

Experiência de Projetos Integrados – aspetos a ter em conta na ótica do gestor de políticas públicas

LIFE IP AZORES NATURA

Ana Rodrigues / DRAAC



GOVERNO
DOS AÇORES

Secretaria Regional do Ambiente
e Alterações Climáticas



O Quadro de Ação Prioritária para a Rede Natura 2000 (PAF)

- instrumento estratégico de planeamento plurianual,
- com as medidas necessárias para a gestão da Rede Natura 2000 e as respetivas infraestruturas verdes ao nível da União Europeia (UE),
- para garantir a conservação e o restabelecimento dos habitats naturais e das espécies de importância para a UE num estado de conservação favorável.
- Especificando as necessidades de financiamento destas medidas e a ligação aos programas de financiamento



Principais Medidas do PAF Açores (2021-2027)



QUADRO DE AÇÃO PRIORITÁRIA (QAP) PARA A REDE NATURA 2000 em Portugal – REGIÃO AUTÓNOMA DOS AÇORES

em conformidade com o artigo 8.º da Diretiva 92/43/CEE do Conselho, relativa à preservação dos habitats naturais e da fauna e da flora selvagens (Diretiva Habitats).

no âmbito do *Quadro Financeiro Plurianual* para o período 2021-2027

Endereço de contacto: Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e Alterações Climáticas – Direção Regional do Ambiente e Alterações Climáticas

Rua Cônsul Dabney, Colónia Alemã - Apartado 140
9901-014 Horta
info.draac@azores.gov.pt

Direção Regional das Políticas Marítimas
Rua D. Pedro IV, Nº 29
9900-111 Horta
info.drpm@azores.gov.pt

		Necessidades de financiamento prioritárias 2021-2027	
		Custos anuais de funcionamento: (euros / ano)	Custos não recorrentes / por projeto (euros / ano)
1.	Medidas horizontais e custos administrativos ligados à rede Natura 2000		
1.1.	Designação e planeamento da gestão do sítio	770 496	537 358
1.2.	Administração do sítio e comunicação com as partes interessadas	896 096	3 466 643
1.3.	Vigilância e comunicação de informações	1 461 211	373 813
1.4.	Lacunas de conhecimento subsistentes e necessidades de investigação	870 266	182 590
1.5.	Medidas de comunicação e de sensibilização inerentes à rede Natura 2000; educação e acesso dos visitantes	117 867	457 143
	Subtotal	4 115 936 €	5 017 547 €
2.a	Medidas de conservação e restabelecimento de espécies e habitats aplicáveis aos sítios da rede Natura 2000		
2.1.a	Águas marinhas e costeiras	170 357	16 550
2.2.a	Charnecas e arbustos	3 909 532	
2.3.a	Turfeiras, turfeiras baixas, pântanos e outras zonas húmidas	986 949	
2.4.a	Prados	612 325	428 571
2.5.a	Outros ecossistemas agrícolas (incl. terrenos de cultivo)		
2.6.a	Zonas arborizadas e florestas	1 432 819	
2.7.a	Habitats rochosos, dunas e terrenos de escassa vegetação	450 814	
2.8.a	Habitats de águas doces (rios e lagos)	1 442 196	
2.9.a	Outros		
	Subtotal	9 004 952 €	445 121 €
2.b	Medidas adicionais no domínio das «infraestruturas verdes» fora da rede Natura 2000 (reforço da coerência da rede Natura 2000, incluindo num contexto transfronteiriço)		
2.1.b	Águas marinhas e costeiras		
2.2.b	Charnecas e arbustos	364 286	
2.3.b	Turfeiras, turfeiras baixas, pântanos e outras zonas húmidas	100 078	
2.4.b	Prados		
2.5.b	Outros ecossistemas agrícolas (incl. terrenos de cultivo)		
2.6.b	Zonas arborizadas e florestas	650 129	
2.7.b	Habitats rochosos, dunas e terrenos de escassa vegetação	187 143	
2.8.b	Habitats de águas doces (rios e lagos)		
2.9.b	Outros (grutas, etc.)		
	Subtotal	1 301 636 €	0 €
3.	Medidas adicionais específicas por espécie não ligadas a ecossistemas ou habitats específicos		
3.1	Medidas e programas específicos, por espécie, que não figuram noutra parte	2 270 277	21 429
3.2.	Prevenção, atenuação ou compensação pelos danos causados por espécies protegidas	386 230	
	Subtotal	2 656 507 €	21 429 €
	Total anual	17 079 071 €	5 484 097 €
	Total		22 563 168 €
	Total (2021-2027)		157 942 176 €

DRAAC
DRPM

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- Nesse sentido, o LIFE IP AZORES NATURA foi desenhado com o intuito de implementar o PAF na RAA, incorporando diversas entidades.
- Permitirá contribuir para a **implementação do PAF**, a **meta 1 da Estratégia da Biodiversidade da UE**; *as iniciativas do Pacto Ecológico Europeu* e os objetivos gerais das **Diretivas Habitats e Aves da UE**.
- **Com medidas de conservação da natureza, mas também de capacitação das equipas e mobilização de fundos complementares** (FEDER; FEADER, INTERREG, Horizonte Europa, FEAMP, entre outros).
- Orçamento (2019-2027): 19.1 milhões de euros



- Selecionar **beneficiários com competência** para implementar o plano, neste caso o PAF;
- **Ter beneficiários com capacidade financeira** (integrados 40%);
- Ter **estrutura** que responda às necessidades do projeto (Recursos Humanos, parte financeira, contratação pública ...);
- **Conciliar as entidades** para a implementação do plano, quer como beneficiários do projeto, quer com declarações de suporte;
- **Overheads do projeto** (até 7% do valor total);
- Apenas se pode colocar na rubrica dos **serviços externos 35% do valor total do projeto**;
- Os Beneficiários não podem atuar, no projeto, como prestadores de serviços, fornecedores ou subcontratados de outro beneficiário;
- Verificar se as áreas de intervenção escolhidas são públicas ou privadas. E quem faz a gestão dessas áreas?



PROPOSTA



LIFE17 IPE/PT/000010 - LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA

Technical application forms

PART A – Administrative information



LIFE17 IPE/PT/000010 - LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA

Technical application forms

Part B – technical summary and overall context of the project



LIFE17 IPE/PT/000010 - LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA

TECHNICAL APPLICATION FORMS

Part C – detailed technical description of the proposed actions



LIFE 2017 ENVIRONMENT INTEGRATED PROJECTS

Stage 2 - Full proposal

FINANCIAL APPLICATION FORMS



LIFE17 IPE/PT/000010 - LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA

Technical application forms

PART A – Administrative information

LIFE Integrated Projects 2017- A1

 LIFE 2017	FOR ADMINISTRATION USE ONLY LIFE17 IPE PT 010
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PROJECT

Project title (max. 120 characters):
Active protection and integrated management of Natura 2000 Network in Azores.

Project acronym (max. 25 characters): LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA

The project will be implemented in the following Country(s) and/or Administrative region(s):
Autonomous Region of the Azores
La Palma Island – Canary Archipelago
Expected start date: 01/01/2019 Expected end date: 31/12/2027

PROJECT POLICY AREA

You can only tick one of the following options:

LIFE Integrated Project Nature: Integrated project contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives (Directives 2009/147/EC and 92/43/EEC) and to achieving target 1 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy by implementing the Prioritized Action Frameworks (Article 8 of 92/43/EEC)

LIFE Integrated Project Environment: Integrated project contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the:

- Waste Directive by implementing **Waste Management Plans (WMP)** (Article 28 of Waste Framework Directive 2008/98) and/or **Waste Prevention Programmes (WPP)** (Article 29 of Waste Framework Directive)
- Water Framework Directive by implementing **implement a/parts of a River Basin Management Plan (RMBP)** (Annex VII of Directive No. 2000/60/EC)
- Air Directive by implementing **Air Quality Plans** (Directive 2008/50/EC)

The project will implement the following plan/strategy (full copy is to be provided if modified since Concept Note submission):

- A Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000. For the EU Multiannual Financing Period 2014 – 2020; Autonomous Region of the Azores. August 2013.
- Sectorial Plan of Natura 2000 Network.

LIFE Integrated Projects 2017- A1

BENEFICIARIES

Name of the **coordinating** beneficiary (1): Direção Regional do Ambiente (DRA).
Name of the associated beneficiary (2): Sociedade de Gestão e Conservação da Natureza – AZORINA, S.A.
Name of the associated beneficiary (3): Direção Regional dos Assuntos do Mar (DRAM).
Name of the associated beneficiary (4): Fundación Canaria – Reserva Mundial de la Biosfera La Palma.
Name of the associated beneficiary (5): Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves (SPEA).

PROJECT BUDGET AND REQUESTED EC FUNDING

Total integrated project budget: 19 087 522 €
Total LIFE eligible project budget: 19 087 522 €
EC LIFE financial contribution requested: 11 452 513 € (= 60% of total eligible budget)

LIFE Integrated Projects 2017 - A2

Coordinating Beneficiary Profile Information				
Short Name	DRA		Beneficiary n°	1
Legal information on the Coordinating Beneficiary				
Legal Name	Direção Regional do Ambiente		Legal Status	
VAT No	PT600085880		Public body	X
Legal Registration No	600085880		Private commercial	
Registration Date			Private non-commercial	
PIC No.	921236452		VAT reimbursement	Yes: No: x
Legal address of the Coordinating Beneficiary				
Street Name and No	Rua Cônsul Dabney, Colónia Alemã		PO Box	Apartado 140
Post Code	9900-014	Town/City	Horta	
Country Code	PT	Country Name	Portugal	
Coordinating Beneficiary contact person information				
Function	Regional Director for the Environment			
Surname	Jorge	First Name	Hernâni	
E-mail address	Hernani.H.Jorge@azores.gov.pt			
Department / Service	Regional Directorate for the Environment			
Street Name and No	Rua Cônsul Dabney, Colónia Alemã		PO Box	Apartado 140
Post Code	9900-014	Town/City	Horta	
Country	Portugal			
Telephone No	+351 292 207 300	Fax No	+351 292 391 568	
Coordinating Beneficiary details				
Website	http://www.azores.gov.pt/Portal/pt/entidades/sreat-dra/?lang=pt			
Brief description of the Coordinating Beneficiary's activities and experience in the area of the proposal				
<p>The Regional Directorate for the Environment (DRA) of the Regional Government of the Azores, is the Agency responsible for the Nature Conservation – which includes the management of protected areas, of species and habitats of the Natura 2000 network, for the Environmental Quality – which includes monitoring and inspection of noise, air quality and waste management, the territorial management and the water resources management.</p> <p>It is also responsible for the environmental education, public information in environmental issues and support to Non-Governmental Organizations for the Environment. DRA was partner in some projects funded by the EU, developed mainly in the fields of Nature Conservation, including former LIFE projects.</p>				

COORDINATING BENEFICIARY DECLARATION

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

- The specific actions listed in this proposal do not and will not receive aid from the European Structural and Investment Funds or other European Union funding programmes. In the event that any such funding will be made available after the submission of the proposal or during the implementation of the project, my organisation will immediately inform the Contracting Authority.
- My organisation **Direção Regional do Ambiente – DRA** (Regional Directorate for the Environment) has not been served with bankruptcy orders, nor has it received a formal summons from creditors. My organisation is not in any of the situations listed in Articles 106(1) and 107 of Council Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L298 of 26.10.2012).
- My organisation (which is legally registered in the European Union) will contribute **2.208.331 €** to the project. My organisation will participate in the implementation of the following actions: **A1, A2, A4, C1, C2, C3, C4, C6, C7, C8, C11, C13, C14, D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, F1, F2, F3, F4, F5**. The estimated total cost of my organisation's part in the implementation of the project is **5.520.828 €**.
- My organisation will conclude with the associated beneficiaries and co-financiers any agreements necessary for the completion of the work, provided these do not infringe on their obligations, as stated in the grant agreement with the Contracting Authority. Such agreements will be based on the model proposed by the Contracting Authority. They will describe clearly the tasks to be performed by each associated beneficiary and define the financial arrangements.
- I commit to comply with all relevant eligibility criteria, as defined in the LIFE Multiannual Work Programme 2014-2017 and the LIFE Call for Proposals including the LIFE Guidelines for Applicants.

I am legally authorised to sign this statement on behalf of my organisation.

I have read in full the LIFE Model Grant Agreement and the Financial and Administrative Guidelines provided with the LIFE application files.

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT

Name and legal status:

Villa Natura

Full address:

Caminho Velho da Praia, 14-A

Tel: +351 962 345 999 E-mail: info@villanaturazores.com

Contact person (name and function): Luis António Tavares de Melo Mesquita, proprietário, mesquitalu1959@gmail.com

Please specify whether, why and how you will support this project:

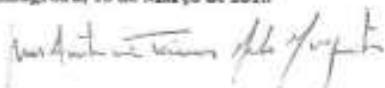
A **Villa Natura – Ecoturismo** é uma unidade de alojamento turístico alojamento local criada em 2017, que tem por objeto o alojamento turístico na ilha de **Santa Maria**. Na atualidade, a **Villa Natura – Ecoturismo** dispõe de uma capacidade de 3 camas, que movimentam em média um número total anual de **200** dormidas.

Atendendo ao projeto que **Direção Regional do Ambiente (DRA)** e **Direção Regional dos Assuntos do Mar (DRAM)** vão apresentar ao Programa LIFE, e considerando as respetivas propostas em atividades de turismo, confirmamos a nossa disponibilidade e interesse em as acompanhar e, quando aplicável, delas dar conhecimento aos nossos hóspedes, com vista ao seu eventual envolvimento, caso nisso estejam interessados.

Neste mesmo contexto, sem prejuízo de uma colaboração mais estreita com as ações do projeto **LIFE IP AZORES NATURA** que mais se relacionem com o alojamento turístico - incluindo as que promovam ensaio de soluções de boas práticas e/ou demonstrativas que não coloquem em causa as receitas geradas pela nossa atividade e/ou a participação e elementos da nossa equipa em formação com elas relacionada - desde já nos disponibilizamos a participar na respetiva *Comissão de Acompanhamento*, que reunirá com frequência anual.

No âmbito dessa participação, contribuiremos com opiniões que possam melhorar os objetivos de conservação que o projeto se propõe atingir, em especial através do estabelecimento de sinergias com as unidades de alojamento turístico e seus clientes, no sentido de alcançar objetivos e necessidades comuns.

Almagroira, 18 de Março de 2018



Villa Natura

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT

Name and legal status:

Casas da Fajã

Full address:

Rua 5 de Outubro, 9 | 9900-093 Horta

Tel: +351 919 433 863 Fax: +351 292 392 281 E-mail: info@casasdafaja.com

Contact person (name and function): Manuel Cristiano Bem, Proprietário, info@casasdafaja.com

Please specify whether, why and how you will support this project:

A **Casas da Fajã** é uma unidade de alojamento turístico de turismo rural criada em 2010, que tem por objeto o alojamento turístico na ilha do Faial. Na atualidade, a **Casas da Fajã** dispõe de uma capacidade de 6 camas, que movimentam em média um número total anual de **413** dormidas.

Atendendo ao projeto que **Direção Regional do Ambiente (DRA)** e **Direção Regional dos Assuntos do Mar (DRAM)** vão apresentar ao Programa LIFE, e considerando as respetivas propostas em atividades de turismo, confirmamos a nossa disponibilidade e interesse em as acompanhar e, quando aplicável, delas dar conhecimento aos nossos hóspedes, com vista ao seu eventual envolvimento, caso nisso estejam interessados.

