



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
PRIMORSKO-GORANSKA ŽUPANIJA
Upravni odjel za prostorno uređenje,
graditeljstvo i zaštitu okoliša

KLASA: 612-07/17-03/2
URBROJ: 2170-03/1-22-5
Rijeka, 18. srpnja 2022.

Materijal izrađen od strane Javne ustanove „Priroda“

**PRIJEDLOG ODLUKE O DAVANJU SUGLASNOSTI
RAVNATELJICI JAVNE USTANOVE „PRIRODA“ ZA POTPISIVANJE
UGOVORA O DODJELI BESPOVRATNIH SREDSTAVA
ZA PROJEKT „LIFE SUPport“**

Pročelnica Upravnog odjela

izv.prof.dr.sc. Koraljka Vahtar – Jurković, dipl.ing.građ.

ravnateljica Javne ustanove "Priroda"

Irena Jurjč, dipl.ing.pom.prom.

Materijal pripremila:

Petra Stijelja, dipl.ing.biol.

I. PRAVNI OSNOV

Člankom 10. Odluke o osnivanju Javne ustanove "Priroda" („Službene novine“ broj 42/13 i 40/20) te člankom 22. Statuta Javne ustanove „Priroda“ (KLASA: 023-01/20-01/01; URBROJ: 2170-52-01/1-20-70 od 9. prosinca 2020.) propisano je da ravnatelj ugovore o izvođenju projekata preko iznosa od 200.000 kuna koji se financiraju u cijelosti ili dijelom iz sredstava trećih osoba potpisuje uz suglasnost Župana.

Člankom 4. Upute o planiranju i praćenju projekata sufinanciranih iz pomoći iz inozemstva i od subjekata unutar općeg proračuna (KLASA: 022-04/119-0117, URBROJ: 217011-01-01/6-19-8 od 25. veljače 2019. godine i KLASA: 022-04/20-01/7, URBROJ: 2170/1-01-01/6 od 24. veljače 2020. godine) propisano je da su proračunski korisnici Primorsko-goranske županije dužni informirati Župana putem Kolegija Župana u slučaju odobrenja sufinanciranja projekta od strane nadležnog tijela i to prije potpisa ugovora o sufinanciranju projekta.

Člankom 52. točkom 23. Statuta Primorsko-goranske županije („Službene novine“ broj 23/09, 9/13, 25/13 – pročišćeni tekst, 5/18, 8/18 – pročišćeni tekst, 2/20 i 4/21) propisano je da Župan donosi opće i pojedinačne akte te zaključke sukladno zakonu i drugim propisima i aktima Skupštine.

Člankom 25. stavkom 1. Poslovnika o radu Župana Primorsko-goranske županije („Službene novine“ broj 23/14, 16/15, 3/16, 19/16 – pročišćeni tekst i 16/21) propisano je da Župan donosi opće akte kada je to propisano posebnim zakonom, pojedinačne akte kada rješava o pojedinim pravima, obvezama i pravnim interesima fizičkih i pravnih osoba te zaključke.

II. OBRAZLOŽENJE

Javna ustanova „Priroda“ (u daljnjem tekstu: Ustanova) 2014. godine je, uz podršku Primorsko-goranske županije i Grada Cresa, preuzela projekt ponovne uspostave Centra za posjetitelje i oporavilišta za bjeloglave supove Beli. Oporavilište, koje djeluje u sklopu Centra, jedino je i namjenski registrirano oporavilište za bjeloglave supove u Republici Hrvatskoj. Od početka rada Oporavilišta 2016. godine spašen je ukupno 61 bjeloglavi sup, a 51 jedinka po oporavku puštena natrag u prirodu, što je značajan broj uzme li se u obzir da je brojnost hrvatske populacije supova oko stotinjak gnijezdećih parova. Trenutno se na oporavku nalaze tri bjeloglava supa. Oporavilište svake godine zaprimi i preko desetak supova, najčešće mladih, neiskusnih ptica koje spašavamo od ugibanja, a nakon oporavka i rehabilitacije ponovno puštamo u prirodu, a trenutno su na oporavku tri bjeloglava supa. **Uz rad Oporavilišta vežu se brojne aktivnosti koje Ustanova provodi kao aktivne mjere zaštite i očuvanja populacije, poput upravljanja hranilištem na izdvojenoj lokaciji, monitoringa kolonija, direktnog nadzora kako bi se spriječilo uznemiravanje, praćenja kretanja oporavljenih jedinki obilježenih GPS uređajima, također sufinancira prstenovanje mladih ptica, vrši edukativne i brojne druge aktivnosti.** Upravo je pri kraju provedba još jednog EU projekta kojim su se unaprijedili kapaciteti za intenzivnu skrb o supovima u Oporavilištu.

Nedostatak hrane u staništu kao posljedica smanjenog obima ekstenzivnog uzgoja stoka na otocima i prisutnosti nezavičajne divljači, gubitak staništa zarastanjem, povećan mortalitet ptica radi elektrokcije, različitih vrsta nenamjernog trovanja (posebno olovom) te uznemiravanja na kolonijama, samo su neke od

prijetnji koje utječu na povećanje brojnosti supova na Kvarneru. Obzirom da je Ustanova jedan od ključnih dionika u sustavu aktivnog očuvanja ove vrste u Hrvatskoj, priključila se izradi projektne prijave na natječaj za program Europske komisije LIFE na potprogram Priroda i bioraznolikost te je **Zaključkom Župana prihvaćena informacija o namjeri prijave projekta „LIFE SUPport“ na natječaj za program LIFE za 2021. godinu** (Prilog 1.). Sukladno tome, Ustanova je sa partnerima u studenome 2021. prijavila projekt, a u proteklih nekoliko mjeseci provodila se evaluacija projekta te je projekt u konačnici **ocijenjen uspješnim i odobren za sufinanciranje**.

Program LIFE instrument je Europske unije namijenjen financiranju aktivnosti na području zaštite okoliša, prirode i klime. Cilj LIFE programa je doprinijeti implementaciji, ažuriranju i razvoju EU politika i zakonodavstva iz područja okoliša, prirode i klime kroz sufinanciranje projekata koji imaju europsku dodanu vrijednost. Sva komunikacija vezana uz projekt provodi se na engleskom jeziku u Funding & Tenders Portal kao integriranu ulaznu točku za sudionike u financijskim programima i natječajima kojima upravljaju Europska komisija i druga EU tijela. Tako je **dana 17. svibnja 2022. zaprimljena Pozivnica za pripremu Ugovora o dodjeli bespovratnih sredstava za projekt „LIFE SUPport“** (Prilog 2.). Tijekom proteklog razdoblja vršene su administrativne aktivnosti vezane uz pripremu ugovora sa Europskom komisijom nakon čega je svim partnerima elektronskim putem dostavljen **Ugovor o dodjeli bespovratnih sredstava za projekt „LIFE SUPport“** (u daljnjem tekstu: Ugovor) (Prilog 3.).

Sukladno Ugovoru, ukupno prihvatljivi troškovi Ustanove iznose 356.791,50 eura, a najviši iznos bespovratnih sredstava koji se može dodijeliti za sufinanciranje iznosi 214.074,90 eura.

O projektnom prijedlogu i potpisivanju Ugovora raspravljalo je i **Upravno vijeće Javne ustanove "Priroda"** pa je na 9. sjednici koja je održana dana 18. srpnja 2022. godine donijelo Odluku o davanju pozitivnog mišljenja za potpisivanje Ugovora (Prilog 4.).

Projekt naziva **„Securing a future for Griffon Vultures in Croatia (Osiguravanje budućnosti za bjeloglave supove u Hrvatskoj)“** ili skraćeni naziv projekta **„LIFE SUPport“** prijavila je Udruga BIOM kao vodeći partner, a ostali partneri su:

- Vulture Conservation Foundation (Zaklada za očuvanje ptica strvinara); najrelevantnija nevladina organizacija koja se uspješno bavi očuvanjem strvinara u Europi sa sjedištem u Španjolskoj i Nizozemskoj;
- HEP – Operator distribucijskog sustava d.o.o.;
- Poljoprivredna zadruha Otok Krk;
- Javna ustanova „Priroda“.

Projekt su također podržali i drugi partneri koji će sudjelovati u raznim aktivnostima, među kojima i Ministarstvo gospodarstva i održivog razvoja (Uprava za zaštitu prirode).

Opći cilj projekta je **unaprijediti uvjete za gniježđenje i preživljavanje zadnje preostale populacije bjeloglavog supa u Hrvatskoj, koja se nalazi na Kvarnerskim otocima. Najvažnije prijetnje koje se pokušavaju riješiti kroz ovaj projekt su uznemiravanje tijekom gniježđenja, nedostatak hrane, trovanje i elektrokcija. Glavni ciljevi projekta su:**

- Smanjenje smrtnosti mladih ptica smanjivanjem uznemiravanja na gnijezdima i unaprjeđivanjem rada Centra Beli vezano za spašavanje i oporavak bjeloglavih supova.
- Povećanje dostupnosti hrane za supove kroz unaprjeđenje i proširenje mreže hranilišta i kroz povećanje mogućnosti za prirodno hranjenje.
- Sprječavanje trovanja kroz istraživanje najboljih preventivnih mjera za izbjegavanje trovanja lešina i kroz promociju korištenja bezolovnog streljiva.
- Smanjenje smrtnosti uzrokovane elektrokucijom na stupovima srednje naponske elektro distribucijske mreže primjenom odgovarajućih mjera ublažavanja na najvažnijim „vrućim točkama“ (hotspots) elektrokucije.
- Promocija bjeloglavih supova i povećanje svijesti o prijetnjama za bjeloglave supove i njihovim potrebama među lokalnim dionicima, širom javnosti i državnom i javnom upravom.

Projekt je strukturiran kroz osam radnih paketa, od koji će Ustanova biti zadužena za vođenje paket naziva „Nest disturbance and juvenile rescue and rehabilitation“ (Uznemiravanje tijekom gniježđenja i spašavanje te rehabilitacija mladih ptica), a sudjelovat će i u realizaciji ostalih paketa s partnerima. Neke od aktivnosti koje Ustanova planira realizirati kroz projekt vezuju se uz unaprjeđenje monitoringa populacije i spašavanja mladih ptica, osiguranje sredstava i adekvatnih količina hrane za hranilište kojim Ustanova upravlja, uspostava video nadzora na hranilištu kao i realizacija višenamjenskog aklimatizacijskog kaveza na hranilištu za provedbu uspješnijeg povratka ptica u prirodu, kao i za hvatanje divljih odraslih supova radi obilježavanja novonabavljenim GPS odašiljačima, izrada odgovarajuće promatračnice na hranilištu, sudjelovanje u dodatnim edukacijama šire javnosti i brodara te mnoge druge.

Trajanje projekta iznosi 5 godina (početak siječanj 2023., kraj prosinac 2027.). Ukupna vrijednost projekta iznosi 2.159.589,61 eura dok je ukupna vrijednost projekta za Ustanovu 356.791,50 eura. Stopa sufinanciranja kroz program LIFE je do 60% ukupnih prihvatljivih troškova te maksimalni iznos sufinanciranja za projekt 1.295.751,00 eura dok je maksimalni iznos sufinanciranja za Ustanovu 214.074,90. Za potrebe provedbe projekta nije planirano novo zapošljavanje, već će projekt provoditi zaposlenici Ustanove. Predviđen je rad 6 zaposlenika Ustanove, od čega bi ukupan **iznos troškova rada (učešće kroz rad) Ustanove trebali iznositi maksimalno 135.680,00 eura** uz indirektno troškove u visini od 23.341,50 eura. Također, paralelno s prijavom na LIFE program, partneri su podnijeli prijavu za nacionalno sufinanciranje Fondu za zaštitu okoliša i energetske učinkovitost, koji financira 50% od vlastitog učešća (bez troškova plaća i indirektnih troškova koji nisu prihvatljiv trošak u ovom smislu) odnosno do maksimalno 39.554,00 eura.

U Tablici 1 prikazani su planirani troškovi Ustanove tijekom svih pet godina provedbe projekta.

Tablica 1: Troškovi Ustanove tijekom pet godina provedbe projekta „LIFE SUPport“

	2023.	2024.	2025.	2026.	2027.	UKUPNO
Troškovi aktivnosti (EUR)	33.460,00	47.150,00	73.660,00	21.750,00	21.750,00	197.770,00
Troškovi plaća (EUR)	31.328,00	33.206,00	28.938,00	20.338,00	21.870,00	135.680,00
Indirektni troškovi (EUR)	4.535,16	5.624,92	7.181,86	2.946,16	3.053,40	23.341,50
Ukupno (EUR)	69.323,16	85.980,92	109.779,86	45.034,16	46.673,40	356.791,50
Maksimalno sufinanciranje LIFE (EUR)	41.593,90	51.588,55	65.867,92	27.020,50	28.004,04	214.074,90
Maksimalno sufinanciranje FZOEU (EUR)	6.692,00	9.430,00	14.732,00	4.350,00	4.350,00	39.554,00
Maksimalno sufinanciranje JUP (EUR)	21.037,26	24.962,37	29.179,944	13.663,66	14.319,36	103.162,60

Ustanova u okviru svojih financijskih i kapacitativnih mogućnosti već niz godina provodi niz aktivnosti u cilju zaštite bjeloglavih supova, no projekt „LIFE SUPport“ predstavlja jedinstvenu priliku za provedbu sveobuhvatnih aktivnosti, putem partnerske suradnje relevantnih dionika, rješavajući najvažnije prijetnje i izazove kako bi se ojačala trenutna populacija kvarnerskih supova što je ključni preduvjet za njeno dugoročno očuvanje kao važne spone između alpskih i južnih populacija supova na balkanskom poluotoku. **Projekt „LIFE SUPport“ prvi je projekt iz programa LIFE koji se u Hrvatskoj namjenski bavi ovom strogo zaštićenom vrstom.**

III. OCJENA I IZVORI POTREBNIH SREDSTAVA

Za provođenje ovog akta u 2022. godini nije potrebno osigurati dodatna sredstva u Proračunu Primorsko-goranske županije, budući da se početak provedbe projektnih aktivnosti očekuje početkom 2023. godine. Stoga će sredstva za provedbu projekta biti nužno planirati u Proračunu za 2023. godinu s projekcijama za 2024. i 2025. godinu. Prilikom planiranja sredstava za provedbu Projekta vodit će se računa o dinamici uplata definiranoj Ugovorom. Nakon potpisivanja ugovora, isplaćuje se predfinanciranje za početak provedbe projektnih aktivnosti. Iduća rata predfinanciranja dobiva se nakon predaje „Mid-Term reporta“ (srednjoročnog izvješća), a zadnja rata isplaćuje se nakon završetka projekta, stoga će taj dio biti potrebno predfinancirati.

