

**LIFE+ 2011**

**Management and restoration programme projects  
(PAF Projects)**

**DG Environment Unit E3 LIFE-Nature and Unit B3 Nature Coordination Workshop**

**Brussels, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012**

**9.30 -17.30**

**Kartuizercenter**

**70 Rue des Chartreux**



## LIFE+ Management and restoration programme projects (PAF projects)

Background notes for the meeting prepared by Astrale

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### Introduction

With the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Habitats Directive in 2012 the European Commission has identified the need to move up a gear in terms of the establishment, maintenance and restoration of the Natura 2000 network. The Habitats Directive foresees the need to develop national strategic approaches to the funding of the network and, whilst now asking all Member States to submit ‘prioritised action frameworks’ (PAFs) under Article 8 of the Directive, the Commission is also using the current LIFE+ programme to prepare the way for future LIFE Nature programme support of ‘integrated projects’ to be developed and delivered in the next financial period from 2014-2020.

The possibility of LIFE+ co-financing for the development of Natura 2000 management and restoration programme projects was introduced in the 2011 application round and it has been retained and elaborated in the 2012 application round.

Eight projects were successful in winning EU co-financing to develop their ideas in the 2011 LIFE+ round. Common issues and themes, and opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking, along with common reporting requirements will be the focus of the first coordination workshop.

This set of background notes has been prepared by Astrale, the LIFE-programme external monitoring team, on behalf of the Commission.

## Background

While the main responsibility for financing Natura 2000 lies with Member States, Article 8 of the Habitats Directive explicitly recognises the need for EU support for management of the sites, through co-financing by Community financial instruments. The Commission has provided guidance, an IT-tool, and training for Member States to support the use of this integration approach<sup>1</sup>. A summary of the current approach is given in the Commission brochure on 'Investing in Natura 2000 for nature and people'<sup>2</sup>.

The management and restoration of Natura 2000 sites is central to meeting the EU 2020 biodiversity targets. The Commission working paper of 12 December 2011 provides an overview of EU co-financing of Natura 2000 for the next multi-annual financial framework, underlines the benefits of effective management and explains how prioritised action frameworks (PAFs) can serve as strategic planning tools<sup>3</sup>.

Article 8 foresees the need to develop "prioritized action frameworks". Member States would need to establish national and/or regional Natura 2000 prioritised action frameworks (PAFs) for the next financing period, agreeing objectives and priorities, describing the measures to be financed, identifying the potential contributions of different funds and setting out the actions to be taken, as well as monitoring and evaluation. Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAFs) are therefore intended to be planning tools. To maximise their influence and uptake under the integration approach the action frameworks need to be established in advance of the finalisation of agreement of programmes for agriculture, fisheries and regional development for the next funding period.

Article 8 indicates that PAFs should be prepared at national level. However, Member States may decide to provide a more refined framework at regional level<sup>4</sup>

The Commission has prepared guidance on the preparation of Prioritised Action Frameworks using a template to be completed by Member States by December 2012. A summary of the expected contents of PAFs is given in **Appendix 1**. An outline of some of the costs which could be considered in PAFs is also provided as an annex to the guidance document (see **Appendix 2**).

## LIFE+ co-financing available to support the preparation of management and restoration programme projects

The 2011 LIFE+ application package introduced Natura 2000 management and restoration programme projects as a new theme (No 7) 'Projects aimed at developing national/regional management and restoration programmes for *Natura 2000* (*Natura 2000* management and restoration programme projects).

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> A summary of the current approach is given in the Commission brochure on 'Investing in Natura 2000 for nature and people' <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/brochures/investing%20in%20N2000%20brochure.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/financing\\_natura2000.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/financing_natura2000.pdf) Section 6.1, paragraph 2: Natura 2000 prioritised action frameworks are important planning tools to strengthen the integration of Natura 2000 financing into the use of relevant EU financial instruments. They will provide a clearer framework to set out priorities, describe the Natura 2000 activities to be financed and provide an integrated overview of how to achieve them. These action frameworks should therefore assist Member States who must prepare partnership contracts and operational programmes for the funds covered by the Common Strategic Framework and which must address environmental protection and climate aspects.

<sup>4</sup> Both the Italian PAF LIFE+ projects are at autonomous region level and the UK projects are at the level of devolved administration.

The 2011 LIFE+ application package also included a theme (No 3) 'Projects aimed at fulfilling the obligations deriving from Article 8 (1) and 8 (2) of the Habitats Directive (Article 8 projects)' <sup>5</sup>

In the 2012 guidance to LIFE+ Nature the management and restoration programme theme has been retained and further enhanced whilst the 'Article 8' theme has in effect been merged into this theme with revised guidance provided. The link between management and restoration programmes and PAFs has therefore been strengthened.

The 2011 application guidance (the basis for the current projects) gives information on the ***Natura 2000 management and restoration programme projects***.

These are described as "projects aimed at developing national/regional financing programmes for Natura 2000. It is expected that such programmes would be mostly set up by the authorities that are responsible for the management and restoration of the network (national and/or regional authorities). In exceptional cases, projects could also be prepared by NGOs, provided they are directly responsible to manage a significant number of sites. The development of such programmes may also be part of a larger project including classical conservation actions on one or more sites or species. A project for the development of a Natura 2000 management and restoration programme will only be considered if there is strong evidence that the programme will be at least partly implemented during or directly after the end of the LIFE+ project. For this purpose particular care should be given to the 'After LIFE' plan".

*Further elaboration given with the 2012 guidelines*

"The aim of the ***Natura 2000 management and restoration programme projects*** is to prepare, on the basis of the approach of the Priority Action Frameworks (PAFs), concrete and operational measures. It is expected that proposals under this heading would mostly be set up by the authorities that are responsible for the elaboration of the PAFs (national and/or regional authorities). Note that these programme projects shall bridge the gap between the preparation of the PAFs in 2012 and their future implementation, within the frame of the future LIFE programme for 2014-2020, through 'integrated projects' "

***The 2012 guidance therefore makes the clear connection between i) PAFs, ii) the management and restoration programmes and iii) the integrated projects.***

Additional information on the Natura 2000 management and restoration programme projects was provided in annex 4 of the 2011 LIFE+ guidelines.

"These projects aim at helping Member States, local authorities and NGOs to adopt and implement a programmatic approach to ensure the long term management and restoration of their part of the *Natura 2000* network. The management and restoration of *Natura 2000* mostly falls under the responsibility of national or regional/local authorities. In certain cases, NGOs also manage a large number of sites. The situation in terms of management capacity is very heterogeneous among Member States and within them. To address in a comprehensive and durable way the needs of *Natura 2000* at territorial level a more

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<sup>5</sup> Article 8 projects were aimed at fulfilling the obligations deriving from Article 8 (1) and 8 (2) of the Habitats Directive by identifying at national level the specific needs for EU co-financing to meet the obligations of Article 6(1) as well as identifying the co-financing measures essential to reach and maintain favourable conservation status of priority habitats and species, as well as estimating the total costs.

strategic approach at national/regional level is needed. This approach should take the format of national/regional financing plans and programmes with clear objectives, priorities and measures as well as an identification of the contribution from EU financial instruments and domestic financing (public and private). Such programmes would cover large portions of the network (e.g. all sites in a given region) and all elements necessary to generate a long-term capacity to manage all sites, to restore the sites, habitats and species to favourable status, as well as the features needed to guarantee the connectivity and the functionality of the network, thus covering aspects like green infrastructures and ecosystem services. The elements (of the LIFE 2011 guidelines for applicants) do not pre-empt the results of the discussions currently ongoing between Member States and the Commission on the possible future priority action framework (PAF) approach. Results from this call (2011) might be useful in the framework of that discussion.”