Neste mesmo contexto, sem prejuízo de uma colaboração mais estreita com as ações do projeto **LIFE IP AZORES NATURA** que mais se relacionem com o alojamento turístico - incluindo as que promovam ensaio de soluções de boas práticas e/ou demonstrativas que não coloquem em causa as receitas geradas pela nossa atividade e/ou a participação e elementos da nossa equipa em formação com elas relacionada - desde já nos disponibilizamos a participar na respetiva *Comissão de Acompanhamento*, que reunirá com frequência anual.

No âmbito dessa participação, contribuiremos com opiniões que possam melhorar os objetivos de conservação que o projeto se propõe atingir, em especial através do estabelecimento de sinergias com as unidades de alojamento turístico e seus clientes, no sentido de alcançar objetivos e necessidades comuns.

Signature and date: Horta, 21 de Fevereiro de 2018

Name and status of signatory: Manuel Cristiano Bem, Proprietário





LIFE17 IPE/PT/000010 - LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA

Technical application forms

Part B – technical summary and overall context of the project

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT (English version)

1. Overall context/background/geographical scope

IP itself

AZORES NATURA covers 23 SAC's, 15 SPA's and 3 SCI's of the Natura 2000 (N2000) Network in the Azores, seeking to attain a significant contribute for the conservation of species and habitats protected by the Habitats and Birds Directives that underlie their designation.

In concrete, by facilitating the implementation of the regional Prioritized Framework Programme (PAF), the project seeks that future assessments evidence a better conservation or a secure status for 100 % more habitats and 50 % more species than those described in unfavourable status on the last reporting to the EU (2013).

To this effect, AZORES NATURA directly targets the 4 main areas embraced by the PAF - all of which eligible for LIFE-IP funding - and mobilizes complementary funding, with synergic aims, through applications to a variety of other mechanisms (which are granted, in application stage and/or foreseen to be requested within the timeframe of the IP).

By considering current gaps and shortcomings (including those related to gathering needed knowledge/information for some species/habitats, but mostly concerning the unavailability of needed human and material resources to undertake concrete conservation works, including capacity building), the project seeks a cost-effective implementation of the PAF targets. To ensure this, and following additional discussion among beneficiaries and with stakeholders, the current application reinforces the positive aspects from previous versions presented to the 2015/6 calls, while seeking to overpass negative comments that were received.

As for geographical coverage, and in coherence with the above targets, AZORES NATURA focuses on the whole territory that constitutes the Autonomous Region of Azores, and, more specifically, in the whole of the N2000 sites that have been designated (and, for the case of the marine environment, those for which existing ecological knowledge justifies additional gathering of information towards accomplishing designation of offshore sites).

In all, this accounts for a total area of 804,18 km² that includes: 427,25 km² of land (245,37 km² within SAC's, 2,01 km² within SCI's and 161,76 km² within SPA's) and 376,92 km² of marine areas. Their designation encompasses the protection of:

- 1 endemic terrestrial fauna species, priority for conservation by the HD;
- 31 terrestrial flora species, 22 of which endemic, 5 priority for conservation by the HD;
- 28 marine fauna species, 1 of which priority for conservation under the HD;
- 26 terrestrial habitats and 3 marine habitats, 9 priority for conservation under the HD;
- 34 bird species, including 5 endemic, 10 priority for action under the BD.

Within this area, and having for target achieving the conservation of species/habitats that underlay their designation, AZORES NATURA will specifically deal with actions directed at:

- gathering additional data on HD protected species for which additional knowledge is needed to undertake concrete conservation: *Asplenium hemionitis*, *Euphrasia azorica*, *Euphrasia grandiflora*, *Isoetes azorica*, *Lactuca watsoniana*, *Melanoselinum decipiens* and *Nyctalus azoreum*;

- drafting and approving Action Plans for HD protected species that require them, to ensure further conservation works: *Euphrasia azorica*, *Euphrasia grandiflora*, and *Nyctalus azoreum*;

- gathering additional data directed at HD protected habitats for which current knowledge is also insufficient to undertake concrete conservation: 1320, 3130, 3170*;

- promoting best-practice concrete conservation works based on current best knowledge, directed at species/habitats for which they are known to be appropriate for dealing with existing problems/threats: *Azorina vidalii*, *Dracaena draco*, *Myosotis azorica*, *Picconia azorica*, *Balaenoptera borealis*, *Balaenoptera musculus*, *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas*, *Megaptera novaeangliae* and *Scyllarides latus* (protected by the HD) and *Pyrrhula murina*, *Bulweria bulwerii*, *Caionectris diomedea*, *Oceanodroma castro*, *Oceanodroma monteiroi*, *Puffinus assimilis baroli*, *Sterna dougallii dougallii* and *Sterna hirundo* (protected by the BD);

- essaying, assessing results and replicating pilot/demonstration concrete conservation works based on solutions applied elsewhere, directed at species/habitats and/or conservation problems for which new solutions are required, not known and/or not widely applied within the context of the Azores and/or the EU. This includes works directed at threats such as Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and Non-Indigenous Species (NIS), management of economic activities like tourism and fisheries, and at improving concrete conservation methods targeting several flora species;

Sumário do projeto
Contexto geral

In all, the IP works are expected to secure or bring directly to a more favourable conservation status to:

- 8 HD protected species currently assessed in **Unfavourable / Bad (U2)**;
- 10 HD protected species currently assessed in **Unfavourable / Inadequate (U1)**;
- 3 HD protected habitats currently assessed in **Unfavourable / Bad (U2)**;
- 6 HD protected habitats currently assessed in **Unfavourable / Inadequate (U1)**;
- 8 BD protected species (1 terrestrial, 7 seabirds) needing improvement of their habitats

to secure results obtained with former conservation.

The LIFE IP Azores Natura includes achieving a secure status or better conservation for the overall number of species – the correct figure is 100% for terrestrial species (19 out of 19 species directly targeted), and 66% to marine species (4 out of 6 species targeted), when only accounting to unfavourable status reporting. In addition, increased knowledge is expected to directly target at least 1 additional terrestrial species and 3 marine species to which knowledge is deficient, therefore improving the reporting status.

As for habitats, direct works are foreseen to account and target 10 habitats out of 13 of the habitats reported on unfavourable status. We did however consider and have taken into account that conservation status of the remaining 3 would benefit from indirect works like those associated to IAS control and mitigation of human activities that affect them.

Transversally, development, testing, demonstration and application of concrete conservation methods and practices like above, together with appropriate communication, awareness raising, networking and technical dissemination, are **expected to improve the knowledge base about the existing natural values, and to improve capacity of the beneficiaries and other authorities for continued post-project interventions towards N2000 conservation.**

Complementary actions

Complementary actions to those for which LIFE IP funding is requested include those funded by other LIFE strands, other EU Funds, national public funds, and private funds (international).

As reflected on form FP, the total amount of complementary funding that we expect to raise along the IP duration a total amount of **12,285 114 euros**. This amount includes 3,927,885 euros of projects already granted, 7,720,842 euros of projects submitted and to be granted, and 636,386 euros of projects that beneficiaries expect to submit to forthcoming calls. These figures are of a conservative nature and do not account for other proposals for complementary funding that, despite in the aims of the beneficiaries, do not exhibit at this stage a high degree of probability of funding but which are a target as well (e.g. further continuing of the COSTA project with international funding on subsequent years).

In what concerns the type/origin of funding, as reflected on form FP, the distribution of complementary funding accounts with about 89,3% of EU "Funding" (from a diversity of mechanisms like EMFF, INTERREG MAC, ERDF, EARDF and LIFE), 3,6% of "Other Public Funds" (national/regional funding) and 7,1% of "Private Funds" (from international origin).

In addition, two of the complementary projects under evaluation (MISTIC SEAS III, INDICIT II and RAGES) have been submitted to a call that, despite managed by DG ENV, is to be funded by the EMFF (DG ENV/MSFD 2018 call).

As a result from constraints related to beneficiary and works eligibility resulting from national regulation of EMFF, and taking into account the few opportunities placed by EMFF to the project beneficiaries, we expect only DRAM to possibly apply to the foreseen calls of measures 1 and 2 of priority 6, which are foreseen to October and November of 2018, according to the currently advertised schedule. Depending on the call's main areas of potential applications, duly considered within the technical planning of the revised version of the IP, such applications – which are not identified on form FP, due to the uncertainty of the calls schedule and conditions - may include:

- drafting of management plans for sustainability of human activities in open ocean marine protected areas;
- promotion of studies to ensure installation and functioning of monitoring devices on marine noise;
- collection of data and development of management tools to monitor seashore marine litter that allow to infer quantities, spatial distribution and origin;
- design and application of bioindicators that can support monitoring impacts of marine litter.

In addition to these expectations, we expect the IP works, and especially those foreseen with the open desktop offices of sub-actions C.13.1 and C.15.1 – which will be more directly focused on how to mobilize the various funds to support N2000 and not only, as is generally the case, to the wider use of such funds along the programming periods – to be a relevant anchor that helps and support

identification, dissemination and use of future opportunities, to satisfy concrete conservation needs. We seek with their works to promote, regularly, the crosschecking of how N2000 conservation needs can be funded by EMFF, EARDF and ERDF and other EU financial mechanisms allowing to disseminate them among potential/eligible users before the calls are open. In addition, by capacitating and providing technical support on how to better structure and present potential applications ahead of call opening, we expect a higher success on mobilization can be reached.

Currently, the projects currently listed on form FP essentially include works directed at:

- conservation of other species/habitats;
- research type work and/or terrestrial inventories, also foreseen in the PAF but with better eligibility under other mechanisms, for which they were directed;
- areas that are external to N2000 but essential to secure or leverage/anchor the works proposed for LIFE funding (e.g. concerning IAS control or animal species);
- additional measures to harmonize economic activity with nature conservation, especially in what concerns tourism and recreation.

Taking for basis the comments received and projects listed in the Financial Plan, each complementary action is described in attached, allowing for better comprehension of the relation it establishes with the IP works.

2. Project objectives:

IP itself:

In order to achieve its targets, AZORES NATURA relies on combined works with which we seek to achieve the following objectives that directly tackle PAF priorities:

- **Implement on-field conservation works identified as needed for improvement of conservation status of 24 species and 13 habitats protected by the HD (priority 2b) - including recovery of 6 priority habitats and 3 species (priority 3b) -, and promotion of the complementary signing/interpretation for awareness raising on the conservation goals (priority 2g);**
- **Implement habitat improvement works foreseen on the Action Plan for the Azores bullfinch *Pyrrhula murina* in the European Union to secure its conservation status (priority 2b) and promote the complementary signing/interpretation for awareness raising on the conservation goals (priority 2g);**
- **Promote control/eradication works targeting IAS and monitor their results (priority 3a),** including eradication targets on islets and significant reduction of threats/densities on all other cases and setting up a global strategy for managing these threats;
- **Fill knowledge gaps on distribution and/or conservation status/threats for specific species/habitats (priority 1a) for which additional information is still needed;**
- **Execute *ex-situ* conservation actions, namely through collection and conservation of seeds from 80% of the endemic species of the Azores in the Germoplasm Bank at the Botanical Garden in Faial (priority 3c),** including 4 species for which *in situ* propagation is still not achievable due to insufficient knowledge;
- **Reinforce the current capability for N2000 surveillance and management (priorities 1c and 2e),** through internal capacity building, additional human resources and additional means embracing all the Island Parks management and operational structures;
- **Develop and deliver, to technical and operational staff,** specific training actions on N2000 values, objectives, threats/problems and concrete conservation works needed (priority 2f), allowing for higher capacity for intervention of the beneficiaries and other relevant parties;
- **Develop and set an operational GIS database required for N2000 management (priority 2d),** dealing with the terrestrial species and habitats;
- **Reinforce integration of N2000 conservation goals in other sectoral policies (priority 1d),** by means of pilot and/or demonstration works dealing with tourism (regulation of whale watching), fisheries (use of biodegradable fishing lines; catch of species with commercial interest), agriculture (EARDF advice and cattle management) and marine transport;
- **Raise awareness of local population and relevant stakeholders for the conservation values of N2000 and its worth as an instrument for improvement of overall life condition and sustainable development (priority 4c),** through a set of communication and awareness raising actions promoted with schools, the general public, tourism agents and fisherman, and other public authorities;
- **Raise awareness and engage local agents towards further use of rural development support schemes available through other regional and EU financing programs (priority 4d),** by means of specific actions dealing with technical advice/support;

- **Promote sustainable use of N2000 areas** (priority 2c), namely by testing/essay of adequate solutions for pedestrian tourism, overall awareness raising, and environmental education works directed at several audiences and promotion/implementation of the "Lands of Priolo" Sustainable Tourism Action Plan;
- **Promote adequate conditions for sustainable use and improvement of profitability of private agents acting within N2000** (priority 4a), in particular in the **tourism sector** - by directly working with agents operating whale watching, diving, and related marine activities, for which there is increasing demand - and in **fisheries** (e.g. by regulation of catches of *Scyllarides latus*, of high commercial interest, and reduction of overall impacts from fishing gear waste).

The 8 years planning and a detailed design of the actions that allow to achieve these objectives (and the applicable conservation targets and indicators for performance/progress monitoring) allows to consider them **fully achievable within the timeframe of the project**, with the proposed budget and means requested for LIFE funding.

Complementary actions:

- In synergy with the above, complementary actions will have for focus the following objectives:
- **Implement threat reduction targeting seabirds protected by the BD, to secure their conservation status** (priority 2b), including those induced by urban lighting;
 - **Fill knowledge gaps on distribution and/or conservation status of specific species/habitats** (priority 1a), including for example *Caretta caretta* and *Balaenoptera borealis*;
 - **Undertake systematic monitoring of species/habitats and development/use of indicators for assessment of its conservation status** (priority 1b), complementing the works of the IP but in this case addressing, e.g. *Tursiops truncatus*, *Physeter microcephalus*, *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas*, *Sterna dougallii*;
 - **Promote prevention and monitoring of occurrence of marine NIS** (priority 3a), including, for example, *Pictada radiata*, *Phoronis hippocrepia*;
 - **Develop and set an operational GIS database required for N2000 management** (priority 2d), in this case dealing with marine species and habitats;
 - **Promote adequate conditions for sustainable use and improvement of profitability of private agents acting within N2000, in particular in the tourism sector** (priority 4a), namely by working with tourist agents dealing with whale watching's, diving, and related marine activities, with works that complement the ones foreseen in the IP.

3. Actions and means involved:

IP itself:

AZORES NATURA is expected to focus on conservation problems identified by the PAF at the regional scale. Under such context, most of the proposed actions involve implementation of **best practice works** that, due to insufficient resources, have only been applied at smaller scale and/or which are known to be the cost-effective way to deal with existing problems. At the same time, the IP also includes a small set of actions of **demonstrative or innovative/pilot nature** which are needed to find the best solution to problems that have not been resolved so far at the given scale (e.g. recovery of endemic flora populations), or under the given conditions (e.g. the use of biodegradable lines for recreational fisheries). In addition, to ensure sustainability, **capacity building and governance** elements are also widely foreseen, to allow for an efficient and well-co-ordinated implementation of the PAF, within the partnership and with external stakeholders. Last but not the least, and to ensure **effective replicability/transferability** of the core actions, this version of AZORES NATURA includes actions dealing with leveraging **replication/transfer of project works**, within the project timeframe and after its end, to other public authorities from Macaronesia in charge of N2000. Under such context, we highlight the presence of an **associated beneficiary from the Canary Islands**, which will be working with IAS prevention, control and eradication works targeting IAS that are also a threat in Azores.

Taking for basis the project objectives, its main actions are described below, following main LIFE categories. Details on each action will be presented in the full proposal.

