

LIFE Project Number LIFE14 NAT/IT/000209

Progress Report¹ Covering the project activities from 01/01/2016² to 31/05/2017

Reporting Date³

LIFE PROJECT Acronym **EREMITA**

Data Project

Data Hoject					
Project location: Emilia Romagna, Italy					
Project start date: 01/01/2016					
Project end date: 31/12//2020 Extension date: -					
Total budget:	€ 2,126,987				
EU contribution:	€1,268,863				
(%) of eligible costs: 59.66%					
Data Beneficiary					
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¹ Progress Report without any payment request (for Progress Reports with payment request, use the Mid-term Report template)

² Project start date in the case of the first Progress Report, otherwise date since the last reporting period

³ Include the reporting date as foreseen in part C2 of Annex II of the Grant Agreement

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1 List of key-words and abbreviations

CB: Coordinating Beneficiary AB: Associated Beneficiary RER: Emilia-Romagna Region

MAR: Romagna Parks and Biodiversity Management Agency MEOR: Easter Emilia Parks and Biodiversity Management Agency MEOC: Western Emilia Parks and Biodiversity Management Agency MEC: Central Emilia Parks and Biodiversity Management Agency

PNATE: Tuscany-Emilia Apennines National Park Agency

PNFC: Casentino, Monte Falterona and Campigna forest National Park

2 Executive summary

The project aims to improve the conservation status, in the Region of Emilia –Romagna, for the remaining populations of two species of saproxylic insects (*Osmoderma eremita* and *Rosalia alpina*), classified as species of prior interest, and two species of lentic and lotic waters (*Graphoderus bilineatus* and *Coenagrion mercuriale castellanii*), acting on threats of anthropogenic origin.

- 1. habitat reduction (habitat trees, micro-habitat of lentic and lotic waters);
- 2. excessive isolation of sub-populations with consequent formations of relict and residual populations;
- 3. local extinction of residual populations.

The overall objective will be achieved through the implementation of concrete actions and integrated on a regional basis (some actions will be experimental because never attempted before in Italy) that also act on the socio-economic context of the project, since the first origin of to the identified threats is essentially human behavior. It is therefore expected to carry out coordinated and integrated actions that have the following specific objectives:

- 1. Increase knowledge about presence/absence, distribution and abundance of residual subpopulations for the target species in the project area
- 2. Increase habitat availability for residual populations and improvement of their connectivity
- 3. Elaboration of a long-term management strategy (management plan and specific conservation measures)
- 4. Ex-novo creation of a specific habitat regional network, suitable for the target species;
- 5. Promote adequate behaviour among interest groups, compatible with conservation needs;
- 6. Spread and develope solutions for the active involvement of farmers, managers and forest's users inside Natura 2000 sites and, more in general, stakeholders.

To achieve these objectives these actions and means involved:

- 1. Survey and in-depth analisis of the current knowledge (ex-ante monitoring) about target species.
- 2. Creation of habitat-trees for Osmoderma eremita and micro forest habitat for Rosalia alpina.
- 3. Restoration of micro habitat with lentic waters for Graphoderus bilineatus.
- 4. Creation/restoration of micro-habitat with lotic waters for Coenagrion mercuriale castellanii.
- 5. In-situ breeding of Osmoderma eremita, Rosalia alpina and Coenagrion mercuriale castellanii.
- 6. Captive breeding of Osmoderma eremita and Graphoderus bilineatus.
- 7. Restocking of Osmoderma eremita and Graphoderus bilineatus, translocation of Coenagrion mercuriale castellanii individuals.
- 8. Drafting of management plan and conservation measures for the long term conservation of target species
- 9. Awareness campaigns.
- 10. App development
- 11. Formative activities for the project's staff and personnel working in the managing insitutions responsible of Natura 2000 sites.
- 12. Education, awareness and active involvement of stakeholders and, mainly, forestry cooperative companies/enterprises.
- 13. Volunteers involvement (citizens, students and volunteer guards).

3 General progress

3.3 Assessment as to whether the project objectives and work plan are still viable

All preparatory actions begun, Action A1 achieved the expected results, deliverables and milestones, the conclusion is expected by December 2017 only for the completion of the authorizations. Monitoring Actions A2, A3, A4 are still on course only for improvement and they are expected to be completed by September 2017, at the end of a second additional monitoring campaign. Action A5 regularly on course accordingly to the timetable. Action A6 is completed and expected results and deliverable have been achieved. Action A7 has been postponed consequently of the additional monitoring activities, the conclusion is expected by November 2017.

The period foreseen the start of 5 out of 8 concrete conservation actions, Actions C1, C2, C4 will start by the end of the year since are consecutive to action A7, anyhow for Action C1 some experimental activities started in order to guarantee the correct implementation of the action. C3 started with the preparation of substrate to use in "wood mould box" (WMB), 150 WMB have been purchased. C5 has not started as foreseen by the timetable. C6 started but the deliverable are not yet reached since monitoring action have been increased of an additional monitoring period, the delay for the deliverable do not have consequences on other actions. The C6 web technologies and integrated system are foreseen by the early months of 2018. Action C7 is on course and regularly implemented. Action C8 has not started as foreseen by the timetable.

For the period of the six monitoring D actions only D1 was due, but not yet started since Action C4 is not finished. Other monitoring actions are foreseen to start according the timetable.

Five out of eight dissemination actions, E1, E2, E4, E7, E8, are started as foreseen by the timetable. The website, Action E1 was visible since May 2016 at the following URL: http://ambiente.regione.emilia-romagna.it/life-eremita and it is regularly updated Action E2 is on course, the first two deliverables are available, the third is on course, foreseen by September 2017 and last deliverable is due next year. Action E3 Layman's report is due by the project's end. Action E4, the project logo, was created by the technical staff of the CB in April 2016, the notice board will be installed in the site where the conservation action will take place accordingly the Conservation Action Plan set in Action A7. Action E5 and E6 are not due for the period. For Action E7 the planning and scheduling stage of the first awareness campaign, the Eremita tour, has begun. The technical group has agreed to carry out the campaign alongside the Giornata dell'Eremita volontari per il LIFE (Eremita Day - volunteers for LIFE, Action A5) in September 2017 in Bologna. RER is handling the administrative paperwork to obtain the necessary permits to hold the event and for the use of the inflatable modular structure. The EREMITA project press office was opened in March 2016 Action E8. As an additional activity, with respect to that established in the project: application form, Facebook page has been created for the https://www.facebook.com/liferemita/. The page is managed by the Communications Coordinator. The Comunication plan (deliverable) was approved at the Technical Workgroup in December 2016. The Project management, F1, and monitoring of project progress, F2, are both on course, one technical and one administrative table where set. Networking, Action F3, started and several groups where contacted.

3.4 Identified deviations, problems and corrective actions taken in the period

The project is initiated regularly with the participation of all beneficiaries. The Actions A2 A3 and A4 (monitoring activities), for improvement reasons, have been extended for a second monitoring campaign in 2017. Therefore the project has a delay in the conclusion of some of the preparatory actions that will results in a slip of corresponding concrete conservation actions.

Considering the postponed start of the field activities in the 2016, the vast monitoring area, the large number of entomologists in the field to be trained and the experimental nature of the monitoring protocols, it was deemed appropriate to carry out a further monitoring campaign in 2017, currently on-going, leaving the cost of the action unchanged. The results of this action will be achieved by September 2017. They are preparatory especially for the Actions C3 and C4 and the extended action does not affect the implementation of these two conservation actions already initiated, thanks to the 2016 monitoring results and the first results of 2017.

As a matter of fact the additional 2017 monitoring activity, still in progress, is delivering positive and better results compared to the 2016 monitoring campaign. This will effectively design the conservation actions of C1 and C2 actions.

G. blineaturs needs to be discussed separately. During 2016, from June to October, nine monitoring sessions took place for a total of 14 days for the research of G. blineaturs at the Pratignato Lake (Fanano, Modena). Lake Pratignano is currently the only station in Italy where the species was recently found. In 2009, it was found with several specimens (Mazzoldi et al., 2009), it was later found with only one specimen in 2013 (Emilia-Romagna Region database) under the monitoring programs carried out by the Emilia-Romagna Region in accordance with the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The species population at the Pratignano Lake between 2009 and 2013 was very low.

The researches on the species in the 2016 monitoring campaign had substantially negative results, despite the monitoring protocol improvement. Qty. 4 adult specimens were found and perhaps a larval specimen was found only between September and October 2016.

The monitoring of this species continues more accurately and more frequently in this new 2017 season. At the same time, an alternative emergency strategy is being developed that will be described in the C4 action, such as the hypothesis of using specimens coming from the remaining range is being evaluated, even in stations which are found abroad.