IV. PRIJEDLOG ZAKLJUČKA

Slijedom navedenog, predlaže se Županu Primorsko-goranske županije da donese zaključak u tekstu kako slijedi:

Na temelju članka 4. Upute o planiranju i praćenju projekata sufinanciranih iz pomoći iz inozemstva i od subjekata unutar općeg proračuna (KLASA: 022-04/19-01/7, URBROJ: 2170/1-01-01/6-19-8 od 25. veljače 2019. godine, KLASA: 022-04/20-01/7, URBROJ: 2170/1-01-01/6-20/27 od 24. veljače 2020. godine), članka 10. Odluke o osnivanju Javne ustanove "Priroda" („Službene novine“ broj 42/13 i 40/20), članka 22. Statuta Javne ustanove „Priroda“ (KLASA: 023-01/20-01/01; URBROJ: 2170-52-01/1-20-70 od 9. prosinca 2020.), članka 52. točke 23. Statuta Primorsko-goranske županije („Službene novine“ broj 23/09, 9/13, 25/13 – pročišćeni tekst, 5/18, 8/18 – pročišćeni tekst, 2/20 i 4/21) i članka 25. stavka 1. Poslovnika o radu Župana Primorsko-goranske županije („Službene novine“ broj 23/14, 16/15, 3/16, 19/16 – pročišćeni tekst i 16/21), Župan Primorsko-goranske županije, dana _____ 2022. godine, donio je

Z a k l j u č a k

Donosi se Odluka o davanju suglasnosti ravnateljici Javne ustanove „Priroda“ za potpisivanje Ugovora o dodjeli bespovratnih sredstava za projekt „LiFE SUPport“.

(Odluka je sastavni dio ovog Zaključka)

Na temelju članka 4. Upute o planiranju i praćenju projekata sufinanciranih iz pomoći iz inozemstva i od subjekata unutar općeg proračuna (KLASA: 022-04/19-01/7, URBROJ: 2170/1-01-01/6-19-8 od 25. veljače 2019. godine, KLASA: 022-04/20-01/7, URBROJ: 2170/1-01-01/6-20/27 od 24. veljače 2020. godine), članka 10. Odluke o osnivanju Javne ustanove "Priroda" („Službene novine“ broj 42/13 i 40/20), članka 22. Statuta Javne ustanove „Priroda“ (KLASA: 023-01/20-01/01; URBROJ: 2170-52-01/1-20-70 od 9. prosinca 2020.), članka 52. točke 23. Statuta Primorsko-goranske županije („Službene novine“ broj 23/09, 9/13, 25/13 – pročišćeni tekst, 5/18, 8/18 – pročišćeni tekst, 2/20 i 4/21) i članka 25. stavka 1. Poslovnika o radu Župana Primorsko-goranske županije („Službene novine“ broj 23/14, 16/15, 3/16, 19/16 – pročišćeni tekst i 16/21), Župan Primorsko-goranske županije, dana _____ 2022. godine, donio je

ODLUKU

o davanju suglasnosti ravnateljici Javne ustanove „Priroda“ za potpisivanje Ugovora o dodjeli bespovratnih sredstava za projekt „LIFE SUPport“

I.

Daje se suglasno ravnateljici Javne ustanove „Priroda“ za potpisivanje Ugovora o dodjeli bespovratnih sredstava za projekt „LIFE SUPport“.

II.

Ova Odluka stupa na snagu danom donošenja.

Prilozi materijalu:

1. Prilog 1 – Zaključak Župana o prihvaćanju informacije o namjeri prijave projekta „LIFE SUPport“ na natječaj u okviru OP Konkurentnost i kohezija 2014.-2020. (KLASA: 022-04/21-01/42; URBROJ: 2170/1-01-01/6-21-15 od 29. studenoga 2021.)
2. Prilog 2 – Pozivnica za pripremu Ugovora o dodjeli bespovratnih sredstava za projekt „LIFE SUPport“ (Ref. Ares(2022)3719463 od 17. svibnja 2022.)
3. Prilog 3 – Ugovor o dodjeli bespovratnih sredstava za projekt „LIFE SUPport“
4. Prilog 4 – Odluka Upravnog vijeća Javne ustanove „Priroda“ o pozitivnom mišljenju za potpisivanje Ugovora o dodjeli bespovratnih sredstava za projekt „LIFE SUPport“ (KLASA: 023-01/22-01/1, URBROJ: 2170-52-01/1-22-32 od 18. srpnja 2022.)



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
PRIMORSKO-GORANSKA ŽUPANIJA
Župan

KLASA: 022-04/21-01/42
URBROJ: 2170/1-01-01/6-21-15
Rijeka, 29. studenoga 2021.

PRIMORSKO-GORANSKA ŽUPANIJA
JAVNA USTANOVA „PRIRODA“

2170-52

RIJEKA

Primljeno: 01.12.2021.	
Klasifikacijska oznaka:	Org. jed.
612-07/21-01/12	
Unutarnji broj:	21-4

Na temelju članka 3. Upute o planiranju i praćenju projekata sufinanciranih iz pomoći iz inozemstva i od subjekata unutar općeg proračuna (KLASA: 022-04/19-01/17, URBROJ: 2170/1-01-01/6-19-8 od 25. veljače 2019. godine i KLASA: 022-04/20-01/7, URBROJ: 2170/1-01-01/6 od 24. veljače 2020. godine), članka 52. točke 23. Statuta Primorsko-goranske županije („Službene novine“ broj 23/09, 9/13, 25/13 – pročišćeni tekst, 5/18, 8/18 – pročišćeni tekst, 2/20 i 4/21) i članka 25. stavka 1. Poslovnika o radu Župana Primorsko-goranske županije („Službene novine“ broj 23/14, 16/15, 3/16, 19/16 – pročišćeni tekst i 16/21), Župan Primorsko-goranske županije, dana 29. studenoga 2021. godine, donio je

Zaključak

1. Prihvaća se informacija o namjeri prijave projekta „LIFE SUPport“ na natječaj za program LIFE za 2021. godinu.

2. Zadužuje se Javna ustanova „Priroda“ da putem nadležnog Upravnog odjela za prostorno uređenje, graditeljstvo i zaštitu okoliša po eventualnom odabiru projekta „LIFE SUPport“ za sufinanciranje za program LIFE za 2021. godinu pripremi informaciju o istom za Kolegij Župana.



Župan

Zlatko Komacina, dipl.ing.

Dostaviti:

1. Upravnom odjelu za prostorno uređenje, graditeljstvo i zaštitu okoliša
n/r pročelnice **izv.prof.dr.sc. Koraljke Vahtar Jurković**
2. Upravnom odjelu za proračun, financije i nabavu
n/r pročelnika **mr.sc. Krešimira Parata**
3. zamjenicima Župana



EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.D – Natural resources, climate, sustainable blue economy and clean energy
D.2 – LIFE Environment (Nature & Circular Economy)

Zeljka RAJKOVIC
Udruga BIOM
Preradovićeve 34
10000 ZAGREB
CROATIA

Subject: Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
Call: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT
Project: 101074212 — LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport
GAP invitation letter

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing in connection with your proposal for the above-mentioned call.


Having completed the evaluation, we are pleased to inform you that your proposal has passed this phase and that we would now like to start **grant preparation**.

Please find enclosed the evaluation summary report (ESR) for your proposal.

Invitation to grant preparation

Grant preparation will be based on the following:

1. **Project:** 101074212 — LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport
2. **Topic:** LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE — Nature and Biodiversity
3. **Type of action:** LIFE Project Grants
4. **Project officer:** Anita FASSIO
LIFE Environment (Nature & Circular Economy)

 Please always use the Funding & Tenders Portal messaging function (via your [Portal account](#)). Do NOT contact us via other means (email, letter, etc.) — unless explicitly asked to do so.

5. **Maximum grant amount:**

Requested EU contribution (according to proposal): 1 295 751.00 EUR


Maximum grant amount (proposed amount, after evaluation): 1 295 751.00 EUR


 Please note that the proposed amount may still be lowered during grant preparation.

6. **Project duration:** 60 months

7. Grant preparation:


Preparation of grant data & annexes: 4 weeks after receiving this letter

 The annexes (description of the action, estimated budget, etc.) must be based on the proposal you submitted and the clarifications provided (if any). You may normally NOT make changes to the project/project budget/consortium composition (except if required by us). Please immediately inform the project officer if you need to make a change (*e.g. bankruptcy, etc.*).


 Please be aware that your proposal may still need to undergo an ethics review or security scrutiny (and the results will then have to be implemented by you).

Once we have checked the information you have encoded, you will have 2 weeks to submit your final version — to bring it in line with our comments.

Declaration of honour (DoH): 5 weeks after receiving this letter


 Please note that each applicant should also submit a signed and scanned DoH for each one of their linked third parties.

Signature: within 3 months after receiving this letter (planned date)

 Please note that repeated failure to respect deadlines during grant preparation may lead to the rejection of your proposal (or a consortium member). Lack of cooperation will be taken to mean that you are no longer interested.

8. Funding & Tenders Portal

Grant preparation (including signature) will be done exclusively through the Funding & Tenders Portal electronic exchange system (login via your [Portal account](#)). Do NOT contact us via other means (email, letter, etc.) — unless explicitly asked to do so.


Please be aware that linked third parties (if allowed) must be registered and validated as legal entities in the Portal [Participant Register](#).  Register them immediately, if not already done.

Please note that some of your legal and financial data in the Participant Register is read-only and can be updated only by a LEAR (via the Portal My Organisation(s) page). You will therefore be contacted soon to appoint a [LEAR](#) (unless you already have one).

9. Other

Not applicable

 For more information on grant preparation, see the [Online Manual](#). You can refer to this document also for programmes other than H2020 since the procedures are very similar.

 Please note that this letter does **NOT** constitute a **formal commitment for funding**. The final decision on your project will only be taken at a later stage, since it depends on the finalisation of grant preparation and further checks which we still need to make (*for instance, financial capacity, non-exclusion, etc.*).

For calls with a limited number of proposals to be funded: If a call can fund only a limited number of proposals, grant preparation may be moreover be stopped if other proposals move up in the ranking after a successful evaluation review and re-evaluation procedure.

In order to support you in the preparation of your Grant Agreement, two documents will be sent out to you shortly via the communication tool of the funding and tender portal:

- A Guidance Note on the LIFE 2021 Standard Action Project Grant Agreement Preparation
- A Technical and Budgetary GAP Document specifically prepared for your GA Preparation

I would be grateful if you could inform the other members of your consortium (if any) of this letter.

For any questions, please contact us via your [Funding & Tenders Portal account](#).

Yours faithfully,

Anne BURRILL
Head of Unit

Enclosure: Evaluation summary report (ESR)

Proposal Evaluation Form



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

Evaluation Summary Report - LIFE

Call: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT
Type of action: LIFE-PJG
Proposal number: 101074212
Proposal acronym: LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport
Duration (months): 60
Proposal title: Securing a future for Griffon Vultures in Croatia
Activity: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total Cost	%	Grant Requested	%
1	Udruga BIOM	HR	983,941.02	45.56%	590,364	45.56%
2	Stichting the Vulture Conservation Foundation	NL	270,062.65	12.51%	162,037	12.51%
3	Javna ustanova Priroda	HR	356,791.5	16.52%	214,074	16.52%
4	Poljoprivredna zadruha Otok Krk	HR	225,427.6	10.44%	135,256	10.44%
5	HEP-OPERATOR DISTRIBUCIJSKOG SUSTAVA DOO ZA DISTRIBUCIJU I OPSKRBU ELEKTRICNE ENERGIJE D.O.O.	HR	323,366.84	14.97%	194,020	14.97%
6	MINISTARSTVO GOSPODARSTVA I ODRZIVOG RAZVOJA	HR	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total:			2,159,589.61		1,295,751	

Abstract:

The project LIFE SUPport aims to improve breeding and survival conditions for the last remaining population of Griffon Vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) in Croatia, located on the Kvarner Islands. The urgency and need for such a project have been outlined in the expert background document prepared for the currently pending adoption of the Griffon Vulture Management Plan in Croatia. By tackling the most important threats on their breeding grounds, the current population of 110-130 pairs will continue to survive and possibly increase in number, which is an important first step for the species to re-colonize their historical breeding ranges on the Croatian mainland and connect to other populations of Griffon Vultures in the Alps and Balkans. The most important threats targeted by this project are nest disturbance, lack of food, poisoning and electrocution. The main objectives are therefore:

1. Reducing nestling mortality by minimizing nest disturbance and by improving the rescue and rehabilitation operations of the Beli Rescue Center for Griffon Vultures.
2. Increasing food availability for vultures by improving and expanding the existing network of managed feeding stations and by increasing natural feeding opportunities.
3. Prevention of poisoning events by exploring best preventive measures to avoid the use of poisoned baits, by promoting the use of lead-free ammunition and by capacity building of relevant enforcement agencies for combating illegal wildlife poisoning.
4. Reducing mortality arising from electrocution by applying appropriate mitigation measures on the most important electrocution hotspots.
5. Promoting Griffon Vultures and raising awareness of their threats and needs to local stakeholders, the wider public and government bodies.

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 75.75 (Threshold: 55)

Criterion 1 - Relevance

Score: **15.00** (Threshold: 10/20.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects have been taken into account:

- Relevance of the contribution to one or several of the specific objectives of the LIFE Programme and the targeted sub-programme.
- Extent to which the proposal is in line with the description included in the call for proposals, including, where relevant, its specific priorities.
- Concept and methodology: soundness of the overall intervention logic.
- Extent to which the proposal offers co-benefits and promotes synergies with other policy areas relevant for achieving environment and climate policy objectives.

*The proposal is relevant to the general objectives of the LIFE programme and the specific objectives of the sub-programme for Nature and Biodiversity because it will contribute to the implementation of the relevant Union legislation and policy on nature and biodiversity, and will improve governance at all levels to improve the conservation status of Annex I BD species the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) in three Natura 2000 sites designated for the species: HR1000033, HR100018 and HR1000019.*

The project clearly complies with the selected call topic Nature and Biodiversity because it will implement best practice to improve the conservation status of Annex I species of the Birds Directive. The project falls under both intervention areas 'Space for Nature' and 'Safeguarding our species' because it will improve the habitats of the target species and reduce mortality caused by lack of food, the adverse impact of energy infrastructure, and human-wildlife conflicts, and it will also decrease lead pollution. The project has concrete outcome-based biodiversity-related objectives.

*The urgency of the proposed activities is moderate to high, because according to 2018 reporting under the Birds Directive, the EU status and trends are secure, but the national trend for the species is declining. The project also makes a relevant contribution to the policy priorities under the Birds Directive by addressing the Croatian PAF and the National Management Plan for *G. fulvus*, and under the EU Biodiversity Strategy (establishment of a more coherent Natura 2000 network and bringing nature back to agricultural land) by developing solutions to*

assist nature-inclusive farming.

