



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
Department B - LIFE and H2020 Energy, Environment & Resources
Unit B3 - LIFE and CIP Eco-Innovation

LIFE18 Welcome Meeting Agenda

Nature, Biodiversity and GIE Projects
5-6 November 2019

Habitat Restoration

LIFE18 GIE/DK/000763 LIFE - Support EUTR II

Enabling effective implementation and enforcement of the EU Timber Regulation in 6 key timber importing countries

Loss of habitats and biodiversity from the world's tropical forest regions threatens the survival of endangered primates and can undermine efforts to tackle climate change, with illegal logging in forest producer countries resulting in the release of millions of tonnes of CO₂. The European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) bars illegally logged timber from the EU market, but the law's implementation could be improved. The LIFE - Support EUTR II project will work to increase awareness of the EUTR, and to help relevant companies in six EU countries put in place due diligence systems to stop illegal timber imports in their tracks.

Coordinating beneficiary: Nature Economy and People Connected F.M.B.A

Contact: Jan Feil (jpf@nepcon.org)

External Monitoring Expert: Inta Duce (inta.duce@neemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Manuela Osmi (Manuela.OSMI@ec.europa.eu)

LIFE18 GIE/FR/001029 LIFE NATURARMY

To promote and strengthen the army as a Natura 2000 site manager, in France and in Europe

Military sites are home to a wider variety of often rarer biodiversity than civilian areas. In France, 329 Natura 2000 sites include a military location but France's Ministry of the Armed Forces needs to improve its capabilities to manage these sites effectively. The NATURARMY project will integrate biodiversity protection principles into the management of land dedicated to military use and will improve cooperation with conservation groups. The project will also create 11 000 new hectares of military Natura 2000 sites, adding to the more than 44 000 ha already covered.

Coordinating beneficiary: Ministère des Armées

Contact: Rozenn LE TOUZE (lifebioarmy@gmail.com)

External Monitoring Expert: Maud Latruberce (maud.latruberce@neemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Giulia Carboni (giulia.carboni@ec.europa.eu)

LIFE17 NAT DE 000187 LIFE Trockenrasen

LIFE Continental Dry Grasslands

The LIFE Trockenrasen project aims to improve the conservation status of the Habitats Directive priority habitat types Xeric sand calcareous grasslands and Sub-Pannonic steppic grasslands, along with dry sand heaths, inland dunes natural eutrophic lakes, and dry heaths habitats.

Coordinating beneficiary: NaturSchutzFonds Brandenburg

Contact: Holger Rössling (holger.roessling@naturschutzfonds.de)

External Monitoring Expert: Cornelia Schmitz (cornelia.schmitz@neemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Rosemarie HINGSAMER (Rosemarie.HINGSAMER@ec.europa.eu)

LIFE18 NAT/BE/000576 LIFE Nardus & Limosa

Returning agricultural land to nature

The 'Species-rich Nardus grasslands' priority habitat type of the Habitats Directive is restricted to nutrient-poor sandy soils with some loam in the Netherlands and Belgium, where it provides conditions favourable to rare species, including black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*). LIFE Nardus & Limosa will implement cross-border restoration of meadow-heathland ecosystems rich in Nardus grasslands, and other grassland and heath habitats, that host meadow bird populations. The project will focus on testing and implementing a 'phosphorous-mining' (P-mining) method that takes breeding birds into account. This involves adding nitrogen to former agricultural fields to increase biomass production, which extracts phosphorous when the biomass is mown and removed, thereby speeding up nutrient reduction.

Coordinating beneficiary: Natuurpunt Beheer vzw

Contact: Stefan Versweyveld (stefan.versweyveld@natuurpunt.be) and Koen Swinnen (koen.swinnen@natuurpunt.be)

External Monitoring Expert: An Bollen (an.bollen@neemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Rosemarie HINGSAMER (Rosemarie.HINGSAMER@ec.europa.eu)

LIFE18 NAT/CZ/000832 LIFE SouthMoravia***Sustainable grassland and forest-steppe management (LIFE SouthMoravia)***

Grassland and forest-steppe habitats in the South Moravian region of Czechia suffer from overgrowth, often by invasive alien plant species, due to land abandonment or inappropriate management. LIFE SouthMoravia will improve the conservation status of five priority habitats of the Habitats Directive. The project will build on previous LIFE project work, but on a much larger scale and with improved approaches involving grazing and eco-tourism to make the outcomes more sustainable. A fundamental objective is to develop a comprehensive system of habitat management by reintroducing traditional farming practices, particularly grazing, at the lowest possible cost.