A. Preparatory Actions: these include works directed at preparing C actions (to be conducted in the initial phase) and a set of works that will prepare the post-project (to be conducted along the project and mostly in the last phase, including legal approval of the applicable plans). Those to be executed at the initial phase include:

- **A1: review and synthesis of technical studies and concrete conservation know-how on conservation practices** to be implemented/used, followed by works directed at detailing the subsequent concrete conservation actions, namely: **technical planning** (for delivery of detailed operational action plans for C actions), **permit procedures** (even though issuing authorities are also beneficiaries), and **stakeholder consultations** (for further engagement and synergies/contributes to the proposed works);
- **A2 and A3: data gathering and modelling**, followed by **setting up of integrated georeferenced databases** (for storage/consultation/monitoring of N2000 and its uses).

Those to be undertaken on later phases, include:

- **A4: additional planning/monitoring activities for full and effective implementation of the PAF**, including the delivery and approval, before the project ends, of:

- designation of 2 new SCI's in islets, Ilhéu do Topo in S. Jorge island (purchased area under action C.1.1) and Ilhéu da Vila in Santa Maria island (adding to current SPA designation);
- adjustment, with increase of area, of the existing SAC of Caldeira e Capelinhos – PTFAI0004, in order to include areas to be intervened in action C3.1 with HD species (currently only protected as an SPA);
- designation of new off-shore marine SCI's (as a result from additional data);
- revision of the PAF (as its validity expires during IP implementation);
- new and/or revised of *Regional Action Plans* for some Species (focusing on those for which the IP concentrated on knowledge gaps and those requiring active conservation works on the post-project) and *Management Plans* for N2000 marine sites;
- appropriate and cost-effective monitoring frameworks (including those dealing with the HD and BD monitoring/reporting, in tight link with the IP monitoring works).

C. Concrete conservation actions: to be executed throughout the 9 islands of Azores, by the relevant public authorities (DRM and DRAM) and one NGO (SPEA), all with considerable experience in identical works. These will focus in areas within N2000, where they are needed (e.g. to deal with fragmentation, isolation, small populations, presence of IAS, economic activity threats). They embrace wide range securing/enlarging conservation, setting mosaics/corridors of ecological relevance, and testing/demonstrating works in smaller pilot areas which will include:

- **C1: land purchase:** based on expropriation of 3 parcels of land, in one islet, required to undertake recovery of habitats for birds protected by the BD (as it is not possible to reach an agreement with current owners) and 2 other essential areas for concrete conservation works in habitats under unfavourable status;
- **C2: promotion of extensive capacity building**, having for target:
 - a) specific training and/or "on work" workshops targeting existing and recruited staff;
 - b) identical works directed at other stakeholders (regional authorities dealing with forests and infrastructure, NGO's, local administrations) that can make use of project methods and tools and foster/increase its results;
- **C3, C4, C5, C6: restoration and conservation of terrestrial habitats, habitats for birds, and wild populations of threatened flora**, having for target:
 - a) promotion of ecological corridors embracing several habitats in unfavourable status and their restoration/enlargement with best-practice works (including habitats 3130, 3160, 7120, 7130*, 8310, 8320, 91D0*, 9360* and 9560*);
 - b) increase of distribution areas and conservation status of pristine threatened habitats with best-practice and demonstration works (including habitats 4050*, 7110*, 91D0*, 9360* and 9560*);
 - c) pilot works for *in situ* recovery of the wild populations of the flora species under unfavourable status, embracing their current and historical populations and distribution areas;
 - d) best-practice and demonstration works targeting restoration of habitats for birds in relevant breeding/nesting areas for populations of *Oceanodroma castro*, *Oceanodroma monteiroi*, *Puffinus assimilis baroli*, *Bulweria bulwerii*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna dougallii dougallii* and *Calonectris borealis* (focusing on the acquired land and other islets areas);
- **C7: gathering additional information about *Nyctalus azoreum***, having for target definition of appropriate conservation measures for this species, about which very few is know;
- **C8, C11, C12: prevention of introduction/expansion, control and eradication of IAS and NIS**, including:
 - a) designing and implementing an early detection and alert framework for marine NIS, targeting major marina's and harbours;
 - b) implementation of control and eradication works for seabird colonies;

- c) eradication of rodents in islets;
- d) development, essay and assessment of implementation of a pilot framework for early detection and rapid intervention on new IAS flora (in Corvo Island and La Palma Island, to improve further replication in Macaronesia);
- e) application of best practice and demonstration control/eradication methods within all terrestrial intervened areas and in buffer areas, targeting species listed as Top 100 Macaronesian invaders, with high interest for use in this biogeographical region, including: *Pitiosporum undulatum*, *Hedychium gardnerianum*, *Arundo donax*, *Carpobrotus edulis*, *Agave Americana*;
- **C9: conservation of marine species**, having for target:
 - a) best practice for conservation of marine turtles *Caretta caretta** and *Chelonia mydas**;
 - b) reduction of impacts from ship traffic and underwater noise on protected cetaceans (*Balaenoptera borealis*, *Balaenoptera musculus* and *Megaptera novaeangliae*);
- **C10: restoration and conservation of coastal and marine habitats**, having for target:
 - a) best practice works dealing with removal of fishing gear and marine litter from coastal reefs (habitat 1170);
 - b) improvement of off-shore and coastal use (concerning fisheries, shipping, deep-sea research and other activities) through design/implementation of codes of conduct and increased surveillance;
 - c) best practice works to improve conservation status of coastal habitats by removal of litter;
- **C13: improvement of integration of N2000 conservation with agriculture**, including:
 - a) pilot solutions for regular advice on EU funding;
 - b) demonstration/application of solutions for minimizing agricultural impacts, in link with other works.
- **C14: improvement of integration of N2000 conservation with tourism**, including:
 - a) implementation of best practice and demonstration solutions for management of pedestrian tourism, directed at improving/creating/managing nature trails;
 - b) regulation and voluntary instruments for reducing impacts of whale watching, diving, and related marine tourism activities;
- **C15: improvement of integration of N2000 conservation with fisheries**, having for target:
 - a) pilot solutions for promotion of use of biodegradable gear on recreational fisheries;
 - b) pilot solutions for management of fisheries of commercial interest dealing with a locally threatened species (Mediterranean Slipper lobster, *Scyllarides latus*);
 - c) pilot solutions for regular advice on EU funding;
- **C16: improvement of integration of N2000 conservation with marine transport**, having for target:
 - a) IT platform to monitor uses;
 - b) definition of more adequate transport corridors through risk maps.

D. Monitoring of the impact of project actions: following best practice and obligatory requirements of LIFE funding embracing a set of integrated monitoring tasks dealing with:

- **D1: monitoring the project's impact on LIFE IP Performance Indicators**, including compilation and delivery of information needed to complete indicator tables that embrace quantitative and qualitative measurements of environmental and conservation benefits foreseen (especially those of C actions) and the capability for mobilisation of and coordination with complementary funds;
- **D2: monitoring the project's contribution to the implementation of the PAF**, including quantitative measurements on the rate of implementation of PAF, considering its priorities, measures and overall financing expectations, and the capacities being built up;
- **D3: monitoring the project's socio-economic impact**, including delivery of a specific assessment of the impact of project actions on the local economy and population;
- **D4: monitoring effects on ecosystem functions/services**, including delivery of a specific assessment of the impact on relevant ecosystem functions and services provided by the target habitats/species, taking for basis the analytical framework and indicators identified by the *Working Group Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services* on their technical reports.
- **D5: monitoring the project concrete results on habitats, species and conservation problems** directly targeted with conservation works.

E. Communication and dissemination actions: embracing the obligatory actions foreseen for LIFE funding and, in addition, a set of works directed at relevant target audiences with the aim of mobilising a wider range of stakeholders and engaging them with N2000 conservation and the project works. Following comments on the 2016 proposal these have been revised and include:

- **E1: implementing/delivering obligatory components of the Communication Plan:** 1) project website; 2) noticeboards; 3) Layman report; 4) Specific communication plan for public awareness raising on N2000 Network, including regular work with the media;
- **E2: technical dissemination, transfer and replication of project works**, including: 1) drafting and delivery of a replicability/transferability strategy (and start of its implementation within the project timeframe, focusing especially on the innovative/demonstration works); 2) technical dissemination (including "how to" training) with regional/national aims; 3) dissemination at EU level.
- **E3: networking activities with other LIFE and/or non-LIFE Projects**, with a special focus on those dealing with identical problems and/or conservation values;
- **E4: environmental education program**, to raise awareness in schools;
- **E5: general public engagement in conservation works**;

F. Project management and monitoring of project progress including a good cooperation and well-structured management hierarchy (embracing regular governance and consultation of stakeholders), a full-time project manager, and frameworks for monitoring and evaluating the project's financial and technical progress. Under such context, foreseen actions include:

- **F1: overall project management** (including external audit);
- **F2: updated/regular delivery of phase/stage planning and monitoring project progress**;
- **F3: working group for coordination of complementary funds**;
- **F4: operation of governance boards**, including a technical advisory and a stakeholder board;
- **F5: drafting, discussion and approval of After-LIFE plan**.

Complementary actions:

Complementary actions will be the focus of specific details that allow to better understand how they complement those foreseen to be funded by LIFE and causal/logic links between such actions. In all, given the page limits of the forms, we highlight from now as major contributors of complementary actions:

- **for data gathering and modelling and setting up of integrated georeferenced databases:**
 - MACFLOR** – Macaronesian Atlas of reproductive biology and applications for conservation;
 - ATLAS** - gathers diverse information on sensitive Atlantic ecosystems (including Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and Ecologically or Biologically Sensitive Areas). Case studies: hydrothermal vents, seamounts, coral gardens and sponge grounds.
 - COSTA 3** - Consolidating Sea Turtle conservation in the Azores 3, for gathering additional data about marine turtles;
 - MONIAVES** - Programa de monitorização e de medidas para as populações de aves marinhas na subdivisão dos Açores, for seabird monitoring;

- **for setting up of appropriate and cost-effective monitoring frameworks:**

POPA - fisheries data collection program, including a dataset of cetacean and turtle sightings, collected during on-effort periods over an extensive geographic area, within the Azorean EEZ.

- **for additional planning activities for the full and effective implementation of the PAF:**
 - PEAMA** - strategic plan for the marine environment of the Azores; intends to implement the MSFD and its programs of monitoring and measures until the end of its first cycle (2018);

- **for concrete conservation and integration with tourism:**

CdTecoTur - seeks to establish a common approach to ecotourism for Madeira, Azores and Canaries, including initiatives to improve/enhance natural and cultural heritage;

MARCET - operates a Macaronesian network for transfer of multidisciplinary knowledge and technology to protect/monitor cetaceans and the marine environment, promote good practices and allow sustainable development of whale-watching;

LIFE VIDALIA – promotes a set of best-practice, pilot and demonstration works in 3 Azorean islands aiming at conservation of *Azorina vidalii* and *Lotus azoricus*

In addition to the above, one highlights that AZORES NATURA and PAF implementation benefits from the uptake of other projects formerly identified as complementary and meanwhile concluded.

4. Expected results (main outputs and achievements, qualitative and quantitative):

Linked to Actions of LIFE IP (short and long term):

• **cost-effective achievement of conservation targets, as evidenced on future assessment/reporting on HD and BD implementation, including:**

a) populations of 12 target flora species having **increased by 25%** towards current levels, and conservation status being reassessed from U1/U2 to FV;

b) area of habitats 4050*, 7110*, 91D0* and 9560* in good conservation status having **increased by at least 204 ha**, allowing for overall conservation status in the Azores to be reassessed from U1/U2 to FV;

c) **40% increase of area of habitats** (1150*, 1410*), in good conservation status;

d) **124 ha of ecological corridors created** through restoration works, allowing for securing and/or improving conservation status of 9 protected habitats);

e) **23,78 ha of habitat for birds improved**, allowing for better nesting/breeding conditions for 7 seabirds;

f) **119,9 ha of habitat for *Pyrrhula murina* improved**, allowing for securing and/or increasing its population;

g) **density/presence of flora IAS in intervened areas reduced to total absence (0%) of grown/mature individuals**, allowing for recurring works to maintain a low level of threat on the post-project;

h) **density/presence of IAS of fauna in intervened areas reduced to at least 75% compared to initial levels**. Recurrent trapping should allow maintaining threats at such level on the post-project. In islets, full eradication should be accomplished for rats and wild rabbits, together with implementation of measures to prevent reinvasions;

i) **0% of marine litter** threatening the intervened areas of habitat 1170;

• **increase of public owned land within N2000 by 96,13 ha**, through land acquisition.

• **increased knowledge useful for conservation**, including:

a) **updated distribution and data on populations of *Euphrasia azorica**, *Euphrasia grandiflora*, *Euphorbia stygiana*, *Isoetes azorica*, ex-situ conservation of their seeds or living plants** on the Germoplasm Bank and **improved propagation protocols** for other species available for *in situ* conservation;

b) **updated assessment on distribution of *Nyctalus azoreum****, its ecology and main conservation problems/threats, with conservation actions duly identified/approved on a specific Action Plan, including works for the post-project period;

c) **updated assessment on distribution of habitats 1320, 3130, 3170***, their main conservation problems or threats, and protection from cattle presence of substantial areas, through fencing and/or stakeholder engagement;

d) **updated information about targeted marine species** and designation/approval of new off-shore marine sites;

• **increased availability of databases and complementary resources for HD and BD monitoring, including an integrated georeferenced database compiling information** on N2000 terrestrial habitats/species, threats and conservation status, as well as uses of N2000;

• **increased availability of management instruments and integration of N2000 goals on other sectoral policies**, including:

a) designation of **new terrestrial SCI's**;

b) **revised PAF**, accounting for the results achieved and updated information;

c) operational tools/frameworks supporting integration of conservation goals in: commercial catching of the Mediterranean Slipper lobster, anchoring management to avoid damages on coastal reefs, codes of conduct for use of marine areas, increased surveillance of marine activities, remote surveillance of fishing activity, use of biodegradable gear in recreational fisheries and collision/risk maps for conservation of marine mammals and turtles.

• **overall increased capacity for action towards N2000 management, including that of internal teams and external stakeholders**, including:

a) additional *know how* for undertaking concrete conservation works, including improved methods for propagating/reinforcement of threatened flora and increased operational capacity for controlling IAS flora and fauna;

b) 2 operational frameworks for preventing introduction of IAS and NIS, by involvement of relevant public and private stakeholders on relevant vectors of invasion (e.g. the regional directorates of transports and public infrastructure, municipalities, tourism agents, among others);

c) 1 operational tool for promotion of conservation goals in agriculture, dealing with 1.000 ha of agricultural land;

• **increased networking with other Macaronesian public authorities, including active transfer/replication of know how dealing with the common problem of IAS;**

• **mobilization of ca. 3.4 M€ of complementary funds to support PAF implementation works (to notice that this amount has been quite higher, but many projects end before the start of the IP, which does not allow to account them as so);**

Linked to complementary actions (short and long term):

• **increased availability of databases and complementary resources for adequate HD and BD monitoring**, including:

a) gathering of new data on several marine and terrestrial species;

b) availability and operation of an integrated georeferenced database compiling all information on N2000 marine habitats/species, threats and conservation status;

• **overall increased capacity for N2000 management** through action plans for marine litter and for MSFD monitoring;

• **cost-effective achievement of conservation targets**, including reduction of impact of light pollution in marine birds and conservation of the species *Azorina vidalii* and *Lotus azoricus*;

• **increased integration of N2000 goals on other sectoral policies**, including pedestrian tourism and whale-watching activities.