The preoperational context is comprehensively described and sufficient information is provided to assess the problems and threats targeted: lack of food, electrocution, poisoning and disturbance at their breeding colonies. The baseline justifies the foreseen interventions, has been clearly explained, and is quantified with detailed figures: e.g. the population size is about 110 pairs located on four islands within in the SPA Kvarnerski otoci (HR1000033). The threats are also clearly quantified.

The overall intervention logic is sound because most of the problems are convincingly addressed by the activities. However, it is not clear how the missing 25 tons of extra food annually and the food for the feeding station on Cres will be secured. The approach is good, but mitigation of the disturbance by boats with tourists is not secured.

The stated objectives and results are most likely to be achieved.

The project offers co-benefits and promotes significant synergies with other policy areas. In particular, CAP (extensive grazing, conflict mitigation), REACH Regulation (limiting the use of lead bullets), public and animal health policy, and EU Sanitary Regulations 1069/2009 and 142/2011 (improving feeding stations, international conference on supplementary feeding of vultures). The co-benefits and synergies are clearly identified and quantified, and these include promotion of traditional farming, assessment of the state of grazing areas (level of encroachment and recommendations), decreasing the use of lead ammunition and pollution.

Relevant policymakers will be actively involved to capitalise on the results of the project. The contribution to these policy areas is assessed as significant because they will contribute to the sustainability of the project on a national scale and some can be used in other regions/countries.

Criterion 2 - Impact

Score: **15.50** (Threshold: 10/20.00 , Weight: 150.00%)

The following aspects have been taken into account:

- Ambition and credibility of impacts expected during and/or after the project due to the activities, including ensuring that no substantial harm is done to the other specific objectives of the LIFE Programme.
- Sustainability of the project results after the end of the project.
- Quality of the measures for the exploitation of project results.
- Potential for the project results to be replicated in the same or other sectors or places, or to be up-scaled by public or private actors or through mobilising larger investments or financial resources (catalytic potential).

The expected results and impacts of the project are clearly described and are quantified both as key project-level indicators and in the text of the proposal. These include complete elimination of the electrocution/collision of Griffon vultures, 10% reduction in the number of chicks drowning, reduction of lead poisoning, mitigation of food shortage, etc. The overall impact of the project is 14% increase in the Croatian population of the species to 125 pairs at the end of the project, with a further increase to 140 pairs five years later. It will also benefit 14 other Annex I birds. The identified impacts are consistent with the activities planned in the project and seem concrete, realistic and achievable. The project is expected to achieve a relevant conservation benefit for the target species. The proposal is also likely to achieve other relevant, specific and measurable outcomes such as the revision of the EU sanitary regulation, which may facilitate the improvement of additional areas/habitat of the species in its historical range and elsewhere in Europe, where scavengers occur and depend on access to carcasses.

The proposal demonstrates convincingly that the proposed solutions and related expected results of the project will be continued in the medium and long term after the project. The monitoring of bird loss due to electrocution/collision will be carried out by the beneficiaries, the maintenance of the feeding sites will be included in the SPAs management plans, and farmers' associations are expected to secure continuity of work related to human-wildlife conflict mitigation and extensive grazing. However, the sustainability of limiting disturbance and use of lead-alternative ammunition is not fully convincing as it depends on the approach of the general public. In addition, the project will implement measures described in the national PAF and compliant with the national and international Griffon vulture Management Plan with Action Plan. Competent authorities for protected areas have shown their support and their interest in replication of activities in other sites. The mandatory work package "Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results" and the mandatory deliverable "After-LIFE plan" are included in the proposal and are adequately described.

There is a plan to ensure that the project outputs, e.g. the data on the movement of the sea-cliff nesting population of Griffon vultures, will contribute to the knowledge of the species, and be utilised through the project partner Vulture Conservation Foundation, other BirdLife partners, etc. The project will attempt to standardise human-wildlife conflict prevention measures. The intention to revise the EU Sanitary Regulation is an important step to ensure a sustainable change in the availability of safe food for scavengers in the country, but this does not seem to be guaranteed.

The proposal does not sufficiently demonstrate how the project will ensure the transfer of its impacts and solutions beyond its duration to reach a critical mass and mobilise wider uptake of the proposed solutions. The proposal mentions possible replication of activities for karst pasture management but does not elaborate further on this issue, and also indicates replication of the feeding stations in Slovenia, but details are not provided.

Criterion 3 - Quality

Score: **16.00** (Threshold: 10/20.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects have been taken into account:

- Clarity, relevance and feasibility of the work plan.
- Identification and mobilisation of the relevant stakeholders.
- Appropriate geographic focus of the activities.
- Quality of the plan to monitor and report impacts.
- Appropriateness and quality of the measures to communicate and disseminate the project and its results to different target groups.

The work plan, work packages, and their expected outputs are adequately conceived and sufficiently described. The description of tasks is well developed and provides clarity on when tasks will be carried out and by whom. Specific efforts for effective engagement with stakeholders are planned. The project will implement state-of-the-art techniques with proven effectiveness. The proposed activities are mostly appropriate

to achieve the defined objectives. The overall project planning seems realistic, however, two of the concrete conservation activities are planned to continue until the end of the project, so it is not clear if sufficient safety margins have been secured. The project plans to evaluate the pasture management practices, but this does not seem to be carried out sufficiently early to enable integration of the management of karst overgrown pastures into the project. Some implementation risks and necessary contingent measures have not been adequately described. The proposal's strategy to address possible delays is not robust, because the realisation of the feeding station on Krk depends on obtaining a permit by month 48, which seems rather late. Deliverables and milestones are correctly defined and are comprehensive, realistic and coherent with the expected results. The mandatory After-LIFE conservation plan is included in the deliverables list.

Relevant stakeholders have been identified and consulted and some of them are involved in implementation of the activities. Relevant declarations of support are included and signed by the Croatian Food Safety Authority, Veterinary Institute, Karlovac University of Applied Sciences, The Zoo of Zagreb, etc. They have expressed interest in participating in project meetings, supporting dissemination, or replication of the project activities. The chosen location and geographic scope of the project are appropriate for tackling the addressed problems because they cover the current and historical range of the Griffon vulture in Croatia. The attached maps clearly show the project area and the foreseen intervention sites.

Monitoring of the project impacts is sufficiently developed. The proposal includes a work package "Monitoring and Evaluation" which is appropriately designed to monitor, evaluate and report impacts of the project on the Griffon vulture population, reduction of lead poisoning, socio-economic impacts, raising awareness, etc. However, the frequency of reporting the monitoring of food supply (once a year) seems insufficient to ensure timely reaction in case the food supply doesn't meet project targets. In addition, video surveillance is seemingly envisaged only for the new feeding station on Krk, which will be ready after the fourth year, possibly too late for proper project control.

The proposal includes a broad communication strategy which addresses all relevant stakeholders: tourist boats operators, hunters, farmers, etc. The dissemination activities are appropriate and well designed to communicate the project results and the lessons learnt. All obligatory communication requirements are appropriately covered in the work plan. However, the indicators for change chosen are mostly repetition of dissemination outputs rather than actual impacts on the target groups.

Criterion 4 - Resources

Score: **17.50** (Threshold: 10/20.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects have been taken into account:

- Composition of the consortium in terms of expertise, skills and responsibilities and appropriateness of the management structure.
- Appropriateness of the budget and resources and their consistency with the work plan.
- Transparency of the budget, i.e. the cost items should be sufficiently described.
- Extent to which the project environmental impact is considered and mitigated, including through the use of green procurement. The use of recognised methods for the calculation of the project environmental footprint (e.g. PEF or OEF methods or similar ones, such as [PEFCRs/OEFs](#)) or environmental management systems (e.g. EMAS) would be an asset.
- Value for money of the proposal.

The partnership is clearly described and is assessed as fully appropriate because it is comprised of beneficiaries with relevant expertise in bird conservation, power line management, farmers' associations, and the Croatian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The project's operational and management structure is very well planned, fully controlled by the coordinating beneficiary, and is assessed to be effective. Project management is carried out by the staff of the coordinating beneficiary BIOM. However, the staff effort table is not correctly filled in and it seems that instead of person-months the applicant has calculated FTE.

The budget is convincingly justified and coherent and costs are appropriate to carry out the work plan by the means proposed. The funds allocated for the work packages are balanced and are adequate to carry out the activities by the means proposed. The budget distribution among the partners is balanced. The budget is convincingly justified and coherent and costs are appropriate to carry out the work plan by the means proposed. The personnel costs comprise about 40% of the budget, which seems reasonable considering the project's size, ambitions and the envisaged activities.

The funds allocated for the work packages are adequately explained. The cost categories in the detailed budget table are correctly allocated and are compliant with the rules and principles of the LIFE Programme. The costs for subcontracting amount to 18.47% of the total budget, well justified and do not exceed 30% of total eligible costs. A volunteer-based vigilance task force will be used to control nesting site disturbance; hence the planned budget for volunteer engagement is well justified. The requested co-financing rate (60%) is appropriate as the project targets non-priority species.

The project consortium commits to adequately apply green project management principles by operating according to the national portal on green procurement of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. Therefore, they will follow the principles described in the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for the Republic of Croatia, Croatian Law for Promotion of Green Vehicles, Low-carbon Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030 with a view to 2050, and Decision for Green Procurement in central public procurement procedures.

The proposed budget is generally assessed as reasonable and represents good value for money in relation to the scale and dimension of the expected environmental benefits and results to be achieved. The proposal is generally assessed to be cost-efficient.

Criterion 5 - Bonus points

Score: **4.00** (Threshold: 0/10.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects have been taken into account:

BONUS 1: The proposal offers exceptional synergies and promotes significant co-benefits between LIFE sub-programmes. (2 points)

BONUS 2: The proposal is primarily implemented in the Outermost Regions. Where specific regional features are relevant to the

needs addressed in the call for proposals, e.g. islands for waste, coal-intensive regions for clean energy, etc., the bonus could be extended to other geographical areas with specific needs and vulnerabilities. (2 points)

BONUS 3: The proposal substantially builds on or up-scales the results of other EU funded projects. (2 points)

BONUS 4: The proposal offers an exceptional catalytic potential. (2 points)

BONUS 5: The proposal envisages a transnational cooperation among Member States essential to guarantee the achievement of the project objectives. (2 points)

The proposal identifies and promotes exceptional synergies and co-benefits between LIFE sub-programmes (Clean Energy Transition, Circular Economy and Quality of Life) by insulating dangerous electricity infrastructure, increasing the effectiveness of the grid; reducing lead poisoning of soils, and possibly reducing human-wildlife conflicts.

The proposal is not being implemented in the Outermost Regions of the EU.

The proposal substantially builds on or up-scales the results of other EU funded projects, namely LIFE14 NAT/BG/000649, LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016, LIFE14 NAT/IT/000484, LIFE18 NAT/BG/000278, LIFE10 NAT/BG/000152, LIFE16 NAT/BG/000874, LIFE18 NAT/CY/001018, and LIFE19 NAT/IT/000732. The project will upscale/build on the methodology for detecting potential poisoning with GPS tagged vultures, prevention of electrocution and collisions, and conflict mitigation approaches. These results will provide a substantial added value and are essential to achieving the project objectives.

The proposal does not offer an exceptional catalytic potential for replication or upscaling of project results in the same or other sectors/places, beyond the good strategy already awarded under project impact. Revising the EU Sanitary Regulation, which may indeed facilitate the procedure for management of carcasses and better utilisation of animal by-products, providing a safe and secure solution with reduced travel costs, and benefiting farmers, birds and the environment in general, is foreseen but not fully guaranteed.

Although the project involves partners from two Member States (Croatia and the Netherlands) and both partners are involved in the implementation of the project, the activities are only implemented in Croatia. Hence, the transnational partnership is not considered essential.

Threshold Status - The score '-0.01' below exclusively indicates that the proposal only fails because it does not reach the minimum threshold of 55 points (sum of criteria 1-4). A '0.00' value has no meaning.

Score: **0.00** (Threshold: 0/0.00 , Weight: -)

HIGHER FUNDING RATE (PRIORITY EU SPECIES OR HABITAT TYPES 75% OR 67%)

Status: **No**

IF YES, DOES THE PROPOSED ACTION TARGET THE CONSERVATION OF PRIORITY HABITATS AND/OR SPECIES

Not provided

Give reasons:

Not provided



This electronic receipt is a digitally signed version of the document submitted by your organisation. Both the content of the document and a set of metadata have been digitally sealed.

This digital signature mechanism, using a public-private key pair mechanism, uniquely binds this eReceipt to the modules of the Funding & Tenders Portal of the European Commission, to the transaction for which it was generated and ensures its full integrity. Therefore a complete digitally signed trail of the transaction is available both for your organisation and for the issuer of the eReceipt.

Any attempt to modify the content will lead to a break of the integrity of the electronic signature, which can be verified at any time by clicking on the eReceipt validation symbol.

More info about eReceipts can be found in the FAQ page of the Funding & Tenders Portal.

(<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq>)



EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.D – Natural resources, climate, sustainable blue economy and clean energy
D.2 – LIFE Environment (Nature & Circular Economy)

GRANT AGREEMENT

Project 101074212 — LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport

PREAMBLE

This **Agreement** ('the Agreement') is **between** the following parties:

on the one part,

the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and

on the other part,

1. 'the coordinator':

UDRUGA BIOM (Udruga BIOM), PIC 948167823, established in CAZMANSKA ULICA 2, ZAGREB 10000, Croatia,

and the following other beneficiaries, if they sign their 'accession form' (see Annex 3 and Article 40):

2. **STICHTING THE VULTURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (VCF)**, PIC 905576384, established in ANTOON VAN HOOFFPLEIN 1, ARNHEM 6816 SH, Netherlands,

3. **JAVNA USTANOVA PRIRODA (JU Priroda)**, PIC 904537611, established in GRIVICA 4, RIJEKA 51000, Croatia,

4. **POLJOPRIVREDNA ZADRUGA OTOK KRK (PZ otok Krk)**, PIC 890828407, established in TRG BANA JOSIPA JELACICA 5, KRK 51500, Croatia,

5. **HEP-OPERATOR DISTRIBUCIJSKOG SUSTAVA DOO ZA DISTRIBUCIJU I OPSKRBU ELEKTRICNE ENERGIJE D.O.O. (HEP-ODS d.o.o.)**, PIC 955030476, established in ULICA GRADA VUKOVARA 37, ZAGREB 10000, Croatia,

Unless otherwise specified, references to 'beneficiary' or 'beneficiaries' include the coordinator and affiliated entities (if any).

If only one beneficiary signs the grant agreement ('mono-beneficiary grant'), all provisions referring to the 'coordinator' or the 'beneficiaries' will be considered — mutatis mutandis — as referring to the beneficiary.

The parties referred to above have agreed to enter into the Agreement.

