregating the results and **producing derivative works**
- **disseminating** the results in widely accessible databases or indexes (such as through 'open access' or 'open data' portals or similar repositories, whether free of charge or not.

The beneficiaries must ensure these rights of use for the whole duration they are protected by industrial or intellectual property rights.

If results are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)7888681 - 15/11/2022

comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

### **COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY (— ARTICLE 17)**

#### **Communication and dissemination plan**

The beneficiaries must provide a detailed communication and dissemination plan, setting out the objectives, key messaging, target audiences, communication channels, social media plan, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

#### **Additional communication and dissemination activities**

The beneficiaries must engage in the following additional communication and dissemination activities:

- **present the project** (including project summary, coordinator contact details, list of participants, European flag and funding statement and special logo and project results) on the beneficiaries' **websites** or **social media accounts**
- for actions involving equipment, infrastructure or works, display as soon as the work on the action starts a **printed or electronic sign** of appropriate size, with European flag and funding statement and special logo
- upload the public **project results** to the LIFE Project Results platform, available through the Funding & Tenders Portal .

#### **Special logos**

Communication activities and infrastructure, equipment or major results funded by the grant must moreover display the following logo:

- the LIFE Programme logo



and

- for projects in Natura 2000 sites or contributing to the integrity of Natura 2000 network: the Natura 2000 logo



## **SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION (— ARTICLE 18)**

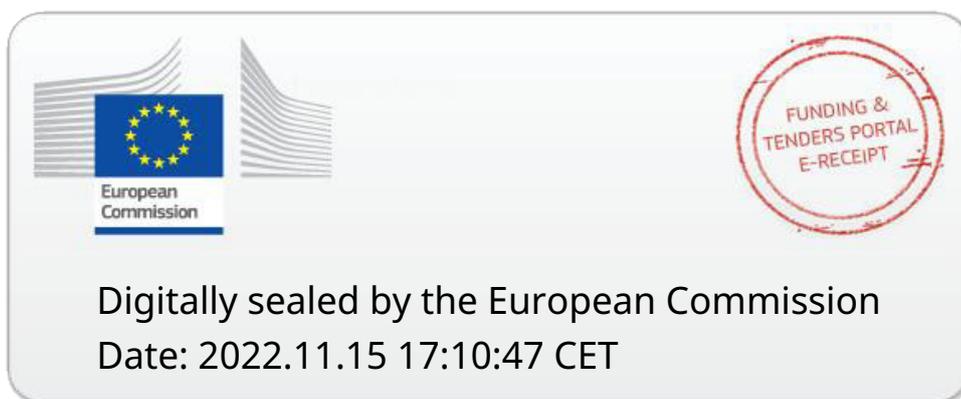
### **Durability**

Unless exempted by the granting authority, beneficiaries of Standard Action Projects, Strategic Nature Projects and Strategic Integrated Projects must commit to continue to use and maintain after the end of the action equipment bought and eligible at full costs, for activities pursuing the action's objectives. Such equipment must be used for these purposes — for at least five years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) or until the end of its economic lifespan (i.e. until it has been fully depreciated) — whichever is earlier.

### **Specific rules for blending operations**

When implementing blending operations, the beneficiaries acknowledge and accept that:

- the grant depends on the approved financing from the Implementing Partner and/or public or private investors for the project
- they must inform the granting authority both about the approval for financing and the financial close — within 15 days
- the payment deadline for the first prefinancing is automatically suspended until the granting authority is informed about the approval for financing
- both actions will be managed and monitored in parallel and in close coordination with the Implementing Partner, in particular:
  - all information, data and documents (including the due diligence by the Implementing Partner and the signed agreement) may be exchanged and may be relied on for the management of the other action (if needed)
  - issues in one action may impact the other (e.g. suspension or termination in one action may lead to suspension also of the other action; termination of the grant will normally suspend and exit from further financing and vice versa, etc.)
- the granting authority may disclose confidential information also to the Implementing Partner.



This electronic receipt is a digitally signed version of the document submitted by your organisation. Both the content of the document and a set of metadata have been digitally sealed.

This digital signature mechanism, using a public-private key pair mechanism, uniquely binds this eReceipt to the modules of the Funding & Tenders Portal of the European Commission, to the transaction for which it was generated and ensures its full integrity. Therefore a complete digitally signed trail of the transaction is available both for your organisation and for the issuer of the eReceipt.

Any attempt to modify the content will lead to a break of the integrity of the electronic signature, which can be verified at any time by clicking on the eReceipt validation symbol.

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<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq>

Allegato E/1

Allegato n. 8/1  
al D.Lgs 118/2011

**Allegato delibera di variazione del bilancio riportante i dati d'interesse del Tesoriere**

data: .... / .... / ..... n. protocollo .....