5. Expected contribution of the project to the implementation of the target plan/strategy

LIFE IP:

Following comments on the 2016 proposal, this version of AZORES NATURA covers **all the 18 priority measures** identified by the PAF. To ensure that a direct causal link to such priorities is evident, the description of individual actions has been improved, allowing to clearly correlate the project actions with the strategic conservation priorities and measures described in the PAF. This will also be evident on the **LIFE IP Performance Indicators**, to be monitored regularly, which account with qualitative and quantitative measurements of the level of PAF implementation, taking into account the four main areas covered by the IP:

1) Management and enhancement of the Natura 2000 network and the regional network of protected areas;

2) Improving the biodiversity knowledge base and monitoring/ surveillance;

3) Preserving and restoring natural heritage and biological diversity; and

4) Promoting a balanced and sustainable development of the Azores territory.

In all, the IP aims towards a **substantial degree of implementation of the key measures foreseen in the PAF**. Together with complementary actions and works meanwhile concluded with own funding and/or other funding mechanisms, the IP provides the opportunity for a **strategic and efficient approach that will build capacity for intervention, optimize methods and tools for conservation**, and, overall, **improve the conservation status of a significant number of habitats/species assessed and reported in unfavourable conditions**. In addition, and concerning a set of problems that still deal with data deficiencies, AZORES NATURA will also allow for adequate **data gathering, modelling and delivery of Action Plans** that will be used to establish future conservation priorities (**to be included in the revision of the PAF**, also foreseen to occur along the project timeframe, as its validity ends).

Complementary actions:

Complementary actions also concur to implementation of PAF priorities, focusing mostly on 5 priorities (1a, 1b, 2d, 3a and 4a) of its 18 priorities, as formerly detailed in section 3.

Considering their targets, and the fact that **they mostly focus on coastal and marine environments**, an additional contribute to accomplishment of 5% of the general measures listed under form G.1.a, 10% of those listed in G.1.b and 20% listed of those listed under form G.1.c is to foresee.

Resultados esperados e contribuição esperada do projeto para a implementação do Plano ou da Estratégia

6. Main stakeholders involved in the project:

Following comments received on the 2016 proposal, and in order to improve overall cost-effectiveness of AZORES NATURA, small changes have been introduced on the project, allowing to maintain a reliable partnership that includes key stakeholders, which are appropriate and competent concerning the IP's objectives and actions, and adequate to drive the project in a successful way (namely, as it include the authorities responsible for implementation of the PAF).

In addition to that, while also recognizing the role that other stakeholders play as a support for implementation of the PAF - either by directly engaging with the project works and/or presenting valid contributes for its developments - not only they have been involved in the revision of the project as it now is being submitted as they will be active players along implementation.

To ensure this, a **broad involvement is foreseen to help project management**, through a **Technical Advisory Board** and a **Stakeholder Board**. The first will be dealing with technical/scientific advice and critical assessment of project works, the second with a wider opinion gathering and engagement of non-technical stakeholders. In addition to these, a set of C actions dealing with external parties (e.g. tourism, fishermen,...) will account with direct inputs and cooperation from a relevant number of players (as evident by support letters attached).

In all, engagement of stakeholders with AZORES NATURA will allow to: continue promoting active links with other local entities, agents and the civil society; gain access to additional information or resources; and, overall, improve the effectiveness, relevance and further use of the project methods and tools.

A wide range of individuals and organizations have been directly involved in the preparation of this proposal. As it will be impossible to include all interested organisations on the above boards, representatives from relevant stakeholder groups are foreseen to participate on them. One should highlight that additional engagement with the project works is foreseen to be leveraged by tight links with existing boards with similar aims: the **Consultative Boards of each Island Natural Park**, that meet regularly and include representatives of public administrations from different sectors and levels - regional, local, parish -, civil society organizations, and the umbrella organizations for the main economic sectors of each island.

Long term sustainability (including capacity building)

A remarking feature of the IP is its long-term duration, which provides the opportunity to continuously assess, evaluate and adjust strategies and conservation measures towards enhancing their long-term sustainability. Permanent monitoring and evaluation of the conceptual and operational approaches will offer perfect conditions for improving and strengthening the successful execution of recurring works beyond the lifetime of the project.

Furthermore, in what concerns N2000 financing, the concept leveraged with the IP will focus on raising capacity to mobilise, through enhanced coordination, a wider range of funds, from various sources. This will be extended to external agents and stakeholders (e.g. with a specific action directed at farmers and use of EARDF). Thus, the **capacity to mobilise complementary funds will be a dynamic and growing process**, not ending with the expiry of the project. That will be **evident on the After-LIFE Plan**, to be jointly discussed and approved before the project ends (including with external stakeholders), which shall clearly identify how such capacity will continue to be used to ensure longer-term sustainability, as well as all the actions, works and resources that are needed to secure and/or improve the IP outputs. The fact that key public authorities in charge of N2000 management (DRA and DRAM) are part of the partnership is also, from now, a guarantee for project's results and effects to be sustained after the project ends: according to their duties, their operational resources and their investment priorities will continue being allocated to such aims.

The Azorean regional administration has been involved, with the collaboration of the academia, in setting a strategy for nature conservation that crosses all the territory, including marine and terrestrial. Under such process, it has been possible to build integrated action that is not only evident in AZORES NATURA, as it will ensure the progress of the actions foreseen.

As the project involves the main actors in charge of N2000 management and implementing actions proposed by the PAF, long-term sustainability will be fostered since those working in AZORES NATURA are also firmly linked to PAF definition/implementation, as well as to HD and BD reporting processes, allowing to continue monitoring and adjust management needs.

Assessment, restoration of habitats and control of IAS is essential to improve the conservation status of most Azorean habitats/species. The PAF identifies a set of problems dealing with IAS, so effective tools are needed to facilitate solutions, assess priorities, and steer management in a cost-effective way. AZORES NATURA will ensure that these tools are developed and effectively

implemented (following complementary works dealing with updating and extensive characterization of IAS), allowing to mitigate such threat on the post-project.

An important element for the sustainability of the project is the long-term mobilisation and inclusion of stakeholders on different scales: the regional, the national and the international scale. The established partnerships are expected to provide a continuous and long-lasting platform for dialogue and governance, exchange of know-how and networking, namely within Macaronesia.

Inclusion of stakeholders of all relevant fields such as nature conservation, policy, agriculture, fishing, tourism, will enhance public awareness and wider acceptance of the project. Furthermore, actions such as workshops, seminars, environmental education, exhibitions and the permanent delivery of information on notice boards and on the project webpage, will contribute to the sustainable success of the IP.

Capacity building will improve the knowledge base within and outside the beneficiaries' scope and will be sustained by delivery of useful and proven tools and instruments, embedded in training programs and education.

8. a) Is your project significantly climate related? Yes No

b) Is your project significantly biodiversity-related? Yes No

If you consider your project to be significantly climate or biodiversity-related (you marked 'yes'), please explain why:

Considering the vulnerability of the Azores to climate change, namely concerning water cycle, extreme weather events, biodiversity and natural resources, and its implications to management of the coast, and to relevant economic sectors like agriculture, fisheries and tourism, the regional government, led by DRA, has since 2011 approved and follows implementing a **Regional Strategy for Climate Change** which identifies measures for adaptation and mitigation and **supports implementation of EU policies and instruments dealing with climate change** (Resolução do Conselho do Governo n.º 123/2011).

Following that work, the development of the **Regional Plan for Climate Change (PRAC)** is near conclusion, with ERDF funding. Formerly identified as a complementary project, PRAC will soon be available, allowing for **uptake of many of its findings and knowledge**. According to the climate scenarios therein foreseen, impacts of climate change will be higher in oceanic islands, as their biodiversity will be in general highly vulnerable, mainly due to the high degree of endemics, the geographical isolation of populations and habitats, and the presence of IAS. Under such context, the works of AZORES NATURA are significantly related to climate and account for a twofold perspective: on one hand, **expectations and scenarios from the PRAC will be taken into account on technical detailing of preparatory works** (e.g. concerning actions for coastal works, to take into account adaptations to sea level rise, vulnerability to extreme storms and/or heat waves); on the other, **conservation, restoration and control/eradication works will allow to improve overall resilience and further adaptation of existing biodiversity to counteract impacts of climate change**.

In addition, a set of effects are to foresee from the projects works, namely on improvement of ecosystems functions and services. Actions related with restoration of habitats like bogs and native forests imply an improvement of water regulation and adaptation to water scarcity. Similarly, concerning the carbon cycle, restoration and increase of quality of peatlands (which play an important global role as carbon sinks), will allow for sustainable and continuous mitigation of carbon emissions, by (re)establishing these unique ecosystems' on sequestering carbon. Also, the improvement of the mosaic of habitats will facilitate the migration of fauna through corridors, allowing for species to move across ecological ranges and enhance evolution potential by increasing population size and diversity and decreasing fragmentation, increasing resilience to climate change. In addition, the buffer zones around habitats and populations will benefit other species, which will be able to use these "stepping stones" to migrate outside core reserves (e.g. in response and adaptation to climate change).

As for being significantly biodiversity related, that is a basic characteristic for a project seeking to implement a PAF. Nevertheless, and in addition to the direct effects on N2000 conservation, we should highlight other, overwhelming effects that will result from the former. All of these allow for AZORES NATURA to evidence contributes **not only to target 1 but to all other targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020**. Outputs of the project are also relevant contributes to the **EU BEST Indicator Essential Biodiversity Variables for Islands** and for the new international **IPBE - Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services**.

Works with prevention, control of expansion and eradication of IAS will benefit several other species, including several endemics which are critically endangered (IUCN), also affected by this threat. Project

Stakeholders e sustentabilidade a longo prazo

actions will greatly improve the quality of intervened habitats for many endemic fauna and flora species, whose global distribution is restricted to the Azores. Also, through preventive NIS works, targeting marine habitats, we expect to secure conservation of biodiversity, allowing for coastal habitats and species to become less vulnerable for increasing pressures from sectors like shipping and recreational tourism, which are major vectors for introduction of NIS.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA(s) TARGETED BY THE PROJECT

Concerning geographical coverage, and in coherence with its targets, the IP focuses on the whole territory that constitutes the Autonomous Region of Azores, and, more specifically, in the whole of the N2000 sites that have been designated within this region (and, for the case of the marine environment, those for which existing ecological knowledge justifies additional gathering of information towards accomplishing designation of offshore sites).

Category	Island	Code	Designation	Total Area (ha)	
Site of Community Interest		PTMAZ001	SIC do Menz Gwen	8523,21	
		PTMAZ002	SIC do Lucky Strike	18125,85	
	S. Miguel	PTMIG0024	SIC da Tromgueira-Ovarinho	2010,63	
Special Area of Conservation	Corvo	PTCOR0001	ZEC da Costa e Caldeirão	972,67	
	Flores	PTFLO0002	ZEC da Zona Central - Monó Alto	2931,09	
	Flores	PTFLO0003	ZEC da Costa Nordeste	1250,76	
	Faial	PTFAI0004	ZEC da Caldeira e Capelinhos	2086,25	
	Faial	PTFAI0005	ZEC do Monte da Guia	385,17	
	Faial	PTFAI0006	ZEC da Ponta do Varadouro	17,61	
	Faial	PTFAI0007	ZEC do Morro do Castelo Branco	126,42	
	Pico	PTPIC0008	ZEC da Balsa do Sul - Canal do Faial	50,06	
	Pico	PTPIC0009	ZEC da Montanha do Pico, Frainha e Cavéiro	8462,65	
	Pico	PTPIC0010	ZEC da Ponta da Ilha	398,29	
	Pico	PTPIC0011	ZEC das Lajes do Pico	142,71	
	Pico	PTPIC0012	ZEC dos Ilhéus da Madalena	143,21	
	São Jorge	PTJOR0013	ZEC da Ponta dos Rosais	307,08	
	São Jorge	PTJOR0014	ZEC da Costa NE e Ponta do Topo	3965,15	
	Graciosa	PTGRA0015	ZEC do Ilhéu de Baixo - Restingas	243,67	
	Graciosa	PTGRA0016	ZEC da Ponta Branca	68,64	
	Terceira	PTTER0017	ZEC da Serra de Santa Bárbara e Pico Alto	4730,93	
	Terceira	PTTER0018	ZEC da Costa das Quatro Ribeiras	267,63	
	São Miguel	PTMIG0019	ZEC da Lagoa do Fojo	1262,62	
	São Miguel	PTMIG0020	ZEC da Calhura - Ponta da Galera	199,59	
	São Miguel	PTMIG0021	ZEC do Banco D. João de Castro - Canal Terceira - São Miguel	1648,39	
	Santa Maria	PTSMAD0022	ZEC da Ponta do Castelo	316,61	
	Santa Maria	PTSMAD0023	ZEC do Ilhéu das Formigas e Racle Dollabarar	3593,58	
	Special Protection Area	Corvo	PTZPE0030	ZPE da Costa e Caldeirão	699,85
		Flores	PTZPE0021	ZPE da Costa Sul e Sudoeste	254,02
		Flores	PTZPE0022	ZPE da Costa Nordeste	141,93
		Faial	PTZPE0023	ZPE da Caldeira e Capelinhos	2047,14
Pico		PTZPE0024	ZPE das Lajes do Pico	64,53	
Pico		PTZPE0025	ZPE da Ponta da Ilha	293,80	
Pico		PTZPE0026	ZPE das Farnas Santo António	13,37	
Pico		PTZPE0027	ZPE da Zona Central do Pico	6019,30	
São Jorge		PTZPE0028	ZPE do Ilhéu do Topo e Costa Adjacente	369,75	
Graciosa		PTZPE0029	ZPE do Ilhéu de Baixo	32,09	
Graciosa		PTZPE0030	ZPE do Ilhéu da Prola	10,02	
Terceira		PTZPE0031	ZPE da Ponta das Contendas	91,45	
Terceira		PTZPE0032	ZPE do Ilhéu das Calbras	28,14	
São Miguel		PTZPE0033	ZPE do Pico da Vira/Ribeira do Guilherme	6067,28	
Santa Maria		PTZPE0034	ZPE do Ilhéu da Vila e Costa Adjacente	57,08	

In all, this accounts for a total area of 804,18 km² that includes: 427,25 km² of land (245,37 km² within SAC's, 2,01 km² within SCI's and 161,76 km² within SPA's) and 376,92 km² of marine areas.

Their designation encompasses the protection of:

- 1 endemic terrestrial fauna species, priority for conservation by the HD;

Descrição da área do projeto

- 31 terrestrial flora species, 22 of which endemic, 5 priority for conservation by the HD;
- 28 marine fauna species, 1 of which priority for conservation under the HD;
- 26 terrestrial habitats and 3 marine habitats, 9 priority for conservation under the HD;
- 34 bird species, including 5 endemic, 10 priority for action under the BD.

Comments:

By taking into account current gaps and shortcomings (including those related to gathering needed knowledge/information for some species/habitats, but mostly concerning the unavailability of needed human and material resources to undertake concrete conservation works, including capacity building), the project seeks a cost-effective implementation of the PAF targets. To ensure this, and following additional discussion among beneficiaries and with stakeholders, the current application reinforces the positive aspects from previous versions presented to the 2015/6 calls, while seeking to overpass negative comments that were received.

Under such context, the IP works include additional target species than those formerly foreseen (e.g. the endemic bat *Nyctalus azoreum*).