By signing the Agreement and the accession forms, the beneficiaries accept the grant and agree to implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

The Agreement is composed of:

Preamble

Terms and Conditions (including Data Sheet)

- Annex 1 Description of the action¹
- Annex 2 Estimated budget for the action
- Annex 2a Additional information on unit costs and contributions (if applicable)
- Annex 3 Accession forms (if applicable)²
- Annex 3a Declaration on joint and several liability of affiliated entities (if applicable)³
- Annex 4 Model for the financial statements
- Annex 5 Specific rules (if applicable)

¹ Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

² Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

³ Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GRANT AGREEMENT.....	1
PREAMBLE.....	1
TERMS AND CONDITIONS.....	3
DATASHEET.....	8
CHAPTER 1 GENERAL.....	13
ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT	13
ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS.....	13
CHAPTER 2 ACTION.....	14
ARTICLE 3 — ACTION.....	14
ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE.....	14
CHAPTER 3 GRANT.....	14
ARTICLE 5 — GRANT.....	14
5.1 Form of grant.....	14
5.2 Maximum grant amount.....	15
5.3 Funding rate.....	15
5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding.....	15
5.5 Budget flexibility.....	15
ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.....	16
6.1 General eligibility conditions.....	16
6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category.....	17
6.3 Ineligible costs and contributions.....	22
6.4 Consequences of non-compliance.....	23
CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION.....	23
SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS.....	23
ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES.....	23
ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES.....	25
ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION.....	26
9.1 Associated partners.....	26
9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action.....	26
9.3 Subcontractors.....	26

9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties.....	27
ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS.....	27
10.1 Non-EU participants.....	27
10.2 Participants which are international organisations.....	27
10.3 Pillar-assessed participants.....	28
SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION.....	30
ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION.....	30
11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action.....	30
11.2 Consequences of non-compliance.....	30
ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS.....	30
12.1 Conflict of interests.....	30
12.2 Consequences of non-compliance.....	31
ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY.....	31
13.1 Sensitive information.....	31
13.2 Classified information.....	31
13.3 Consequences of non-compliance.....	32
ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES.....	32
14.1 Ethics.....	32
14.2 Values.....	32
14.3 Consequences of non-compliance.....	32
ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION.....	32
15.1 Data processing by the granting authority.....	32
15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries.....	33
15.3 Consequences of non-compliance.....	33
ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE.....	33
16.1 Background and access rights to background.....	34
16.2 Ownership of results.....	34
16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes.....	34
16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background.....	35
16.5 Consequences of non-compliance.....	35
ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY.....	35
17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action.....	35
17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement.....	35
17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer.....	36

17.4	Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules.....	36
17.5	Consequences of non-compliance.....	37
ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION.....		37
18.1	Specific rules for carrying out the action.....	37
18.2	Consequences of non-compliance.....	37
SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION.....		37
ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS.....		37
19.1	Information requests.....	37
19.2	Participant Register data updates.....	37
19.3	Information about events and circumstances which impact the action.....	37
19.4	Consequences of non-compliance.....	38
ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING.....		38
20.1	Keeping records and supporting documents.....	38
20.2	Consequences of non-compliance.....	39
ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING.....		39
21.1	Continuous reporting.....	39
21.2	Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements.....	39
21.3	Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros.....	40
21.4	Reporting language.....	41
21.5	Consequences of non-compliance.....	41
ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE.....		41
22.1	Payments and payment arrangements.....	41
22.2	Recoveries.....	41
22.3	Amounts due.....	42
22.4	Enforced recovery.....	46
22.5	Consequences of non-compliance.....	47
ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES.....		48
23.1	Prefinancing guarantee.....	48
23.2	Consequences of non-compliance.....	48
ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES.....		48
24.1	Operational verification report (OVR).....	48
24.2	Certificate on the financial statements (CFS).....	48
24.3	Certificate on the compliance of usual cost accounting practices (CoMUC).....	49
24.4	Systems and process audit (SPA).....	49
24.5	Consequences of non-compliance.....	49

ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS.....	49
25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits.....	49
25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities.....	51
25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding.....	51
25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations.....	51
25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations.....	52
25.6 Consequences of non-compliance.....	53
ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS.....	53
26.1 Impact evaluation.....	53
26.2 Consequences of non-compliance.....	53
CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE.....	53
SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION.....	54
ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.....	54
27.1 Conditions.....	54
27.2 Procedure.....	54
27.3 Effects.....	54
ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION.....	54
28.1 Conditions.....	54
28.2 Procedure.....	55
28.3 Effects.....	55
SECTION 2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION.....	55
ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION.....	55
29.1 Conditions.....	55
29.2 Procedure.....	55
ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION.....	56
30.1 Conditions.....	56
30.2 Procedure.....	56
ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION.....	57
31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension.....	57
31.2 EU-initiated GA suspension.....	57
ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION.....	58
32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination.....	58
32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination.....	59
32.3 EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination.....	61

SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS.....	64
ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES.....	64
33.1 Liability of the granting authority.....	64
33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries.....	64
ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES.....	64
SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE.....	65
ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE.....	65
CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS.....	65
ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES.....	65
36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management.....	65
36.2 Date of communication.....	65
36.3 Addresses for communication.....	66
ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT.....	66
ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES.....	66
ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS.....	66
39.1 Conditions.....	66
39.2 Procedure.....	67
ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES.....	67
40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble.....	67
40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries.....	67
ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT.....	68
ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY.....	68
ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES.....	68
43.1 Applicable law.....	68
43.2 Dispute settlement.....	68
ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE.....	69

DATA SHEET

1. General data

Project summary:

Project summary
<p>The project LIFE SUPport aims to improve breeding and survival conditions for the last remaining population of Griffon Vultures (<i>Gyps fulvus</i>) in Croatia, located on the Kvarner Islands. The urgency and need for such a project have been outlined in the expert background document prepared for the currently pending adoption of the Griffon Vulture Management Plan in Croatia. By tackling the most important threats on their breeding grounds, the current population of 110-130 pairs will continue to survive and possibly increase in number, which is an important first step for the species to re-colonize their historical breeding ranges on the Croatian mainland and connect to other populations of Griffon Vultures in the Alps and Balkans. The most important threats targeted by this project are nest disturbance, lack of food, poisoning and electrocution. The main objectives are therefore: 1. Reducing nestling mortality by minimizing nest disturbance and by improving the rescue and rehabilitation operations of the Beli Rescue Center for Griffon Vultures. 2. Increasing food availability for vultures by improving and expanding the existing network of managed feeding stations and by increasing natural feeding opportunities. 3. Prevention of poisoning events by exploring best preventive measures to avoid the use of poisoned baits, by promoting the use of lead-free ammunition and by capacity building of relevant enforcement agencies for combating illegal wildlife poisoning. 4. Reducing mortality arising from electrocution by applying appropriate mitigation measures on the most important electrocution hotspots. 5. Promoting Griffon Vultures and raising awareness of their threats and needs to local stakeholders, the wider public and government bodies.</p>

Keywords:

- Areas of intervention: Safeguarding our species
- EU Birds and Habitats Directives
- EU Bio. Strat. 2030 - bringing nature back to agricultural land
- BIRDS
- Terrestrial

Project number: 101074212

Project name: Securing a future for Griffon Vultures in Croatia

Project acronym: LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport

Call: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT

Topic: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE

Type of action: LIFE Project Grants

Granting authority: European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

Grant managed through EU Funding & Tenders Portal: Yes (eGrants)

Project starting date: fixed date: 1 January 2023

Project end date: 31 December 2027

Project duration: 60 months

Consortium agreement: Yes

2. Participants

List of participants:

N°	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Max grant amount
1	COO	Udruga BIOM	UDRUGA BIOM	HR	948167823	983 941.02	590 364.00

Nº	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Max grant amount
2	BEN	VCF	STICHTING THE VULTURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	NL	905576384	270 062.65	162 037.00
3	BEN	JU Priroda	JAVNA USTANOVA PRIRODA	HR	904537611	356 791.50	214 074.00
4	BEN	PZ otok Krk	POLJOPRIVREDNA ZADRUGA OTOK KRK	HR	890828407	225 427.60	135 256.00
5	BEN	HEP-ODS d.o.o.	HEP-OPERATOR DISTRIBUCIJSKOG SUSTAVA DOO ZA DISTRIBUCIJU I OPSKRBU ELEKTRICNE ENERGIJE DOO	HR	955030476	323 366.84	194 020.00
6	AP	MINGOR	MINISTARSTVO GOSPODARSTVA I ODRZIVOG RAZVOJA	HR	916533310	0.00	0.00
Total						2 159 589.61	1 295 751.00

Coordinator:

- UDRUGA BIOM (Udruga BIOM)

3. Grant**Maximum grant amount, total estimated eligible costs and contributions and funding rate:**

Total eligible costs (BEN and AE)	Funding rate (%)	Maximum grant amount (Annex 2)	Maximum grant amount (award decision)
2 159 589.61	60	1 295 751.00	1 295 751.00

Grant form: Budget-based**Grant mode:** Action grant**Budget categories/activity types:**

- A. Personnel costs
 - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
 - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
 - A.5 Volunteers
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
 - C.1 Travel and subsistence
 - C.2 Equipment
 - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories
 - D.1 Financial support to third parties
 - D.2 Land purchase
- E. Indirect costs

Cost eligibility options:

- Standard supplementary payments
- Limitation for subcontracting
- Travel and subsistence:
 - Travel: Actual costs

- Accommodation: Actual costs
- Subsistence: Actual costs
- Equipment: full costs and depreciation for listed equipment
- Costs for providing financial support to third parties (actual cost; max amount for each recipient: EUR 20 000.00)
- Indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: Yes
- Other ineligible costs

Budget flexibility: Yes (no flexibility cap)

4. Reporting, payments and recoveries

4.1 Continuous reporting (art 21)

Deliverables: see Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool

4.2 Periodic reporting and payments

Reporting and payment schedule (art 21, 22):

Reporting					Payments	
Reporting periods			Type	Deadline	Type	Deadline (time to pay)
RP No	Month from	Month to				
					Initial prefinancing	30 days from entry into force financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest
1	1	30	Additional prefinancing report	60 days after end of reporting period	Additional prefinancing	60 days from receiving additional prefinancing report/ financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest
2	31	60	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Final payment	90 days from receiving periodic report

Prefinancing payments and guarantees:

Prefinancing payment		Prefinancing guarantee		
Type	Amount	Guarantee amount	Division per participant	
Prefinancing I (initial)	388 725.30	n/a	1 - Udruga BIOM	n/a
			2 - VCF	n/a
			3 - JU Priroda	n/a
			4 - PZ otok Krk	n/a
			5 - HEP-ODS d.o.o.	n/a

Prefinancing payment		Prefinancing guarantee		
Type	Amount	Guarantee amount	Division per participant	
Prefinancing 2 (additional)	647 875.50	n/a	1 - Udruga BIOM	n/a
			2 - VCF	n/a
			3 - JU Priroda	n/a
			4 - PZ otok Krk	n/a
			5 - HEP-ODS d.o.o.	n/a

Reporting and payment modalities (art 21, 22):

Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM): No

Restrictions on distribution of initial prefinancing: The prefinancing may be distributed only if the minimum number of beneficiaries set out in the call conditions (if any) have acceded to the Agreement and only to beneficiaries that have acceded.

Interim payment ceiling (if any): 90% of the maximum grant amount

No-profit rule: Yes

Late payment interest: ECB + 3,5%

Bank account for payments:

HR4724020061101060150

Conversion into euros: Double conversion

Reporting language: Language of the Agreement

4.3 Certificates (art 24):

Certificates on the financial statements (CFS):

Conditions:

Schedule: interim/final payment, if threshold is reached

Standard threshold (beneficiary-level):

- financial statement: requested EU contribution to costs \geq EUR 500 000.00

4.4 Recoveries (art 22)**First-line liability for recoveries:**

Beneficiary termination: Beneficiary concerned

Final payment: Coordinator

After final payment: Beneficiary concerned

Joint and several liability for enforced recoveries (in case of non-payment):

Limited joint and several liability of other beneficiaries — up to the maximum grant amount of the beneficiary

Joint and several liability of affiliated entities — n/a



5. Consequences of non-compliance, applicable law & dispute settlement forum

Applicable law (art 43):

Standard applicable law regime: EU law + law of Belgium

Dispute settlement forum (art 43):

Standard dispute settlement forum:

EU beneficiaries: EU General Court + EU Court of Justice (on appeal)

Non-EU beneficiaries: Courts of Brussels, Belgium (unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements)

6. Other

Specific rules (Annex 5): Yes

Standard time-limits after project end:

Confidentiality (for X years after final payment): 5

Record-keeping (for X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Reviews (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Audits (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Extension of findings from other grants to this grant (no later than X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Impact evaluation (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

CHAPTER 1 — GENERAL

ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement sets out the rights and obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded for the implementation of the action set out in Chapter 2.

ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following definitions apply:

Actions — The project which is being funded in the context of this Agreement.

Grant — The grant awarded in the context of this Agreement.

EU grants — Grants awarded by EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies (including EU executive agencies, EU regulatory agencies, EDA, joint undertakings, etc.).

Participants — Entities participating in the action as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties.

Beneficiaries (BEN) — The signatories of this Agreement (either directly or through an accession form).

Affiliated entities (AE) — Entities affiliated to a beneficiary within the meaning of Article 187 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046⁴ which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries (obligation to implement action tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions).

Associated partners (AP) — Entities which participate in the action, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.

Purchases — Contracts for goods, works or services needed to carry out the action (e.g. equipment, consumables and supplies) but which are not part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

Subcontracting — Contracts for goods, works or services that are part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

In-kind contributions — In-kind contributions within the meaning of Article 2(36) of EU Financial

⁴ For the definition, see Article 187 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1): "affiliated entities [are]:

- (a) entities that form a sole beneficiary [(i.e. where an entity is formed of several entities that satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant, including where the entity is specifically established for the purpose of implementing an action to be financed by a grant)];
- (b) entities that satisfy the eligibility criteria and that do not fall within one of the situations referred to in Article 136(1) and 141(1) and that have a link with the beneficiary, in particular a legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation".

Regulation 2018/1046, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties.

Fraud — Fraud within the meaning of Article 3 of EU Directive 2017/1371⁵ and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995⁶, as well as any other wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.

Irregularities — Any type of breach (regulatory or contractual) which could impact the EU financial interests, including irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation 2988/95⁷.

Grave professional misconduct — Any type of unacceptable or improper behaviour in exercising one's profession, especially by employees, including grave professional misconduct within the meaning of Article 136(1)(c) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

Applicable EU, international and national law — Any legal acts or other (binding or non-binding) rules and guidance in the area concerned.

Portal — EU Funding & Tenders Portal; electronic portal and exchange system managed by the European Commission and used by itself and other EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies for the management of their funding programmes (grants, procurements, prizes, etc.).

CHAPTER 2 ACTION

ARTICLE 3 — ACTION

The grant is awarded for the action **101074212 — LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport** ('action'), as described in Annex 1.

ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE

The duration and the starting date of the action are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 1).