In compliance with Council Directive 92/43/EEC (article 22, paragraph a) on the reintroduction of the native species found in annex IV, by the Bern Convention (article 11, paragraph 2.a), by ISPRA (2007, Guidelines for the introduction of animal species) and by the IUCN (2013, Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations), and having consulted the Italian Environmental Ministry and ISPRA (a special focus group was held in Rome in the ISPRA offices with Dr. Genovesi in October 2016), the protocol for reintroduction is being applied, subjecting the species to genetic analysis. To find the specimens necessary for the study, the some museums and collections were contacted to classify the specimens from Pratignano Lake, as well as the centres and universities abroad for comparison.

The integrated computer system to support the conservation actions, expected in C6 action, still hasn't been created for two reasons. First of all is the need to have a clear, complete picture of the qualitative and quantitative information deriving from the monitoring activities. Second, it is very likely that the management of such data doesn't require a specific, complex web interface. The number of information sources is mainly made up of the technical contact people/offices, entomologists and volunteers, a number which should be less than 50 people. Only a part of the information provided, deriving from contacts outside of the project, will need to be validated before being imported into the archive. Internally, along with the CB's technical staff, the structure of the archive is being planned and the most suitable tools for future management are being defined. This action is in delay. The current plan is to activate a management tool as soon as early 2018. All

conservation interventions will be completed by spring of 2018 and, even if this action is late, it will not impede the completion of the expected outcome.				

4 Administrative part

Project coordination and management are under the responsibility of BC. The organisational structure includes a BC project manager (Monica Palazzini), who works as part of the staff with the Project Manager (Cristina Barbieri - sub-contractor) and a Technical Coordinator (Roberto Fabbri - sub-contractor). To aid the project manager, BC made available a support structure for the technical and administrative aspects as well as for the communication activities. Each BA appointed the project's contact persons: technical, administrative and communication. The organisational chart is reported in Technical Annex.

The Activity Plan (Action A1) defines for each action the activities to be carried out, implementation methods, results, deliverables and milestones, and the role of each beneficiary.

The co-ordination between the beneficiaries is ensured by the Project Manager and the Technical Board (comprising the technical representatives of all partners) and the Administrative Board (administrative representatives).

The documentation is updated quarterly (as established in the partnership agreement) and filed in the groupware system of the Emilia-Romagna Region, to which all the beneficiaries' representatives have access with different rules.

All partner agreements have been signed and drafted following the guidelines published by the Committee and explicitly referring to the General Conditions.

The contents of the partnership agreements were agreed with all the associated beneficiaries during the meetings held. It was decided to draw up individual agreements between CB and the associated beneficiaries. This choice will allow all the beneficiaries not to have to go through the approval and signing procedures, in the event of a change of partnership agreements with an individual associated beneficiary. The agreements were all signed (Attachments A1_Deliverable_1).

The table below specifies the content of the Agreements in relation to the Common Provisions.

Ref. LIFE Guidelines for Partnership Agreements	Art. of partner agreement
1. Identification of the contracting parties.	Introduction
References the Grant Agreement reference number, date of signature, duration, maximum eligible costs, EU funding rate and max EU contribution.	Art. 1
3. Inclusion of a duration that starts from the date when the last contracting party(ies) has(ve) signed and ends at the date of the payment of the balance by the coordinating beneficiary to the associated beneficiary(ies).	Art. 2
4. Inclusion of the Art. 3content of Article II.1.3 of the G.C. with modalities specified.	Art. 3
5. Inclusion of the content of Article II.1.2 of the G.C. with modalities specified where relevant.	Art. 4
6. Inclusion of the content of Article II.1.1 of the G.C. with modalities integrated into specified paragraphs where relevant.	Art. 5
7. In relation to Article II.10 of the G.C.: (i) Reference to the need that any invoice from subcontractor should bear a clear reference to the LIFE project and be sufficiently detailed to allow identification of single items of the services/goods.	Art. 5, 13
8. Technical activity reports	Art. 6
9. Financial reporting	Art. 7
10. Estimated eligible costs and associated beneficiary's financial contribution to the project	Art. 8

Ref. LIFE Guidelines for	Art. of partner
Partnership Agreements	agreement
11. Payment terms	Art. 9
12. Termination of partnership agreement, including a clause on the	
termination of the partnership agreement	
13. Explicit inclusion of Art. II.4 of the G.C. conflict of interest.	Art. 14
14. Reference to reporting due dates and the need for associated beneficiaries to provide their input in due time. (details eventually provided in annex of the agreement).	Art. 6, 7
15. References to communications and publicity duties (Article II.2).	Art. 10
16. Jurisdiction clause: Inclusion of a jurisdiction clause: where to settle dispute and in which language(s).	Art. 15
17. Detailed method and dates for providing the financial information/data to the coordinating beneficiary and refers to the need to comply with Part II of the GC.	Art. 13
18. Inclusion of details on the associated beneficiary's budget, contribution to the project, the maximum amount they are entitled to be paid and that the final payment will depend on the EC assessment of accepted eligible costs.19. Inclusion of details of the payments terms, including bank information details.	Artt. 5,e 14
20. Inclusion of a clause that the partner beneficiary should allow the EC to audit their project related accounts during the period of the contact and up to 5 years following the final payment by the EC to the coordinating beneficiary.	Art. 11

All beneficiaries equipped themselves with a project-related analytical accounting system and identified the resources responsible for managing payments and spending commitments. The attached file "14-000209 LIFE EREMITA General info Cost centres.xlsx" lists a summary of the information for all beneficiaries.

The first pre-financing was received by BC in October 2015 and all BA's shares were transferred as reported below:

Requested Union Contribution				
List of payments received and expected from EASME	Amount of co- funding in €			
1 pre-financing dated October 27, 2015	380,658.90			
MAR transfer	-55,596.00			
MEC transfer	-40,253.70			
MEOC transfer	-15,894.30			
MEOR transfer	-18,344.10			
PNATE transfer	-67,900.20			
PNFC transfer	-45,612.00			
Requested Union contribution	€137,058.60			

5 Technical part

5.3 Progress per action

5.3.1 ACTION A.1: Preliminary meeting, draft and signing of agreements, annual activity plan

Foreseen start date	01/01/2016	Actual start date	01/01/2016
Foreseen end date	30/06/2016	Actual end date	30/06/2016

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: RER

The preliminary meeting took place on 10/02/2016 at the presence of all beneficiaries (CB and AB) during which the following procedures were defined: administrative procedures for carrying out and reporting the project activities; procedures for appointing the technical and administrative managers of each partner; and procedures for preparing a detailed work plan for the first year of the project.

The project was approved by the Emilia-Romagna Region with Resolution No. 1733/2015 on which occasion also the Draft of the Partnership Agreement (Milestone) was approved. All Partnership Agreements were signed between CB and AB within February 2016 (Deliverable).

The work plan was drawn up within May 2016, where all project actions were analysed and protocols required to implement the activities were agreed.

Administrative and technical representatives were appointed by each individual beneficiary within March 2016, the technical attachment shows the specific administrative details of the representatives appointed.

Each AB started the selection process of the additional staff to be contacted to perform the monitoring actions: A2, A3 and A4. All Entomologists were selected through selection procedures within the month of May and they signed their assignments within June; the technical attachment shows the specific administrative details. For MEOC, entomologist Francesca della Rocca resigned her post through resignation letter dated July 29, 2016 and subsequently MEOC summoned a new selection and the new assignment was appointed in March 2017.

MAR, for the entomologist assignment, transferred the budget from "Direct Personnel Costs" to "External assistance costs" due to impediments and long periods of administrative wait for summoning the selection procedures. The assignment was entrusted to "Ecosistema S.r.l" a company that appointed as a technical expert in Entomology Mr. Andrea Serra.

Regarding the authorizations, CB sent on 18/12/2015 submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea, an authorization request as an exception (Presidential Decree 357/97) to the capture, trapping, breeding (reproduction in captivity) and release in the wild of larvae and adults specimen of *Osmoderma hermit* and *Graphoderus bilineatus*. The reply of the Ministry was received at PG 2016/056067 on 01/02/2016, authorising the capture—marking and release for monitoring purposes, but suspending the authorisation --pending the feasibility study for *O.eremita* and *G. bilineatus*-- for captive breeding, reintroduction, possession and transport activities for breeding purposes. To move the *C.mercuriale castellani*, even if the regulatory framework does not require the drawing up of a specific feasibility study, ISPRA highlighted the need, in view of article 12, paragraph 3 of Presidential Decree 120/2003, to assess *ex-ante* risks of genetic pollution deriving from the intervention; therefore, it was deemed necessary to provide guidelines on how the related territorial boundaries and procedures with which the habitat occupation of the meta-populations will be assessed. Therefore, even in this case, to express a final opinion, the request was made to have such instructions detailed in a moving program for *C.mercuriale castellani*.