Also, to ensure wider transnational uptake and replication on problems that are a concern throughout Macaronesia, works will also be undertaken in La Palma Island, on what concerns IAS early detection and rapid intervention. Those, as well as their analogous within Corvo Island, will ensure action throughout the whole island (instead of only within N2000 sites), so that effectiveness of the proposed solutions is reached.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OVERALL PLAN

Objectives

The IP focuses on the implementation of Natura 2000 within the Azores. More specifically, it aims to support the implementation of the **Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) elaborated by the Regional Government** in cooperation with the National Authority for Nature and Biodiversity Conservation (ICNF) pursuant to Article 8 of the Habitats Directive (HD), **contributing to improve the conservation status of several species and habitats, many of which endemic of this region.**

To ensure this, the IP dedicates efforts to implement *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation works for priority habitats and species (flora and fauna) known to be facing conservation problems, to improve their conservation status.

Partnership

To achieve its objectives, **the IP strategy and works based their design on a strong partnership that can contribute actively to PAF implementation, by including a set of entities with complementary institutional and technical backgrounds.**

The choice was to **work, at a regional level**, with a set of beneficiaries that have former experience in collaborating, increasing the synergies between them and accounting as well for other sectoral interests.

To account for the specific target of designing and assessing pilot works on early detection and rapid control of IAS – a major issue in Macaronesian islands -, **work at a transnational level is also foreseen**, with a partner that fulfills identical requisites and credibility.

The resulting partnership structure allows therefore the project to benefit from a solid and valuable technical, political and operational knowledge, thereby ensuring the continuation of the actions after the end of the IP. It includes:

a) **the relevant regional public administrations with direct responsibilities on implementation of Natura 2000 (Direção Regional do Ambiente, DRA and Direção Regional dos Assuntos Marinhos, DRAM);**

b) **the public owned company** that has for statutory role undertaking and managing environmental education and awareness raising programs, also with public authority duties/functions in several nature and biodiversity conservation areas, namely those dealing with Natura 2000 implementation (**AZORINA**), which is operating since 2009 under guidance and for implementation of Regional Government policies on these subjects;

c) the regional branch of the national nature conservation NGO **Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves (SPEA)**, which ensures a direct link with its affiliate **BirdLife International** and has a strong knowledge and former experience on using LIFE (in partnership projects with the Regional Government) for conservation of several habitats and bird species of the Azores;

d) **Fundación Canaria Reserva Mundial de la Biosfera La Palma (LA PALMA)**, which has a similar role to that of DRA concerning management of N2000 in the La Palma island, with whom there is an ongoing historical cooperation on Biosphere Reserve management issues

In addition, and to maintain the partnership within a feasible and cost-efficient management and size, a set of **other relevant stakeholders were contacted and are foreseen to participate and/or collaborate actively with the IP works, under different and complementary roles, without assuming however that of and associated beneficiary.** Under such context, and as presented by attached letters of support, the project enlarged "partnership" is foreseen to include as well a set of

entities whose contrilates were identified as potentially relevant to ensure its goals, of which we highlight other regional and local public administrations, Scientific's/experts, schools, and several private agents from sectors for which the project dedicates a specific attention and works (e.g. fisheries, agriculture, tourism and marine transport).

Complementarity

In addition to its global aim – and direct impact on the targets set by the Habitats and Birds Directives -, the overall strategy and actions proposed seek that the IP will also exhibit relevant contributions to other targets of the **EU Biodiversity Strategy and those of other EU Policies**, namely by executing short- and medium-term conservation works that will have significant outputs on:

a) **assessment and restoration of ecosystems and their services**, following priorities of intervention that are especially those related to water retention, erosion control, leisure/recreation use.

b) **identification and implementation of practices that seek to harmonize and increase contributes of sustainable forestry and agriculture to nature/biodiversity conservation;**

c) **reduction of conflicts and impacts between uses of natural resources on nature/biodiversity,**

d) **monitoring, prevention, eradication and control Invasive Alien Species**, considering former and complementary works that specifically deal with this problem **in the terrestrial and marine environments.**

Under such context and given the conceptual basis for design of an IP, the beneficiaries have jointly identified a set of complementary mechanisms to which complementary actions and works are/were proposed for funding, under a perspective of synergic and cost-effective use of the available funding sources. Identification and selection of these mechanisms included, as major criteria, issues like:

a) as a starting point, the direct contribute of the proposed works to achieve targets set by the PAF and improve the conservation of species and habitats protected by the HD and BD. This included identification of synergies with the works being proposed for LIFE funding within the IP;

b) as a complementary and relevant criteria, the eligibility of the proposed works (and/or beneficiaries) to the applicable funds, as well as close acquaintance of the applicable beneficiaries on how to use them;

c) the foreseen financing rate, and when applicable its assessment versus that of LIFE (when eligibility was found on both instruments), with the option for the mechanism that would be more favourable;

d) for the case of transnational cooperation, a clear option to favour the use of available and dedicated funds (e.g. INTERREG-MAC), leaving for the IP and LIFE to support only the specific pilot works that can be used for replication in other regions of Macaronesia.

With this strategy, and as further detailed on the applicable forms, **identification of actions and projects foreseen to be complementary of the works of the IP include:**

a) **research-like works** that are needed to setup and bring additional knowledge for concrete conservation;

b) **extensive and expensive monitoring** which does not fall in the scope of LIFE funding;

c) **environmental awareness raising and essay of practices that improve human activities in N2000, especially those related to tourism;**

d) other **transnational cooperation activities** dealing with concrete conservation of habitats/species requiring a transnational approach for better results, along the several regions of Macaronesia, for which the use of INTERREG-MAC has revealed more cost-effective.

Governance, Knowledge Gaps and Capacity Building Efforts

Estratégia para a
implementação do
Plano

In addition to the complementary actions, and in tight link with them, the IP foresees a set of conservation works that seek the implementation of the PAF and have been identified as needing to be directed for financing by LIFE. They concern with short- and long-term measures, address significant threats and pressures, and are expected to directly improve the conservation of habitats and species that are under a less favourable status or require populations to be secured.

Following the PAF objectives, those works include, when needed, undertaking a set of preparatory activities, that prepare the concrete conservation measures, to establish the appropriate operational planning or promoting adequate governance conditions.

Depending on the needs identified and existing knowledge, the concrete conservation actions include not only best practice but also pilot and demonstration that contribute directly to implementation of the PAF and can also be of use in other Macaronesian regions. To ensure adequate assessment of results and a wider uptake, results of all actions will be closely monitored, not only to identify the project's contribution to the implementation of PAF but also, with a wider perspective, to determine its socio-economic impacts. In addition, project implementation will be supported by a wide variety of awareness raising, environmental education, communication, dissemination and networking works.

In all, the proposed strategy and works will strengthen the knowledge base on Natura 2000 management at the regional level and support the development and implementation of a more coordinated policy. It will tackle existing knowledge gaps and needs identified by the PAF and allow for the development of a structured collaboration between sectoral interests and stakeholders that should be more actively involved with implementation of the HD and BD. This governance approach will be promoted in an interactive way, meaning that it will first be directed to the anchorage of pilot cooperation works whose results may then be leveraged and fostered, allowing to improve governance and increase capacity of action of the project beneficiaries and the stakeholders to involve.

Short term (at least first 2.5 years):

On the short term, which includes the whole of phase I (with a duration of 3 years), the IP works will first focus on preparatory and strategic works that are needed to leverage the subsequent concrete conservation works, including:

- drafting operational planning for all C actions that need them, including technical, governance and administrative issues, under a process that will facilitate overall implementation, including, for the case of works with invasive species, the drafting, discussion and approval of a Regional Strategy for IAS control;
- setting up integrated databases for management of species and habitats, and overall N2000 management (including gathering of all existing data, to facilitate future planning, monitoring and reporting);
- development of internal and external capacity building and engagement tools needed for strengthening participation of stakeholders and relevant actors involved as well as to allow for quality works to be deployed by the internal teams;
- start-up of concrete conservation activities and works for which operational planning is meanwhile concluded, as well as for those actions that do not in fact require so much preparatory work (e.g. production of native flora for which protocols already exist, some concrete conservation works for which available knowledge is enough);
- define the monitoring base line, to allow for future comparison and assessment of conservation outputs;
- further detail and start the communication, and awareness raising works;
- set fully operational the internal working group to ensure mobilisation of complementary funds.

Long term (beyond 2.5 years):

The remaining half year part of phase I, the whole of phases II and III, and in some cases part or the whole of phase IV (e.g. for IAS prevention/control and/or surveillance) which are all expected to last 2 years each, will mostly focus on concrete conservation works detailed along the preparatory works, as well as on improvement of the governance and capacity building approach.

The main activities foreseen for these include:

- further capacity building (internal and external);
- full implementation of concrete conservation actions, followed by tight monitoring of their outputs (and, if applicable/needed, adjustments on execution);
- revision of the PAF;
- technical dissemination of outputs and networking to foster replication, including expected transfer and replication of project innovative and demonstration works;
- continued communication, awareness raising and education on project objectives and results;
- drafting, discussing and approval of post project operational tools (including especially Regional Action Plans and the After-LIFE Plan), and the accompanying support measures (e.g. site designations and/or adjustments, especially in the case of the Marine environment), in order to have them in force before the project ends;
- setting up into practice the post-project works and tools that ensure sustainability of its works.

Extent and quality of the contribution to the objectives of LIFE:

A direct and significant contribution of the IP for the objectives of LIFE will be its **direct contribution towards improving the conservation status of species and habitat types of Community Interest (HD) and of relevant bird species (BD)**.

As stated in form B1, the IP includes actions that are directly targeting at an improved of conservation of several habitats and species. The IP works are **expected to secure or improve the conservation status of several species**, allowing to improve it to a **Favourable (FV)** conservation status (habitats/species of the HD) and to maintain **Stable** populations (birds of the BD).

Concerning **implementation of the PAF**, **80% of its objectives will be targeted with the IP**. The remainder are expected to be partially implemented or at least a base for future implementation will be achieved. Concerning **geographical coverage** of regional N2000 sites, the IP will cover, with different works, the whole sites (SAC's, SPA's and SCI's) in the Azores, which will directly benefit from the project works.

As for **long term monitoring and assessment** of the status of conservation of species and habitats of EU importance, the IP includes a set of **works that will allow to increase knowledge on current status of species/habitats for which there are knowledge gaps** (e.g. actions C3, C7), the **development of integrated data systems** (actions A2 and A3) and the **increase of monitoring capacity** (e.g. action C2), supported by the **leverage of new monitoring schemes** (e.g. actions C8 and C9). In all, these are expected to **improve significantly current levels for monitoring and reporting under the obligations of the HD and BD**.

Extent and quality of the mobilisation of other funds:

Complementary actions, for which mobilisation of other funds than LIFE is ensured/expected, was a basis for setting the design of the IP and is the single way to tackle the objectives of the PAF under a cost-efficient way. In general, **the IP itself was directed to preparation and implementation of concrete conservation actions**, whereas **complementary projects concentrate into needed research, socio-economic integration, environmental awareness and education, and transnational cooperation**, works for which other existing funds are more suited.

In all, the IP evidences a **good quality of coordination with other funding mechanisms**. Complementary projects allowed for the **mobilization of private, national and EU funds**.

To ensure synergies and support mobilisation of different funds, the IP includes a specific F action under which all beneficiaries will participate, which will focus on the complementary projects listed under the applicable forms and other opportunities that may arise on the upcoming EU programming period.

Level of mobilisation is now average, since expected funding from other sources currently amounts only to a level of about 12,3M €, which may still be increased along the IP lifetime.

Within the complementary projects, **the likelihood for mobilisation is also large**. Of the **whole amount** funds left for future approval represent a small part. To highlight as well that mobilisation of complementary funds has already taken place in periods that preceded the presentation of this version of the IP, many of them having been concluded.

Quality of multi-purpose mechanism, synergies and integration:

Despite the IP is focused on delivering on its core objective (implementation of the PAF), it simultaneously evidences other benefits, creates synergies and achieves results in other policy areas.

In addition to N2000 implementation (**target 1**), **a clear contribute of the IP is to foresee concerning the accomplishment of other EU Biodiversity Strategy targets**, including:

a) promotion of ecological corridors (green infrastructure), allowing to maintain or increase the services of several ecosystems (**target 2**);

b) delivery of **technical advice for helping private stakeholders to work in favour of biodiversity**, and dissemination of good practices to encourage them to protect and enhance biodiversity (**target 3**);

c) **making fisheries more sustainable**, including through implementation of Marine Protected Areas and implementation of better practices (**target 4**);

d) setting in practice reliable mechanisms to **monitor, prevent, eradicate and control invasive Alien Species and Non-Indigenous Species (target 5)** (that also contribute to implementation of **Council Regulation 1143/2014**);

e) **ensuring works and results in line with international commitments, including those of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (target 6)**. IP works are expected to deliver also have a **concrete and positive impact on several threatened endemic species** that depend on the habitats being restored, as well as on the whole biodiversity of the four islands classified as **UNESCO Biosphere Reserves** (Graciosa, Flores, Corvo and São Jorge) and **12 officially designated RAMSAR Sites**.

The outputs of LIFE-IP are also fully in line with the Integrated Maritime Policy and its environmental pillar, the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)**, which aims to achieve a "good environmental status" until 2020, and for the implementation of which DRAM is the competent authority. MSFD monitoring programs, including complementary projects such as POPA, will benefit from the IP data integration and developments. The IP is foreseen to contribute to the assessment of MSFD descriptors 1, 2, 3, 6, 10 and 11.

As formerly stated, in what concerns conservation of species that are also a target and/or impacted by fisheries, DRAM works in close cooperation with **DRP** (Regional Directorate for Fisheries) in order to ensure a coordinated policy.

That is the case of the cooperation among the two authorities on the design, planning and implementation of **POPA – Programa de Observação da Pesca de Atum nos Açores** (the Azores Tuna Fisheries Observer Programme, which is a fisheries-based data collection program that has been running since it is fully financed by internal budget of DRP, which is not beneficiary of LIFE IP – has therefore been described on the proposal as a "supporting project", since it holds the largest dataset of cetacean and turtle sightings, collected during on-effort periods over an extensive geographic area, within the Azorean EEZ, therefore contributing on a relevant way to the objectives of monitoring Descriptor 1.

The proposed work has already benefitted from other projects dealing with complementary and synergic aims (e.g. DG-ENV funded **MISTIC SEAS I**, supported by OSPAR Secretariat and meanwhile concluded, which had for aim to develop common indicators and monitoring methodologies across Macaronesia for MSFD descriptor 1, including for cetaceans and sea turtles. **MISTIC SEAS II** is currently implementing the common approach designed within MISTIC SEAS I in Macaronesia.

Similarly, synergies are established with the **INDICIT** project (EU DG ENV/MSFD contract n°11.0661/2016/748064/SUB/ENV.C2), which aims to develop a common indicator for MSFD descriptor 10 related to sea turtles and biota implementing a common protocol for the collection of data on litter interactions in MSFD and RSC (Regional Sea Conventions) areas.

Last but not the least, the **COSTA** complementary project contributes to the assessment of sea turtles under descriptor 1 (biodiversity) of the MSF by providing fishing observed data on accidental bycatch (criterion 1 – fishery bycatch) and biometric data from the tagging program for assessing the body condition index (criterion 3 – demography).

Also, the inventories of the offshore areas and the implementation of the different action/management plans it is expected to improve the contributions to **OSPAR - Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic**. Specifically, this project will allow a better protection of prioritized habitats under that convention, by contributing to the overall condition of the species that inhabit the habitat reefs under the Habitats Directive. This improvement will be achieved

by the enhancements of the monitoring and reporting systems as well as by the reduction of the impacts and pressures.

In line with the **National Strategy for the Seas**, the project will also develop model-based approach to the conservation and sustainable use of resources and services marine ecosystems, pointing a long-term path to economic growth, sustainable and inclusive intelligent, based on maritime component.