CHAPTER 3 GRANT

ARTICLE 5 — GRANT

5.1 Form of grant

⁵ Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

⁶ OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

⁷ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

The grant is an action grant⁸ which takes the form of a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (i.e. a grant based on actual costs incurred, but which may also include other forms of funding, such as unit costs or contributions, flat-rate costs or contributions, lump sum costs or contributions or financing not linked to costs).

5.2 Maximum grant amount

The maximum grant amount is set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) and in the estimated budget (Annex 2).

5.3 Funding rate

The funding rate for costs is 60% of the action's eligible costs.

Contributions are not subject to any funding rate.

5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding

The estimated budget for the action is set out in Annex 2.

It contains the estimated eligible costs and contributions for the action, broken down by participant and budget category.

Annex 2 also shows the types of costs and contributions (forms of funding)⁹ to be used for each budget category.

If unit costs or contributions are used, the details on the calculation will be explained in Annex 2a.

5.5 Budget flexibility

The budget breakdown may be adjusted — without an amendment (see Article 39) — by transfers (between participants and budget categories), as long as this does not imply any substantive or important change to the description of the action in Annex 1.

However:

- changes to the budget category for volunteers (if used) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with lump sums costs or contributions (if used; including financing not linked to costs) always require an amendment
- changes to budget categories with higher funding rates or budget ceilings (if used) always require an amendment
- addition of amounts for subcontracts not provided for in Annex 1 either require an amendment or simplified approval in accordance with Article 6.2

⁸ For the definition, see Article 180(2)(a) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: 'action grant' means an EU grant to finance "an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective".

⁹ See Article 125 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

- other changes require an amendment or simplified approval, if specifically provided for in Article 6.2
- flexibility caps, not applicable.

ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

In order to be eligible, costs and contributions must meet the **eligibility** conditions set out in this Article.

6.1 General eligibility conditions

The **general eligibility conditions** are the following:

- (a) for actual costs:
 - (i) they must be actually incurred by the beneficiary
 - (ii) they must be incurred in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)
 - (iii) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
 - (iv) they must be incurred in connection with the action as described in Annex I and necessary for its implementation
 - (v) they must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the beneficiary's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the beneficiary is established and with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices
 - (vi) they must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security and
 - (vii) they must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency
- (b) for unit costs or contributions (if any):
 - (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
 - (ii) the units must:
 - be actually used or produced by the beneficiary in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of units relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be used or produced afterwards; see Article 21)
 - be necessary for the implementation of the action and
 - (iii) the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation (see Article 20)

(c) for flat-rate costs or contributions (if any):

- (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
- (ii) the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied must:
 - be eligible
 - relate to the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs or contributions relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)

(d) for lump sum costs or contributions (if any):

- (i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2
- (ii) the work must be properly implemented by the beneficiary in accordance with Annex 1
- (iii) the deliverables/outputs must be achieved in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of deliverables/outputs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be achieved afterwards; see Article 21)

(e) for unit, flat-rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any):

- (i) they must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for the type of cost concerned
- (ii) the cost accounting practices must be applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding

(f) for financing not linked to costs (if any): the results must be achieved or the conditions must be fulfilled as described in Annex 1.

In addition, for direct cost categories (e.g. personnel, travel & subsistence, subcontracting and other direct costs) only costs that are directly linked to the action implementation and can therefore be attributed to it directly are eligible. They must not include any indirect costs (i.e. costs that are only indirectly linked to the action, e.g. via cost drivers).

6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category

For each budget category, the **specific eligibility conditions** are as follows:

Direct costs

A. Personnel costs

A.1 Costs for employees (or equivalent) are eligible as personnel costs if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are related to personnel working for the beneficiary under an employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and assigned to the action.

They must be limited to salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the

remuneration, if they arise from national law or the employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, in accordance with the following method:

{daily rate for the person
multiplied by
number of day-equivalents worked on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)}.

The daily rate must be calculated as:

{annual personnel costs for the person
divided by
215}.

The number of day-equivalents declared for a person must be identifiable and verifiable (see Article 20).

The total number of day-equivalents declared in EU grants, for a person for a year, cannot be higher than 215.

The personnel costs may also include supplementary payments for personnel assigned to the action (including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of their nature), if:

- it is part of the beneficiary's usual remuneration practices and is paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required
- the criteria used to calculate the supplementary payments are objective and generally applied by the beneficiary, regardless of the source of funding used.

A.2 and A.3 Costs for natural persons working under a direct contract other than an employment contract and costs for **seconded persons by a third party against payment** are also eligible as personnel costs, if they are assigned to the action, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and:

- (a) work under conditions similar to those of an employee (in particular regarding the way the work is organised, the tasks that are performed and the premises where they are performed) and
- (b) the result of the work belongs to the beneficiary (unless agreed otherwise).

They must be calculated on the basis of a rate which corresponds to the costs actually incurred for the direct contract or secondment and must not be significantly different from those for personnel performing similar tasks under an employment contract with the beneficiary.

A.4 The work of SME owners for the action (i.e. owners of beneficiaries that are small and medium-sized enterprises¹⁰ not receiving a salary) or **natural person beneficiaries** (i.e. beneficiaries that are

¹⁰ For the definition, see Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC: micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) are enterprises

- engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of their legal form (including, in particular, self-employed persons and family businesses engaged in craft or other activities, and partnerships or associations regularly engaged in an economic activity) and

natural persons not receiving a salary) may be declared as personnel costs, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

A.5 The work of **volunteers** for the action (i.e. persons who freely work for an organisation, on a non-compulsory basis and without being paid) may be declared as personnel costs, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

They:

- may not exceed the maximum amount for volunteers for the action (which corresponds to 50% of the total (ineligible and eligible) project costs and contributions estimated in the proposal)
- may not exceed the maximum amount for volunteers for each beneficiary set out in Annex 2
- may not make the maximum EU contribution to costs higher than the total eligible costs without volunteers.

If also indirect costs for volunteers are declared eligible in the call conditions, the amount of indirect costs may be added to the volunteers costs category in Annex 2, at the flat-rate set out in Point E.

B. Subcontracting costs

Subcontracting costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible, if they are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are awarded using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

Subcontracting may cover only a limited part of the action.

The tasks to be subcontracted and the estimated cost for each subcontract must be set out in Annex 1 and the total estimated costs of subcontracting per beneficiary must be set out in Annex 2 (or may be approved ex post in the periodic report, if the use of subcontracting does not entail changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants; 'simplified approval procedure').

C. Purchase costs

Purchase costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are bought using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure purchases with

-
- employing fewer than 250 persons (expressed in 'annual working units' as defined in Article 5 of the Recommendation) and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.

best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

C.1 Travel and subsistence

Purchases for **travel, accommodation and subsistence** must be calculated as follows:

- travel: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel
- accommodation: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel
- subsistence: on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel .

C.2 Equipment

Purchases of **equipment, infrastructure or other assets** specifically for the action (or developed as part of the action tasks) may be declared as full capitalised costs if they fulfil the eligibility conditions applicable to their respective cost categories.

'Capitalised costs' means:

- costs incurred in the purchase or for the development of the equipment, infrastructure or other assets and,
- which are recorded under a fixed asset account of the beneficiary in compliance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices.

If such equipment, infrastructure or other assets are rented or leased, full costs for **renting or leasing** are eligible, if they do not exceed the depreciation costs of similar equipment, infrastructure or assets and do not include any financing fees.

C.3 Other goods, works and services

Purchases of **other goods, works and services** must be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred.

Such goods, works and services include, for instance, consumables and supplies, promotion, dissemination, protection of results, translations, publications, certificates and financial guarantees, if required under the Agreement.

D. Other cost categories

D.1 Financial support to third parties

Costs for providing financial support to third parties (in the form of **grants, prizes** or similar forms of support; if any) are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the

general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and the support is implemented in accordance with the conditions set out in Annex 1.

These conditions must ensure objective and transparent selection procedures and include at least the following:

(a) for grants (or similar):

- (i) the maximum amount of financial support for each third party ('recipient'); this amount may not exceed the amount set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) or otherwise agreed with the granting authority
- (ii) the criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support
- (iii) the different types of activity that qualify for financial support, on the basis of a closed list
- (iv) the persons or categories of persons that will be supported and
- (v) the criteria and procedures for giving financial support

(b) for prizes (or similar):

- (i) the eligibility and award criteria
- (ii) the amount of the prize and
- (iii) the payment arrangements.

D.2 Land purchase

Costs for land purchase from private entities (or long-term lease of land or one-off compensations for land use rights) are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and:

- (a) the purchase will contribute to improving, maintaining and restoring the integrity of the Natura 2000 network set up pursuant to Article 3 of Directive 92/43/EEC, including through improving connectivity by the creation of corridors, stepping stones, or other elements of green infrastructure
- (b) land purchase is the only or most cost-effective way of achieving the desired conservation outcome
- (c) the land purchased is reserved in the long term for uses consistent with the specific objectives of the LIFE Programme
- (d) the Member State concerned ensures, by way of transfer or otherwise, the long-term assignment of such land to nature conservation purposes and the beneficiary documents this by ensuring that:
 - (i) the entry into the land register includes a condition that the land will be assigned definitively to nature conservation
 - (ii) or, if there is no land register or such a condition is not possible under national law, that

such a condition is either included in the land sale contract or guaranteed by equivalent means

- (e) for land purchases by private entity beneficiaries: the beneficiaries ensure the long-term conservation by ensuring that:
 - (i) the entry into the land register includes a condition that, in case of their dissolution or incapacity to manage the land according to nature conservation requirements, the property will be transferred to an entity primarily active in the field of nature protection
 - (ii) or, if there is no land register or such a condition is not possible under national law, that such a condition is either included in the land sale contract or guaranteed by equivalent means
- (f) for purchases of partial rights: the entry into the land register duly reflects the long-term nature conservation objectives and the requirements set out in this Article
- (g) for land purchased to be exchanged at a later date for another parcel on which the action will be undertaken: the exchange is carried out before the end of the action and the land exchanged complies with the requirements set out in this Article
- (h) for long-term leases: the lease is of at least 20 years and includes provisions and commitments that ensure the achievement of its objectives in terms of habitat and species protection.

This cost will not be taken into account for the indirect cost flat-rate.

Indirect costs

E. Indirect costs

Indirect costs will be reimbursed at the flat-rate of 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any).

Contributions

Not applicable

6.3 Ineligible costs and contributions

The following costs or contributions are **ineligible**:

- (a) costs or contributions that do not comply with the conditions set out above (Article 6.1 and 6.2), in particular:
 - (i) costs related to return on capital and dividends paid by a beneficiary
 - (ii) debt and debt service charges
 - (iii) provisions for future losses or debts
 - (iv) interest owed
 - (v) currency exchange losses

- (vi) bank costs charged by the beneficiary's bank for transfers from the granting authority
 - (vii) excessive or reckless expenditure
 - (viii) deductible or refundable VAT (including VAT paid by public bodies acting as public authority)
 - (ix) costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant agreement suspension (see Article 31)
 - (x) in-kind contributions by third parties
- (b) costs or contributions declared under other EU grants (or grants awarded by an EU Member State, non-EU country or other body implementing the EU budget), except for the following cases:
- (i) Synergy actions: not applicable
 - (ii) if the action grant is combined with an operating grant¹¹ running during the same period and the beneficiary can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any (direct or indirect) costs of the action grant
- (c) costs or contributions for staff of a national (or regional/local) administration, for activities that are part of the administration's normal activities (i.e. not undertaken only because of the grant)
- (d) costs or contributions (especially travel and subsistence) for staff or representatives of EU institutions, bodies or agencies
- (e) other :
- (i) country restrictions for eligible costs: not applicable
 - (ii) costs or contributions declared specifically ineligible in the call conditions.

6.4 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary declares costs or contributions that are ineligible, they will be rejected (see Article 27).

This may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS

ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES

¹¹ For the definition, see Article 180(2)(b) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: '**operating grant**' means an EU grant to finance "the functioning of a body which has an objective forming part of and supporting an EU policy".



The beneficiaries, as signatories of the Agreement, are fully responsible towards the granting authority for implementing it and for complying with all its obligations.

They must implement the Agreement to their best abilities, in good faith and in accordance with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

They must have the appropriate resources to implement the action and implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with Article 11. If they rely on affiliated entities or other participants (see Articles 8 and 9), they retain sole responsibility towards the granting authority and the other beneficiaries.

They are jointly responsible for the *technical* implementation of the action. If one of the beneficiaries fails to implement their part of the action, the other beneficiaries must ensure that this part is implemented by someone else (without being entitled to an increase of the maximum grant amount and subject to an amendment; see Article 39). The *financial* responsibility of each beneficiary in case of recoveries is governed by Article 22.

The beneficiaries (and their action) must remain eligible under the EU programme funding the grant for the entire duration of the action. Costs and contributions will be eligible only as long as the beneficiary and the action are eligible.

The **internal roles and responsibilities** of the beneficiaries are divided as follows:

(a) Each beneficiary must:

- (i) keep information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date (see Article 19)
- (ii) inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) immediately of any events or circumstances likely to affect significantly or delay the implementation of the action (see Article 19)
- (iii) submit to the coordinator in good time:
 - the prefinancing guarantees (if required; see Article 23)
 - the financial statements and certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
 - the contribution to the deliverables and technical reports (see Article 21)
 - any other documents or information required by the granting authority under the Agreement
- (iv) submit via the Portal data and information related to the participation of their affiliated entities.

(b) The coordinator must:

- (i) monitor that the action is implemented properly (see Article 11)
- (ii) act as the intermediary for all communications between the consortium and the granting authority, unless the Agreement or granting authority specifies otherwise, and in particular:

- submit the prefinancing guarantees to the granting authority (if any)
 - request and review any documents or information required and verify their quality and completeness before passing them on to the granting authority
 - submit the deliverables and reports to the granting authority
 - inform the granting authority about the payments made to the other beneficiaries (report on the distribution of payments; if required, see Articles 22 and 32)
- (iii) distribute the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries without unjustified delay (see Article 22).

The coordinator may not delegate or subcontract the above-mentioned tasks to any other beneficiary or third party (including affiliated entities).

However, coordinators which are public bodies may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(ii) last indent and (iii) above to entities with ‘authorisation to administer’ which they have created or which are controlled by or affiliated to them. In this case, the coordinator retains sole responsibility for the payments and for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Moreover, coordinators which are ‘sole beneficiaries’¹² (or similar, such as European research infrastructure consortia (ERICs)) may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(i) to (iii) above to one of their members. The coordinator retains sole responsibility for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must have **internal arrangements** regarding their operation and co-ordination, to ensure that the action is implemented properly.

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point I), these arrangements must be set out in a written **consortium agreement** between the beneficiaries, covering for instance:

- the internal organisation of the consortium
- the management of access to the Portal
- different distribution keys for the payments and financial responsibilities in case of recoveries (if any)
- additional rules on rights and obligations related to background and results (see Article 16)
- settlement of internal disputes
- liability, indemnification and confidentiality arrangements between the beneficiaries.