By the end of July, the feasibility study for *O.eremita*, according to the IUCN guidelines and the moving program for *C.mercuriale castellani* will be sent both to ISPRA and to the Ministry for his information. The feasibility study for *G.bilineatus* will have to wait for the 2017 monitoring results.

The submission of the studies and the request for the opinion will be carried out jointly between CB and AB involved in the breeding programs: PNFC, PNATE and MAR.

Regarding the regional legislation, in particular art. 4 of the Regional Law 15/2006 and article 3 paragraph 2 of the Regional Law 24/2011, the same Management Agencies (AB) issued to their Entomologists the authorization for the research activity for the species subject matter of the monitoring.

For the collection, detention, and breeding of *G.bilineatus* and *O.eremita* and for the moving of *C.mercuriale castellani*, the same Agencies (AB), competent for the release in accordance with article 4 of the Regional Law 15/2006 and subsequent amendments, will issue specific authorization to the Entomologists involved on the basis of feasibility studies and the moving program processed. An in-depth study was also carried out to ascertain whether or not an incidence Assessment was required and according to Regional Law 7/2004 it was found that the issuing authority is different depending on whether the intervention falls inside or outside of the protected areas; the assessment is required if it is not established by the Management Plan of the specific Rete Natura 2000 site, if the intervention requires the modification of existing habitats. This assessment is carried out within the Action Plan for the preservation activities (Action A7).

The authorization for the structure of the PNATE is terminated and the start of the installation work is 1 July 2017. The authorization process for the PNFC structure will end by July provided that the Sovereign Order does not request any additions.

For the installation of the breeding structures, the table, Attached to the technical annex, shows the requested authorizations and the authorization status limitedly to the two structures of the PNATE and PNFC, since that of the MAR will not be carried out (see change requested and described in Action C4).

DELIVERABLE	FILE	DATE
Agreement between partners	A1_Deliverable_1	March 2016
Drafting of a work schedule for the first year of the project	A1_Deliverable_2	May 2016
MILESTONE	FILE	
Start of administrative procedures for personnel selection		May 2016
Draft agreement between beneficiary coordinator and associated partners	A1_Millestone_1	December 2015
Appointment of in-house staff for the project	A1_Millestone_2	March 2016

5.3.2 ACTION A.2: Ex ante monitoring

Foreseen start date	01/04/2016	Actual start date	01/06/2016
Foreseen end date	30/04/2017	Actual (or anticipated) end date	In progress

Beneficiary in charge: PNATE

The Technical Coordinator, with the supervision of the Scientific Supervisors defined, within May 2016, the monitoring protocols of the 4 species, attached to this report as "Other documents". The protocols were shared with all AB's entomologists and technical representatives at the meeting held on June 3, 2016 in Bologna at CB's headquarters.

The monitoring of the 4 species in the 54 Natura Network sites began in July 2016 and ended in October 2016 and was carried out according to what was defined in the Protocols and summarized in the Technical Annex. The results of the first monitoring campaign of the species are as follows:

		<u> </u>	1 0 1		
Monitoring - 2016					
Beneficiary	O. eremita	R. alpina	G. bilineatus	C. mercuriale	
	A = Adults	A = Adults	A = Adults	A = Adults	
	L = Larvae	L = Larvae	L = Larvae	L = Larvae	
PNFC	4 A	47 A	0	0	
MAR	1 A + 2 L	0	0	1910 A	
MEOR	0	0	0	0	
MEC	1 A	0	4 A + 1 L?	0	
PNATE	0	7A	0	0	
MEOC	7 L	0	0	0	

Considering the postponed start of the field activities, the vast monitoring area, the large number of entomologists in the field to be trained and the experimental nature of the monitoring protocols, it was deemed appropriate to carry out a further monitoring campaign in 2017, currently on-going, leaving the cost of the action unchanged. The results of this action will be achieved by September 2017. They are preparatory especially for the Actions C3 and C4 and the extended action does not affect the implementation of these two conservation actions already initiated, thanks to the 2016 monitoring results and the first results of 2017.

The results to date are as follows, which already demonstrate the improvement brought forth by the extended activity, especially for the *Osmoderma eremita*:

Monitoring – 2017 (as of June 22, 2017)					
Beneficiary	O. eremita	R. alpina	G. bilineatus	C. mercuriale	
	A = Adults	A = Adults	A = Adults	A = Adults	
	L = Larvae	L = Larvae	L = Larvae	L = Larvae	
PNFC	1 A - 3 L	6 A	0	0	
MAR	9 A – 2 L	0	0	1604 A	
MEOR	0	0	0	0	
MEC	0	0	0	0	
PNATE	3 A	5 A	0	0	
MEOC	2 A	0	0	0	

G. blineaturs needs to be discussed separately. During 2016, from June to October, nine monitoring sessions took place for a total of 14 days for the research of *Graphoderus bilineatus* at the Pratignato Lake (Fanano, Modena).

Lake Pratignano is currently the only station in Italy where the species was recently found. In 2009, it was found with several specimens (Mazzoldi et al., 2009), it was later found to be one specimen in 2013 (Emilia-Romagna Region database) under the monitoring programs carried out by the Emilia-Romagna Region in accordance with the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The species population at the Pratignano Lake between 2009 and 2013 was very low.

The researches on the species in the 2016 monitoring campaign had substantially negative results, despite the monitoring protocol improvement. Qty. 4 adult specimens were found and perhaps a larval specimen was found only between September and October 2016.

To be sure that the species was not recently discovered in other regions where in the past it was found, the Emilia Romagna Region contacted the competent departments of the Lombardy and Piedmont regions. The Lombardy (4) and Piedmont (1) stations, where the species were found are no longer suitable as proven by searches with negative results carried out last year by entomologists of the Carabinieri Forest of Bosco Fontana (Marmirolo, MN) by the Lombardy Region and by the IPLA of the Piedmont Region.

The monitoring of this species continues more accurately and more frequently in this new 2017 season. At the same time, an alternative emergency strategy is being developed that will be described in the next C4 action.

In 2017, as specified in Action A2, the pitfall traps are also being used for Osmoderma monitoring. They were placed inside hollow trees. They will allow the use of the CPSI index with which we should be able to define locations with greater saproxylic diversity within the tree cavities.

The expected deliverable is the Activity Report, the final one will be prepared in September 2017 and submitted with the next Report. Intermediate reports are attached to this report as "Other documents".

5.3.3 ACTION A.3: Identification/inventory of habitat trees

Foreseen start date	01/04/2016	Actual start date	01/06/2016
Foreseen end date	30/06/2017	Actual (or anticipated) end date	In progress

Beneficiary in charge: PNFC

At the same time as Action A2, from June 2016 until October 2016 and in the spring of 2017, at the Rete Natura 2000 sites included in the project area with certain presence of *Osmoderma eremita* and *Rosalia alpina*, trees potentially suitable for the species were identified in a radius of 2 km in the case of *Osmoderma eremita* and 3 km in the case of *Rosalia alpina*. All the monitoring sheets attached to the respective monitoring protocols defined by the Technical Coordinator and all the data transferred to a database have been compiled. The action is still ongoing and will continue until September 2017, in order to study further, also in light of the results of Action A2, the sites potentially suitable for the two species. Even in this case, the extension of the activities, at the same cost of the action, is for improvement purposes. The most in-depth knowledge of the ranges of presence of the species and the sites that are potentially suitable for the interventions is a necessary and functional requirement for better planning the interventions established in Action C1 and consequently achieving the expected results.

During the 2016 monitoring season, the results obtained on the census of habitat trees for the monitoring of the species and for the interventions are as follows:

Beneficiary	O. eremita	R. alpina
PNFC	44	88
MAR	78	16
MEOR	204	13
MEC	40	133
PNATE	46	79
MEOC	484	0

The conclusion of the action is scheduled for September 2017, which will result in a parallel sliding of the conclusion of Action A7 and consequently of the start date of the interventions established under Action C1. Thanks to the results of a first monitoring campaign and the parallel and timely production of the A7 Action Report, it will be possible for some of the sites to start the interventions within the year 2017.

The expected deliverable is the Activity Report, the final one will be prepared in October 2017 and submitted with the next Report. Intermediate reports are attached to this report as "Other documents".

5.3.4 ACTION A.4: Identification of suitable lakes, ponds and streams

Foreseen start date	01/04/2016	Actual start date	01/06/2016
Foreseen end date	30/06/2017	Actual (or anticipated) end date	In progress

Beneficiary in charge: MAR

The monitoring, carried out on the basis of the protocol instructions, began in June 2016 and will continue until October 2017. As far as *C. mercuriale* goes, on the basis of the monitoring results of the species in 2016 and of the first results of 2017, it was possible to obtain a framework for identifying the environments on which to intervene with Action C2 and the sites suitable for the introduction of the species. Regarding *G. bilineatus*, monitoring continues to identify other possible

sites suitable for the presence of the species and for its introduction. Currently the only site where the species is present in Italy is the Pratignano Lake, where, however, as already mentioned in Action A2, the species has a small population. Greater insight into this species is needed and it is the main reason for postponing the action to October 2017.