Annex 3 of the 2011 application guidance also gave an indicative list of the key elements expected in Natura 2000 management and restoration programmes.

**Table1: Indicative list of elements for National/Regional *Natura 2000* management and restoration programmes**

1. A general description of the nature conservation values of the territory concerned by the plan, and its contribution to the biodiversity of the EU
2. The specific legal, administrative and other provisions for the conservation of species, habitats and *Natura 2000* sites of the Birds and Habitats Directive in the territory
3. A list of all the *Natura 2000* sites present in the territory, and an assessment of their contribution to the conservation of species and habitats of EU concern (at regional, national and biogeographical levels)
4. Information on the results of the Article 17 conservation status assessment for the species and habitat types, with particular regard to priority species and habitat types, as well as conservation status assessments for Annex I and migratory birds subject to *Natura 2000* protection in the territory
5. Information on the main risks and threats to the habitats and species
6. Information on relevant governmental and non-governmental plans and other arrangements for the conservation and recovery of different habitat types and species
7. The strategic conservation objectives and priorities for the period 2014-2020
8. Sufficient detailed information on the measures to achieve the objectives and priorities including:
  - What, where and when: A description of the objectives, expected results and measures, sites concerned and corresponding time plan
  - How: A plan of financing for the measures including details on the estimated costs and the EU and domestic sources planned to be used
  - Who: The body or bodies that would be in charge of implementing the measures
  - The link with EU policy sectors other than that for the environment
9. The procedural provisions and co-operation between public authorities as well as between them and private bodies, technical and scientific institutions, and if applicable with other regions and trans-border or international co-operation, for the appraisal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of measures to be undertaken
10. An outlook for the financing of *Natura 2000* beyond this funding period (i.e. after 2020)

Additional information is given on the After-LIFE plan.

“The ‘After LIFE’ plan should be carefully prepared. LIFE+ co-financing will be released at the end of the project only if the Commission is reasonably reassured that *Natura 2000* management and restoration programme will be implemented before or shortly after the end of the project. In particular the proposal shall provide clear and exhaustive elements showing how the content of these programmes will subsequently be used to:

- Prepare future applications for domestic or EU support programmes (including LIFE+) to implement parts of them or their totality, and to;
- Contribute to the development of future national or regional programmes as part of the structural funds or rural development planning process.

In order to ensure they receive the widest and strongest possible support to guarantee their future implementation, the development of such financing plans and programmes should involve from the start all key stakeholders and in particular those in charge of the management and restoration of the *Natura 2000* network and those responsible for regional, agricultural, social and fishery policies.”

Additional guidance in annex 3 of the 2012 LIFE+ guidelines

“Even though Member States are expected to submit their initial PAFs by the end of 2012, it is already agreed that the PAFs may require regular updating later on, in light of improved knowledge about management and restoration needs as well as experience with the implementation of different funding mechanisms. These future updates are notably expected to bring the action frameworks closer to the operational level.

It is the Commission's opinion that the updating process of the PAFs should also be used as an opportunity for preparing ‘integrated projects’, to be implemented under the proposed future LIFE Regulation (2014-2020). An early preparation of these projects will be necessary to optimise take up and strengthen integration in different key sectors during the next programming period.

The new 'integrated projects' are to be implemented under the Biodiversity component of the future LIFE Regulation. Whilst clearly designed for delivering concrete conservation achievements within an area covering a significant part of a national or regional territory, their implementation should also, as a major output, strengthen the capacity for management of *Natura 2000* at this scale.

***The current LIFE+ PAF projects need to be aware of this updated guidance, including the future role of the LIFE Biodiversity strand for supporting integrated projects.***

## **Introduction to LIFE+ 2011 *Natura 2000* management and restoration programmes projects**

In 2011 eight projects addressing management and restoration programmes were approved for LIFE+ co-financing.

LIFE11 NAT/ES/000700	Elaboration of the Prioritized Action Framework for Natura 2000 in Spain
LIFE11 NAT/ES/000699	Natura 2000 management and monitoring programme for Mediterranean wetlands and rivers
LIFE11 NAT/UK/000384	Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites
LIFE11 NAT/UK/000385	Development of a programme for the management and restoration of Natura 2000 in Wales
LIFE11 NAT/LV/000371	National Conservation and Management Programme for Natura 2000 Sites in Latvia
LIFE11 NAT/IT/000044	Development of the strategy to manage the Natura 2000 network in the Lombardia Region
LIFE11 NAT/IT/000187	T.E.N. (Trentino Ecological Network): a focal point for a Pan-Alpine Ecological Network
LIFE11 NAT/SI/000880	Natura 2000 Management programme for Slovenia for the period 2014-2020

A summary of each project, based on the basic information in each application, is given in **Appendix 3**. A summary of the submitted projects assessed against the 10 elements for National/Regional *Natura 2000* management and restoration programmes in **Table 1** (above) is given overleaf in **Table 2**.

In general, each PAF project is taking a similar approach to assembling and sorting information, developing management guidelines (with testing in some projects) and preparing the PAF programmes as a basis for developing integrated projects.

Table 2 is not based on a full assessment of every action and so a question mark is used rather than 'No' at this stage. However, a report on how these elements are being addressed should be included in each Inception Report so that further analysis can be made.

If there are some gaps in the key elements being addressed these may be i) to what extent current progress and conservation status (Article 17 evaluation) is being used to underpin the work, ii) the assessment of risks and threats and iii) the outlook for financing beyond the next period 2014-2020. The coordination workshop will allow further discussion.

**Table 3** presents a quick evaluation of the drivers for the project submission and the link between the project activity and the development of integrated projects. Although this is only based on summary information (i.e. more information may be available in the text of the main applications) it shows that some projects are driven by the need to maximise the availability of funding whereas others (notably UK projects) adopt an evidence-based approach to identify the pressures and threats (the terminology as used in Article 17 reporting).

Table 3 also shows that whilst the projects are well founded in regional and/ or national nature conservation policy only some intend to go as far as developing integrated projects and only one (for England) plans to overlap the PAF project with delivery programmes. Almost all projects will provide the toolkit (information, guidance, priorities etc) for stakeholders to develop projects and several have demonstration actions to show how the programme could work. All are concerned with capacity building but not all appear to show the link between the tools and delivery. The scale of the future integrated projects is not evident from the project descriptions.