The internal arrangements must not contain any provision contrary to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES

¹² For the definition, see Article 187(2) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: “Where several entities satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant and together form one entity, that entity may be treated as the **sole beneficiary**, including where it is specifically established for the purpose of implementing the action financed by the grant.”

Not applicable

ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION

9.1 Associated partners

The following entities which cooperate with a beneficiary will participate in the action as ‘associated partners’:

- **MINISTARSTVO GOSPODARSTVA I ODRZIVOG RAZVOJA (MINGOR), PIC 916533310**

Associated partners must implement the action tasks attributed to them in Annex 1 in accordance with Article 11. They may not charge costs or contributions to the action and the costs for their tasks are not eligible.

The tasks must be set out in Annex 1.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interests), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the associated partners.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the associated partners.

9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action

Other third parties may give in-kind contributions to the action (i.e. personnel, equipment, other goods, works and services, etc. which are free-of-charge), if necessary for the implementation.

Third parties giving in-kind contributions do not implement any action tasks. They may not charge costs or contributions to the action and the costs for the in-kind contributions are not eligible.

The third parties and their in-kind contributions should be set out in Annex 1.

9.3 Subcontractors

Subcontractors may participate in the action, if necessary for the implementation.

Subcontractors must implement their action tasks in accordance with Article 11. The costs for the subcontracted tasks (invoiced price from the subcontractor) are eligible and may be charged by the beneficiaries, under the conditions set out in Article 6. The costs will be included in Annex 2 as part of the beneficiaries’ costs.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the subcontractors.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the subcontractors.

9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties

If the action includes providing financial support to third parties (e.g. grants, prizes or similar forms of support), the beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the third parties receiving the support (recipients).

The beneficiaries must also ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the recipients.

ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS

10.1 Non-EU participants

Participants which are established in a non-EU country (if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use qualified external auditors which are independent and comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC¹³
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for checks, reviews, audits and investigations (including on-the-spot checks, visits and inspections) by the bodies mentioned in that Article (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.).

Special rules on dispute settlement apply (see Data Sheet, Point 5).

10.2 Participants which are international organisations

Participants which are international organisations (IOs; if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use either independent public officers or external auditors which comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for the checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the bodies mentioned in that Article, taking into account the specific agreements concluded by them and the EU (if any).

¹³ Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

For such participants, nothing in the Agreement will be interpreted as a waiver of their privileges or immunities, as accorded by their constituent documents or international law.

Special rules on applicable law and dispute settlement apply (see Article 43 and Data Sheet, Point 5).

10.3 Pillar-assessed participants

Pillar-assessed participants (if any) may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in so far as they have been positively assessed and do not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries.

‘Pillar-assessment’ means a review by the European Commission on the systems, rules and procedures which participants use for managing EU grants (in particular internal control system, accounting system, external audits, financing of third parties, rules on recovery and exclusion, information on recipients and protection of personal data; see Article 154 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046).

Participants with a positive pillar assessment may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in particular for:

- record-keeping (Article 20): may be done in accordance with internal standards, rules and procedures
- currency conversion for financial statements (Article 21): may be done in accordance with usual accounting practices
- guarantees (Article 23): for public law bodies, prefinancing guarantees are not needed
- certificates (Article 24):
 - certificates on the financial statements (CFS): may be provided by their regular internal or external auditors and in accordance with their internal financial regulations and procedures
 - certificates on usual accounting practices (CoMUC): are not needed if those practices are covered by an ex-ante assessment

and use the following specific rules, for:

- recoveries (Article 22): in case of financial support to third parties, there will be no recovery if the participant has done everything possible to retrieve the undue amounts from the third party receiving the support (including legal proceedings) and non-recovery is not due to an error or negligence on its part
- checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the EU (Article 25): will be conducted taking into account the rules and procedures specifically agreed between them and the framework agreement (if any)
- impact evaluation (Article 26): will be conducted in accordance with the participant’s internal rules and procedures and the framework agreement (if any)
- grant agreement suspension (Article 31): certain costs incurred during grant suspension are eligible (notably, minimum costs necessary for a possible resumption of the action and costs

relating to contracts which were entered into before the pre-information letter was received and which could not reasonably be suspended, reallocated or terminated on legal grounds)

- grant agreement termination (Article 32): the final grant amount and final payment will be calculated taking into account also costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination takes effect, if the contract was entered into before the pre-information letter was received and could not reasonably be terminated on legal grounds
- liability for damages (Article 33.2): the granting authority must be compensated for damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement only if the damage is due to an infringement of the participant's internal rules and procedures or due to a violation of third parties' rights by the participant or one of its employees or individual for whom the employees are responsible.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers procurement and granting procedures may also do purchases, subcontracting and financial support to third parties (Article 6.2) in accordance with their internal rules and procedures for purchases, subcontracting and financial support.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers data protection rules may rely on their internal standards, rules and procedures for data protection (Article 15).

The participants may however not rely on provisions which would breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries or call into question the decision awarding the grant, such as in particular:

- eligibility (Article 6)
- consortium roles and set-up (Articles 7-9)
- security and ethics (Articles 13, 14)
- IPR (including background and results, access rights and rights of use), communication, dissemination and visibility (Articles 16 and 17)
- information obligation (Article 19)
- payment, reporting and amendments (Articles 21, 22 and 39)
- rejections, reductions, suspensions and terminations (Articles 27, 28, 29-32)

If the pillar assessment was subject to remedial measures, reliance on the internal systems, rules and procedures is subject to compliance with those remedial measures.

Participants whose assessment has not yet been updated to cover (the new rules on) data protection may rely on their internal systems, rules and procedures, provided that they ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes

- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data.

Participants must inform the coordinator without delay of any changes to the systems, rules and procedures that were part of the pillar assessment. The coordinator must immediately inform the granting authority.

Pillar-assessed participants that have also concluded a framework agreement with the EU, may moreover — under the same conditions as those above (i.e. not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries) — rely on the provisions set out in that framework agreement.

SECTION 2 — RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION

11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action

The beneficiaries must implement the action as described in Annex 1 and in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement, the call conditions and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law.

11.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

12.1 Conflict of interests

The beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Agreement could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest ('conflict of interests').

They must formally notify the granting authority without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The granting authority may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

12.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the beneficiary may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

13.1 Sensitive information

The parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as sensitive in writing ('sensitive information') — during the implementation of the action and for at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

If a beneficiary requests, the granting authority may agree to keep such information confidential for a longer period.

Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use sensitive information only to implement the Agreement.

The beneficiaries may disclose sensitive information to their personnel or other participants involved in the action only if they:

- (a) need to know it in order to implement the Agreement and
- (b) are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The granting authority may disclose sensitive information to its staff and to other EU institutions and bodies.

It may moreover disclose sensitive information to third parties, if:

- (a) this is necessary to implement the Agreement or safeguard the EU financial interests and
- (b) the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:

- (a) the disclosing party agrees to release the other party
- (b) the information becomes publicly available, without breaching any confidentiality obligation
- (c) the disclosure of the sensitive information is required by EU, international or national law.

Specific confidentiality rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

13.2 Classified information

The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/444¹⁴ and its implementing rules).

Deliverables which contain classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving classified information may be subcontracted only after explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

Classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

Specific security rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

13.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES

14.1 Ethics

The action must be carried out in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.

Specific ethics rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

14.2 Values

The beneficiaries must commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

Specific rules on values (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

14.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION

15.1 Data processing by the granting authority

¹⁴ Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

Any personal data under the Agreement will be processed under the responsibility of the data controller of the granting authority in accordance with and for the purposes set out in the Portal Privacy Statement.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission, an EU regulatory or executive agency, joint undertaking or other EU body, the processing will be subject to Regulation 2018/1725¹⁵.

15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must process personal data under the Agreement in compliance with the applicable EU, international and national law on data protection (in particular, Regulation 2016/679¹⁶).

They must ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subjects
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data.

The beneficiaries may grant their personnel access to personal data only if it is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement. The beneficiaries must ensure that the personnel is under a confidentiality obligation.

The beneficiaries must inform the persons whose data are transferred to the granting authority and provide them with the Portal Privacy Statement.

15.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE

¹⁵ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC ('GDPR') (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

16.1 Background and access rights to background

The beneficiaries must give each other and the other participants access to the background identified as needed for implementing the action, subject to any specific rules in Annex 5.

‘Background’ means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights — that is:

- (a) held by the beneficiaries before they acceded to the Agreement and
- (b) needed to implement the action or exploit the results.

If background is subject to rights of a third party, the beneficiary concerned must ensure that it is able to comply with its obligations under the Agreement.

16.2 Ownership of results

The granting authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced under the action.

‘Results’ means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes

The granting authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the action and materials and documents received from the beneficiaries (notably summaries for publication, deliverables, as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes — during the action or afterwards.

The right to use the beneficiaries’ materials, documents and information is granted in the form of a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence, which includes the following rights:

- (a) **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- (b) **distribution to the public** (in particular, publication as hard copies and in electronic or digital format, publication on the internet, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file, broadcasting by any channel, public display or presentation, communicating through press information services, or inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes)
- (c) **editing or redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, inserting other elements (e.g. meta-data, legends, other graphic, visual, audio or text elements), extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts, use in a compilation)
- (d) **translation**
- (e) **storage** in paper, electronic or other form

- (f) **archiving**, in line with applicable document-management rules
- (g) the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties the modes of use set out in Points (b), (c), (d) and (f), if needed for the information, communication and publicity activity of the granting authority
- (h) **processing**, analysing, aggregating the materials, documents and information received and **producing derivative works**.

The rights of use are granted for the whole duration of the industrial or intellectual property rights concerned.

If materials or documents are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

Where applicable, the granting authority will insert the following information:

“© – [year] – [name of the copyright owner]. All rights reserved. Licensed to the [name of granting authority] under conditions.”

16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background

Specific rules regarding intellectual property rights, results and background (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

16.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY

17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the beneficiaries must promote the action and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex I and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the beneficiaries must inform the granting authority.

17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded

by the grant must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):



Funded by the
European Union



Co-funded by the
European Union



Funded by the
European Union



Co-funded by the
European Union

The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the beneficiaries may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the action must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.”

17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules

Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

17.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action

Specific rules for implementing the action (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

18.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS

19.1 Information requests

The beneficiaries must provide — during the action or afterwards and in accordance with Article 7 — any information requested in order to verify eligibility of the costs or contributions declared, proper implementation of the action and compliance with the other obligations under the Agreement.

The information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

19.2 Participant Register data updates

The beneficiaries must keep — at all times, during the action or afterwards — their information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date, in particular, their name, address, legal representatives, legal form and organisation type.

19.3 Information about events and circumstances which impact the action

The beneficiaries must immediately inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) of any of the following:

- (a) **events** which are likely to affect or delay the implementation of the action or affect the EU's financial interests, in particular:
 - (i) changes in their legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour signed before grant signature)

(f) linked action information: not applicable

(b) **circumstances** affecting:

- (i) the decision to award the grant or
- (ii) compliance with requirements under the Agreement.

19.4 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING

20.1 Keeping records and supporting documents

The beneficiaries must — at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6) — keep records and other supporting documents to prove the proper implementation of the action in line with the accepted standards in the respective field (if any).

In addition, the beneficiaries must — for the same period — keep the following to justify the amounts declared:

- (a) for actual costs: adequate records and supporting documents to prove the costs declared (such as contracts, subcontracts, invoices and accounting records); in addition, the beneficiaries' usual accounting and internal control procedures must enable direct reconciliation between the amounts declared, the amounts recorded in their accounts and the amounts stated in the supporting documents
- (b) for flat-rate costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the eligibility of the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied
- (c) for the following simplified costs and contributions: the beneficiaries do not need to keep specific records on the actual costs incurred, but must keep:
 - (i) for unit costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the number of units declared
 - (ii) for lump sum costs and contributions (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove proper implementation of the work as described in Annex 1
 - (iii) for financing not linked to costs (if any): adequate records and supporting documents to prove the achievement of the results or the fulfilment of the conditions as described in Annex 1
- (d) for unit, flat-rate and lump sum costs and contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any): the beneficiaries must keep any adequate records and supporting documents to prove that their cost accounting practices have been applied in a consistent manner, based on

objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding, and that they comply with the eligibility conditions set out in Articles 6.1 and 6.2.

Moreover, the following is needed for specific budget categories:

- (e) for personnel costs: time worked for the beneficiary under the action must be supported by declarations signed monthly by the person and their supervisor, unless another reliable time-record system is in place; the granting authority may accept alternative evidence supporting the time worked for the action declared, if it considers that it offers an adequate level of assurance

(f) additional record-keeping rules: not applicable

The records and supporting documents must be made available upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

If there are on-going checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims under the Agreement (including the extension of findings; see Article 25), the beneficiaries must keep these records and other supporting documentation until the end of these procedures.

The beneficiaries must keep the original documents. Digital and digitalised documents are considered originals if they are authorised by the applicable national law. The granting authority may accept non-original documents if they offer a comparable level of assurance.

20.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING

21.1 Continuous reporting

The beneficiaries must continuously report on the progress of the action (e.g. **deliverables, milestones, outputs/outcomes, critical risks, indicators**, etc; if any), in the Portal Continuous Reporting tool and in accordance with the timing and conditions it sets out (as agreed with the granting authority).

Standardised deliverables (e.g. progress reports not linked to payments, reports on cumulative expenditure, special reports, etc; if any) must be submitted using the templates published on the Portal.

21.2 Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements

In addition, the beneficiaries must provide reports to request payments, in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2):

- for additional prefinancings (if any): an **additional prefinancing report**
- for interim payments (if any) and the final payment: a **periodic report**.

The prefinancing and periodic reports include a technical and financial part.

The technical part includes an overview of the action implementation. It must be prepared using the template available in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool.

The financial part of the additional prefinancing report includes a statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment.

The financial part of the periodic report includes:

- the financial statements (individual and consolidated; for all beneficiaries/affiliated entities)
- the explanation on the use of resources (or detailed cost reporting table, if required)
- the certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Article 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3).

The **financial statements** must detail the eligible costs and contributions for each budget category and, for the final payment, also the revenues for the action (see Articles 6 and 22).

All eligible costs and contributions incurred should be declared, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Amounts that are not declared in the individual financial statements will not be taken into account by the granting authority.

By signing the financial statements (directly in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool), the beneficiaries confirm that:

- the information provided is complete, reliable and true
- the costs and contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6)
- the costs and contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documents (see Article 20) that will be produced upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Article 25)
- for the final periodic report: all the revenues have been declared (if required; see Article 22).