Coordinating beneficiary: ZO ČSOP Onyx

Contact: Roman Bartak (roman.bartak@email.cz)

External Monitoring Expert: Andrej Bača (andrej.baca@neemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Ana KLENOVSEK (Ana.KLENOVSEK@ext.ec.europa.eu)

LIFE18 NAT/ES/000930 LIFE CAÑADAS***Restoring traditional Spanish livestock roads to reconnect protected nature sites***

Roads traditionally used by livestock farmers are known as drove roads, or cañadas in Spanish. These are being increasingly abandoned but have significant benefits for biodiversity, connecting plant populations and spreading local plant seed species while supporting soil fertility, pollination and other natural processes. LIFE CAÑADAS will restore 150 km of these ecological corridors and encourage herders to once again herd their animals along them. By setting out a management plan for the network, the project will re-establish lost connections between Natura 2000 sites in the project area, and monitor the resulting biodiversity, seed dispersal and wildlife movements.

Coordinating beneficiary: Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

Contact: Francisco Martín Azcárate (fm.azcarate@uam.es)

External Monitoring Expert: Jose Álvarez (jose.alvarez@neemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Ana KLENOVSEK (Ana.KLENOVSEK@ext.ec.europa.eu)

LIFE18 NAT/FR/000698 LIFE VALBONNE***Combating invasive species on military land (LIFE VALBONNE)***

The Valbonne military camp in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region of France includes three Natura 2000 network sites that host five grassland and wetland habitats and 22 species of Community importance, including the bird species little bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*) and red-footed falcon (*Falco vespertinus*). LIFE VALBONNE will restore 700 ha of habitats, including priority dry grassland and wetlands habitats. A key action will be the eradication of invasive alien plant species. The little bustard population will be supported through bird reintroductions and habitat enhancement measures. In addition, the project will establish an integrated management system for military and hunting activities according to ecological priorities.

Coordinating beneficiary: Ministère des Armées

Contact: Serge PAYAN (serge.payan@intradef.gouv.fr)

External Monitoring Expert: Maud Latruberce (maud.latruberce@nemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Giulia Carboni (giulia.carboni@ec.europa.eu)

LIFE18 NAT/FR/000906 Life + ANTHROPOFENS

Restoring fens for biodiversity and ecosystem services

Urgent conservation of the fen habitats in northern France and southern Belgium is needed to protect biodiversity. ANTHROPOFENS will restore 480 ha of these habitats to a favourable conservation status in Natura 2000 sites. It will achieve this by implementing water management methods, promoting integrated practices to achieve the necessary successional stages (e.g. grazing), and re-establishing ecological continuity between Natura 2000 sites. The project will create a mosaic of fen habitats and a diversification of successional stages, from semi-aquatic to mature forest habitats, to restore biodiversity and ecosystem services such as flood protection, and improve the resilience of wetlands to the effects of climate change.

Coordinating beneficiary: Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Picardie

Contact: Jérémy LEBRUN (life-tourbieres@conservatoirepicardie.org)

External Monitoring Expert: Quirin Renard (quirin.renard@nemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Sylvia BAROVA (Sylvia.BAROVA@ec.europa.eu)

LIFE18 NAT/HR/000768 Dinara back to LIFE

Restoring grasslands for wildlife and the local economy (Dinara back to LIFE)

The project will protect and restore abandoned dry grassland habitats and their characteristic species in Natura 2000 network sites in the Dinara Mountains of Croatia. It will develop easily-transferable technical guidelines for dry grassland restoration and sustainable management; reduce negative attitudes to the once-common use of controlled burning as a grassland management method; and develop skills within stakeholder groups and the wider community to support conservation actions. The project will promote synergies between EU policy areas and connect nature conservation with socio-economic development as so lay the groundwork for long-term and sustainable grassland management.