The IP will also contribute to the implementation of the **Regional Plan for Climate Change** (the regional policy dedicated to implementation of the **EU Climate Adaptation Strategy**). The proposed ecological improvements will strengthen the biotope complex and allow better support to the migration of species, extension of their distribution area and increase on quantity and diversity of populations. This will enable designated N2000 Sites to become more resilient and species to better respond and adapt to climate change. In all, improved ecosystems will also contribute to increased CO2 uptake and retention of water.

Additional retention of water resulting from improved ground cover (due to forestation), together with improvement of riparian habitats, are foreseen to increase the availability and quality of ground and surface water. By contributing to a better "ecological status" of surface water bodies and reduction of nitrate contamination from cattle breeding, the IP works will also contribute to the objectives of the **Water Framework Directive** and **Nitrates Directive**. Additionally, these may bring positive effects on flooding events and on reducing erosion, contributing to implementation of the **Floods Directive**.

Among the parameters/descriptors to consider in assessment of a "good ecological status" concerning the WFD are the conservation status of riparian species/populations, as well as the presence of IAS and/or pollution sources that threaten the stability and/or conservation of such populations. A substantial amount of the interventions proposed for the terrestrial environment within the IP focus specifically on such targets (either on improvement of conservation status of protected species/habitats) and problems (IAS control/eradication and harmonization of agriculture with N2000 conservation). Therefore, their direct and indirect benefits (including improvement of conservation status and reduction of threats currently existing on surface waters) are therefore expected to be a relevant contribute for implementation of the WFD targets for a "good ecological status" of surface waters. For that aim, the monitoring works to be undertaken within the IP, and the data collected (e.g. on distribution, abundance, and conservation status of species and habitats, as well as on overall ecology and status of habitats), will be an add on to satisfy existing gaps, allowing to better identify and define which surface waters satisfy the requisites of a "Good Environmental Status".

Replicability and transferability:

The Azores islands are a living laboratory for the study of ecosystem processes and nature conservation. In fact, the establishment of RN2000 in the Azores, and in particular SPAs, has formerly been used as a pilot project of the **European Topic Centre of Nature Protection and Biodiversity**. Since then, the Azores have served as a basis for successful demonstration and pilot projects, a line of work that the IP seeks to maintain. The IP includes set of actions and methodologies that, for its pilot character, could guide conservation works in other Macaronesian areas with similar threats, in particular those of action C12, which will design, essay in test, in cooperation with La Palma, a **pilot framework of action to prevent introduction, early detect and rapid control new IAS**.

In addition, other IP works are of high replication interest, like the use of nature-based solutions for conservation, the development/improvement of germination protocols of endemic/native flora, training and operation teams to enhance rehabilitation of stranded marine turtles, and mapping/designating Marine Protected Areas with support of improved technology.

Being Macaronesia the biogeographical target of the IP, any successful strategy to ensure replication and transfer of its results should primarily focus on other EU regions with similar natural values (i.e. the **Madeira** and **Canarias** archipelagos) and, if possible, also embrace external regions used by migratory species that depend on them (e.g. **Cape Verde**). This is why the IP preparation has closely dealt with stakeholders and experts from Madeira, Canarias, and Cape Verde, who will be regularly participating on the project's *Steering Committee* but also attend specific training, capacity building and knowledge transfer activities.

Replicability and transferability requirements were clearly accounted for in the IP design (e.g. all intervention areas selected are representatives of various habitat types, allowing to focus future actions into similar habitats in other locations; also, the IP implements demonstrative and pilot works, assessing and monitoring their results to foster appropriate replication/transfer).

Going beyond strict networking, a set of activities have for aim, during the IP, at **putting into practice the techniques, methods and tools developed/applied by the project on other locations**. These will target **stakeholders from external regions as above described** and also **regional stakeholders from other economic activity sectors** (with emphasis on the regional government bodies with policy duties in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism). In addition, stakeholders will be invited, under networking, to contact and observe directly the IP concrete conservation works, its capacity building experiences and other lessons learnt, contributing to increase interest for cooperation and their use under replication/transfer. An extensive dissemination of applied practices will contribute to such aim, namely through comprehensive documentation available from the website.

Transnational, green procurement, uptake of research results:

Despite the IP focus on implementation of the PAF, to ensure better works on a specific area (prevention of IAS), **one of its actions is clearly transnational: C11**. In addition, **transnational cooperation was also foreseen on concrete conservation works with funds specifically directed at such aim (INTERREG-MAC)**. This optimizes the mobilization of complementary funds and leaves out of LIFE support those works that can better be funded by INTERREG-MAC, allowing to ensure the needed transnational cooperation.

Project management will include an initial training of staff involved on procurement procedures on the concepts/methods of Green Public Procurement (GPP). This will have for target that the **concepts and guidelines of GPP, as well as the tools and EU GPP criteria** are integrated on the IP procurement procedures, when possible/applicable. Such concern will also be part of the capacity building works of action C2.

For the case of propagation of endemic flora, the uptake of knowledge from formerly concluded FP7 funded project ZEPHYR - Zero-impact innovative technology in forest plant production (ID 308313), funded to AZORINA, allows to use, directly, the delivered Propagation Protocols on the conservation works.

Also, **the IP works foresee to take up other results of research projects financed by EU research funds**. Among these, we emphasize:

- **monitoring methodologies**, to be used, taking results/outputs of the following projects: **ESMERALDA (H2020-SC5-2014-CSA)**; **NETBIOME-CSA (FP7-ENV-2013, ID: 603710)**, **NETBIOME (FP6-CSA, ID 518720)** and **MOVECLIM (FP6-CSA, ID 518720)**;

- **species/habitats distribution data and ecosystem based management practices** to be integrated on wide databases, resulting from the following projects: **EUROPHLUKES (FP5-EESD, EVR1-CT-2001-2000)**; **CoralFISH (FP7-ENV-2008, ID: 213144)**; **DEEPSSETS (FP6-SUSTDEV, ID: 505446)**; **EXOCET/D (FP6-SUSTDEV, ID: 505342)** and **marine ecosystem-based spatial management plan methodologies** out coming from **ATLAS (H2020-BG-2015-2)**.

BEST PRACTICE / INNOVATION / DEMONSTRATION CHARACTER OF THE PROJECT

BEST PRACTICE:

As expectable from any project aiming at substantial concrete conservation outputs and PAF implementation, and under a conceptual point of view, works foreseen under the IP are of a best-practice nature, to allow for risk mitigation and a higher probability of success. In fact, a substantial part of what is being proposed is similar most ecological restoration/conservation works.

Many of the foreseen works have for conceptual basis identical methods and/or that have been successfully applied elsewhere, some of them resulting from previous pilot/demonstration works also funded by LIFE (e.g. works of actions C5 and C8).

DEMONSTRATION:

Demonstration has to be seen taking into account the socio-economical context under which the project will be implemented.

Given such context, the IP evidences in fact a strong demonstration character, as it will allow to test, at a relevant conservation scale, practices that should be set up, after the project works, on all the other Azorean islands. Given the substantial areas and works to undertake within a relatively short time-frame, one can from now state that the IP will have for sure, under a global perspective, a demonstration character, that may be useful to foster replication in other Portuguese regions, especially the Madeira archipelago, which is also part of Macaronesia.

In addition to such global demonstration role, the IP includes several actions with expected demonstrative value and whose success in its implementation will be important for your application, whether in the areas of N2000 in the Azores islands or in other areas of the Macaronesia. Actions like those related to control of IAS (C8), (re)establishment of native habitats (action C4), reinforcement of endemic flora populations (action C3), and restoration of coastal habitats with public participation/engagement (C10), can in effect provide a basis for further action, of similar nature, leveraging the project works to other sites and regions.

PILOT (INNOVATION):

Within limits and levels that would not undermine its expected results, while also contributing to targets of the PAF, the IP also includes a set of works and actions that are clearly of a pilot nature, as they have not been tried and assessed with the target species, habitats and/or conservation problems (at least in Macaronesia).

Among those, we highlight the works on early detection and rapid control of IAS at island levels (action C11, of transnational character, allowing for further impact in replication), pilot works on ecological corridor implementation (C4.2), development of cost-effective surveillance schemes for seabirds (C6.2) and some of the works dealing with integration of N2000 aims with other sectoral policies (actions C13 to C16).

All of these will be properly monitored and assessed to ensure successful results and replication. To achieve that, extensive dissemination is foreseen.

Tipologias de ações
Melhores Práticas / Demonstração/ Inovação

Stakeholders and Governance

The works proposed with this application are a natural outcome of the substantial knowledge and experience that the teams of the beneficiaries, and especially those from DRA and DRAM, have been gathering on N2000 conservation, environmental awareness and engagement of the relevant parties for several years. Such work has not been promoted on an isolated basis, but rather, with continuous consultation and engagement of other relevant stakeholders that can contribute to common objectives dealing with nature and biodiversity conservation, and in particular with the implementation, at regional level, of the Birds and Habitats Directives.

In particular, we highlight that DRA follows an open governance and decision making of policy making at several levels. On the top of the hierarchy, there is a continuous consultation of stakeholders from the academia, environmental NGO's and other Regional Directorates (equivalent to secretary of state in the regional government), even those that do not depend from the Regional Secretary for Energy, Environment and Tourism (the regional equivalent to a minister). A strong historical cooperation is to highlight with DRAM, other beneficiary, who is the relevant regional authority for the IP works dealing with coastal public domain.

At the island level, each of the Island Parks promotes - as actually obliged by their statutes - active involvement and regular meetings of Consultative Boards (including representatives of other public administrations of different sectors and levels - regional, local, parish - , civil society organizations, and umbrella organizations for the main economic sectors of interest at each park like agriculture, forestry, cattle breeding, etc...).

Similarly, AZORINA, under its works and duties related to environmental education and general awareness raising, is commonly used to cooperate, get advice and promote joint activities with schools, local administrations, and environmental NGO's, targeting either school communities, the general public and tourists.

Along 2016 and 2017, following participation on capacity building works under project LIFE CAPACITY BUILDING (LIFE 14 CAP/PT/00004), a cross-sectoral working group was set with staff from DRA, DRAM and AZORINA for preparation of the LIFE IP proposal (as it did not pass, given the high complexity and diversity of works therein foreseen). This included other partners from the academia, since the original academic beneficiary (FGF) was not being able, for economic reasons, to ensure its partnership on the updated version of the IP.

Since then, a set of further contacts and works have been undertaken, including consultation of other stakeholders, allowing to deliver a proposal that strictly targets the conservation, awareness raising and behavioural changes that are needed to foster the IP works.

Under such context, this proposal can therefore be seen as a result from an ongoing participatory process, out of which cost-efficacy was a major guidance (to keep partnership under the strictly needed and budget to the lower levels), together with that of maintaining the goal for continuing the involvement and participation of stakeholders, which is clearly evidenced by the support letters attached, that include several organizations as well as persons that commit to participate on the IP stakeholder board or steering committee.

Following such process - common to the way DRA, DRAM and AZORINA promote public policy discussion, agreement and implementation - the continued involvement of stakeholders with its works is therefore an expected result of this IP.

Under such context, we highlight as major issues:

a) Under actions F, project management specifically foresees the existence and operation of a Stakeholder Board (SB), which will have for main mission to engage local stakeholders or with the

project concrete works, under a participated perspective, allowing to gather local stakeholder's opinions and proposals and merge them with the project works, so that a tighter link is established with resident population and civil society organizations. From these, we expect concrete contributes to improve the project's communication and awareness raising works with school communities and resident population (under actions E), allowing for these to be more actively engaged with the solutions proposed and also aware of the problems faced.

b) In addition, taking for basis a higher level of policy making and also a more technical type of stakeholders, the project also foresees an Advisory Support Board (action F), which will gather technical teams and individuals that will have for main mission to analyse and discuss, under a more technical perspective, the project's concrete proposals, development and results, in order to support yearly planning of activities, their prioritization and decision making. For the moment, informal contacts have been established and availability to participate has been granted by a set of stakeholders which are seen as having a relevant role: DRFCT (the Regional Directorate for Science and Technology), and several scientific experts;

c) last but not the least, and given the priority that governance plays, several C actions are directed at relevant sectoral areas (actions C13 to C15), for (re)engagement of all those stakeholders that supported this application, to gather opinions, maintain confidence and support implementation of the IP.

Target Audiences

The main target audience for the IP works is, from start, the resident population, who will directly benefit from the improved conservation status of N2000, by implementation of the concrete conservation works of actions C. These are expected to deliver a set of complementary benefits, including local-socio economic impacts and improvement of ecosystems function and services that will reflect on improved quality of life being delivered though positive impacts on issues like a better use of natural areas for leisure, recreation, sports and also increased economic activities like those related to nature tourism.

Residents will be a direct target of specific communication tools directed at the general public of like the website and news in local media (under action E1).

In addition to this, the project put a major focus, through the works of action E4, on schools and the school community, as it will be by awareness raising and behavioural changes of the youngest that a more sustainable care for N2000 and its values may outcome in future.

Given the need to improve and build capacity of economic agents as drivers for concrete conservation works (especially those related to agriculture, tourism and fisheries), these are the target of works of actions C2, and C13 to C15, all of which dealing with increased capacity building and encouragement for engagement with conservation, as a valuable tool for active N2000 conservation.

Having in mind further dissemination/replication of the project's technical solutions, a set of relevant audiences that may contribute to such aim are also targeted by other of the project works (especially actions E2 and E3). These are, among other, technical staff from other Macaronesian public authorities, for the case of technical workshops and conferences.

EXPECTED CONSTRAINTS AND RISKS RELATED TO THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

IP itself:

Major risks and constraints related to IP implementation have been the object of a wide work during the design stage, having therefore allowed to be incorporated within the proposed project scheduling and planning, as part of good project design. This has led for the IP overall planning to be enlarged to 8 years, in face of previous versions.

Given that the target problems and intervention areas are well known to the project teams, most risks and constraints possibly to be face during project execution have also been duly accommodated, allowing for mitigation of issues that could compromise good project developments and outputs. Under such context, one cannot neglect the inputs coming from a discussion of the project ideas and solutions with external technical staff from other organizations, including those dealing with similar problems and/or with more experience on LIFE project management and with academic teams in the same line, discussions with stakeholders, especially the local ones, have been undertaken, in order to define the best solutions for their further engagement with the project works.

Knowledge Availability

The solutions and methods proposed under C actions involved the needs to undertake a detailed characterization of the reference situation, in order to propose the most adequate solutions for each case. This was done, as expectable under this stage, at a concept and previous study level of detail, allowing for adequate planning, budgeting and scheduling and quantity assessment of expected needs. Nevertheless, like in any other good practice process, there is still the need to go for further detailing, before going onto field conservation works. To account for this, the IP structure includes a specific preparatory action, where additional technical work will be undertaken in order to deliver the operational planning, and also (re)engage the stakeholders with the IP works, including debriefing about was been in fact approved and expected to be undertaken (following revision).

Since the IP works require recruitment of a wide range of staff, and given also the fact that existing staff will be allocated to undertake specific new functions and roles, capacitating/training these elements is crucial. To allow for that, as well as for regular updated, a specific action (C2) deals with ongoing internal capacity building, all along the project works.

Partnership

The main conservation problems of the target species deal, on one side, with ecological restoration.

Under such context, the project gathers relevant stakeholders to undertake such tasks: DRA is the regional authority in charge of terrestrial N2000 at regional level, having considered experience in concrete conservation works, whereas DRAM undertakes identical roles for coastal and marine areas. AZORINA deals for years with communication and awareness raising (its main aim), therefore being the more adequate partner to support DRA/DRAM with E action works. SPEA has been for years implementing conservation works with seabirds and terrestrial birds, having therefore a solid conservation role within local NGO's. Last but not the least, for transnational works, LA PALMA has been interacting with DRA for year on Biosphere Reserves, playing identical roles to DRA in La Palma island, being therefore the most suited partner to undertake the works foreseen under action C11.