**Table 2: Comparison of elements of management and restoration programme projects against indicative list of the key elements expected in Natura 2000 management and restoration programmes.**

	LIFE11 NAT/ES/000700	LIFE11 NAT/ES/000699	LIFE11 NAT/UK/000384	LIFE11 NAT/UK/000385	LIFE11 NAT/LV/000371	LIFE11 NAT/IT/000044	LIFE11 NAT/IT/000187	LIFE11 NAT/SI/000880
Indicative list of key elements expected in Natura 2000 management and restoration programmes	Elaboration of the PAF for Natura 2000 in Spain	Natura 2000 management and monitoring programme for Mediterranean wetlands/ rivers	Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites	Development of a programme for the management and restoration of Natura 2000 in Wales	National Conservation and Management Programme for Natura 2000 Sites in Latvia	Development of the strategy to manage the Natura 2000 network in the Lombardy	T.E.N. (Trentino Ecological Network): a focal point for a Pan-Alpine Ecological Network	Natura 2000 Management programme for Slovenia for the period 2014-2020
Description of nature conservation values	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Legal, administrative and other provisions	Yes	?	?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Natura 2000</i> sites and assessment of conservation status	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Results of Article 17 conservation status assessments	?	?	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	?	Yes
Risks and threats to habitats and species	?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	?	?
Information on governmental and non-governmental plans etc.	?	?	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	Yes
Strategic conservation objectives for 2014-2020	Yes	?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Measures: objectives, expected results, sites, time plan, responsible bodies, financing / links to EU policy sectors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Co-operation between public authorities etc. Trans-border or international co-operation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	?
Outlook for financing <i>Natura 2000</i> beyond this period (i.e. after 2020)	?	?	?	Yes	?	?	?	?

**Table 3: Comparison of background situation, reasons for projects, expected outputs and development of integrated projects.**

	<b>Reason for integrated strategy</b>	<b>Existing national/regional approach</b>	<b>Expected output</b>	<b>Scale and funding of integrated projects</b>
LIFE11 NAT/ES/000700 Elaboration of the PAF for Natura 2000 in Spain	Improving the capacity for financing and managing the Natura 2000 network	Overall national coordination with regional responsibility	National PAF	Establishing priorities and setting out actions. Supported by demonstration actions.
LIFE11 NAT/ES/000699 Natura 2000 management and monitoring programme for Mediterranean wetlands/ rivers	Development of management programme for wetland sites	Linked to national and regional guidelines and WFD	Regional management programme and monitoring programme	Capacity building rather than the development of integrated projects
LIFE11 NAT/UK/000384 Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites	To identify gaps in evidence base and to address pressures and threats	No national programme in place at present	National Plan for England	Programme of projects to begin <u>delivery</u> during the LIFE project
LIFE11 NAT/UK/000385 Development of a programme for the management and restoration of Natura 2000 in Wales	To identify gaps in evidence base and to address pressures and threats	Welsh Government responsible for national programme.	National Plan for Wales. Natura 2000 management and restoration programme for Wales as part of PAF	Preparation for integrated projects with costed action plans for sites and themes.
LIFE11 NAT/LV/000371 National Conservation and Management Programme for Natura 2000 Sites in Latvia	Need to increase awareness and support for nature conservation	Management at national level	National Conservation and management Programme	Preparation for integrated projects. Guidelines for management to support project applications.
LIFE11 NAT/IT/000044 Development of the strategy to manage the Natura 2000 network in the Lombardy	To address pressures on environment and challenge of scarce public funding	Management at provincial level	Regional PAF and programme for the management of Natura 2000 sites	Capacity building and list of priority actions linked to ecosystem services and green jobs
LIFE11 NAT/IT/000187 T.E.N. (Trentino Ecological Network): a focal point for a Pan-Alpine Ecological Network	To devolve management to 'Reserve Networks'	Management at provincial level	Development of regional PAF	Demonstration projects to encourage additional projects
LIFE11 NAT/SI/000880 Natura 2000 Management programme for Slovenia for the period 2014-2020	Need for better use of EU funds	Existing Natura 2000 management programme 2007-2013	Development of National PAF	Preparation for integrated projects and list of project proposals including IT tool

## Issues for the LIFE+ PAF projects

Member States will submit their PAFs by the end of 2012. However, the current Article 17 evaluations will not be ready until 2013-2014 so there will probably be a need to review the PAFs in 2014 in light of new conservation status assessments. This timing fits in well with the LIFE+ PAF projects which begin in late 2012 and run for 2-5 years. Although the LIFE+ PAFs are different in scale and timetabling they all have to produce an Inception Report by the end of 2013. This gives an opportunity to compare the processes at an early stage and to develop links and exchanges. A second coordination workshop could be held in early 2014.

The following issues have been identified from the initial overview of the 2011 LIFE+ PAF projects. Some of these may be discussed at the first coordination meeting.

- Priority habitats: how are these being addressed?
- Development of integrated projects: how will the PAFs be used to identify and prioritise integrated projects? At what scale will integrated projects be developed?
- Target 1 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy: how will PAF projects report on progress towards this target?
- Optimising benefits of investing in Natura 2000: how will PAF LIFE+ projects develop the themes of ecosystem services, jobs and innovation?
- Birds Directive: how will PAFs and PAF LIFE+ projects address the requirements of the SPA network?
- Raising awareness of Natura 2000: how will PAF projects support wider dissemination of information about Natura 2000 and how might they link to LIFE+ INF projects on Natura 2000 and national initiatives?
- Networking: What links will projects develop between themselves, other similar projects and national PAF managers? Can the EC and the external monitoring teams help in this process?
- Dissemination: can the events planned as project actions explore some common themes? Would there be value in meeting again in early 2014 to share experience?
- Do Natura 2000 management and restoration programme projects address climate change?

### Priority habitats

The special nature of priority habitats and species in annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive has to be addressed in PAFs. The EU has particular responsibility for the conservation of priority habitats and species due to the proportion of their natural range which falls within the EU territory. Article 8 refers only to priority habitats and species, yet PAFs will cover all habitats and species, and species listed in the Birds Directive. Special measures to deal with priority habitats and species should be elaborated in PAFs and the LIFE+ projects.

### Integrated projects

EC guidance is that PAFs should provide the foundation for Member States preparation of 'integrated projects' for the management of Natura 2000 under the new LIFE programme (post 2014) combined with the application of relevant main EU funds under shared management. The LIFE+ projects will develop practical examples of these integrated projects, some using the LIFE+ PAF project to develop follow-on projects.

The LIFE+ projects should be able to assess appropriate scales for integrated projects with examples. The development of integrated projects could be a theme for a second coordination workshop.

## Target 1 of EU Biodiversity Strategy<sup>6</sup>

*Target 1: To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their status so that, by 2020, compared to current assessments: (i) 100% more habitat assessments and 50% more species assessments under the Habitats Directive show an improved conservation status; and (ii) 50% more species assessments under the Birds Directive show a secure or improved status.*

The LIFE+ PAF projects must keep this target central to their activity and compare the final project outputs against this target. Will the PAF approach help to meet the target?

