

LIFE4FIR: Decisive in situ and ex situ conservation strategies to secure the critically endangered Sicilian fir, Abies nebrodensis **LIFE18 NAT/IT/000164**

Management





GRANT AGREEMENT

- Agreement Number: LIFE18 NAT/IT/164
- Acronym: Life4Fir
- Coordinating Beneficiary: CNR
- Associated beneficiaries: DRSRT, EPM, UNIPA, US
- Total eligible project budget: € 1,745,894
- EU financial support: 75.00% of elegible cost with a maximum of € 1,309,419





The coordinating beneficiary:

- > shall be the single point of contact for the Commission and
- > shall be the only participant to report directly to the Commission on the technical and financial progress of the project

The coordinating beneficiary alone is entitled to receive funds from the Commission and distribute the amounts corresponding to the associated beneficiaries' participation in the project

The associated beneficiaries shall not report directly to the Commission on the technical and financial progress unless explicitly requested to do so by the Commission

In no case shall the Commission increase its contribution or the rate of co-financing





The coordinating beneficiary shall conclude with all associated beneficiaries an agreement describing their technical and financial participation in the project



Partnership Agreement





<u>Partnership Agreement:</u>

- > CNR will send a partnership agreement by e-mail following the EC general model
- ➤ Role and obligations of the coordinating beneficiary:
 - To be the project interface for the EC
 - To prepare and send all the project reports
 - By the end of each three months, the coordinating beneficiary shall send to the monitor representant an email presenting the activities carried out during the month in question.
 - To have the copies of all the administrative documents of each beneficiary
 - To define in the Partnership Agreement the payment procedures of the EU contribution to all the beneficiaries
 - To pay each beneficiary after the signature of the Partnership Agreement





<u>Partnership Agreement:</u>

- ➤ Role and obligations of the associated beneficiaries:
 - By the end of each month, every associated beneficiary shall send to the coordinating beneficiary an email presenting the activities carried out during the month in question.
 - The associated beneficiaries shall do everything in their power to help the co-ordinating beneficiary fulfil the coordinating beneficiary's obligations under the grant agreement.
 - <u>In particular, the associated beneficiaries hereby shall</u> <u>provide to the co-ordinating beneficiary scanned copies of all the project financial documents each three months.</u>
 - To fill in and send to CNR the financial identification form





The coordinating beneficiary and the associated beneficiaries shall retain, throughout the project and for at least five years after the final payment, all appropriate supporting administrative documentation

The coordinating beneficiary and associated beneficiaries shall publicise the project and its results, always mentioning the Community support received

Amendement (any formal project change) to the EC agreement: <u>TO BE AVOIDED</u>





MONITORING TEAM

The EC inividuate a monitor (Alberto Cozzi) of External EC monitor company (NEEMO TIMESIS) which will assist/check/monitor the technical and financial update of the project.

Once a year it is foreseen a "monitor meeting", where the monitor will check the project technical activities and the administrative documents.



PARTNER							CLAIM			
			External			Consuma	Other	Overhea		EC
	Personnel	Travel	assistance	Equipment	Prototype	bles	cost	ds	TOTAL	CONTRIBUTION
CNR	464.852	52.220	43.800	3.900	12.900	57.737	8.250	45.056	688.715	516.536
DRSRT	143.290	5.260	7.200			80.800	-	16.558	253.108	189.831
EPM	36.170	7.075	41.025		88.300		-	12.079	184.649	138.486
UNIPA	235.577	23.775	25.850	7.345	5.490	37.843	-	23.511	359.391	269.543
US	120.040	22.070	18.150	1.130	9.450	72.180	-	17.011	260.031	195.023
TOTAL	999.929	110.400	136.025	12.375	116.140	248.560	8.250	114.215	1.745.894	1.309.419
DRSRT EPM UNIPA US	143.290 36.170 235.577 120.040	5.260 7.075 23.775 22.070	7.200 41.025 25.850 18.150	7.345 1.130	88.300 5.490 9.450	80.800 37.843 72.180	- - -	16.558 12.079 23.511 17.011	253.108 184.649 359.391 260.031	189 138 269 195





PARTNER		PAYMENTS		
	Prefinancing 30%	Intermediate 40%	Final 30%	EC CONTRIBUTION
CNR	154.961	206.614	154.961	516.536
DRSRT	56.949	75.932	56.949	189.831
EPM	41.546	55.394	41.546	138.486
UNIPA	80.863	107.817	80.863	269.543
US	58.507	78.009	58.507	195.023
TOTAL	. 392.826	523.768	392.826	1.309.419





Budget transfers and maximum amount paid

Without prejudice to Article II.10 and provided that the project is implemented as described in Annex II, beneficiaries are allowed to adjust the estimated budget set out in Annex III by transfers between themselves, and up to a limit of 20% of the overall eligible costs, between the different budget categories, without this adjustment being considered as an amendment of the Agreement within the meaning of Article II.12.