Beneficiaries will have to submit also the financial statements of their affiliated entities (if any). In case of recoveries (see Article 22), beneficiaries will be held responsible also for the financial statements of their affiliated entities.

21.3 Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros

The financial statements must be drafted in euro.

Beneficiaries with general accounts established in a currency other than the euro must convert the costs recorded in their accounts into euro, at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union* (ECB website), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

If no daily euro exchange rate is published in the *Official Journal* for the currency in question, they must be converted at the average of the monthly accounting exchange rates published on the European Commission website (InforEuro), calculated over the corresponding reporting period.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in euro must convert costs incurred in another currency into euro according to their usual accounting practices.

21.4 Reporting language

The reporting must be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

21.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a report submitted does not comply with this Article, the granting authority may suspend the payment deadline (see Article 29) and apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

If the coordinator breaches its reporting obligations, the granting authority may terminate the grant or the coordinator's participation (see Article 32) or apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE

22.1 Payments and payment arrangements

Payments will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

They will be made in euro to the bank account indicated by the coordinator (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) and must be distributed without unjustified delay (restrictions may apply to distribution of the initial prefinancing payment; see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

Payments to this bank account will discharge the granting authority from its payment obligation.

The cost of payment transfers will be borne as follows:

- the granting authority bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the beneficiary bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the party causing a repetition of a transfer bears all costs of the repeated transfer.

Payments by the granting authority will be considered to have been carried out on the date when they are debited to its account.

22.2 Recoveries

Recoveries will be made, if — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — it turns out that the granting authority has paid too much and needs to recover the amounts undue.

The general liability regime for recoveries (first-line liability) is as follows: At final payment, the coordinator will be fully liable for recoveries, even if it has not been the final recipient of the undue amounts. At beneficiary termination or after final payment, recoveries will be made directly against the beneficiaries concerned.

Beneficiaries will be fully liable for repaying the debts of their affiliated entities.

In case of enforced recoveries (see Article 22.4):

- the beneficiaries will be jointly and severally liable for repaying debts of another beneficiary under the Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- affiliated entities will be held liable for repaying debts of their beneficiaries under the Agreement (including late-payment interest), if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4).

22.3 Amounts due

22.3.1 Prefinancing payments

The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float.

It remains the property of the EU until the final payment.

For **initial prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

For **additional prefinancings** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are also set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2). However, if the statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment shows that less than 70% was used, the amount set out in the Data Sheet will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount used.

Prefinancing payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

22.3.2 Amount due at beneficiary termination — Recovery

In case of beneficiary termination, the granting authority will determine the provisional amount due for the beneficiary concerned. Payments (if any) will be made with the next interim or final payment.

The **amount due** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary for all reporting periods, by calculating the 'maximum EU contribution to costs' (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of the beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the ‘total accepted EU contribution’ for the beneficiary.

The **balance** is then calculated by deducting the payments received (if any; see report on the distribution of payments in Article 32), from the total accepted EU contribution:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ \text{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary} \\ & \text{minus} \\ & \{ \text{prefinancing and interim payments received (if any)} \} \}. \end{aligned}$$

If the balance is **positive**, the amount will be included in the next interim or final payment to the consortium.

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount due, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered and ask this amount to be paid to the coordinator (**confirmation letter**).

The amounts will later on also be taken into account for the next interim or final payment.

22.3.3 Interim payments

Interim payments reimburse the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action during the reporting periods (if any).

Interim payments (if any) will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **interim payment** will be calculated by the granting authority in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will calculate the ‘accepted EU contribution’ for the action for the reporting period, by first calculating the ‘maximum EU contribution to costs’ (applying the funding rate to the accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, and CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions from beneficiary termination (if any). The resulting amount is the ‘total accepted EU contribution’.

Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

The resulting amount is then capped to ensure that the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments (if any) does not exceed the interim payment ceiling set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Interim payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries’ consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

22.3.4 Final payment — Final grant amount — Revenues and Profit — Recovery

The final payment (payment of the balance) reimburses the remaining part of the eligible costs and contributions claimed for the implementation of the action (if any).

The final payment will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the final periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **final grant amount for the action** will be calculated in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the ‘accepted EU contribution’ for the action for all reporting periods, by calculating the ‘maximum EU contribution to costs’ (applying the funding rate to the total accepted costs of each beneficiary), taking into account requests for a lower contribution to costs, CFS threshold cappings (if any; see Article 24.5) and adding the contributions (accepted unit, flat-rate or lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs, if any).

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the ‘total accepted EU contribution’.

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

If the resulting amount is higher than the maximum grant amount set out in Article 5.2, it will be limited to the latter.

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

If the no-profit rule is provided for in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2), the grant must not produce a profit (i.e. surplus of the amount obtained following Step 2 plus the action's revenues, over the eligible costs and contributions approved by the granting authority).

'Revenue' is all income generated by the action, during its duration (see Article 4), for beneficiaries that are profit legal entities.

If there is a profit, it will be deducted in proportion to the final rate of reimbursement of the eligible costs approved by the granting authority (as compared to the amount calculated following Steps 1 and 2 minus the contributions).

The **balance** (final payment) is then calculated by deducting the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments already made (if any), from the final grant amount:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ \text{final grant amount} \\ & \text{minus} \\ & \{ \text{prefinancing and interim payments made (if any)} \} \} \end{aligned}$$

If the balance is **positive**, it will be **paid** to the coordinator.

The final payment (or part of it) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the final grant amount, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and date for payment.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

22.3.5 Audit implementation after final payment — Revised final grant amount — Recovery

If — after the final payment (in particular, after checks, reviews, audits or investigations; see

Article 25) — the granting authority rejects costs or contributions (see Article 27) or reduces the grant (see Article 28), it will calculate the **revised final grant amount** for the beneficiary concerned.

The **beneficiary revised final grant amount** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the ‘revised accepted EU contribution’ for the beneficiary, by calculating the ‘revised accepted costs’ and ‘revised accepted contributions’.

After that, it will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting ‘revised total accepted EU contribution’ is the beneficiary revised final grant amount.

If the revised final grant amount is lower than the beneficiary’s final grant amount (i.e. its share in the final grant amount for the action), it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The **beneficiary final grant amount** (i.e. share in the final grant amount for the action) is calculated as follows:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary} \\ \text{divided by} \\ \text{total accepted EU contribution for the action} \end{array} \right\} \times \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{multiplied by} \\ \text{final grant amount for the action} \end{array} \right\}.$$

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and the date for payment.

Recoveries against affiliated entities (if any) will be handled through their beneficiaries.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

22.4 Enforced recovery

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the amount due will be recovered:

- (a) by offsetting the amount — without the coordinator or beneficiary’s consent — against any amounts owed to the coordinator or beneficiary by the granting authority.

In exceptional circumstances, to safeguard the EU financial interests, the amount may be offset before the payment date specified in the debit note.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, debts may also be offset against amounts owed by other Commission services or executive agencies.

- (b) by drawing on the financial guarantee(s) (if any)
- (c) by holding other beneficiaries jointly and severally liable (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- (d) by holding affiliated entities jointly and severally liable (if any, see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- (e) by taking legal action (see Article 43) or, provided that the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, by adopting an enforceable decision under Article 299 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 100(2) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

The amount to be recovered will be increased by **late-payment interest** at the rate set out in Article 22.5, from the day following the payment date in the debit note, up to and including the date the full payment is received.

Partial payments will be first credited against expenses, charges and late-payment interest and then against the principal.

Bank charges incurred in the recovery process will be borne by the beneficiary, unless Directive 2015/2366¹⁷ applies.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency, enforced recovery by offsetting or enforceable decision will be done by the services of the European Commission (see also Article 43).

22.5 Consequences of non-compliance

22.5.1 If the granting authority does not pay within the payment deadlines (see above), the beneficiaries are entitled to **late-payment interest** at the rate applied by the European Central Bank (ECB) for its main refinancing operations in euros ('reference rate'), plus the rate specified in the Data Sheet (Point 4.2). The reference rate is the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment deadline expires, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

If the late-payment interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it will be paid to the coordinator only on request submitted within two months of receiving the late payment.

Late-payment interest is not due if all beneficiaries are EU Member States (including regional and local government authorities or other public bodies acting on behalf of a Member State for the purpose of this Agreement).

If payments or the payment deadline are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30), payment will not be considered as late.

¹⁷ Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC (OJ L 337, 23.12.2015, p. 35).

Late-payment interest covers the period running from the day following the due date for payment (see above), up to and including the date of payment.

Late-payment interest is not considered for the purposes of calculating the final grant amount.

22.5.2 If the coordinator breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 29) and the grant or the coordinator may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES

23.1 Prefinancing guarantee

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2), the beneficiaries must provide (one or more) prefinancing guarantee(s) in accordance with the timing and the amounts set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them to the granting authority in due time before the prefinancing they are linked to.

The guarantees must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a bank or approved financial institution established in the EU or — if requested by the coordinator and accepted by the granting authority — by a third party or a bank or financial institution established outside the EU offering equivalent security
- (b) the guarantor stands as first-call guarantor and does not require the granting authority to first have recourse against the principal debtor (i.e. the beneficiary concerned) and
- (c) remain explicitly in force until the final payment and, if the final payment takes the form of a recovery, until five months after the debit note is notified to a beneficiary.

They will be released within the following month.

23.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If the beneficiaries breach their obligation to provide the prefinancing guarantee, the prefinancing will not be paid.

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES

24.1 Operational verification report (OVR)

Not applicable

24.2 Certificate on the financial statements (CFS)

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.3), the beneficiaries must provide

certificates on their financial statements (CFS), in accordance with the schedule, threshold and conditions set out in the Data Sheet.

The coordinator must submit them as part of the periodic report (see Article 21).

The certificates must be drawn up using the template published on the Portal, cover the costs declared on the basis of actual costs and costs according to usual cost accounting practices (if any), and fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) be provided by a qualified approved external auditor which is independent and complies with Directive 2006/43/EC¹⁸ (or for public bodies: by a competent independent public officer)
- (b) the verification must be carried out according to the highest professional standards to ensure that the financial statements comply with the provisions under the Agreement and that the costs declared are eligible.

The certificates will not affect the granting authority's right to carry out its own checks, reviews or audits, nor preclude the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) or the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) from using their prerogatives for audits and investigations under the Agreement (see Article 25).

If the costs (or a part of them) were already audited by the granting authority, these costs do not need to be covered by the certificate and will not be counted for calculating the threshold (if any).

24.3 Certificate on the compliance of usual cost accounting practices (CoMUC)

Not applicable

24.4 Systems and process audit (SPA)

Not applicable

24.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary does not submit a certificate on the financial statements (CFS) or the certificate is rejected, the accepted EU contribution to costs will be capped to reflect the CFS threshold.

If a beneficiary breaches any of its other obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS

25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits

25.1.1 Internal checks

The granting authority may — during the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of

¹⁸ Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing costs and contributions, deliverables and reports.

25.1.2 Project reviews

The granting authority may carry out reviews on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement (general project reviews or specific issues reviews).

Such project reviews may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent, outside experts. If it uses outside experts, the coordinator or beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted (including information on the use of resources). The granting authority may request beneficiaries to provide such information to it directly. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may be requested to participate in meetings, including with the outside experts.

For **on-the-spot visits**, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including to the outside experts) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the review findings, a **project review report** will be drawn up.

The granting authority will formally notify the project review report to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations.

Project reviews (including project review reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

25.1.3 Audits

The granting authority may carry out audits on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Such audits may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

The granting authority may use its own audit service, delegate audits to a centralised service or use external audit firms. If it uses an external firm, the beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested —

any information (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data) to verify compliance with the Agreement. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

For **on-the-spot** visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings, a **draft audit report** will be drawn up.

The auditors will formally notify the draft audit report to the beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations (contradictory audit procedure).

The **final audit report** will take into account observations by the beneficiary concerned and will be formally notified to them.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities

Where the granting authority is not the European Commission, the latter has the same rights of checks, reviews and audits as the granting authority.

25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding

The beneficiaries must give the European Commission access to their statutory records for the periodic assessment of simplified forms of funding which are used in EU programmes.

25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations

The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations — during the action or afterwards:

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013¹⁹ and No 2185/96²⁰
- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939
- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If requested by these bodies, the beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or

¹⁹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1).

²⁰ Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/1996 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2).

other personal data, including in electronic format) and allow access to sites and premises for on-the-spot visits or inspections — as provided for under these Regulations.

To this end, the beneficiary concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (Point 6) and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations

25.5.1 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations in this grant

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations carried out in the context of this grant may lead to rejections (see Article 27), grant reduction (see Article 28) or other measures described in Chapter 5.

Rejections or grant reductions after the final payment will lead to a revised final grant amount (see Article 22).

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations during the action implementation may lead to a request for amendment (see Article 39), to change the description of the action set out in Annex 1.

Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations in any EU grant may also lead to consequences in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions ('extension to other grants').

Moreover, findings arising from an OLAF or EPPO investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.

25.5.2 Extension from other grants

Results of checks, reviews, audits or investigations in other grants may be extended to this grant, if:

- (a) the beneficiary concerned is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant and
- (b) those findings are formally notified to the beneficiary concerned — together with the list of grants affected by the findings — within the time-limit for audits set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned of the intention to extend the findings and the list of grants affected.

If the extension concerns **rejections of costs or contributions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings
- (b) the request to submit revised financial statements for all grants affected
- (c) the correction rate for extrapolation, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors, to calculate the amounts to be rejected, if the beneficiary concerned:

- (i) considers that the submission of revised financial statements is not possible or practicable or
- (ii) does not submit revised financial statements.

If the extension concerns **grant reductions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings and
- (b) the **correction rate for extrapolation**, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors and the principle of proportionality.

The beneficiary concerned has **60 days** from receiving notification to submit observations, revised financial statements or to propose a duly substantiated **alternative correction method/rate**.

On the basis of this, the granting authority will analyse the impact and decide on the implementation (i.e. start rejection or grant reduction procedures, either on the basis of the revised financial statements or the announced/alternative method/rate or a mix of those; see Articles 27 and 28).

25.6 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS

26.1 Impact evaluation

The granting authority may carry out impact evaluations of the action, measured against the objectives and indicators of the EU programme funding the grant.

Such evaluations may be started during implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiaries and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent outside experts.

The coordinator or beneficiaries must provide any information relevant to evaluate the impact of the action, including information in electronic format.

26.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

SECTION 1 — REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION

ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

27.1 Conditions

The granting authority will — at beneficiary termination, interim payment, final payment or afterwards — reject any costs or contributions which are ineligible (see Article 6), in particular following checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

The rejection may also be based on the extension of findings from other grants to this grant (see Article 25).

Ineligible costs or contributions will be rejected.

27.2 Procedure

If the rejection does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the rejection, the amounts and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the rejection (payment review procedure).