Article 17 assessments are to be completed in 2013-14 and in 2019-2020. The PAFs must be able to respond to the results of the 2013-14 assessment by reviewing the priorities for conservation action. With PAFs linked to Article 17 assessments the processes are in place to develop coordinated action to address the most significant threats.

## Optimising the benefits of Natura 2000

The Commission is supporting the LIFE+ PAF projects to help test, develop and promote new and innovative private funding mechanisms for Natura 2000 over the next financial period<sup>7</sup>. All PAF projects must address aspects of innovation, particularly in funding packages using a range of sources as part of the integrated approach. Aspects of innovation should be shared and, through networking, some comparative studies and reviews could be produced.

Aspects on innovation could also be discussed at a second coordination workshop.

## Addressing the financing of SPAs and the needs of migratory birds

The monitoring and evaluation systems for the Birds Directive are not as advanced as those for the Habitats Directive (i.e. there is no equivalent of Article 17). Assessment methodologies are in development for publication by 2014. Therefore, further work on evaluating the funding requirements for SPAs is being developed during the LIFE+ PAF project period and should be incorporated in project methodology.

Some further guidance on how this should be included in the LIFE+ projects can be given at the workshop.

## Raising awareness of Natura 2000

All LIFE+ PAF projects have awareness raising activities for stakeholder and the general public. There are other 2011 LIFE+ projects funded through the LIFE-INF strand which also address these issues and there could be some liaison between these 'Natura 2000' projects to share ideas and experiences. Information projects on Natura 2000 include:

LIFE11 INF/PL/000478	NATURA mission
LIFE11 INF/RO/000819	Efficient Managers for Efficient Natura2000 Network
LIFE11 INF/ES/000683	Natura 2000: an opportunity for everyone
LIFE11 INF/ES/000665	Natura 2000: Connecting People with Biodiversity

<sup>6</sup> COM (2011) 540 final

<sup>7</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/financing\\_natura2000.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/financing_natura2000.pdf)

The links between PAF projects and national awareness raising activities on Natura 2000 could be explored. Several projects will develop communication plans and the experiences with these may support the general theme of communicating on Natura 2000. The experience from the LIFE+ INF projects might also give good practice ideas for national Natura 2000 programmes and integrated projects.

### Networking

Networking is a required part of all LIFE+ projects. One of the aims of the coordinating workshop is to identify networking opportunities between projects, within Member States (e.g. Italy, Spain, UK), within biogeographical regions, and with other projects, organisations etc.

In some cases (e.g. Trentino) the cross-border networking is a key element of the overall project to develop a Pan-Alpine Ecological Network across regions and Member States.

After all the Inception Reports have been delivered and evaluated it is proposed that a second coordinating workshop is held to support networking and to share experiences.

### Dissemination

Several LIFE+ PAF projects have dissemination events planned. It may be possible to share some costs between projects or to ensure that other projects are invited to events as appropriate. The national project in Latvia has plans in its early stages to travel to other countries or other projects to pick up good practice ideas.

Obviously the work being carried out through the LIFE+ PAF projects will be relevant and of interest to all Member States in the preparation and elaboration of PAFs. However, it might be confusing if all eight PAF projects communicated with Member States individually. How could a coordinated communication to Member States be arranged? Perhaps the Habitats Committee might play a role?

Some coordination could be offered through the Astrale external monitoring team to help projects disseminate information between projects.

### Climate change

In the project summary section of the application form (Form B1) a question is asked as to whether the project can be considered to be a climate change adaptation project. Four projects answered that the project did not directly concern climate change adaptation whilst the other four gave reasons such as addressing fragmentation and the need for connectivity (Trentino), mitigation of negative effects and enhancement of positive effects (Lombardy), environmentally friendly management methods reducing vulnerability of natural systems (Latvia) and supporting actions which will address the vulnerability of Natura 2000 sites to climate change effects (Wales).

Some further discussion on how PAFs might be used to address climate change issues (as given in e.g. Article 17 reports) would help to give some guidance on how to address the issues of mitigation and adaptation.

## **Appendix 1: Outline contents of PAFs to be prepared by Member States by December 2012 with comments on possible contributions from LIFE+ projects**

The main components of the PAF are:

### *A. Introductory overview of Natura 2000 network for territory*

Most of the information on habitat types of Annex I and species of Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Annex I and migratory species for which Natura 2000 sites are designated, the number and area of sites and the main land use cover and ecosystem categories for Natura 2000 sites should be well known and be provided as a baseline for the PAF.

***In terms of the PAFs it is important to identify the priority habitats and species which are important in the territory and the main ecosystem types within the Natura 2000 network.***

### *B. Status of habitats and species*

Information on the current status of habitats and species, overall assessments of habitat categories and species groups and information on pressures and threats will be largely derived from Habitats Directive Article 17 reports. This should be provided for each biogeographical region. For birds a variety of sources may need to be used.

***The third reporting round under Article 17 is currently underway for reporting in 2013-2014. The LIFE+ projects may be able to use up to date information as it becomes available to see how Article 17 reporting can be linked to the review of PAFs.***

### *C. Legal and administrative provisions for the protection and management of the Natura 2000 sites*

Information on regulatory, administrative and contractual approaches for the management of Natura 2000 sites is requested including information on management planning and habitat and species plans. The LIFE+ projects may be able to identify opportunities to improve existing arrangements or develop new arrangements to coordinate the delivery of biodiversity action.

***The LIFE+ projects address ways and means to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of action for biodiversity. All projects include actions for working with stakeholders and for developing action plans.***

### *D. Current experience with use of EU financial instruments*

Information is requested on the current experience (level of use) and lessons learnt with the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), European Fisheries Fund (EFF), Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, LIFE+ and other funding sources in relation to the Natura 2000 network.

***This analysis will support the LIFE+ PAF projects by presenting the current situation. The aim of the analysis is to get an overview of the significance/relative importance of different EU financial instruments for investments in Natura 2000. The experience of what works and what does not work may differ between Member States and this could be a focus of exchange of knowledge and case studies between the LIFE+ PAF projects.***

### *E Current estimate of financial needs for management of Natura 2000 for the territory*

Current estimates for the financing of the Natura 2000 network in each Member State were prepared by Member States in 2008 and this information will be elaborated in the PAFs.

***The LIFE+ PAF projects will be able to develop more reliable estimates of costs through the preparation of integrated programmes.***

#### *F Strategic conservation priorities for Natura 2000 for the territory for period 2014-2020*

Information is requested on strategic priorities for the period 2014-2020 to improve the conservation status of Natura 2000 habitat types and species. Particular attention should be given to priority habitat types and species. The strategy can take a wider ecosystem perspective.