Under no circumstances may the total amount paid by the Commission to the coordinating beneficiary exceed the maximum amount set for the Community contribution in the grant agreement, even if the total actual eligible costs of a project exceed the budget set in the grant agreement





Eligible costs

To be considered eligible, costs must be:

- > provided in the budget of the project or have been authorized through an amendment to the grant agreement;
- inked to, and necessary for, carrying out the project covered by the grant agreement;
- reasonable and comply with the principles of sound financial management;
- > compliant with applicable tax and social legislation; and
- ➤ actually incurred during the lifetime of the project, as defined in the grant agreement, be recorded in the coordinating beneficiary's or any associated beneficiaries' accounts or tax documents, and be identifiable and verifiable.
- > the cost has been fully paid before the submission of the final financial statement





Ineligible costs

To be considered eligible, costs must be:

- Costs incurred in relation to activities not foreseen in the project or to modifications of actions, for which the written additional agreement foreseen
- Costs incurred for the purchase of durable goods or for the production of communication material, including notice boards and websites, not bearing the LIFE logo
- ➤ Any cost incurred for an action which benefits from aid under other Community financial instruments during the period in question
- Invoicing between associated beneficiaries and between associated beneficiaries and the coordinating beneficiary
- Any provisions for possible future losses or liabilities; or interest charges
- Invoices without specific reference to the project (stamp or explicit reference)





It is mandatory to document the expenses (follow-up patterns + invoices with clear references + payment justification)

Please try to be coherent as much as possible with the project

Any deviation has to be explained





Cost center

- All the beneficiaries have to prepare an accounting system that allows them to follow up the Life4Fir project costs with separated administrative and financial records.
- All the beneficiaries have to comunicate the cost center code to the coordinating beneficiary and to update each three month of the print out of the Life4Fir cost center





- Direct costs: eligible costs which can be attributed directly to the project
 - Personnel costs
 - Travel & Subsistence costs
 - External assistance costs
 - Consumable material
 - Other costs
- Overheads

SUMMARY OF COSTS IN FINANCIAL STATEMENT (EXCEL DOCUMENT) TO BE UPDATED AND SENT TO CNR EACH 3 MONTHS





FINANCIAL STATEMENT of the INDIVIDUAL Beneficiary

PROJECT reference:	LIFEXX XXX/XX/XX	XXXXX - ACRONYM	PERIOD (FROM):	
COUNTRY CODE:	Austria	AT	PERIOD (TO):	

NAME OF BENEFICIARY:				
Type of Beneficiary ?	COORDINATING beneficiary	Local currency applied?	EUR	Euro
Legal status ?	Public body	Strand type ?	CAPACITY BI	UILDING - CAP

Statement of	Total costs	Total ELIGIBLE costs	Statement of		
Statement of EXPENDITURES	with non-recoverable VAT (in €)	with non-recoverable VAT (in €)	INCOME (to cover the total cost)	€	% of eligible costs
PERSONNEL	0,00	0,00	Requested Union contribution	0,00	
🏷 Additional salary costs	0,00	0,00	Beneficiary's own contribution	0,00	
Non-additional salary costs	0,00	0,00	Co-financer's contribution	0,00	
TRAVEL	0,00	0,00	Direct income of the project	0,00	
EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE	0,00	0,00			
Durable goods - EQUIPMENT	0,00	0,00			
CONSUMABLES	0,00	0,00			
OTHER direct costs	0,00	0,00			
TOTAL	0,00	0,00	TOTAL	0,00	

Exchange rate option used to convert national currency into EURO:

Not applicable (all costs in EURO)

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Personnel costs

- Personnel costs shall be calculated on the basis of the actual gross salary plus obligatory social charges and any other statutory costs included in the remuneration, but excluding any other cost.
- The time, which each employee spends working on the project, shall be recorded on a timely basis using timesheets It is requested a declaration of the name of the personnel included in the project.
- ➤ It is very very important in the personnel justification to be coherent with the daily costs indicated in the project (tollerance 20%).
- ➤ Rules of 2% for public entity: The total of own contribution of project public entities has to be more of 2% of the total internal personnel costs
- In case the actual total productive hours for the employee are not recorded in a reliable time registration system a default value of 1720 hours shall be used.
- > Staff working for the LIFE project less than 2 full days per month on average are exempted from the time registration obligation.