The expected deliverable is the Activity Report, the final one will be prepared in October 2017 and submitted with the next Report. Intermediate reports are attached to this report as "Other documents".

During the 2016 monitoring season, the results obtained on the census of water bodies and basins for the monitoring of the species and for the interventions were as follows:

Beneficiary	G.bilineatus	C.mercuriali castellani
PNFC	4	1
MAR	8	7
MEOR	52	40
MEC	18	3
PNATE	11	0
MEOC	0	3

5.3.5 ACTION A.5: Training courses for volunteers/contractors

Foreseen start date	01/04/2016	Actual start date	01/04/2016
Foreseen end date	30/06/2020	Actual (or anticipated) end date	In progress

Beneficiary in charge: MEOR

The action started in April 2016, in some of the meetings between CB and the MEOR action representative, and in agreement with the other ABs, it was decided to centralize the organisational aspects of the training activities in CB.

For the recruitment of volunteers, before the seminar for the presentation of the activities, an expression of interest addressed to all citizens over the age of 18 was published. The aim of the expression of interest was to select a group of volunteers to appoint to the project activities, with the commitment to undertake a training period. At the same time, a large database of key stakeholders was created through which the same expression of interest could be divulged. The expression of interest was approved by RER by Deed No. 10786 dated 06/07/2016 and was subsequently published on the project site on July 7, 2016. (<a href="http://ambiente.regione.emilia-romagna.it/life-eremita/notizie/notizie/notizie-2016/da-oggi-e-possibile-partecipare-come-volontari-al-progetto-life-eremita/notizie/notizie-2016/da-oggi-e-possibile-partecipare-come-volontari-al-progetto-life-

eremita). The publication was followed by a broad dissemination of the initiative through the database contacts, the project web pages and institutional sites of the ABs and through Facebook posts on the project page. For the dissemination a poster-flyer of the initiative was printed and affixed to all universities in the region and other selected sites attended by potential target subjects (museums, associations, etc.). The approval deed, the expression of interest and the advertising leaflet are attached to this report as "Other documents". By the end date of the expression of interest (extended from 16/09/2016 to 30/09/2016) 63 applications were received. Although the selection was aimed at recruiting 30 individuals to train, it was decided, on occasion of the Technical Board meeting, to involve all applicants considering a physiological decline in the number of participants at the end of the training activities.

The first seminar for the presentation of the activities, held in Bologna at the headquarters of the CB, was addressed to: 63 aspiring volunteers, project technical representatives, and the representatives of the major regional voluntary associations. During the meeting, both the project (objectives and activities) and the training activities program started in December 2016 and ended,

in the first phase, in May 2017. Three theoretical training sessions were held in three distinct locations on the regional territory: 16/12/2016 - 17/12/2016 - 23/01/2017. Field training activities included also in this case several replies to cover the entire regional user territory, and they took place as follows: 25/03/2017 - 01/04/2017 - 14/04/2017 - 29/04/2017 - 06/05/2017 - 07/05/2017 - 11/05/2017 both in forestry environments and in aquatic environments. The volunteers were assessed by the trainers with the aim of identifying their skills and aptitudes for the various volunteering activities. All the presentations and programs implemented are attached to this report as "Other documents"...

At the end of this first phase of training, 33 volunteers were selected and they made themselves available, subdivided by territorial areas, in the technical annex is included the subdivision by AB. Currently, some volunteers are already on the field accompanying the entomologists in the monitoring activity. The lack of availability from everyone is due to the insurance coverage. As part of the cost of the action there was no project-based budget to support volunteering actitivities; thus, this topic is currently being debated and assessed by the Beneficiaries. Once the group of project volunteers is finalized, a specific groupware will be opened for interaction and information exchange among volunteers. The first day devoted to the volunteers' celebration is in being organised and scheduled for September 2017, in conjunction with the opening of the "Eremita Tour" (Action E7). In that occasion, the first "Volunteering Opportunities Catalog within the LIFE Eremeita Project" will be drafted and disseminated.

5.3.6 ACTION A.6: Ex-ante survey on the opinions of the main stakeholder groups.

Foreseen start date	01/07/2016	Actual start date	01/05/2016
Foreseen end date	30/06/2017	Actual (or anticipated) end date	30/06/2017

Beneficiary in charge: PNATE

During the Technical Board Meeting held on 30/05/2016, based on the proposal of the Project Manager and with a decision shared by all partners, it was decided to change the way the questionnaire was administered by opting for the involvement of schools in the territories of the various **AB**. This method was presented to the Monitor during the first monitoring visit on 09/06/2016. In the note of EASME Ref. Ares (2016) 4205908 of 08/08/2016, "It' was consider acceptable the our request of sharing a questionnaire through students in schools, instead of performing telephone interviews, with the aim of obtaining more answers and more attention to the survey.

The draft of the questionnaire was thus prepared (deliverable) for the opinion poll and the methods for submitting the survey were defined. The questionnaire was shared and approved by all the **ABs** in the **TT** on September 12, 2016.

Approximately 15,000 questionnaires were distributed and about 3,700 questionnaires were filled out and returned, covering the entire project territory.

The questionnaire was first submitted to the schools with direct contact, then sent with an accompanying letter to explain to the School Director and the teachers the aims of the project and the cognitive investigation and how to follow the distribution of the questionnaire to the families of the students. A poster was printed and sent to the schools involved in the survey with the goal to be placed in the school to inform the school's public about the project goals and make them aware of the ongoing investigation.

By the end of the school year in June 2017, all questionnaires were retrieved, analysed and the activity report that is attached to this report (Deliverable) was drafted. The action is therefore completed and the results were obtained and will serve as a useful reference point to assess the effectiveness of the training and information campaigns envisioned for the project (Action D5).

DELIVERABLE	FILE
Assessment questionnaire	A6_deliverable_1
Activity report	A6_deliverable_2

5.3.7 ACTION A.7: Drafting of a recovery plan for the target species based on the results of preliminary surveys

Foreseen start date	01/10/2016	Actual start date	01/10/2016
Foreseen end date	30/06/2017	Actual (or anticipated) end date	In progress

Beneficiary in charge: RER

Based on the results of the first monitoring campaign, in October 2016, the preparatory phase for the drafting of the Restoration Plan for the target species was initiated in the intervention area. In particular, the results of the first monitoring campaign were compared with the expected results of the conservation actions (C1, C2, C3, C4 and C5).

Based on this comparison, the types of forest-based interventions and those in aquatic environments were defined and a more or less accurate subdivision of the interventions between the different ABs was defined. In November 2016, a meeting was held between the technical coordinator, the PNFC Technical Adviser and the forest technician, Dr. Rino Mancini, of the Regional Office of the Public property (ex ARF) to verify the feasibility, costs and type of forestry interventions to be implemented in 2017. Based on this meeting, a list of actions that can be carried out in Actions C1 and C2 was specified. In March 2017, a training/information workshop was held for all entomologists and technical experts, during which accurate instructions were given to complete the monitoring activity (A3, A4) according to a timely and almost simultaneous definition of the interventions to be carried out, based on the instructions on the types of interventions already defined by the technical coordinator. By the end of July, the feasibility study for O. eremita and the integrations requested for C. mercuriale will be drawn up and sent to ISPRA for the expression of the final opinion. The feasibility study for G. bilineatus will have to wait for the results of the monitoring campaign and the genetic investigation (October 2017). In this manner, the Technical Coordinator adopted all the measures to limit the delay and without causing any further delays in the implementation of the Actions C.

The end of this action, following the completion of Actions A2, A3 and A4, is scheduled for October 2017.

The plan and the deliverable of the action will be submitted with the next Report.

5.3.8 ACTION C.1: Creation of habitat trees for *Osmoderma eremita* and *Rosalia alpina*

Scheduled start date	01/01/2017	Actual start date	Not started yet
Scheduled end date	30/09/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	

Coordinating beneficiary: MEC

This action has not formally started yet. In April 2017, the project's Technical Coordinator tested cavitation on a few trees to better define the technical aspects and completion costs of the intervention. It should be noted that in light of the results of the monitoring carried out in 2016, in which the presence of *Rosalia alpina* was discovered in a town in a pile of dead wood, a sort of trial experiment was launched in June 2017. Once the presence of the species was confirmed in the same site, beech woodpiles were created, flanking the ones that already existed. These woodpiles were colonised by Rosalia and thus PNATE is drafting and approving (by July 2017), an extract of an

action plan to move these woodpiles to more suitable sites (which they are currently monitoring and evaluating). In this case, the action could start as early as August 2017. For all other interventions in the areas of the various ABs, the action will start with the approval of the action plan upon conclusion of action A7.