The strategy will also need to incorporate benefits in terms of ecosystem services and socio-economic parameters. Information is requested under three headings:

*1. Summary of priorities for period (and expected outcomes) for priority habitat types and species having regard to need for measurable progress on nature sub-target under EU 2020 biodiversity strategy (Habitats and Birds Directives) and for ensuring good functioning of Natura 2000 network (SACs + SPAs)*

*2. Summary of priorities for period (and expected outcomes) for other habitat types and species having regard to need for measurable progress on nature sub-target under EU 2020 biodiversity strategy (Habitats and Birds Directives) and for ensuring good functioning of the Natura 2000 network (SACs + SPAs)*

*3. Strategic priorities in relation to investments in Natura 2000 linked to green tourism and jobs, to support climate change mitigation and adaptation or other ecosystem benefits, for research, education, training, awareness and promotion of co-operation (including cross-border) linked to Natura 2000 management*

Whilst the PAF must identify priority habitats and species it is also important for the Member States to identify the habitat types and species most in need of investment in relation to Natura 2000. Through the PAF there needs to be increased focus on the contribution of the Natura 2000 network to the attainment of Europe 2020 objectives and optimising the benefits provided by investing in Natura 2000 needs to be reflected in priority setting.

The PAFs should consider:

- Multiple ecosystem benefits that can be derived from investments in Natura 2000
- The potential links between investments in Natura 2000 and climate change mitigation and adaptation
- The link between Natura 2000 investments, tourism and jobs and opportunities for research and education
- The opportunities for cross-border cooperation linked to Natura 2000

***LIFE+ PAF projects will provide background information for the development of strategic conservation priorities. Elements of good practice should be shared between projects.***

#### *G. Description of key measures to achieve priorities*

Information is requested on categories and types of management activities which may be eligible for EU co-financing. The PAF guidance includes a list of 25 types of one-off and recurring activity (from site selection to infrastructure) which supports the establishment and development of the Natura 2000 network. For each major heading in the PAF form information is requested on:

- The type of activity
- Description of the measures
- Indication of target species/habitats/sites
- Indication of potential funding sources

The headings include general priority measures for i) agricultural and forest habitats, ii) marine and coastal habitats and iii) wetlands habitats and other priority measures for i) securing ecosystem benefits, ii) sustainable tourism and employment and iii) innovative approaches (especially involving private financing). A summary table will allow cross-checking between these categories.

***LIFE+ PAF projects will elaborate the descriptions of measures to achieve priorities for Natura 2000 sites linking existing information on the status of habitats and species (Article 17 reports etc), to pressures and threats (also through the Article 17 reports) to the development of priority measures to be described in the PAF.***

#### *H. Monitoring, evaluation and updating of PAFs*

The Article 17 evaluation system of the Habitats Directive is the key mechanism for reporting on conservation status: reporting is foreseen for 2013/2014 and 2020/2021. A system for reporting on the Birds Directive is under development. These systems will also provide the basis for evaluating progress in meeting the 2020 nature target of the EU biodiversity strategy.

Article 8 of the Habitats Directive foresees a two-year review of the action framework and there will be a need for updating PAFs in light of improved knowledge (e.g. as result of LIFE+ projects or the outcome of biogeographical seminars on Natura 2000) and also by developments in EU programmes (e.g. CAP, CFP). Progress in implementation of the PAFs will also be considered in the context of reviews of the EU Biodiversity strategy.

## Appendix 2: Natura 2000 management Activities which may be eligible for EU co-financing (from PAF guidance document)

Categorisation	No.	Types of Activities	Further description
<b>Establishment of Natura 2000 sites</b>	<b>1</b>	Administration of the site selection process	Funding for authorities carrying out the selection process.
	<b>2</b>	Scientific studies/inventories for the identification of sites – surveys, inventories, mapping, condition assessment	Scientific studies, research personnel, workshops and meetings, creation of databases etc.
	<b>3</b>	Preparation of initial information and publicity material	Including handbooks, seminars, workshops, communication materials for training and capacity building.
	<b>4</b>	Pilot projects	Initial 'trial' projects at sites.
<b>Management planning</b>	<b>5</b>	Preparation of management plans, strategies and schemes (including scientific studies and investigations needed for planning and implementation based on solid knowledge)	Elaboration and/or update of management and action plans, land use plans etc.
	<b>6</b>	Establishment of management bodies	Start-up funding, feasibility studies, management plans etc.
	<b>7</b>	Consultation – public meetings, liaison with landowners	Including costs incurred for the organization of meetings and workshops, publication of consultation outcomes, financial support of stakeholders, etc. Can include networking activities (travel, meetings and workshops).
	<b>8</b>	Review of management plans, strategies and schemes	Review and updating of management plans and strategies.
	<b>9</b>	Running costs of management bodies (maintenance of buildings and equipment)	Including: running costs incurred to meet depreciation of infrastructure, consumables, travel expenses, rents and leases etc.
	<b>10</b>	Maintenance of facilities for public access and use of the sites, interpretation, observatories and kiosks etc.	Including costs related to guides, maps, related personnel.
	<b>11</b>	Staff (conservation/project officers, wardens/rangers, workers)	Ongoing staff costs.
<b>Ongoing habitat management and monitoring</b>	<b>12</b>	Conservation management measures – maintenance and improvement of habitats' favourable conservation status	Including restoration work, provision of wildlife passages, management of specific habitats, and preparation of management plans.
	<b>13</b>	Conservation management measures – maintenance and improvement of species' favourable conservation status	Including restoration work, provision of wildlife passages, management of specific species (flora and fauna) and plans.
	<b>14</b>	Conservation management measures in relation to invasive alien species (IAS)	Including restoration work, infrastructure, management of specific species, and preparation of management plans.

<b>Categorisation</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Types of Activities</b>	<b>Further description</b>
	<b>15</b>	Implementation of management schemes and agreements with owners and managers of land or water to follow particular prescriptions.	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agri-environmental measures</i>, e.g. wildlife-friendly production methods, habitat restoration on agricultural land, extensive livestock breeding, conservation of meadows, etc</li> <li>• <i>Forest-environmental measures</i>, e.g. creation of exploitation-free zones, retention of dead wood, control or eradication of invasive alien species, afforestation or reforestation activities, management of specific vegetation, etc.</li> <li>• <i>Aqua-environmental measures</i>, e.g. habitat maintenance in aquaculture zones etc. (relates to aquaculture rather than fishing).</li> </ul>
	<b>16</b>	Provision of services: compensation for rights foregone and loss of income and developing acceptability 'liaison' with neighbours	Costs of compensation, e.g. to farmers, foresters or other land owners or users for income forgone as a result of management prescriptions needed for Natura 2000.
	<b>17</b>	Monitoring and surveying	Refers mainly to one-off costs related to monitoring and surveying activities, e.g. development of monitoring plans, methods and equipment and training of personnel.
	<b>18</b>	Risk management (fire prevention and control, flooding etc)	Includes the preparation of wardening and fire-control plans, development of relevant infrastructure, and equipment purchase.
	<b>19</b>	Site surveillance	Includes on-going surveillance, wardening and patrolling activities. Can include personnel costs, consumables, travel, etc in order to implement surveillance and guarding activities, including surveillance to control harmful recreational or economic activities and protect against wildfires.
	<b>20</b>	Provision of information and publicity material	Includes establishing communication networks, producing newsletters and awareness-raising and information materials, setting-up and maintaining internet pages, etc.
	<b>21</b>	Training and education	Including production of handbooks, seminars, workshops and communication materials.
	<b>22</b>	Facilities to encourage visitor use and appreciation of Natura 2000 sites	
<b>Investment costs</b>	<b>23</b>	Land purchase, including compensation for development rights	Land purchase to achieve environmental protection and management schemes.