Rif. Proposta di delibera Assessorato Ambiente, Ciclo rifiuti e bonifiche, Vigilanza ambientale, Rischio industriale, Parchi e Politiche abitative A 09/DEL/2023/00030

**SPESE**

| MISSIONE                            | PROGRAMMA, TITOLO         | DENOMINAZIONE | PREVISIONI AGGIORNATE ALLA PRECEDENTE VARIAZIONE - DELIBERA N. .... - ESERCIZIO 2023 (*) | VARIAZIONI             |                | PREVISIONI AGGIORNATE ALLA DELIBERA IN OGGETTO ESERCIZIO 2023 (*) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--|------------------------|----------------|---|
|                                     |                           |               |  | in aumento             | in diminuzione |   |
| 19                                  | Relazioni internazionali  |               |  |                        |                |   |
| 2                                   | Cooperazione territoriale |               |  |                        |                |   |
| 1                                   | Spese correnti            |               | residui presunti<br>previsione di competenza<br>previsione di cassa                      | 41.400,04<br>41.400,04 |                |   |
| 2                                   | Cooperazione territoriale |               | residui presunti<br>previsione di competenza<br>previsione di cassa                      | 41.400,04<br>41.400,04 |                |   |
| 19                                  | Relazioni internazionali  |               | residui presunti<br>previsione di competenza<br>previsione di cassa                      | 41.400,04<br>41.400,04 |                |   |
| <b>TOTALE VARIAZIONI IN USCITA</b>  |                           |               |  |                        |                |   |
| <b>TOTALE GENERALE DELLE USCITE</b> |                           |               |  |                        |                |   |
|                                     |                           |               | residui presunti<br>previsione di competenza<br>previsione di cassa                      | 41.400,04<br>41.400,04 |                |   |

(\*) La compilazione della colonna può essere rinviata, dopo l'approvazione della delibera di variazione di bilancio, a cura del responsabile finanziario.

**ENTRATE**

| TITOLO, TIPOLOGIA | DENOMINAZIONE | PREVISIONI AGGIORNATE ALLA PRECEDENTE | VARIAZIONI | PREVISIONI AGGIORNATE ALLA |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|

Allegato E/1

Allegato n. 8/1  
al D.Lgs 118/2011

**Allegato delibera di variazione del bilancio riportante i dati d'interesse del Tesoriere**

data: .../.../..... n. protocollo .....

Rif. Proposta di delibera Assessorato Ambiente, Ciclo rifiuti e bonifiche, Vigilanza ambientale, Rischio industriale, Parchi e Politiche abitative A 09/DEL/2023/00030

| VARIAZIONE - DELIBERA                |   | DELIBERA IN OGGETTO |                |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------|----------------|
| N. .... ESERCIZIO 2023               |   | ESERCIZIO 2023 (*)  |                |
|                                      |   | in aumento          | in diminuzione |
| TITOLO                               |   | (*)                 | (*)            |
| 2                                    | trasferimenti correnti                                |                     |                |
| 104                                  | Trasferimenti correnti da Istituzioni Sociali Private |                     |                |
|                                      | residui presunti                                      | 41.400,04           |                |
|                                      | previsione di competenza                              |                     |                |
|                                      | previsione di cassa                                   | 41.400,04           |                |
| <b>TOTALE TITOLO</b>                 |   |                     |                |
| 2                                    | trasferimenti correnti                                |                     |                |
|                                      | residui presunti                                      | 41.400,04           |                |
|                                      | previsione di competenza                              |                     |                |
|                                      | previsione di cassa                                   | 41.400,04           |                |
| <b>TOTALE VARIAZIONI IN ENTRATA</b>  |   |                     |                |
|                                      | residui presunti                                      | 41.400,04           |                |
|                                      | previsione di competenza                              |                     |                |
|                                      | previsione di cassa                                   | 41.400,04           |                |
| <b>TOTALE GENERALE DELLE ENTRATE</b> |   |                     |                |
|                                      | residui presunti                                      | 41.400,04           |                |
|                                      | previsione di competenza                              |                     |                |
|                                      | previsione di cassa                                   | 41.400,04           |                |

(\*) La compilazione della colonna può essere rinviata, dopo l'approvazione della delibera di variazione di bilancio, a cura del responsabile finanziario.

TIMBRO E FIRMA DELL'ENTE  
Responsabile del Servizio Finanziario / Dirigente responsabile della spesa

  
Caterina Dibitonto  
23.10.2023 14:38:11  
GM11-01.000



**REGIONE PUGLIA**  
**SEZIONE BILANCIO RAGIONERIA PARERE DI REGOLARITA' CONTABILE**  
**(D. Lgs. n. 118/11 e s.m.i.)**

| UFFICIO | TIPO | ANNO | NUMERO | DATA       |
|---------|------|------|--------|------------|
| A09     | DEL  | 2023 | 30     | 20.11.2023 |

"LIFE21-NAT-IT LIFE TURTLENEST/101074584": VARIAZIONE AL BILANCIO DI PREVISIONE 2023 E PLURIENNALE 2023- 2025, AL DOCUMENTO TECNICO DI ACCOMPAGNAMENTO ED AL BILANCIO FINANZIARIO GESTIONALE 2023-2025, AI SENSI DELL'ART. 51 COMMA 2 DEL D. LGS. N. 118/2011 E SS.MM.II.". PRESA D'ATTO DEL PROGETTO E AUTORIZZAZIONE MISSIONI ALL'ESTERO.

**Si esprime: PARERE DI REGOLARITA'CONTABILE POSITIVO**  
**LR 28/2001 art. 79 Comma 5**

**Responsabile del Procedimento**

PO - PAOLINO GUARINI  
 Paolino Guarini

**Dirigente**

DR. NICOLA PALADINO