5.3.9 ACTION C.2: Restoration of suitable ponds, lakes and streams

Scheduled start date	01/07/2017	Actual start date	Not due
Scheduled end date	30/09/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	

Coordinating beneficiary: MAR This action has not started yet

5.3.10 ACTION C.3: In-situ breeding

Scheduled start date	01/01/2017	Actual start date	01/09/2016
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	In progress

Coordinating beneficiary: PNATE

The action began in September 2016 with the drafting of the Technical Specs to purchase 150 wood mould boxes (WMB) and the Technical Guidelines, edited by the Technical Coordinator for the preparation of the substrate to be inserted. For the purchase of the WMBs, the call for bids was centralised to the PNATE action manager. PNATE created a bid proposal process to find the supplier for all 150 WMBs. Each AB paid for the share of WMBs it required.

Each beneficiary purchased all the materials required for the preparation of the substrate and by November 2016, each beneficiary saw to the preparation of the substrate as described in the technical instructions supplied by the Technical Coordinator. All the tools and materials are ready and, as soon as the suitable sites are identified and selected (according to the results of the second monitoring effort), their placement and installation will begin. Each AB will follow a different time line. Presumably all the WMBs will be installed between September 2017 and early 2018.

5.3.11 ACTION C.4: Ex-situ (captive) breeding

Scheduled start date	01/10/2016	Actual start date	01/04/2016
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	In progress

Coordinating beneficiary: MAR

This action began in April 2016, when technical comparisons for ex-situ breeding structures began. PNATE and PNFC have proceeded as planned. The creation of these two structures, however, was delayed due to the authorisations required, purchased only in the end of July. Both the entities which had purchased the materials required by the project have set up two provisional sites that have been ready to host the breeding activities since May 2017. By the end of 2017, both of the new structures will be completed and thus ready to be used. The activity of environmental education and thus visits to the breeding site will begin in spring of 2018 and will continue until the end of the project.

In terms of the MAR centre, on 19 April 2016, EASME was asked to update the action. The CB notified the Project Officer, Mr Montero, of the change with an email sent on 14/04/2017 and accepted by the PO with the email dated 21/07/2017.

In the Life Eremita project, the *ex-situ* breeding of *G. bilineatus* in two separate laboratories specifically set up in Ligonchio in the province of Reggio Emilia (PNATE) and in Russi in the

province of Ravenna (for MAR, the Biodiversity Management Authority of Romagna), should have started in spring of 2017.

The breeding grounds will need a few founding specimens, which currently are not available given the negative outcome of the first monitoring campaign. In addition, based on bibliographic information, and on the unexpected news of the presence of *G.bilineatus* in other regions and the research carried out during the summer of 2016 and still under way in 2017, we find ourselves in a situation of uncertainty with respect to the hypothesis of being able to capture, in the following season of 2018, other specimens from Pratignano Lake.

For this reason, "an alternative, emergency strategy", such as the hypothesis of using specimens coming from the remaining range is being evaluated, even in stations which are found abroad.

In compliance with that established by Council Directive 92/43/EEC (article 22, paragraph a) on the reintroduction of the native species found in annex IV, by the Bern Convention (article 11, paragraph 2.a), by ISPRA (2007, Guidelines for the introduction of animal species) and by the IUCN (2013, Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations), and having consulted the Italian Environmental Ministry and ISPRA (a special focus group was held in Rome in the ISPRA offices with Dr. Genovesi in October 2016), the protocol for reintroduction is being applied, subjecting the species to genetic analysis. To find the specimens necessary for the study, the following museums and collections were contacted to classify the specimens from Pratignano Lake, as well as the following centres and universities abroad for comparison.

G. bilineatus	Collezione museale/privata
4 paws of specimens collected in Lake	Museo di Storia Nturale, section of Zoology "
Pratignano	La Specola" Florence
1 paws of specimens collected in Lake	Collezione privata di entomologo di Ravenna
Pratignano	
4 paws of specimens collected and / or	Life Eremita – Regione Emilia-Romagna
released in Lake Pratignano	

G. bilineatus	Country of origin	Institute / University contacted
No. 16 specimens, already	Croatia (3 locality)	Udruga BIOM
arrived		
N. ?? Specimens, not yet arrived	Hungaria	University of Pécs, Institute of
		Biology
N. ?? Specimens, not yet arrived	Denmark	RigKilde-Life
N. ?? Specimens, not yet arrived	Sweden	SemiAquatic-Life
N. ?? Specimens, not yet arrived	Lithuania	Lietuvos Gamtos Fondas
N. ?? Specimens, not yet arrived	Netherlands	Naturalis Biodiversity Center,
		Leiden

The costs to complete this activity will be paid for from savings from other actions. The CB has already arranged for a market study which will be published between the end of June and early July 2017, to identify the institute/university which will carry out the genetic studies on the specimens from Pratignano Lake (from museum collection specimens) and on specimens coming from the species range in Europe.

MILESTONE	FILE
Start of work to set up the breeding	
structures	November 2016 (temporary structures)
DELIVERABLE	FILE
Agreement and breeding protocol	C4_Deliverable_1 (Agreement) December

2016

5.3.12 ACTION C.5: Introduction of species bred off site or relocated into the natural habitat

Scheduled start date	01/07/2017	Actual start date	
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	

Coordinating beneficiary: MAR This action has not started yet.

5.3.13 ACTION C.6: Creation of an integrated computer system to support the conservation of the target species, including web tech solutions to involve stakeholders

Scheduled start date	01/07/2016	Actual start date	XXXXXX
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	31/12/2020

Coordinating beneficiary: RER

The integrated computer system to support the conservation actions still hasn't been created for two reasons. First of all is the need to have a clear, complete picture of the qualitative and quantitative information deriving from the monitoring activities. Second, it is very likely that the management of such data doesn't require a specific, complex web interface. The number of information sources is mainly made up of the technical contact people/offices, entomologists and volunteers, a number which should be less than 50 people. Only a part of the information provided, deriving from contacts outside of the project, will need to be validated before being imported into the archive.

Two databases are expected: one for monitoring species and another for monitoring habitats. Based on the second monitoring effort from 2017, we can gather a complete picture of the information that will need to be filed. The technical staff at the CB have started a comparison between these two databases with the Natura 2000 Network Database, already available to the Region, to standardise the metadata fields and to get the two archives to be able to "talk" to each other. The database belonging to the Region cannot be used to create this archive as it is too complex for a few aspects and, for the others, the project's database will include specific information that is not covered by any field in the regional DB. All information deriving from the monitoring of species and habitats have already been, and will continue to be, georeferenced, an element which is necessary for the construction of the GIS. Due to an active agreement, the Region of Emilia-Romagna is required to use an engineering company (Engineering ingegneria informatica spa) which does not possess the biological knowledge necessary to optimally build out the archive for computing services, hence it was unable to quickly launch a bid for the assignment of the complete service. The Data Base of the Emilia Romagna Region is complex and contains unnecessary fields at the Eremita project and can not connect to a web interface. Internally, along with the CB's technical staff, the structure of the archive is being planned and the most suitable tools for future management are being defined. This action is late. The current plan is to activate a management tool as soon as early 2018. All conservation interventions will be completed by spring of 2018 and, even if this action is late, it will not impede the completion of the expected outcome.

The expected deliverables will thus be transmitted with the next report.

5.3.14 ACTION C.7: Thematic workshops for training and internal information

Scheduled start date	01/07/2016	Actual start date	01/05/2016
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Scheduled end date	30/09/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	In progress
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Coordinating beneficiary: RER

This action began in May 2016, with the preparations for the first training workshop held on 6 June at the Carnè Visitors Centre in Brisighella (RA) in the MAR. This workshop was aimed at the project's technical staff (internal and external) and at the technical staff of all beneficiaries. Dr. Sönke Hardersen of the Life MIPP project also participated in the workshop. The total number of participants was 27. The list of participants is attached.

The second workshop is scheduled for September 2017 and is aimed mostly at the guides which will carry out the environmental education activities as described in action E2. The third workshop will be directed at the Forestry Department and at the provinces' regulatory bodies. It will be held as soon as the conservation action plan (Action A7) is defined, presumably by December 2017. After the workshop in June 2016, the Technical Coordinator has carried out continuous training sessions with the entomologists involved both out in the field, flanking them in monitoring activities, as well as through special meetings held at the CB offices (one in October 2016, another in March 2017).

The material relating to the 1st workshop is attached in "Other documents".