Categorisation	No.	Types of Activities	Further description
	24	Infrastructure needed for habitat or species restoration	<p>Includes an array of measures for the creation of specific infrastructure for the management of the environment, e.g. for water management in peat bogs and mines.</p> <p>Can include equipment acquisition (for equipment relevant to the running of protection and management institutions such as office and IT equipment, monitoring materials, boats, diving equipment, cameras, etc.)</p>
	25	Infrastructure for public access, interpretation, observatories and kiosks, etc	<p>Infrastructure for public use that is conducive to environmental protection and management (e.g. infrastructure to increase the amenity value of sites such as signage, trails, observation platforms and visitor centres).</p> <p>Can include equipment acquisition (for equipment relevant to the running of protection and management institutions such as office and IT equipment, monitoring materials, boats, diving equipment, cameras, etc.)</p>

## Appendix 3: Summary of PAF LIFE+ projects 2011

Project	LIFE+11NAT/IT/000187
Title	T.E.N. (Trentino Ecological Network): a focal point for a Pan-Alpine Ecological Framework
Acronym	T.E.N.
Country/Region	Italy: Trentino-Alto Adige
Dates	01/07/12-31/12/16 (42 months)
Coordinating beneficiary	Autonomous Province of Trento
Associated beneficiaries	None
Budget	1,818,741€ (EC 907,006€ =49.87%)
Contact	Claudio Ferrari <a href="mailto:claudio.ferrari@provincia.tn.it">claudio.ferrari@provincia.tn.it</a>

### Objectives

The overall objective is to plan a long-term Natura 2000 management and restoration programme for the Province of Trento. The project proposes to implement a new management model at regional level to deal with the management of the Natura 2000 network in a long-term and complete manner, based on three key concepts: **responsible subsidiarity, participation and integration**.

The approach is based on a '**multipurpose**' **ecological network** at provincial level divided into 'Reserve Networks'. **Reserve Networks** are legally established (provincial law 11/07) as a means to enhance biodiversity through decentralised management involving local communities. Under overall guidance of the Province the Reserve Networks will draw up **integrated management systems** within which conservation policy will interact with agriculture and tourism, thus supporting socioeconomic use of sites based on the ecosystem services of Natura 2000.

Local participation, involving all sectors, will lead to the development of detailed **local action programmes** aimed at safeguarding semi-natural habitats and ensuring the ecological connection and function of the network, with particular attention to habitats and species in Natura 2000 sites. A series of **guidelines** will be drawn up to plan action, with support from of a series of demonstration projects. By **quantifying the costs** and identifying financial instruments for (co-)funding a **Prioritized Action Framework** will be developed at regional level. Round tables with neighbouring regional authorities will be used to develop **inter-regional projects** which can be funded using specific financial instruments.

### Main actions and expected results

- **Assembling data** on Natura 2000 species and habitats to create a **database** which can be used to define conservation priorities and to identify the areas of connection and fragmentation in the provincial ecological network
- Drawing up **guidelines** for reserve network **management plans**, for **monitoring**, for **habitat management** (with a focus on wet woodlands and rivers) and **action plans** for "central" Trentino species (birds and amphibians)
- Identification of areas to form six **Reserve Networks**, preparation of intervention programmes for nine homogeneous environments and quantification of long-term management costs
- Carrying out 12 **demonstration projects for priority species and habitats** and to combat invasive species
- Establishing a formal **working group** with agricultural and tourist sectors to define strategies and common measures and to define measures for the new rural development plan.
- Co-operation with neighbouring regions to contribute to the creation of a **Pan-Alpine Ecological Network**

Project	LIFE+11NAT/ES/699
Title	Natura 2000 management and monitoring programme for Mediterranean wetlands and rivers
Acronym	MedWet Rivers
Country/ Region	Spain: Castilla-León
Dates	01/09/12-01/05/17 (56 months)
Coordinating beneficiary	Sociedad Pública de Medio Ambiente de Castilla y León S.A.
Associated beneficiaries	Confederación Hidrográfica del Duero Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Medio Rural y Marino
Budget	2,744,394€ (1,284,376€ =46.8%)
Contact	Teresa Gil <a href="mailto:teresa.gil@somacyl.es">teresa.gil@somacyl.es</a>

### *Objectives*

The aim is to guarantee maintenance or restoration of water dependent habitats and species in the Mediterranean biogeographical region, as well improving the coherence of the Natura 2000 network by establishing a **Management Programme** for River and Wetland Natura 2000 sites and an associated **Monitoring Programme** for species and habitats. The involvement of stakeholders in the planning process will support the development of these programmes

The project will contribute to the integration of the Natura 2000 network with other sectors (including sectoral environmental legislation) especially the integration of the **Water Framework Directive** and the Habitats and Birds Directives at regional level.

The project aims to improve the social perception of the Natura 2000 network which should encourage the involvement of citizens in maintaining and improving the value of sites.

Although the project is limited to the Castilla y León region of Spain, it will provide a management and monitoring model for other Spanish regions and other Member States in the Mediterranean biogeographical region.

### *Main actions and expected results*

- Preparation a **management programme of river and wetland Natura 2000 sites** in Castilla y León and a **monitoring programme** for inland water dependent habitats and species of Community interest in the Mediterranean biogeographical region with agreed management measures
- Similar programmes will be developed by other Member States and Regional Governments of Spain
- Inclusion of invasive species and threats in National Catalogue of Invasive Alien Species and National Catalogue of Threatened Habitats
- Proposal for legal protection of rivers with high natural values outside the Natura 2000 network
- Supporting an **exchange of experience** to help establish and strengthen **networks** related to Natura 2000 management and monitoring.
- Key stakeholder engagement through a **participation plan**
- Engagement of sectors, including water, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, energy, urban planning, tourism, etc., in the participation processes, **training activities** and exchange of experience.
- Actions to improve the **social perception** of the Natura 2000 network coordinated through a **Communication Plan** and communication and awareness activities including software tools to provide public access to mapping information, species and habitats of Community interest databases, and Natura 2000 sites.
- **Dissemination** of project results in technical, scientific and other publications.