Name of Beneficiary	
Name of staff member	
Is staff member employed Full-time or Part-time	
Calendar Year	
Calendar Month	

Calendar Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31 _T	otal
In case of absence, indicate one of the reason codes below																																
Hours worked on project 1* (e.g. LIFE project 1)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Hours worked on project 2* (e.g. LIFE project 2)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
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Action B.1**																																
Action C.1**																																
Action E.1**																																
Hours worked on project 3* (e.g. other EU funded project)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Hours worked on project 4* (e.g. other external funded project)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Hours worked on project 5* (e.g. internal project1)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Other activities																																0,0
Total hours (including overtime)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0

^{*)} indicate project reference

^{**)} Breakdown of hours worked per action is optional

Absences	
Weekend	WE
Sick leave	SL
Public holidays	РН
Annual holidays	АН
Other absence	OA

Summary for this month	
Hours worked on project 1* (e.g. LIFE project 1)	0,0
Hours worked on project 2* (e.g. LIFE project 2)	0,0
Hours worked on project 3* (e.g. other EU funded project)	0,0
Hours worked on project 4* (e.g. other external funded project)	0,0
Hours worked on project 5* (e.g. internal project1)	0,0
Other activities	0,0
Total hours (including overtime)	0,0

^{*)} indicate project reference

Date and signature of staff member	
Explanation for late submission	

Date and signature of line manager/supervisor										
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PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

- Clear identification to the LIFE project
- Clear identification of the employee
- Include year, month and day
- Time of units worked for the LIFE project (Please be coherent keeping in mind the actions carried out!!)
- Include the hours in which the personnel are involved in other EU projects
- Number of time units worked in total
- Date and signature of the employee and supervisor





DOCUMENTS TO BE PREPARED FOR PERSONNEL COST JUSTIFICATION

- > Copy of the timesheets or time registration records, including calculation and documentation for the annual productive hours
- Payslips
- **≻** Contracts
- > Secondment letters
- > Payslips payments
- A detailed calculation of the annual personnel costs detailing the salary elements included in the annual gross salary and social/pension charges



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Travel costs

Travel and subsistence costs shall be charged in accordance with the internal rules of the coordinating beneficiary or associated beneficiary. Restricted to personnel of the beneficiary.

It is mandatory and requested a declaration with the travel beneficiary rule explanation.

DOCUMENTS TO BE PREPARED FOR TRAVEL COST JUSTIFICATION

- > Declaration of mission costs with details of each cost with relation to the project
- > Copy of documents for each travel cost
- > Possible invoices of hotels, restaurants, etc.
- Boarding cards
- Possible travel agency cost (not enough)



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External assistance costs

External assistance costs relate to subcontracting:

- Subcontarctors shall not be considered as associated beneficiaries
- Any public beneficiary must award subcontractors in accordance with the applicable rules on public tendering
- ➤ Remember to provide the period for which the service is provided where appropriate. It is recommended to refer to the action number, to facilitate the link between the costs and the technical report

It is requested a declaration about selection rule of subcontractors

Ensure that all invoices include a clear reference to the project (project number and acronum)

EU wants the respect of the best value for money (always call for tender)





DOCUMENTS TO BE PREPARED FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE COST JUSTIFICATION

- ➤ Call for tender all documents (request of offers, offers, etc.)
- **≻**Invoice
- ➤ Invoice payment



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OTHER DIRECT COSTS



PROJECT Reference : LIFEXX XXX/XXXXXXX - ACRONYM





Equipment, consumable and other costs

- Equipment costs shall relate to the purchase of material which is included on the inventory of durable goods
- > In LIFE Nature equipment and depreciation costs are the same
- Expenditures on consumable materialshall relate to the purchase of material which is not included on the inventory of durable goods and is specifically related to the implementation of the project.
- Other costs mean any costs necessary for the project, not falling within a defined category
- Invoices (reference to project)

It is requested a declaration about selection rule of suppliers

Ensure that all invoices include a clear reference to the project (project number and acronum)

EU wants the respect of the best value for money (always call for tender)





DOCUMENTS TO BE PREPARED FOR EQUIPMENT, CONSUMABLE AND OTHER COSTS COST JUSTIFICATION

- Call for tender all documents (request of offers, offers, etc.)
- **≻**Invoice
- ➤ Invoice payment





Overheads shall be eligible for flat-rate funding of a maximum of 7% of the total amount of eligible direct costs actually incurred, excluding land purchase/lease costs. They need not be supported by accounting documents.