As for implementation, since all works are foreseen to undertake in public domain and/or regional government's property no problems are foreseen. For the cases where needed, land purchase was equated.

Despite former versions of the IP accounted for participation of the academia as direct beneficiaries, this was not possible o the current proposal, as FGF (former partner) was facing difficulties to account for its own co-financing. Under such context, other solutions where integrated in the proposal to account for scientific/technical works, including contracting external assistance for the cases needed.

Stakeholder Engagement

Good governance, participation of interested parties in discussion of solutions and decision making is part of the way of working of the beneficiaries. Our former work with local residents and with external public, civil and private organizations and individuals in matters related to nature conservation has always been based on participatory processes that, under several contexts, have led to the joint definition and discussion of many of the IP works. As reflected on the attached support letters, there is a wide and broad engagement of stakeholders with the project objectives.

For example, DRAM participates on the licensing processes for recreational divers when this deals with marine protected areas and has, therefore a good relationship with most of them, as is the case of the academic teams dealing with conservation of marine fauna. In addition to an historical record of good cooperation, one should also mention that there are currently members of academic teams who are also recreational divers, and therefore participate on engaging other divers. Dozens of recreational divers have historically been engaged with other awareness raising and conservation works promoted by DRAM in several areas. So, from start, as always foreseen on identical type of works, initial contacts to explain the project works and engagement of this type of stakeholders with the foreseen activities have been taken into account on the design of the proposal, as reflected on support letters. Furthermore, their continued engagement is foreseen to (re)start with preparatory works (actions A1, Task 3) and continue thereafter, on the concrete conservation works that require their active involvement and/or consultation.

Besides, and in relation to regional policies for fisheries, the regional directorate for fisheries (DRP) maintains a tight cooperation with DRAM (on what concerns N2000 conservation needs and targets). Therefore, in the last few years, the Azores Government has concentrated efforts on training and capacity building of fishermen so that they can more actively and voluntarily raise complementary revenues from synergic activities. Among the above referred, recreational fisheries are a main line of work, which has been increasing, and represents a win solution. Not only it allows to increase fishermen self-esteem as it allows to reinforce cooperation among fishermen and other stakeholders. This activity allows traditional fisherman to be more highly valued for their work, while also ensuring a wider exchange of ideas, problems and exchange of knowledge (including with scientific teams that monitor such works).

To ensure their continuous cooperation, specific boards have been foreseen. Also, one of the preparatory works specifically deals with such target, to ensure continuing confidence and inputs from both sides.

Give the relevance of accounting with stakeholders for different levels and phases of project implementation, the project structure specifically foresaw, therefore, the existence of a Stakeholder Board and an Advisory Board, both having for mission consultation, discussion and engagement of different stakeholders, under a regular way, along the project works.

Internal works vs Subcontracting and Project Planning

Despite some of the works foreseen with the project could be undertaken with allocation of internal resources, it would require a much wider period for implementation, which is incompatible with the PAF goals. Therefore, in order for them to be executed and deliver impact on a reasonable timeframe, the project foresees a set of subcontracting (mostly dealing with needs that are foreseen to deal with the target problems), as well as recruitment of additional staff (including full time staff but also seasonal workers for specific tasks like planting, IAS control and observation of practices/uses).

As some open tenders are foreseen (including a major one to support DRAM works, on technical/scientific issues), additional time has been set under project planning, to account for eventual delays associated with the applicable administrative procedures, allowing in all to establish a foreseen planning that will allow to execute the project works within the 9 years resulting from revision, as proposed. In respect to this, we highlight that with such planning, most C actions will end up before the project end, mostly not overpassing the last year of phase 4 (with exceptions being related to works that, from now, are seen needed to continue after the project end (e.g. like IAS prevention and control, and N2000 surveillance).

Climate change and adversities

Limitações e Riscos

Being out of the scope of the project works (especially in what concerns the increasingly frequent extreme meteorological events like heat waves and heavy precipitation and floods), climate change effects could not be neglected on the impact that they may bring to project execution. As part of overall planning, they were also duly accounted for, as reflected on the foreseen scheduling of actions C. While extreme heat may condition ecosystem restoration, extreme precipitation may also cause adversity for field workers to be on duty, under adverse situations. In both cases, C actions already account for these possible problems, presenting the possibility for some delays regarding their works, if this type of unforeseeable adversities impact on the project works. Tight project management, including monitoring, will allow to deal with them appropriately (including, if needed, to discuss eventual alternatives and adaptations of planning/scheduling with the LIFE monitoring team and EASME, to allow for project conclusion with success).

Complementary actions:

In addition to the above referred for the IP, expected output from complementary actions may suffer, essentially, from less integration with IP works than expected. In order to overcome this, a specific action is foreseen to deal with tight management of complementary actions within the F actions of the IP. This will allow to promptly detect any delays and or needs for corrections/adjustments, on either the IP works or the complementary project works.

Also, for the case of complementary actions, major constraints or risks deal with the possibility for funding not being granted (to those already submitted) and/or that no other applications are submitted. The expected increased capacity and specific foreseeing of the working group that will be dedicated to these issues is, from start, a guarantee to overcome any problems. The team in question will adequately monitor execution, as well as look for alternative funding that can satisfy the foreseen needs (in the eventuality that some of the targeted funds cannot be used).

CONTINUATION / VALORISATION AND LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY
AFTER THE END OF THE PROJECT

• How will you ensure the long term implementation of the plan and beyond?

Among other activities, revision of the current PAF is foreseen to be undertaken within the IP works. Also, an After-LIFE Plan will be deployed before the project ends. Together, these instruments will highlight what are the major needs for N2000 conservation in the Azores for the long term, or at least for a substantial period after the IP ends.

Whereas the PAF is more a guidance and strategic document, the After-LIFE Plan will more concretely identify why, how, where, with which resources and by whom the needed follow-up and recurrent works will be implemented.

To support them, and as foreseen on the N2000 Sectoral Plan, another legislative "piece" which brings the Sectoral plan to a more operational level are the so called Island Park Management Plans (for each island park), which define, in detail, a Land Use Plan and regulations for use as well as the several activities that can be undertaken on the Island Parks and how they can be undertaken (we emphasize that Island Parks include all N2000 sites, as well as other protected areas like RAMSAR wetlands, local protected areas, and others).

The procedure for definition and approval of the Island Park Management Plans has been initiated with own funding from DRA along 2018, since this is considered a strict obligation of DRA, as part of its regular/recurrent work (and therefore not submitted for funding by LIFE). Its technical works are ongoing, along 2018/2019, with expected outputs, including political approval and publication, the latest by 2020. Similarly, the revision of the Sectoral Plan, that will follow, will be undertaken by DRA with own funding, and is expected to be approved and published along the IP works (i.e., the latest by 2027).

Since the project partnership includes key public actors on implementation of public policies (DRA, DRAM and AZORINA), which are legally in charge of N2000 management, one expects that a substantial part of needed implementation on the long term will be ensured by these partners, with own resources and/or through additional funding sources, including those foreseen in EU financial instruments dealing with cohesion, rural development and agriculture, regional development, and also nature conservation. Also, other Azores governmental bodies which support and will contribute to the project works (e.g. those related to fisheries, tourism and forestry) are foreseen to continuously cooperate with DRA and DRAM on implementation of policies and actions that emerge from the project and fall into their jurisdiction of action.

In addition, DRA and DRAM will continue to support NGO's like SPEA, as well as the academia, to undertake additional conservation and/or research that may reveal needed, as historically has been the case. That can be with direct support or through logistic support and allocation of internal resources to undertake specific tasks.

Last but not the least, a substantial amount of work from the IP will be directed to engagement of external parties, especially private agents, with N2000 conservation goals and practices. The overall increased capacity and awareness raising is therefore expected to be a relevant contribute for long term sustainability and continuous implementation of new practices by these stakeholders, including those that foster N2000 conservation.

Also to highlight is the fact that the established technical coordination group of the IP will continue working in cooperation beyond the project period. Moreover, the regional administration is interested in ensuring the continuity of cost-effective use of funding alternatives. Under such context, every year funds are expected to be requested with the aim to answer additional needs foreseen on the upcoming PAF.

• Which actions will have to be carried out or continued after the end of the project?

To ensure and secure conservation outputs, activities similar to those foreseen most of C actions will have to be continued, even that on a recurring basis, and with a lower intensity or frequency. Exceptions are few and only foreseen to works that have a "one hand" duration (e.g. C1 and C7) and do not need to be further applied. A major effort will be dedicated to maintaining or improving the wild populations of endemic flora (including additional reinforcements and protection), enlarge prevention of IAS invasion to other islands (while ensuring continued recurring controls on the areas of action C8) and sustain needed monitoring and capacity building.

To foster dissemination, replication and transfer of the achieved outputs, the partners technical team will continue to promote further workshops, technical visits, networking and, possibly, additional applications to other funding mechanisms. To ensure this, similar works to those foreseen with actions E2, and E3 are expected, even though with a lower intensity and frequency.

Also, capacity building (internal and external) and integration with other sectoral policies, will be major aims.

• How will this be achieved? What resources will be necessary to carry out these actions and how will those capacities be ensured?

In all, the above referred needs will be thoroughly identified on the IP After-LIFE Plan, which will also identify the resources needed for their implementation, in order to allow for adequate planning of interventions from all beneficiaries. Foreseen to be approved and operational before the project end, commitments will there be evident for adequate preparation of project's continuation.

From now, it is however expected that operation and maintenance of the infrastructures, equipment and teams recruited with the IP, and the recurring conservation works targeting species/habitats conservation will be the top priorities that have to be continued after the project ends.

The applicable operational works will then be a common and regular task for DRA and DRAM's services that oversee project's implementation, who will continue undertaking them, as that is part of these regional authorities' role in matters associated to N2000 conservation. On what concerns environmental education and engagement, AZORINA foresees to continue undertaking similar actions, in close link with the currently existing environmental education programs. SPEA will continue cooperating with DRA and DRAM for undertaking the specific works under its heading, as it has always been able to carry out.

In what related to funding sources to be mobilized on the post project, the fact that key public authorities in charge of N2000 management (DRA and DRAM) are part of the partnership is, from start, a clear guarantee for the project's results and effects to be sustained after it ends: their duties, their operational resources and their investment priorities will necessarily continue to be allocated to such aims.

To ensure that, and despite it is certainly early to account for the definition of the After-LIFE works, we expect them from now to include the continuing operation of the working group for coordination of the complementary funds (action F.3), as well as that of the helpdesks to support specific economic sectors (sub-action C13.1, for farming and forestry, and C15.1 for fisheries and marine transport). Last but not least, the maintenance of the IAS control works started under action C8 and C11 and the trails built (sub-action C14.1) will be undertaken by the coordinating beneficiary, after the end of the project.

One should also highlight that, along the last two regional governmental budgets, DRA's budget allocated to nature conservation goals has increased very significantly, and there are currently no expectations for it to not continue evolving on a similar way on the short and medium term. Similarly, and despite with a lower level, DRAM's budget dedicated to N2000 is also increasing. A clear evidence for this are the efforts foreseen with the IP and with its complementary projects.

Sustentabilidade
após o término do
projeto

- Will the staff recruited/trained during the project continue to work on the implementation of the plan?

Yes. One expects that the staff recruited during the project, including the technical and operational elements, will continue to work on similar functions. Also, in Island Natural Park, the operational assistants and nature wardens who have been capacitated during the project, will continue to exercise functions in conservation works and in implement the actions of the PAF.

The knowhow gained during the IP shall therefore be secured permanently and sustainably in each of the partner institutions. In addition, the network of stakeholders operated during the project offers excellent conditions for providing the applicable staff with a long-term perspective in professional nature conservation and for continuing to employ the gained expertise in the Azores region. In particular, for future networking, staff who played an active role in this network should continue to fulfil tasks of this type and to share and distribute their contacts and their knowhow.

Under such context, the investments made during the project in the recruited staff and the expertise collected along the IP will continue to be available for implementing identical objectives, unfolding their effects throughout the project and beyond.

Given all this into account and despite of requiring needed political decisions (due the electoral cycles and regular functioning of democracy) for which commitments cannot be provided at this moment, the prospects for the jobs created with this project is that they will be maintained after the IP ends. This intent is applicable to all project beneficiaries, whose structures (including technical and operational) are expected to be significantly increased with the IP works. Despite this does not account for the temporary staff - as this is recruited to overcome design/planning requirements in periods of higher workload – it reflects a significant potential job increase, to be sustained after the end of the project.

- How, where and by whom will the equipment acquired be used after the end of the project? (if relevant)

All the equipment acquired under the project by all **beneficiaries will remain in use, after the end of the project and until the end of its life-cycle, for identical conservation works as those foreseen with the project works, by the beneficiaries that have purchased it.** Similarly, the built/constructed infrastructures will undergo identical aims.

DRA and DRAM are the regional public administrations in charge of N2000 management, in terrestrial, coastal and marine areas. AZORINA is a public company owned by the regional government which, according to its statutes, has for mission cooperating with regional public administrations like DRA and DRAM, in order to attend targets defined and mutually agreed by them. SPEA is a major NGO that has been working in Azores for several years, including with many LIFE supported projects, some of which have been awarded as Best LIFE given their positive conservation outputs. Despite of a regular need for co-financing of operational and recurring works (generally provided by DRA or DRAM), SPEA has always kept in operation all equipment acquired with LIFE support, implementing adequately the respective After-LIFE Plans.

Under this context, one should highlight that **we expect the equipment acquired to be used for implementation of the conservation works that will specifically be foreseen and detailed under the project's After-LIFE Plan** (to be delivered under action F5), **as well as for implementation of the revised PAF** (which will be discussed and approved within the project time-frame, under action A4).

Given the above said, and notwithstanding details on *how* and *where* the equipment at stake will be used are only expected by the end of the project - as they will be identified, among others, by the After-LIFE Plan and the revised PAF - we can from now confirm that all beneficiaries commit to endorse it equipment to the works then identified.

- To what extent will the results and lessons of the project be actively disseminated after the end of the project to those persons and/or organisations that could best make use of them (please identify these persons/organisations)?

As above said, not only regular communication will be maintained – having for basis the website updating – but also works directed at technical audiences like those targeted during the project works. The technical staff involved with project will continue to promote active networking (both electronic and direct contact based). In addition, to foster dissemination, replication and transfer of the achieved outputs, the technical team will continue to implement the dissemination foreseen under the After-LIFE Plan. To ensure this, similar works to those foreseen with actions E2, and E3 are expected to be detailed on that plan, even though with a lower intensity and frequency.

In addition, staff's regular participation in congresses and workshops dealing with N2000 conservation and overall biodiversity conservation issues will allow for further presentation of the work undertaken to a wider audience than that already foreseen within the IP's timeframe, far behind its end.



Exemplo de descrição de uma ação concreta

The target species are assessed in "Bad" (U2), "Inadequate" (U1) conservation status, requiring therefore conservation measures that can guarantee their coexistence. One of them is listed as priority for conservation.

Contrarily to other species for which existing knowledge is sufficient to undertake direct in situ conservation, many gaps still exist about these. Under such context, only with works as proposed it will be possible to safeguard their ex situ conservation and/or to gather the additional know how that has to precede in situ reinforcements.

Constraints and assumptions
Despite information on the ecology and biology of the target species is currently scarce, the type of works foreseen within sub-action is identical to those already undertaken by the team of BGF for many other endemic species (including those that are a target of sub-action C3.2).