Project	LIFE+11NAT/SI/880
Title	Natura 2000 management programme for Slovenia for the period 2014-2020
Acronym	SI Natura2000 Management
Country/ Region	Slovenia (all regions)
Dates	20/08/12 -30/03/15 (30 months)
Coordinating beneficiary	Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment
Associated beneficiaries	Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation Slovenian Forest Service Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia
Budget	1,706,914 € (853,457€ =50%)
Contacts	Mladen Berginc <a href="mailto:mladen.berginc@gov.si">mladen.berginc@gov.si</a> ; Julijana Lebez-Lozej <a href="mailto:julijana.lebez-lozej@gov.si">julijana.lebez-lozej@gov.si</a> ; Andrej Bibic <a href="mailto:andrej.bibic@gov.si">andrej.bibic@gov.si</a>

### Objectives

The objective is to prepare the **Natura 2000 Management Programme for Slovenia** for the period 2014-2020, to be adopted by Government for the next multiannual financial framework. Further objectives are to:

- integrate measures/solutions from the Natura 2000 Management programme into **operational programmes** for drawing down EU funds (agricultural, structural and cohesion, fisheries, LIFE+);
- finalise and update the **Prioritised Action Framework**;
- assess the achievement of the Natura 2000 Management Programme 2007-2013;
- communicate measures for Natura 2000 to different stakeholders and target groups, raise their awareness and increase awareness of the general public on the importance of Natura 2000;
- identify opportunities of Natura 2000 sites for local /regional development, jobs and economic growth;
- adopt an act (the **Natura 2000 Management Programme**) harmonized with all competent sectors to properly manage the Natura 2000 sites in the country in the period 2014-2020;
- through direct involvement of main stakeholders to contribute to understanding that Natura 2000 is also a good opportunity for sustainable development.

### Main actions and expected results

- Preparatory actions include i) an analysis of the Natura 2000 Management Programme 2007 – 2013 to prepare recommendations for the follow on programme ii) an overview of the use of funds for Natura 2000 with recommendations on the better use of funds in the next programming period. The **PAF for Slovenia will be updated** on the basis of the preparatory actions.
- Conservation actions include i) preparation of **guidelines for financing** measures to achieve detailed conservation objectives, ii) preparation of the objectives and measures for a draft Natura 2000 Management Programme, and iii) preparation of the financing and development part of the draft Natura 2000 Management Programme .
- The draft Natura 2000 Management Programme 2014-20 will be open to **consultation** with major stakeholders. The draft Programme is subject to intergovernmental consultation. Consultation concludes with adoption of the programme by Government.
- Measures will be integrated in national strategic plans and development programmes for drawing EU funds from 2014-20. This will include consultations with ministries responsible for these programmes including the revision of specific Natura 2000 **agri-environment measures**.
- After adoption information workshops will be held for key stakeholders and public servants responsible for implementation of measures from the programme.
- A webpage will be created, also used for an **IT tool** to guide potential project applicants through the process of preparation and approval of the projects.
- A **communication campaign** promoting Natura 2000 and its management will be developed

Project	LIFE+11NAT/IT/044
Title	Development of the strategy to manage the Natura 2000 network in the Lombardia Region
Acronym	GESTIRE
Country/ Region	Italy: Lombardy
Dates	01/10/12- 30/09/15 (36 months)
Coordinating beneficiary	Regione Lombardia
Associated beneficiaries	Ente Regionale per I Servizi all'Agricoltura e alle Foreste Fondazione Lombardia per l'ambiente Centro Turistico Studentesco e Giovanile Comunità Ambiente Srl LIPU Lea Italiana Protezione Uccelli onlus
Budget	3,259,700€ (1,626,916€ = 49.91%)
Contact	Antonio Tagliaferri <a href="mailto:antonio_tagliaferri@regione.lombardia.it">antonio_tagliaferri@regione.lombardia.it</a>

### *Objectives*

The objective of the project is to produce a plan for the Lombardy Region to restore and manage sites, habitats and species, taking into account sources of EU, national and regional funding, and establishing a list of priority actions to be carried out in the next decade. The two main outputs are i) the **Programme for the management of Natura 2000 sites** and ii) the **Prioritised Action Framework** for the regional Natura 2000 network (Lombardy will be one of the first regions in Italy to produce a Prioritised Action Framework). The project will produce a realistic overview of the value of the Natura 2000 network in Lombardy not only from a nature conservation point of view and in terms of ecosystem services but also from a socio-economic perspective.

### *Main actions and expected results*

The project has the following main actions:

- creation of an **integrated Natura 2000 group**, including members of different regional directorates (i.e. agriculture, tourism, transport etc), scientific experts, representatives of stakeholder groups, NGOs;
- collation and analysis of documents in relation to managing Natura 2000 sites in Lombardy;
- production of an estimate of the **socio-economic value of the Natura 2000 network**;
- analysis of **green jobs connected to Natura 2000** and identification of a proposal to create new incentives;
- production of **management measures for Natura 2000 sites** and measures needed to connect the regional sites;
- development of a **financial plan** for the management of the Natura 2000 network 2014 -2020
- identification of **guidelines for conservation actions** by citizens and businesses
- production of a **programme document** for the management of the Natura 2000 network;
- development of the regional **Priority Action Framework**;
- a **scientific monitoring plan**;
- a strategic **communication plan** on how to contribute to the conservation of Natura 2000.

The **programme document** will include the following elements:

- a list of Natura 2000 sites in the area,
- information on the results of the evaluation of conservation status under Article 17
- information on risks and threats to key habitats and species
- a general description of nature conservation values and ecosystem services
- information about plans and other initiatives
- strategic objectives for the conservation of habitats and species for the period 2014-2020.

Project	LIFE+11NAT/LV/371
Title	National Conservation and Management Programme for Natura 2000 Sites in Latvia
Acronym	NAT-PROGRAMME
Country/ Region	Latvia: all regions
Dates	01/09/12 – 28/02/17 (53 months)
Coordinating beneficiary	Nature Conservation Agency
Associated beneficiaries	None
Budget	1,609,700€ (804,850€ =50%)
Contacts	Juris Jatnieks <a href="mailto:Juris.Jatnieks@daba.gov.lv">Juris.Jatnieks@daba.gov.lv</a> ; Erika Klavina <a href="mailto:Erika.Klavina@daba.gov.lv">Erika.Klavina@daba.gov.lv</a>

### *Objectives*

1. To develop a **National Conservation and Management Programme for Natura 2000 sites in Latvia** to adopt and implement a programmatic approach to the long term conservation and management the Natura 2000 network.
2. To promote effective and harmonized management for habitats by elaborating comprehensive, tested, up-to-date common **Guidelines** for all habitat types and species.
3. To increase awareness of public authorities, nature conservation experts, NGOs, municipalities, local entrepreneurs, land owners and other stakeholders on appropriate nature conservation and management measures and financial resources for Natura 2000 sites and promote involvement in nature management implementation.

### *Main actions and expected results*

- Preparatory actions will provide an assessment of the effectiveness of management measures in Natura 2000 sites. Visits will be organized to other Member States to gain experience on the elaboration and implementation of management plans, guidelines, programmes and other relevant materials as well as methods, practices and results of habitat management for Natura 2000 sites.
- Information gathered will be used for the elaboration of **Guidelines for habitat management** and the **National Conservation and Management Programme for Natura 2000 Sites** in Latvia. Guidelines for management of coastal areas, freshwater habitats, grasslands, bogs and forests, rocky habitats and caves will be published. The National Conservation and Management Programme for Natura 2000 sites in Latvia will be promoted through **workshops, meetings** and **discussions** with state institutions, municipalities, NGOs and other stakeholders and to other countries.
- Habitat mapping and recommendations for support measures will be developed to inform the next **Rural Development Programme**.
- **Public awareness and dissemination activities** will help promote the Guidelines for habitat management and the National Conservation and Management Programme. **Training courses** will be held for responsible authorities, NGOs, nature experts and other nature conservationists on nature conservation planning and management issues.