Project meetings

- > Follow up meetings: all partners
 - Kick off meeting in Italy in Palermo on 2-3 October 2019
 - Each six months
- > Technical meetings: who, where and when according to project needs
- ➤ Monitor meeting: when and where the monitor wants





Reporting

- ➤ Midterm Report with payment request with spent 100% of the pre-financing
- > Final Report with payment request (Max 3 month after project end)
- ➤ Project Deliverables

Type of report	Deadline
Midterm report	31/07/2021
Final report	31/10/2023





DELIVERABLES E MILESTONES

- The Deliverables are document (Reports) which have to be submitted to the EC togheter with the foreseen Report.
- ➤ The milestones are not document but internal "check point"

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Name of the Deliverable	Number of the associated action	Deadline
Map of initial A. nebrodensis population and habitat video/hyperspectral inventory and 'health' state	C 1	31/03/2020
Report: Dendro-auxometric parameters of the trees of the natural population of A. nebrodensis	C 1	30/04/2020
Report of both fences installation including the surveillance system	C 1	30/06/2020
Report: updated census and mapping of the natural regeneration of A. nebrodensis	C 1	30/06/2020
Protocol for disease of A. nebrodensis identification in nursery	A 1	31/07/2020
List of reforested plots explaining the characteristics of each areas, planting technics adopted including maps of the reforestation in GIS	C 6	30/09/2020
Report: Distribution of natural regeneration of exotic Abies (including a map)	C 2	30/09/2020
Report of a complete protocol for A. nebrodensis seed and excised zygotic embryo conservation at low (-18°C) and cryogenic (-196°C) temperatures, respectively	A 1	31/12/2020
Report of a complete protocol of long-term conservation of A. nebrodensis pollens at ultra- low (i.e., cryogenic) temperature	A 1	31/12/2020
Report on optimized protocols for the reproduction of A. nebrodensis trees by seed and grafting propagation	A 1	31/12/2020
Report on the genetic variability of the A. nebrodensis population and related results	A 1	31/12/2020
Samples will be deposited in the DNA-Bank of the University of Seville (Spain)	A 1	31/12/2020

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LIFE4FIR Mid-term report	F 1	31/07/2021
LIFE4FIR dissemination events at mid-term period	E 2	31/07/2021
LIFE4FIR dissemination material at mid-term period	E 1	31/07/2021
Report on the seed- and cryobanks constitution	C 5	31/07/2021
Report: Description of major potential diseases, pests and their antagonists	C 1	31/08/2021
List of the seedlings growing in nursery indicating their genetic origin will be delivered	C 2	30/09/2021
Molecular data derived from this project will be exploited by the participants and will be	C 2	31/10/2021

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deposited in the free-access public genetic databases (e.g. GenBank)		
Report of a complete protocol of somatic embryogenesis and cryopreservation of proembryonic masses of A. nebrodensis	C 5	31/12/2021
Best Practice Handbook	C 7	31/03/2022
E-manual on the website for downloading, containing practical information on the constitution and management of seed and cryobank for the long-term conservation of fir genetic resources	C 5	30/04/2022
Replication Plan	C 7	30/09/2022



Report: Implemented procedure to quickly determine the genetic origin of seedlings. Dissemination our results to Natural Park Managers at the end of the Project	C 2	30/09/2022
List of all the hybrid seedlings to be eliminated	C 2	31/10/2022
Database of the pollen/excised embryos/somatic embryogenesis samples in the cryobanks reported in the website	C 5	31/01/2023
Database of the seed samples in the bank reported in the website	C 5	31/03/2023
Report and map of the newly constituted clonal orchard	C 3	30/04/2023
Report of actions related to control and prevention of native and invasive pests and pathogens	C 1	30/06/2023
Report on the effective production of mycorrhizal A. nebrodensis seedlings and on the improved health status of the seedlings of the local nursery of 'Vivaio Piano Noce'.	C 4	30/06/2023
Impact in A. nebrodensis conservation report	D 2	31/07/2023
LFE4FIR Final Report	F1	31/07/2023
LIFE4FIR After-LIFE plan	F 3	31/07/2023
LIFE4FIR audit report	F 2	31/07/2023
LIFE4FIR dissemination events at project end	E 2	31/07/2023
LIFE4FIR dissemination material at project end	E1	31/07/2023
LIFE4FIR manual	E 1	31/07/2023





D 2	31/07/2023
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F 3	31/07/2023
F 2	31/07/2023
E 2	31/07/2023
E 1	31/07/2023
E 1	31/07/2023
D 1	31/07/2023
D 1	31/07/2023
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Map of final A. nebrodensis population and habitat video/hyperspectral inventory and 'health' state	C 1	30/09/2023
Recommend actions for conservation programs	C 2	30/09/2023