Under such context, and despite working with living organisms and seeds may always pose unexpected challenges and constraints, existing know-how and expertise is expected to allow reaching the sub-action aims with a reasonable confidence. Nevertheless, for some specific issues, external support was also foreseen, as way to improve success and/or to overcome existing knowledge gaps.

- Expected results (quantitative information when possible):**
- increased capacity of the BGF seed bank for ensuring conservation of endangered endemic flora (including ex situ conservation of at least 2 new species, possibly 4 if seed collection of *Euphrasia azorica* and *Euphrasia grandiflora* is viable, and from additional donor populations of *Lactuca watsoniensis* and *Melanoselinum decipiens*);
 - viable living populations of *Asplenium hemionitis* and *Isotria medeolae* installed within the gardens of BGF, from different populations/islands;
 - updated information on the distribution and conservation status of habitats (3130, 3170*, allowing for definition of parcels to be intervened, with cattle exclusion measures, under action C4).

Cost estimation:
The total budget estimated for this action is **€9 422€**.

Personnel costs for the action total **46 048€**: 16 890€ for phase I, 13 716€ for phase II, 13 716€ for phase III and 930€ for phase IV. It includes the staff that needs to be allocated and its daily rates. In all, works are expected to involve 42 days of technical assistance to project manager by DPA (to hire) and 676 days from DPA's Field Workers for Operational Brigades, as further detailed in Form F1.

The **consumables costs** are foreseen to provide diesel for transport the operational workers on flora seed collection work. It totals **4386€** for phase I of the project, as detailed in Form F6.

- Deliverables:**
- Improved Propagation Protocol for *Lactuca watsoniensis* (31/12/2021)
 - Improved Propagation Protocol for *Melanoselinum decipiens* (31/12/2021)
 - SDF's updated with information/characterization of populations of the 5 target species in the N2000 sites of the referred islands (31/12/2023)
 - Propagation Protocols for *Asplenium hemionitis* and *Isotria medeolae* cocoyed and ready for use (31/12/2023)

- Milestones:**
- First plants of targeted flora ready to be used for ex situ conservation (31/12/2020)
 - Characterization of wild flora populations of all target species concluded (31/12/2020)
 - Viable populations of *Asplenium hemionitis* and *Isotria medeolae* installed in BGF (31/12/2023)

- Ex situ conservation of all target species ensured and post-project measures identified in After-LIFE Plan (31/12/2027)

Indicators:
By the end of the project, in what concerns **Key Performance Indicators**, in addition to the above described expected results and indicators, we expect from these works:

- 70% germination rate of *Lactuca watsoniensis* ensured with improved propagation protocol
- 70% germination rate of *Melanoselinum decipiens* ensured with improved propagation protocol
- ex situ conservation of 4 HD protected species currently assessed in **Bad** conservation status and 2 HD species currently assessed in **Inadequate** conservation status

LIFE17 IPE/PT/000010 - LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA

TECHNICAL APPLICATION FORMS

Part C – detailed technical description of the proposed actions

ACTION C3: Implementation of pilot conservation works for conservation of endemic flora

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: Overall technical coordination will be ensured by DPA.

Description (what, how, where and when):
Following global trends, the activities of the Botanical Garden of Faial (BGF) – dependent from DPA – have diversified their activity on the last decades, to not only work on preservation/classification of Azorean flora (including updating and maintaining a relevant herbarium), but also have an active role in concrete conservation. For some years now, BGF has defined and set into practice the so called **rare and endangered species program of action**, which seeks conservation of wild flora populations through adequate, recognized, and technically sound, in situ and ex situ conservation. BGF is also in charge of a complementary "traditional" LIFE proposal, which deals with in situ conservation of populations of *Azorella vidua* and *Lobelia azorica* (in Faial, Pico and São Jorge islands, project LIFE VIDUALIA, LIFE17 NAT/PT/000010, under approval).

Despite BGF's first priority was dedicated to ex situ conservation (including the related seed bank maintenance and operation), the subsequent years have allowed for an in situ work on several locations, with critically endangered species, notably with successful results, though limited to the Faial island given existing resources and operational constraints (e.g. allowing to reinforce populations of *Pericallis maritima*, among others). Nevertheless, it was also possible to achieve relevant outputs concerning other Azorean islands, supported by action of these services in link to other Island Parks, also under the heading of DPA (e.g. reinforcements conducted in other islands, namely that of *Taxus baccata* in Pico and *Myrica azorica* in Flores).

Within such context, and by taking into account the foreseen approval of the above referred LIFE VIDUALIA project (to start in 01/07/2020 and undergo until 30/06/2023), some adjustments have been foreseen to this action's works in comparison to those initially presented on the Concept Note (namely, by only undertaking works with of *Azorella vidua* and *Lobelia azorica* on other islands than São Jorge, Faial and Pico, and after the works of that project are concluded).

As foreseen in the Concept Note, this action's works target a set of flora species that are protected by the HD and whose last assessment of conservation status is assessed as "Bad" (U2) (*Artemisia tridentata*, *Asplenium hemionitis*, *Chamaecyparissus azorica*, *Diapensia sibirica*, *Euphrasia azorica*, *Euphrasia grandiflora*, *Lactuca watsoniensis*, *Myrica azorica*, *Rumex azoricus*, *Lobelia azorica*), "Inadequate" (U1) (*Artemisia hillebr.*), *Euphorbia stygius*, *Isotria medeolae*, *Melanoselinum decipiens*, *Scabiosa nerea*).

Given the fact that a diverse range of problems and conservation needs are identified for each of these, works will account for different activities. Whereas most of them will have for ultimate goal production of plants for reinforcement of wild populations in order to improve their conservation status, to be conducted within the IP works, given ecological and/or knowledge constraints, not all of them can effectively be expected to achieve such goal (and under that context, as also foreseen on the PAF, the goal of ex situ conservation was identified as the correct alternative). Under such context, the action includes two sub-actions, one directed at gathering additional knowledge and ex situ conservation, the other at wider propagation goals and delivery of plants for in situ reinforcements.

SUB-ACTION C3.1: Ex-situ conservation:

Description (what, how, where and when):

What

Despite a substantial work conducted under the heading of the **rare and endangered species program of action**, BGF's activity was initially targeting its efforts in favour of endemic species which do not present any protection by the HD but whose populations were highly endangered (in fact, some were thought of being extinct, like *Veronica dabneyi*). Following sound technical/scientific

recommendations, including those of the IUCN, a seed bank has been established and is now regularly operated to safeguard endangered endemic species, allowing for very positive results to be achieved. More recently, identical works have been promoted with other endemics, including most of those species protected by the HD, allowing to expand initial ex situ conservation to broader in situ conservation action (of which the referred LIFE project is a concrete output).

Nevertheless, despite the acquired knowledge allowed BGF's team to have developed adequate protocols to propagate most of this action's target species - therefore allowing to proceed directly to in situ conservation, through sub-action C3.2 -, some obstacles to that aim do remain for other species:

- given insufficient knowledge of global distribution, reduced dimension of wild populations, and little information about ecological interaction and requirements, 2 of the target species are currently not even conserved on the ex situ seed bank (*Euphrasia azorica*, only reported in PTRL0002 and PTDOR001/PTZPE0020, and *Euphrasia grandiflora*, reported in PTFAX004/PTZPE0023, PTJOR0014 and PTFAC0009/PTZPE0007);
- also, despite some knowledge about historical location of their populations, 2 other species (*Asplenium hemionitis*, *Isotria medeolae*) have never been collected in the wild nor installed for ex situ conservation;
- also, for the case of *Lactuca watsoniensis* despite the seedbank conserves seeds from 3 Azorean islands where it exists, further work is still needed to improve propagation, in order to ensure that a more effective propagation protocol can be used for achieving successful propagation rates;
- last but not the least, for the case of *Melanoselinum decipiens*, despite the seedbank conserves seeds from 5 Azorean islands where it exists, further work is still needed to improve propagation, in order to ensure that a more effective propagation protocol can be used for achieving successful propagation rates.

The works of this sub-action are therefore directed at overcoming these obstacles, through additional field and/or lab work. They have for ultimate aim that, by the end of the IP, these species are at least safeguarded through ex situ conservation, by conducting works as below described. If results achieved make it possible and recommendable, sub-action C3.2 works may encompass, as well, ex situ reinforcement of natural populations of some of these species (an aim that is from now foreseen achievable for *Lactuca watsoniensis* and *Melanoselinum decipiens*).

How

Task 1 – Gathering/producing additional information for ex-situ conservation
Through synergies with regular field work by the team of BGF, as well as with the additional works targeted by LIFE VIDUALIA, this task will have for aim the **undertaking of additional field work, along phase I of the IP, in order to:**

- confirm known locations of wild populations of *Euphrasia azorica* (in Corvo and Flores islands) and those of *Euphrasia grandiflora* (in São Jorge, Faial and Pico islands), updating information on their spatial distribution, number of individuals, and major conservation threats.** Under this context, and if applicable, short-term high priority measures to reduce threats such as cattle presence and/or SAs may be equalized and undertaken as part of the works of action C4 (in addition to those already foreseen for the Cadeleira (Corvo island), consisting installation of an **herbivore-exclusion plot** around the known population of *Euphrasia azorica*), if scientifically/technically feasible and recommendable, and with respect for IUCN recommendations, seeds from wild populations will be collected for ex situ conservation in BGF, following all needed procedures in order to keep registries of original donor populations and avoid any mixing, as for procedures already in practice for all incoming seeds to the seedbank;
- updating information on the distribution of wild populations of *Asplenium hemionitis* (currently known to exist at least in the islands of Corvo, Flores, Faial, Pico and São Miguel), including collection of leaves with spores, in order to provide basidiospores materials for task 2;**
- updating information on the distribution of wild populations of *Isotria medeolae* and the distribution and conservation status of its habitats (3130, 3170*), followed by collection of**

vegetative material that allows establishment, within the BGF, of a small biogenetic nucleus of this species, keeping track of provenience;

- collect additional seeds** from the donor populations of *Lactuca watsoniensis* (concluding those from Terceira, Pico, Faial and Flores islands – already conserved in the seed bank – and from other known populations – in S. Miguel island), and updating characterization of their populations;
- collect additional seeds** from the donor populations of *Melanoselinum decipiens* (concluding those from Terceira, Pico, and São Miguel islands – already conserved in the seed bank – and from other known populations – in Faial island), and updating characterization of their populations.

Concerning wild populations, findings from these works will allow to **deliver updates of the applicable SDF files for the applicable N2000 sites.**

Task 2 – Essaying/improving propagation

Having for basis the additional knowledge gathered with task 1, all the species for which vegetative material has been collected will be targeted with lab work aiming at identifying best methods for propagation.

Works will start in phase I with *Melanoselinum decipiens* and *Lactuca watsoniensis*, for which the seedbank has already seeds, collected former to the start of the IP. These will involve testing methods to reduce the dormancy effects that this species exhibits, in order to improve current germination rates, which are still low. Despite of low success, germinated individuals within these works will be grown and used for in situ conservation works, under sub-action C3.2.

For all the other species targeted by task 1, the remaining period of the IP (part of phase II and the whole of phase III) will be used for essaying propagation and conservation methods that allow for ex situ conservation. These having for ultimate aim that, after the IP, the start of in situ reinforcements of natural populations may start as well. To ensure that, and following works of task 1, we expect also to be able to maintain within the grounds of the BGF viable living include of at least *Asplenium hemionitis* and *Isotria medeolae*.

As for the two species of *Euphrasia*, in addition to improved measures for ex situ conservation, allowing to avoid of existing threats in the wild, we expect to be able to conserve, on the seed bank, enough viable material that impedes extinction.

Where

Task 1 will involve field work on the referred islands.

Task 2 will be implemented at the facilities of BGF, in Faial Island.

When

Task 1 is expected to be undertaken along the first 4 years of the IP (i.e. the whole of phase I and part of phase II).

For the cases of *Melanoselinum decipiens* and *Lactuca watsoniensis* task 2 will start with the IP start with improved propagation protocols being delivered by the end of phase I. For all other species, task 2 will start by the end of task 1 and continue ongoing until the end of the IP.

Reasons why this action is necessary:
This sub-action addresses three PAF priorities (F1.1 e. F1.3 e and F1.3 e).

DELIVERABLE, MILESTONES AND REPORTING SCHEDULE

MAIN DELIVERABLE PRODUCTS OF THE PROJECT

Name of the Deliverable	Code of the associated action	Deadline
A project website full operational in 2 languages	E1	01/09/2019
Networking database	E3	31/03/2019
Capacity Building Plan for Phase I	C2.1	30/06/2019
Enquiries to evaluate stakeholders training needs	C2.2	30/06/2019
Project logo (used in all supports of the project: website, reports, publicity material, brochures, etc.)	E1	30/06/2019
Notice boards	E1	30/06/2019

MAIN MILESTONES OF THE PROJECT

Name of the Milestone	Code of the associated action	Deadline
Start of Purchase procedures	C1.1	01/01/2019
Start of Purchase procedures	C1.2	01/01/2019
Start of Purchase procedures	C1.3	01/01/2019
Start of the integrated project – phase 1	F1	01/01/2019
Press release and conference about the start of the project	E1	01/02/2019
1st cleaning action in marina	C12	01/03/2019
First contacts made	E3	01/05/2019
Technical and administrative specifications needed for action	C14.1	



LIFE 2017 ENVIRONMENT INTEGRATED PROJECTS

Stage 2 - Full proposal

FINANCIAL APPLICATION FORMS

Proposal acronym: LIFE IP AZORES NATURA

NOTES:

Please refer to guidelines for IP applicants when filling in these forms

LIFE 2017 Integrated Projects **Financial Forms**

FORM FA

Proposal acronym: LIFE IP AZORES NATURA

Budget breakdown categories	Total cost in euro	Eligible Cost in euro	% of total eligible costs
1. Personnel		11 460 941	60,04%
2. Travel and subsistence		340 650	1,78%
3. External assistance		3 182 822	16,57%
4. Durable goods			
Infrastructure	147 029	147 029	0,77%
Equipment	757 544	757 544	3,97%
Prototype		0	0,00%
5. Land purchase / long-term lease		440 319	2,31%
6. Consumables		1 192 670	6,25%
8. Other Costs		463 511	2,43%
9. Overheads		1 122 036	5,88%
TOTAL	19 087 522	19 087 522	100%

Contribution breakdowns	In euro	% of TOTAL	% total eligible costs
Requested European Union contribution	11 452 513	60,00%	60,00%
Coordinating Beneficiary's contribution	2 208 331	11,57%	
Associated Beneficiaries' contribution	5 426 678	28,43%	
Co-financers contribution	0	0,00%	
TOTAL	19 087 522	100,00%	

- Após aprovação do projeto, foi criada uma **Estrutura de Missão**, aprovada por Resolução do Conselho do Governo. Esta Estrutura permite definir o **modelo organizativo destinado à supervisão e acompanhamento** dos projetos financiados pelo Programa LIFE na RAA, bem como a **estrutura operativa** necessária à gestão e implementação dos projetos LIFE coordenados pela RAA e coordenar os mesmos.
- Foi aprovado um **despacho que nomeou os gestores** da DRA e DRAM em regime de comissão de serviços, a **estrutura de gestão técnica e operacional** do projeto LIFE IP AZORES NATURA (DRA, DRAM e AZORINA), com efeitos desde o início ao final do projeto.
- Foram efetuados **Protocolos de Parceria** com as **obrigações e funções dos Beneficiários** Associados e Coordenador



Muito obrigada!

Workshop de capacitação interna – Projetos Integrados LIFE | 18 de janeiro 2024



GOVERNO
DOS AÇORES

Secretaria Regional do Ambiente
e Alterações Climáticas