Project	LIFE+11NAT/ES/700
Title	Elaboration of the Prioritized Action Framework for Natura 2000 in Spain
Acronym	PAF NATURA 2000SPAIN
Country/ Region	Spain: all regions
Dates	01/06/12-31/05/14 (24 months)
Coordinating beneficiary	Fundación Biodiversidad
Associated beneficiaries	None
Budget	551,750€ (275,874€ = 50%)
Contact	M G Perez <a href="mailto:MG Perez@mma.es">MG Perez@mma.es</a>

### *Objectives*

The project aims at improving the capacity for financing and managing the **Natura 2000 Network in Spain** through the preparation and implementation of a **Prioritized Action Framework**. The project will i) establish **priorities in relation to Natura 2000 management**, identifying the potential role of EU funds to the national Natura 2000 network and setting out the prioritised actions to be taken, including monitoring and evaluation measures, and ii) demonstrate how to implement prioritized actions through the design of a selected set of measures involving the use of different financial instruments.

### *Main actions and expected results*

- Setting up an ad-hoc group for the elaboration of the PAF with representatives of the regional authorities responsible for the management of the Natura 200 Network in Spain and chaired by the Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs.
- Setting up a **consultative group** with representatives of public administrations responsible for the management of EU funds (EAFRD, RDF, FP7, etc.).
- Setting **strategic conservation objectives** and priorities for Natura 2000 for 2014-2020.
- Identifying the **prioritised actions** to be taken in the Natura 2000 Network and the financing needs for the next Financial Perspective, and setting out a **strategic multi-annual approach**.
- Description of **key measures** to achieve the strategic objectives and priorities.
- Identification of other financial instruments, including **innovative financial mechanisms** and preparation of a system for the use of such mechanisms in the Natura 2000 Network
- Selection, design and planning of 5-7 **priority pilot actions** with high **demonstration** value, involving the use of different financial instruments.
- Preparation of the national **Prioritized Action Framework** for financing Natura 2000 in Spain, dissemination to all relevant authorities and stakeholders, and submission to the European Commission

Project	LIFE+11NAT/UK/385
Title	Development of a programme for the management and restoration of Natura 2000 in Wales
Acronym	N2K Wales
Country/ Region	UK: Wales
Dates	01/09/12-31/12/14 (28 months)
Coordinating beneficiary	Countryside Council for Wales
Associated beneficiaries	None
Budget	1,330,276€ (665,138€ =50%)
Contact	Kathryn Hewitt <a href="mailto:k.hewitt@ccw.gov.uk">k.hewitt@ccw.gov.uk</a>

### *Objectives*

The purpose is to develop a programme for Natura 2000 in Wales that will:

- address all of Wales' Natura 2000 sites (terrestrial and marine) and be a strategic, costed framework, focusing on Natura 2000 sites, for making progress towards the achievement of favourable conservation status of habitat types and species
- have a high level of sign-up from relevant stakeholders in the public, private and voluntary sectors
- include a '**Natura 2000 Management and Restoration Programme for Wales**' which provides a platform for seeking funding for Natura 2000 related projects from all potential sources
- establish **conservation management priorities** for the period 2014 to 2020, and provide signposting for prioritising actions thereafter;
- include **financing plans for site management** and non-site based mechanisms, based on assessment of the opportunities provided by the range of financial instruments;
- provide the basis for review and elaboration of a **Prioritised Action Framework** for Wales;
- identify key **gaps in the evidence base** for managing Natura 2000 and identify projects to address these.

### *Main actions and expected results*

- A matrix or **database** identifying the key threats and conservation issues at site level and wider environment level.
- An account of current mechanisms, and assessment of effectiveness, to address the issues and risks to Natura 2000
- An inventory of proposed new **mechanisms**, or enhancements to existing mechanisms, necessary to address weaknesses, identifying priorities for development.
- For each mechanism, or mechanism type, identification and appraisal of **potential funding sources**.
- Development of **costed action plans** at appropriate scales for achieving site conservation objectives and maintaining or improving the conservation status of habitats and species.
- A **Natura 2000 Management and Restoration Programme for Wales** including an appropriate all Wales steering/governance structure to oversee its implementation
- An account of the design, conduct and results of the project identifying lessons learnt and best practice in the development of a programmatic approach to Natura 2000 which will be of benefit to other regions of the EU considering a similar approach.
- Identify evidence gaps and undertake the necessary work to fill those gaps in the project, or include such work in the action plans.
- Implement a **communication and advocacy plan** for the project
- Scope, specify and **develop a means of holding data** which can update a Natura 2000 programme and enable flexibility in forecasting and planning scenarios.
- Develop and implement a **publicity strategy**

Project	LIFE+11NAT/UK/384
Title	Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites
Acronym	IPENS
Country/ Region	UK: all regions in England (8 in total)
Dates	01/07/12 -30/06/15 (36 months)
Coordinating beneficiary	Natural England
Associated beneficiaries	The Environment Agency of England
Budget	3,575,345€ (1,787,672€ =50%)
Contacts	Helen Rae <a href="mailto:helen.rae@naturalengland.org.uk">helen.rae@naturalengland.org.uk</a>

### *Objective*

The project will develop a programmed approach to achieving target conservation status on all Natura 2000 sites in England, working with key stakeholders to help them adopt and implement this strategic approach.

The programme structure will contain i) an overview of the Natura 2000 network in England, analysing the risks and threats to each site, ii) **financing plans** for sites and surrounding **green infrastructure** and iii) a **programme of projects** that will begin implementation during and after the LIFE+ project.

The project will identify **evidence gaps** about issues and risks affecting Natura 2000 sites and the mechanisms to tackle them and will fill these gaps or build it into action plans for sites, features or themes.

The After LIFE plan will outline how the Natura 2000 programme will be taken forward and will establish a stakeholder steering group to oversee and monitor progress.

### *Main actions and expected results*

- The overall **Programme Plan** will be developed to show how individual action plans will be implemented and operate as a whole programme including i) site by site assessment of risks and issues; ii) analysis of the available mechanisms to tackle those risks, iii) identification of evidence gaps, iv) information about funding options, v) stakeholders who will need to contribute and vi) a time line.
- Development of a practical 'mechanism directory' including delivery and funding options and actions required to address evidence gaps
- **Funding options** will be reviewed and developed for site implementation, feature implementation, theme implementation and marine implementation
- **Action plans** will be produced for sites and themes and, where relevant, will be integrated into **River Basin Management Plans**
- Dissemination of results through **Communications Plan** which will document the process and lessons learnt in the project including sharing best practice with UK and EU stakeholders.
- Consultation and confirmation of mechanisms, including 'After LIFE' plan, with delivery partners
- **Networking** with other Life and/or non-Life projects
- A launch workshop to outline the project and seek feedback to be built in to project delivery
- A final workshop to disseminate the results of the programme, lessons learned and best practice
- An After LIFE plan with delivery partners to implement the programme
- Networking with other projects especially LIFE+ projects.
- Cross border networking in the UK to share project methodologies