Coordinating beneficiary: Association BIOM

Contact: Zdravko Budimir (zdravko.budimir@biom.hr)

External Monitoring Expert: Nikica Skroza (nikica.skroza@nemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Ana KLENOVSEK (Ana.KLENOVSEK@ext.ec.europa.eu)

LIFE18 NAT/IT/000164 LIFE4FIR***Saving the critically endangered Sicilian fir***

The Parco delle Madonie in northern Sicily hosts the world's only natural population of the Sicilian fir (*Abies nebrodensis*). Classed as critically endangered on the IUCN's Red List, the species' relict population comprises just 30 adult trees and 165 saplings. These are threatened by extensive grazing, potential hybridisation with non-native fir species, the poor state of health of individual plants, and the limited size of the population. The LIFE4FIR project aims to increase the population's genetic diversity and improve the conservation status of this highly endangered fir. It will protect the existing trees and carry out reforestation work as well as setting up a seed bank and a cryobank to safeguard the species' future.

Coordinating beneficiary: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)

Contact: Roberto Danti (roberto.danti@ips.cnr.it)

External Monitoring Expert: Alberto Cozzi (alberto.cozzi@neemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Giulia Carboni (giulia.carboni@ec.europa.eu)

LIFE18 NAT/IT/000803 LIFE DRYLANDS***Restoring dry grassland habitats to boost biodiversity***

The project aims to restore dry-acidic Continental open habitats in eight Nature 2000 sites of the western Po Plain in Italy, including three habitat types listed in the Habitats Directive: Inland dunes, European dry heaths and Semi-natural dry grasslands. LIFE DRYLANDS will restore typical habitat structures by means of a dynamic approach to preserve pioneer aspects such as bare soil areas, and typical vegetation aspects, while increasing plant diversity through re-planting. The project will also create ecological corridors to reduce fragmentation and increase connectivity, and to control the invasive woody plant species that cause biodiversity loss.

Coordinating beneficiary: Università degli Studi di Pavia

Contact: Silvia Paola Assini (silviapaola.assini@unipv.it)

External Monitoring Expert: Iva Rossi (iva.rossi@neemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Manuela Osmi (Manuela.OSMI@ec.europa.eu)

LIFE18 NAT/NL/000636 AddMire LIFE***Restoring raised bogs in the Netherlands***

The Netherlands used to host a large portion of Europe's raised bogs, covering an area of 1 million ha before exploitation pre-1600. But by 2000 just 3 600 ha were left. Thanks to successful restoration projects, 15 ha of Dutch active raised bogs have recovered over the past 50 years. In the Engbertsdijkavenen Natura 2000 site, a small active raised bog is still present, surrounded by degraded raised bogs. AddMire LIFE will improve the land's hydrology to keep the water level more stable; permanent wet conditions are beneficial for the regeneration of degraded active bogs and enhance the quality of active bogs.

Coordinating beneficiary: Provincie Overijssel

Contact: Guus Ogink (g.ogink@overijssel.nl)

External Monitoring Expert: Kinnie De Beule (kinnie.de@beule.neemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Rosemarie HINGSAMER (Rosemarie.HINGSAMER@ec.europa.eu)

LIFE18 NAT/UK/000838 LIFE 100% Scotland

Restoring key features in Scottish Natura 2000 sites (LIFE 100% favourable)

The project will secure all key features for which Natura 2000 network sites have been designated on RSPB Scotland's reserves. 11 best practice and novel management demonstrations at different sites will restore or maintain habitat and birds to 'favourable' conservation status under the Birds and Habitats directives. The project will show that a major landowner can achieve 100% favourable condition on its holding, thereby setting an example for others. Actions at different sites include optimisation of grazing (e.g. to enable regeneration of oak forest); removal of invasive plant species, particularly scrub (e.g. to restore dune habitats); replanting of native species from nursery-grown plants (e.g. *Salix* in the sub-arctic Cairngorms); and the restoration or creation of features for birds (e.g. chough nesting sites).

Coordinating beneficiary: The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Contact: Nick Folkard (nick.folkard@rspb.org.uk and Jeff.Waddell@rspb.org.uk)

External Monitoring Expert: Karen Lunan (karen.lunan@neemo.eu)

Project Adviser: Ana KLENOVSEK (Ana.KLENOVSEK@ext.ec.europa.eu)