5.3.15 ACTION C.8: Conservation Measures and Management Plan

Scheduled start date	01/01/2020	Actual start date	-
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	-

This action has not started yet.

5.3.16 ACTION D.1: Ex-post evaluation of ex-situ reproduction efficiency

Scheduled start date	01/04/2017	Actual start date	
Scheduled end date	30/09/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	

Coordinating beneficiary: MAR This action has not started yet.

5.3.17 ACTION D.2: Ex-post evaluation of restocking efficiency

Scheduled start date	01/04/2018	Actual start date	
Scheduled end date	30/09/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	

Coordinating beneficiary: PNATE This action has not started yet.

5.3.18 ACTION D.3: Evaluation of socio-economic impact

Scheduled start date	01/01/2020	Actual start date	
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	

Coordinating beneficiary: RER

This action has not started yet.

5.3.19 ACTION D.4: Ex-post evaluation of presence, distribution and abundance of the target species

Scheduled start date	01/01/2020	Actual start date	
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	

Coordinating beneficiary: RER This action has not started yet.

5.3.20 ACTION D.5: Ex-post analysis on main stakeholders groups opinion

Scheduled start date	01/01/2020	Actual start date	
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	

Coordinating beneficiary: PNATE This action has not started yet.

5.3.21 ACTION D.6: Evaluation of ecosystem functions

Scheduled start date	01/01/2020	Actual start date	
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	

Coordinating beneficiary: RER This action has not started yet.

5.3.22 ACTION E.1: The project's website

Scheduled start date	01/04/2016	Actual start date	01/01/2016
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	In progress

Coordinating beneficiary: RER

In January 2016, the internal technical staff at the CB carried out a feasibility study for the website. The website includes the following sections:

- a) A description of the project (objectives, actions, progress, reports and documents produced);
- b) Information on the coordinating beneficiary (CB) and associated beneficiaries;
- c) Contact information for the project staff;
- d) Information on the LIFE+ project and the Natura 2000 Network;
- e) Materials produced by the project (Youtube®, pictures, posters, brochures, etc.);
- f) Links to other interesting websites.

The site was brought on-line in May 2016 with the following URL: http://ambiente.regione.emilia-romagna.it/life-eremita.

Some of the website's content was translated into English. The website was updated according to the requests drafted by EASME in the note from 08/08/2016.

Website hits since it went live to today are: 3012.

DELIVERABLE	FILE
Website	http://ambiente.regione.emilia-romagna.it/life-eremita.
MILESTONE	FILE
Website published	May 2016

5.3.23 ACTION E.2: Communication, distribution and environmental education actions

Scheduled start date	01/07/2016	Actual start date	01/07/2016
Scheduled end date	30/06/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	In progress

Coordinating beneficiary: MEOC

The technical staff at MEOC, as expected, have created a special environmental education project, the draft of which was shared at the Technical Workgroup in October 2016 and then approved according to the observations issued at the Technical Workgroup meeting of January 2017. Based on this project and the instructions supplied, each AB has established a call for bids for the environmental education activities which will be carried out starting in spring 2018. The call of bids for The service of the environmental education activities are in progress. With the technical staff, through its regional print shop, the CB published an informational brochure on the project in Italian (n. 1000 copies) and English (n. 100 copies). The brochure was printed in August 2016 and subsequently delivered to the ABs as well. In every subsequent event, starting with Entomodena 2016, the brochure was distributed, supplying general information about the project. All the copies were distributed to EntoModena and the schools involved in Action A6. For the upcoming events the Region will print other copies, through its regional print shop.

For the participation in the Entomodena Fair, an activity not included in the project outline, materials were produced for the set-up of the stand. More specifically, the following were made: 1 banner (2m x80cm, 120gr paper); 2 panels in A2 format (42cm x 59.4cm, 120gr paper).

Also not required by the project, bookmarks and notebooks were made, attached as "Other documents".

In May 2017, the technical specifications were prepared for the creation of another handout about the project and two technical publications required by the action. The call for bids will be published by mid-July 2017.

DELIVERABLE	FILE
Environmental education executive plan published	E2_ Deliverable_1
Handout presenting the project and the involved	E2_Deliverable_2
species	

5.3.24 Action E3 Laymann's report

Scheduled start date	01/04/2016	Actual start date	01/04/2016
Scheduled end date	31/12/2016	Actual (or expected) end date	In progress

5.3.25 ACTION E.4: Project logo selection and creation of informational, educational and "best practices" panels

Scheduled start date	01/04/2016	Actual start date	01/04/2016
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Scheduled end date 31/12/2016 Actual (or expected) end date In progress

Coordinating beneficiary: RER

The project logo was created by the technical staff at the CB in April 2016.

The creation of the panels was agreed upon during the first monitoring visit, to complete them only following the definition of the Conservation Action Plan (Action A7) to be able to place the notice boards in the areas where the interventions are found, supplying information about the types of interventions being carried out. It should be specified that a few interventions will be quite visible in the habitat's trees, and thus it is necessary to properly contextualise them with respect to the project's goals. As of today, the technical specs have already been made available for the supply of the panels and the supporting structures. The call for bids will be published by mid-July 2017.

44 panels are to be installed in the various regional sites by December 2017.

DELIVERABLE	FILE	DATE
Project logo	E4_Deliverable_1	June 2016
Panels completed		December 2016 (late). Delayed to December 2017

5.3.26 ACTION E.5: Thematic workshop

Scheduled start date	01/04/2018	Actual start date	-
Scheduled end date	30/09/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	-

5.3.27 ACTION E.6: Final workshop

Scheduled start date	01/07/2020	Actual start date	-
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	-

5.3.28 ACTION E.7: The EREMITA Tour: a travelling awareness campaign

Scheduled start date	01/01/2017	Actual start date	01/03/2017
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	In progress

Coordinating beneficiary: PNATE

The planning and scheduling stage of the first awareness campaign, the Eremita tour, has begun. The technical group has agreed to carry out the campaign alongside the Giornata dell'Eremita - volontari per il LIFE (Eremita Day - volunteers for LIFE, Action A5) in September 2017 in Bologna. RER is handling the administrative paperwork to obtain the necessary permits to hold the event and for the use of the inflatable modular structure. The potential locations being considered are the Giardini Margherita or the Bologna Fairgrounds (coinciding with the SANA event, 8-11 September). At the same time, PNATE and PNFC have entrusted the work to the company Piviere S.r.l. (resolution n. 142 of 05/06/2017) for the production of video clips on the species in question. They are currently being filmed. Although scheduled for early 2017, the decision was made to wait

for the spring-summer to complete filming during monitoring. This created a delay in the completion of the deliverables, but will not have an effect on their distribution, which will happen starting in September 2017.

This action also includes the creation of an album of trading cards

for December 2017. During the execution phase, in part thanks to the savings coming from other communication/marketing actions, the decision was made to create a true educational kit, composed of:

- an educational **notebook**, aimed at primary school and junior secondary school students, with contents calibrated for this type of use. The notebook should portray, through pictures and original illustrations, a description of the insects and their role in the animal kingdom; a description of the four species at the centre of the project, their role in the ecosystem, conservation status, main threats; the importance of ecological networks and the Natura 2000 network, the project's actions for the conservation of the relevant species (monitoring, interventions to restore habitat, on site and off site conservation). the notebook will contain an **informative album insert with stickers** to stick on the "Eremita Cards".
- A 70x100cm poster on recycled paper, designed to inform about the project, folded in four.
- Small gifts: 800 colour magnets (3x3.7cm) representing the 4 species being protected (200 magnets per species).

The technical specs have been defined and the call for bids will be published by mid-July 2017.

DELIVERABLE	FILE	DATE
Video clip on the involved species.		January 2017 (late), delayed to September 2017
DVD with a video clip of the project		March 2017 (late), delayed to September 2017
Printing of panels and banners		January 2017 (late), delayed to September 2017
MILESTONE	FILE	
Launch of the Eremita Tour: a travelling		Scheduled for September 2017
awareness campaign		

5.3.29 ACTION E.8: Project press office

Scheduled start date	01/04/2016	Actual start date	01/04/2016
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	In progress

Coordinating beneficiary: RER

The EREMITA project press office was opened in March 2016. At the same time as the project manager was selected, the project's communication services were assigned to Società Istituto Delta – Ecologia Applicata. The coordination of communications is thus handled by the project manager in concert with the communications contacts nominated by each BA. In addition, the Region of Emilia Romagna has outlined, in the project organisation chart, a structure of two people with the function of supporting the communications activities and the press office (Maria Vittoria Biondi and Stefania Vecchio). As an additional activity, with respect to that established in the application form, a Facebook page has been created for the project: https://www.facebook.com/liferemita/. The page is managed by the Communications Coordinator. The statistics for the Facebook page can be found in the technical annex for action E8.

Currently, 25 messages have been published on the project website and linked to from the Facebook page.

In September, the first draft of the Communications Plan was shared with communications contacts at partner agencies. This plan, as established by the project outline, was presented to the Technical Workgroup on 28/09. The Communications Plan defines the circulation method for information from within the partnership to the public, the communications organisation chart, the coordinated identifying image for the project, the activity plan and that for marketing products. The plan was approved at the Technical Workgroup in December 2016.

DELIVERABLE	FILE	DATE
Communications plan	E8_Deliverable_1	December 2016
MILESTONE	FILE	
Opening of the project press office	F1_Milestone_1	May 2016

5.3.30 ACTION F.1: Administrative-accounting and technical project management

Scheduled start date	01/01/2016	Actual start date	01/06/2016
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	In progress

The procedures to entrust the responsibilities of external assistance took place during January/February of 2016 to cover the roles of project manager, technical coordinator and scientific supervisor. The Project Manager was selected by a call for applications and appointed definitively with resolution n. 8573 on 27/05/2016. The Technical Coordinator was selected by a call for applications and appointed with resolution n. 5010 on 31/03/2016. For the role established for scientific supervision, two supervisors were appointed, one specialised in saproxylic insects and one in aquatic insects. Professor Renato Carchini, for the aquatic insects component, was appointed with resolution n. 18418 on 22/12/2015. Professor Marco Uliana, for the saproxylic insect component, was appointed with resolution n° 20843 of 23/12/2016

The workgroups of experts and administrators were officially established with resolution n. 8973 on 30/05/2016, with the first formal meeting. However, already before their formalisation, the partners met in two working groups. The first meeting convened was on 10 February 2016.

The administrative workgroup meeting is a chance to monitor the status and progression of expenditures, gather the administrative documentation of all the partners and solutions to all previous administrative issues. The workgroup is made up of those responsible for the project, from the project manager, to the administrative coordinator of the BC and to the administrative contacts of all the BA. The technical annex lists all the relevant names. The workgroup meets every 3-4 months, as necessary, compared to the weekly meetings described in the application form. On the date of the delivery of the report, the workgroup met 5 times: 8/03/2106, 30/05/2016, 28/09/2016, 23/01/2017, 31/03/2017.

Internal coordination meetings between those in charge of the project (the Project Manager, Technical Coordinator, etc) happen regularly and are recorded in the monthly activity report sent to the monitor Alberto Cozzi.

DELIVERABLE	FILE	DATE
Meeting minutes for the technical and administrative workgroups and the	F1_Deliverable_1	December 2016
first year meetings.		
Meeting minutes for the technical and administrative workgroups and the	F1_Deliverable_2	December 2017
second year meetings.		
MILESTONE	FILE	
Appointment of the Project Manager	F1_Milestone_1	May 2016
Appointment of the Scientific Supervisor	F1_Milestone_2	December 2016

5.3.31 ACTION F.2: Establishment of the technical workgroup

Scheduled start date	01/04/2016	Actual start date	01/03/2016
Scheduled end date	31/12/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	In progress

Coordinating beneficiary: RER

The technical workgroup was officially established with resolution n. 8673 on 30/05/2016, with the first formal meeting. However, the partners had already met before the workgroup's formalisation.

The technical workgroup is a chance to discuss the progress made on the project actions and to solve prior technical problems. The workgroup is made up of those responsible for the project, from the Project Manager, to the Technical Coordinator and the technical contacts of all the BAs. The technical annex lists all the relevant names. The workgroup meets every 1-2 months, as necessary, compared to the weekly meetings described in the application form. On the date of the delivery of the report, the workgroup met 13 times: 10/02/2016 and 8/3/2016 (in the unofficial phase), 30/05/2016, 21/06/2016, 18/07/2016, 12/09/2016, 28/09/2016, 25/10/2016, 23/01/2017, 03/03/2017, 31/03/2017 and 18/05/2017 and a focus group on 18/10/2016.

The meeting minutes are attached as a deliverable for action F1 (F1_Deliverable_1 and F1_Deliverable_2)

MILESTONE	FILE	DATE
Appointment of members and activation of the project's technical	F2_Milestone_1	May 2016
workgroup		

5.3.32 ACTION F.3: Networking with other projects, LIFE and non-LIFE

Scheduled start date	01/07/2016	Actual start date	01/04/2016
Scheduled end date	30/09/2020	Actual (or expected) end date	In progress

Coordinating beneficiary: MEC

The action was moved up to April 2016 through the delivery of a networking invitation to the managers of LIFE WetFlyAmphibia and LIFE MIPP. Networking meetings with the point people of the two projects have followed. There is a constant exchange of technical information between these projects.

Networking with the LIFE MIPP Project: definition of the possible capitalisation on the results of the project, sharing of monitoring protocols, collaboration between PNFC and UTB Pratovecchio, joint participation in the EntoModena fair on 17-18 September 2016, participation of the LIFE MIPP Coordinator in the first seminar, aimed at volunteers, on 25/10/2016 (Action A5), participation in the final convention of LIFE MIPP in Mantua, 24-26 May.

Networking with the LIFE WetFlyAmphibia project: definition of intervention points of shared interest, participation of the LIFE EREMITA Coordinator in the initial conference for the WetFlyAmphibia project, creation of a weekend with the national CAI-TAM at the PNFC.

Other networks have been activated: with LIFE14NAT/DK/000606 RigKilde, with the Region of Lazio to monitor *Coenagrion mercuriale*, and with the University of Zagreb to monitor *Graphoderus bilineatus*.

A support letter (form A8) was requested and issued to two LIFE projects nominated with the 2016 call on *O. eremita*: one in the Czech Republic and one in Lithuania.

On 5 April 2017, the representatives of LIFE EREMITA participated in StudyVisit Life Slovenia – LIFE14CAP/SI/000012.

All the networking materials are included in "Other documents".

5.4 Envisaged progress until next report

I	ı	-		- 1	-	-		- 1	7	١ ،	_					- 1	•	-	•		
Action		2 1T	0 2T	1 3T	6 4T	2 1T	0 2T	1 3T	7 4T	2 1T	0 2T	1 3T	8 4T	2 1T	0 2T	1 3T	9 4T	2 1T	0 2T	2 3T	0
Overall project schedule	P ro po s e d						X						X				X				X
	Actual						Pl	R1 .													
A.1: Preliminary meeting, draft and signing	Proposed		••																		
of agreements, annual activity plan	Actual Proposed		T																		
A.2: Ex ante monitoring	Actual							-													
A211 (C () () () () () ()	Proposed							┢													┢
A.3 Identification/inventory of habitat trees	Actual							-													
A.4 Identification of suitable lakes, ponds and streams	P ro po s e d																				
7.	Actual																				
A.5 Training courses for volunteers/contractors	Proposed							••		••		••		•	••	••					
ACE I GO I	Actual							_													-
A.6 Ex-ante survey on the opinions of the main stakeholder groups	Proposed																				
	Actual																				
A.7 Drafting of a recovery plan for the target species based on the results of preliminary surveys	Proposed																				
	Actual																				
C.1 Creation of habitat trees for Osmoderma eremita and Rosalia alpina	Proposed															••				••	l
Rosana apma	Actual																				
C.2 Restoration of suitable ponds, lakes and streams	P ro po sed																				
	Actual																				
C.3 In-situ breeding	Proposed													••							
	Actual																				
C.4 Ex-situ (captive) breeding	Proposed														-						
	Actual							_													₩
C.5 Introduction of species bred off site or relocated into the natural habitat	Proposed																				
	Actual																				
C.6 Creation of an integrated computer system to support the conservation of the target species,	Proposed																				
including web tech solutions to involve stakeholders	Actual																				
C.7 Thematic workshops for training and internal	Proposed											••			••						
information	Actual							_													
C.8 Conservation Measures and Management Plan	P ro po sed																				
	Actual																				
D. I. E	Proposed						••	••	••	••	••	••	••	•	•	•	•	••	•	•	
D.1 Ex-post evaluation of ex-situ reproduction efficiency	Actual																				
	P ro po s e d											••	••					••			
D.2 Ex-post evaluation of restocking efficiency	Actual																				—
D.3 Evaluation of socio-economic impact	Proposed																				
b.3 Evaluation of socio-economic impact	Actual																				
D.4 Ex-post evaluation of presence, distribution and	Proposed																	••			
abundance of the target species	Actual							┢													
D.5 Ex-post analysis on main stakeholders group opinion	Proposed																				
	Actual																				
D.6 Evaluation of ecosystem functions	Proposed																	••	••	••	••
	Actual		1																		
E.1 The project's website	Proposed									••		••	••	••	••	••	••		••	••	••
E.2 Communication, distribution and environmental	Actual Proposed			I		Ī															1
education actions								••						•	-	•	-				
	Actual																				
E.3 Laymann's report	Proposed							_													
	Actual																				-
E.4 Project logo selection and creation of informational, educational and "best practices" panels	Proposed																				
	Actual																				
E.5 Thematic workshops	Proposed													••	••	••	••		••	••	
E.6 Final workshop	Actual Proposed																				-
E.O Piliai Workshop	Actual							┣—												••	
E.7 The EREMITA Tour: a travelling awareness campaign	Proposed							l													
E.8 Project press office	Actual Proposed						T	_													—
E.o Project press office	Actual														••						
F.1 Administrative-accounting and technical project	P ro po sed																				
management	Actual	ļ- -						⊢	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	├	├	<u> </u>		- -					
F.2 Establishment of the tecnical workgroup	Proposed			T			T														
goodp	Actual								••	••	••	••	••	••	••	••	••	••		••	••
F.3 Networking with other projects, LIFE and non-LIFE	Proposed																				
	Actual	L								L											
F.4 External audit	Proposed																			-	
	Actual																				
F.5 After life Conservation Plan	Proposed																				
	Actual							Ţ													

5.5 Impact

No conservation action has been taken at this stage of the project so we are unable to describe the impacts.

Indirect impacts: There is no indirect impact at this time.

Table of indicators: No conservation action has been taken at this stage of the project so we are unable to compare the data with the proposal stage.

Policy implications: There is no Policy implications at this time.

5.6 Outside LIFE

There is no actions taking place outside the framework of the LIFE project at the moment.

6 Financial part

6.1 Costs incurred (summary by cost category and relevant comments)

The incurred project costs at the April 2017 are:

Budget breakdown categories	Budgeted costs in €*	Costs incurred from the start date to 30/04/2017 in €	% of Budget**
1. Personnel	761.718	256.301	34%
2. Travel and subsistence	88.941	2.991	3%
3. External assistance	901.504	78.602	9%
4. Durable goods			
Infrastructure	84.800	0	0%
Equipment	112.956	14.719	13%
5. Land purchase / long-term lease	0	0	-
6. Consumables	25.846	6.146	24%
7. Other Costs	15.700		0%
8. Overheads	135.522	21.466	16%
TOTAL	1.126.987	358.760	18%

Any budget modification through an amendment was requested. However some partners have made or planned changes to budget within the limits of General Condition Art. II.22, specifically:

Partner	Changes
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MAR	30.000 € from Infrastructures for Action C4 (agreement with Acquemundi already notified to PA with mail 14/4/2017): 23.400 € to External Assistance, 4.000 € to						
	other costs (documentary), 1.000 € to consumables and 1.600 € to overheads.						
	34.410 € from personnel costs (additional staff actions A, C7 and E5) to external						
	assistance.						
	Total amount: 64.410 €.						
MEOC	1.645 € from equipment (saving of tender) and consumables in Action A2 to						
	personnel (Additional Staff) for Action C3 (installation of WMB).						
	4.330 € from travel in personnel (Additional Staff) (2.000 € for Action C5 and						
	2.330 € for Action D4).						
	Total amount: 5.975 €.						
MEOR	4.150 € from travel to external assistance in order to support entomologists for						
	Actions A2, A3, C3).						
PNFC	17.870 € from Travel to External Assistance for monitoring actions. 30.780 € from						
	Personnel (Additional Staff) to External Assistance. Total amount: € 48.650 for						
	actions C3, C4, C5, D1, D2, D4.						

The changes planned to 30/04/2017 amounts to $123.185 \in$ equal to 5,79 % of the budgeted costs. In the folder "Other_documents\F1\R2 modified" we send a file with the changed request, based on the model R2, with the red signed for the categories/actions modified.

Control of cost flexibility and compliance with art. II.22 of the General Condition is constantly monitored at the level of single partner and project. The Project Manager has asked all partners to plan ahead in advance for any budget changes. Consequently, other significant changes are not expected.

Costs incurred from the start date to April 2017 are the 18% of the total. There is a discrepancy in the post Personnel (34% of the costs incurred compared to the expected) due to: greater involvement of internal staff members in the early stages of the project; daily rate accounted higher than foreseen in the application form, calculated from monthly salary including thirteenth, without counting the social charges by the body and applying the standard divider of 26 productive days per month (6 days a week). In general terms, the daily rate is higher for two reasons:

- 1) The worker's working time is 5 days a week, so the average monthly working days on five days a week is 21.66 instead of 26;
- 2) The project's "time unit rates" are calculated on the basis of hours actually worked, excluding sick days, holidays, leave, which are still a cost for the body.

The first pre-financing payment (380.658,90 €) has been absorbed to 94%. It is expected that it will be absorbed by the end of 2017. Supposedly the term of 31/10/2018 for the Mid Term Report will be respected.

The incurred costs for action at the April 2017 are:

Action number and name	Budgeted costs	Budgeted hours	% of Budget spent	% of hours spent
A1 Riunione preliminare, stesura e firma convenzioni, piano annuale delle attività	5.043	235	194%	159%
A2 Monitoraggio ex ante	156.140	4.766	47%	22%
A3 Individuazione/inventario alberi habitat	61.300	2.442	79%	70%
A4 Individuazione di laghi, stagni e ruscelli idonei	24.160	917	102%	99%
A5 Corsi di formazione per volontari/collaboratori	55.588	975	21%	39%

A6 Indagine ex-ante sulle opinioni dei principali gruppi d'interesse.	9.144	183	12%	25%
A7 Redazione di un piano di recupero delle specie target in virtù dei risultati delle indagini preliminari	8.990	161	3%	6%
C1 Creazione alberi habitat per Osmoderma eremita e Rosalia alpina	146.500	1.181	3%	2%
C2 Recupero stagni, laghi e ruscelli idonei	109.785	191	0%	0%
C3 Riproduzione in situ	102.200	2.244	9%	2%
C4 Riproduzione ex situ (captive breeding)	195.230	1.723	5%	21%
C5 Immissione in natura degli esemplari prodotti ex situ o traslocati	117.275	3.344	0%	0%
C6 Creazione di un sistema informativo integrato a supporto della conservazione delle specie target	85.072	1.276	13%	16%
C7 Workshop tematici di formazione, informazione interna	27.091	1.173	27%	24%
C8 Misure di conservazione e Piani di gestione	12.545	616	0%	0%
D1 Valutazione ex-post dell'efficienza delle attività di riproduzione ex-situ	8.472	455	0%	0%
D2 Valutazione ex-post dell'efficienza dell'attività di ripopolamento e rinforzo	8.172	455	0%	0%
D3 Valutazione impatto socio-economico	8.480	484	0%	0%
D4 Valutazione ex-post della presenza/distribuzione ed abbondanza delle specie target	25.232	1.188	0%	0%
D5 Indagine ex post sull'opinione dei principali gruppi di interesse	10.379	242	0%	0%
E1 Sito internet di progetto	41.976	1.885	27%	25%
E2 Azioni di comunicazione, diffusione ed educazione ambientale	152.777	1.151	8%	48%
E3 Layman's report	17.353	286	0%	0%
E4 Scelta del logo di progetto e realizzazione di pannelli informativi, didattici e di buone pratiche	30.086	227	21%	106%
E5 Workshop tematici	11.217	433	0%	0%
E6 Seminario finale	14.216	381	0%	0%
E7 Campagna di sensibilizzazione itinerante EREMITA tour	152.460	755	1%	10%
E8 Ufficio stampa di progetto	63.206	2.625	21%	22%
F1 Gestione amministrativo-contabile e tecnica del progetto	280.666	5.456	30%	48%
F2 Istituzione di un Tavolo Tecnico	16.352	631	75%	9%
F3 Networking con altri progetti LIFE e non LIFE	20.792	814	24%	20%
F4 External audit	13.566	242	0%	0%

7 Annex

7.1 Deliverable

Action A1 - Agreement between partners

Action A1 - Drafting of a work schedule for the first year of the project

Action A6 - Assessment questionnaire

Action A6 - Activity report

Action E1 – Sito web

Action E2 – Environmental education executive plan published

Action E2 – Handout presenting the project and the involved species

Action E4 - Project logo

Action F1 - Meeting minutes for the technical and administrative workgroups and the first year meetings (year 2016 until to May 2017)

7.2 Other documents

Action A1_ Authorizations

Actions A2_A3_A4: monitoring protocols; report 2016; Material list purchased,

Action A5: Demonstration of interest, candidatures, power point, contact lenses, list of participants.

Action C4: Agreement MAR -Acquaemundi; Proposal Acquaemundi; Notification Action

C4 sended

Action C7: Invitation meeting, list of participants, power point.

Action E2: scientific leaflet, bookmarks, posters

Action E4: Notice board C4 MAR, draft notice board.

Action E8: Layout

Action F3: Networking activities