If the rejection leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

27.3 Effects

If the granting authority rejects costs or contributions, it will deduct them from the costs or contributions declared and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION

28.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — reduce the grant for a beneficiary, if:

- (a) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
 - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
 - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants

awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (see Article 25).

The amount of the reduction will be calculated for each beneficiary concerned and proportionate to the seriousness and the duration of the errors, irregularities or fraud or breach of obligations, by applying an individual reduction rate to their accepted EU contribution.

28.2 Procedure

If the grant reduction does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the reduction, the amount to be reduced and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the reduction (payment review procedure).

If the grant reduction leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

28.3 Effects

If the granting authority reduces the grant, it will deduct the reduction and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

SECTION 2 — SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION

ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION

29.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend the payment deadline if a payment cannot be processed because:

- (a) the required report (see Article 21) has not been submitted or is not complete or additional information is needed
- (b) there are doubts about the amount to be paid (e.g. ongoing audit extension procedure, queries about eligibility, need for a grant reduction, etc.) and additional checks, reviews, audits or investigations are necessary, or
- (c) there are other issues affecting the EU financial interests.

29.2 Procedure

The granting authority will formally notify the coordinator of the suspension and the reasons why.

The suspension will **take effect** the day the notification is sent.

If the conditions for suspending the payment deadline are no longer met, the suspension will be **lifted** — and the remaining time to pay (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) will resume.

If the suspension exceeds two months, the coordinator may request the granting authority to confirm if the suspension will continue.

If the payment deadline has been suspended due to the non-compliance of the report and the revised report is not submitted (or was submitted but is also rejected), the granting authority may also terminate the grant or the participation of the coordinator (see Article 32).

ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION

30.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend payments, in whole or in part for one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
 - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
 - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant.

If payments are suspended for one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will make partial payment(s) for the part(s) not suspended. If suspension concerns the final payment, the payment (or recovery) of the remaining amount after suspension is lifted will be considered to be the payment that closes the action.

30.2 Procedure

Before suspending payments, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend payments and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

At the end of the suspension procedure, the granting authority will also inform the coordinator.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent.

If the conditions for resuming payments are met, the suspension will be **lifted**. The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned (and the coordinator) and set the suspension end date.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid to the beneficiaries concerned. For interim payments, the periodic reports for all reporting periods except the last one (see Article 21) must not contain any financial statements from the beneficiary concerned (or its affiliated entities). The coordinator must include them in the next periodic report after the suspension is lifted or — if suspension is not lifted before the end of the action — in the last periodic report.

ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION

31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension

31.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the suspension of the grant or any part of it, if exceptional circumstances — in particular *force majeure* (see Article 35) — make implementation impossible or excessively difficult.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the suspension takes effect; this date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request and
- the expected date of resumption.

The suspension will **take effect** on the day specified in the amendment.

Once circumstances allow for implementation to resume, the coordinator must immediately request another **amendment** of the Agreement to set the suspension end date, the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the amendment. This date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

31.2 EU-initiated GA suspension

31.2.1 Conditions

The granting authority may suspend the grant or any part of it, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
 - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
 - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions,

submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or

(b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant

(c) other:

(i) linked action issues: not applicable

(ii) additional GA suspension grounds: not applicable.

31.2.2 Procedure

Before suspending the grant, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend the grant and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification).

Once the conditions for resuming implementation of the action are met, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator a **lifting of suspension letter**, in which it will set the suspension end date and invite the coordinator to request an amendment of the Agreement to set the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the lifting of suspension letter. This date may be before the date on which the letter is sent.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to suspension by the granting authority (see Article 33).

Grant suspension does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant or a beneficiary (see Article 32) or reduce the grant (see Article 28).

ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION

32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination

32.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the termination of the grant.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the consortium ends work on the action ('end of work date') and
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no reasons are given or if the granting authority considers the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the grant terminated improperly.

32.1.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Improper termination may lead to a grant reduction (see Article 28).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination

32.2.1 Conditions and procedure

The coordinator may request the termination of the participation of one or more beneficiaries, on request of the beneficiary concerned or on behalf of the other beneficiaries.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the opinion of the beneficiary concerned (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing)
- the date the beneficiary ends work on the action ('end of work date')

- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

If the termination concerns the coordinator and is done without its agreement, the amendment request must be submitted by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the consortium).

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no information is given or if the granting authority considers that the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the beneficiary to have been terminated improperly.

32.2.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned
- a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
- a **second request for amendment** (see Article 39) with other amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after the end of work are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/ contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the second request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the second request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

Improper termination may lead to a reduction of the grant (see Article 31) or grant termination (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

32.3 EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination

32.3.1 Conditions

The granting authority may terminate the grant or the participation of one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) one or more beneficiaries do not accede to the Agreement (see Article 40)
- (b) a change to the action or the legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation of a beneficiary is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the action or calls into question the decision to award the grant (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour)
- (c) following termination of one or more beneficiaries, the necessary changes to the Agreement (and their impact on the action) would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (d) implementation of the action has become impossible or the changes necessary for its continuation would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (e) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is subject to bankruptcy proceedings or similar (including insolvency, winding-up, administration by a liquidator or court, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities, etc.)
- (f) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is in breach of social security or tax obligations
- (g) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has been found guilty of grave professional misconduct
- (h) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed fraud, corruption, or is involved in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking
- (i) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) was created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin (or created another entity with this purpose)
- (j) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:

- (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
- (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.)
- (k) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings from other grants to this grant; see Article 25)
- (l) despite a specific request by the granting authority, a beneficiary does not request — through the coordinator — an amendment to the Agreement to end the participation of one of its affiliated entities or associated partners that is in one of the situations under points (d), (f), (e), (g), (h), (i) or (j) and to reallocate its tasks, or
- (m) other:

(i) linked action issues; not applicable

(m) additional GA termination grounds; not applicable.

32.3.2 Procedure

Before terminating the grant or participation of one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to terminate and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the termination and the date it will take effect (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

For beneficiary terminations, the granting authority will — at the end of the procedure — also inform the coordinator.

The termination will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification; ‘termination date’).

32.3.3 Effects

- (a) for **GA termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the last open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities

implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

If the grant is terminated for breach of the obligation to submit reports, the coordinator may not submit any report after termination.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only costs and contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Termination does not affect the granting authority's right to reduce the grant (see Article 28) or to impose administrative sanctions (see Article 34).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to termination by the granting authority (see Article 33).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

(b) for **beneficiary termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, the explanation on the use of resources, and, if applicable, the certificate on the financial statement (CFS; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
- (iii) a **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with any amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the costs incurred and contributions for activities implemented before termination takes effect (see Article 22). Costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination are not eligible.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only costs and contributions included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no costs/contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES

33.1 Liability of the granting authority

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the beneficiaries or to third parties as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement, including for gross negligence.

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the beneficiaries or other participants involved in the action, as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement.

33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must compensate the granting authority for any damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement, provided that it was caused by gross negligence or wilful act.

The liability does not extend to indirect or consequential losses or similar damage (such as loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts), provided such damage was not caused by wilful act or by a breach of confidentiality.

ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES

Nothing in this Agreement may be construed as preventing the adoption of administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion from EU award procedures and/or financial penalties) or other public law measures, in addition or as an alternative to the contractual measures provided under this Agreement (see, for instance, Articles 135 to 145 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and Articles 4 and 7 of Regulation 2988/95²¹).

²¹ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE

ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE

A party prevented by force majeure from fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement cannot be considered in breach of them.

‘Force majeure’ means any situation or event that:

- prevents either party from fulfilling their obligations under the Agreement,
- was unforeseeable, exceptional situation and beyond the parties’ control,
- was not due to error or negligence on their part (or on the part of other participants involved in the action), and
- proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising all due diligence.

Any situation constituting force majeure must be formally notified to the other party without delay, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.

The parties must immediately take all the necessary steps to limit any damage due to force majeure and do their best to resume implementation of the action as soon as possible.

CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES

36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management

EU grants are managed fully electronically through the EU Funding & Tenders Portal (‘Portal’).

All communications must be made electronically through the Portal, in accordance with the Portal Terms and Conditions and using the forms and templates provided there (except if explicitly instructed otherwise by the granting authority).

Communications must be made in writing and clearly identify the grant agreement (project number and acronym).

Communications must be made by persons authorised according to the Portal Terms and Conditions. For naming the authorised persons, each beneficiary must have designated — before the signature of this Agreement — a ‘legal entity appointed representative (LEAR)’. The role and tasks of the LEAR are stipulated in their appointment letter (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, instructions will be given on the Portal.

36.2 Date of communication

The sending date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time of sending, as indicated by the time logs.

The receiving date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time the communication is accessed, as indicated by the time logs. Formal notifications that have not been accessed within 10 days after sending, will be considered to have been accessed (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If a communication is exceptionally made on paper (by e-mail or postal service), general principles apply (i.e. date of sending/receipt). Formal notifications by registered post with proof of delivery will be considered to have been received either on the delivery date registered by the postal service or the deadline for collection at the post office.

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, the sending party cannot be considered in breach of its obligation to send a communication within a specified deadline.

36.3 Addresses for communication

The Portal can be accessed via the Europa website.

The address for paper communications to the granting authority (if exceptionally allowed) is the official mailing address indicated on its website.

For beneficiaries, it is the legal address specified in the Portal Participant Register.

ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The provisions in the Data Sheet take precedence over the rest of the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.

Annex 5 takes precedence over the Terms and Conditions; the Terms and Conditions take precedence over the Annexes other than Annex 5.

Annex 2 takes precedence over Annex 1.

ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES

In accordance with Regulation No 1182/71²², periods expressed in days, months or years are calculated from the moment the triggering event occurs.

The day during which that event occurs is not considered as falling within the period.

‘Days’ means calendar days, not working days.

ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS

39.1 Conditions

The Agreement may be amended, unless the amendment entails changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

²² Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of the Council of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time-limits (OJ L 124, 8/6/1971, p. 1).

Amendments may be requested by any of the parties.

39.2 Procedure

The party requesting an amendment must submit a request for amendment signed directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

The coordinator submits and receives requests for amendment on behalf of the beneficiaries (see Annex 3). If a change of coordinator is requested without its agreement, the submission must be done by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the other beneficiaries).

The request for amendment must include:

- the reasons why
- the appropriate supporting documents and
- for a change of coordinator without its agreement: the opinion of the coordinator (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing).

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the party receiving the request agrees, it must sign the amendment in the tool within 45 days of receiving notification (or any additional information the granting authority has requested). If it does not agree, it must formally notify its disagreement within the same deadline. The deadline may be extended, if necessary for the assessment of the request. If no notification is received within the deadline, the request is considered to have been rejected.

An amendment **enters into force** on the day of the signature of the receiving party.

An amendment **takes effect** on the date of entry into force or other date specified in the amendment.

ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES

40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble

The beneficiaries which are not coordinator must accede to the grant by signing the accession form (see Annex 3) directly in the Portal Grant Preparation tool, within 30 days after the entry into force of the Agreement (see Article 44).

They will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of its entry into force (see Article 44).

If a beneficiary does not accede to the grant within the above deadline, the coordinator must — within 30 days — request an amendment (see Article 39) to terminate the beneficiary and make any changes necessary to ensure proper implementation of the action. This does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant (see Article 32).

40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries

In justified cases, the beneficiaries may request the addition of a new beneficiary.

For this purpose, the coordinator must submit a request for amendment in accordance with Article 39. It must include an accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

New beneficiaries will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of their accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

Additions are also possible in mono-beneficiary grants.

ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT

In justified cases, the beneficiary of a mono-beneficiary grant may request the transfer of the grant to a new beneficiary, provided that this would not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

The beneficiary must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with

- the reasons why
- the accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool and
- additional supporting documents (if required by the granting authority).

The new beneficiary will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY

The beneficiaries may not assign any of their claims for payment against the granting authority to any third party, except if expressly approved in writing by the granting authority on the basis of a reasoned, written request by the coordinator (on behalf of the beneficiary concerned).

If the granting authority has not accepted the assignment or if the terms of it are not observed, the assignment will have no effect on it.

In no circumstances will an assignment release the beneficiaries from their obligations towards the granting authority.

ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

43.1 Applicable law

The Agreement is governed by the applicable EU law, supplemented if necessary by the law of Belgium.

Special rules may apply for beneficiaries which are international organisations (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5).

43.2 Dispute settlement

If a dispute concerns the interpretation, application or validity of the Agreement, the parties must bring action before the EU General Court — or, on appeal, the EU Court of Justice — under Article 272 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

For non-EU beneficiaries (if any), such disputes must be brought before the courts of Brussels, Belgium — unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements.

For beneficiaries with arbitration as special dispute settlement forum (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5), the dispute will — in the absence of an amicable settlement — be settled in accordance with the Rules for Arbitration published on the Portal.

If a dispute concerns administrative sanctions, offsetting or an enforceable decision under Article 299 TFEU (see Articles 22 and 34), the beneficiaries must bring action before the General Court — or, on appeal, the Court of Justice — under Article 263 TFEU.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency (see Preamble), actions against offsetting and enforceable decisions must be brought against the European Commission (not against the granting authority; see also Article 22).

ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Agreement will enter into force on the day of signature by the granting authority or the coordinator, depending on which is later.

SIGNATURES

For the coordinator

For the granting authority



Associated with document Ref Ares(2022)5106813 - 13/07/2022

ANNEX 1



Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

Description of the action (DoA)

Part A

Part B

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART A)**COVER PAGE**

Part A of the Description of the Action (DoA) must be completed directly on the Portal Grant Preparation screens.

PROJECT	
<i>Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Enter the info.</i>	
Project number:	101074212
Project name:	Securing a future for Griffon Vultures in Croatia
Project acronym:	LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport
Call:	LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT
Topic:	LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE
Type of action:	LIFE-PJG
Service:	CINEA/D/02
Project starting date:	fixed date: 1 January 2023
Project duration:	60 months

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Project summary	3
List of participants	3
List of work packages	4
Staff effort	24
List of deliverables	25
List of milestones (outputs/outcomes)	32
List of critical risks	34

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project summary

Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Provide an overall description of your project (including context and overall objectives, planned activities and main achievements, and expected results and impacts (on target groups, change procedures, capacities, innovation etc)). This summary should give readers a clear idea of what your project is about.

Use the project summary from your proposal.

The project LIFE SUPport aims to improve breeding and survival conditions for the last remaining population of Griffon Vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) in Croatia, located on the Kvarner Islands. The urgency and need for such a project have been outlined in the expert background document prepared for the currently pending adoption of the Griffon Vulture Management Plan in Croatia. By tackling the most important threats on their breeding grounds, the current population of 110-130 pairs will continue to survive and possibly increase in number, which is an important first step for the species to re-colonize their historical breeding ranges on the Croatian mainland and connect to other populations of Griffon Vultures in the Alps and Balkans. The most important threats targeted by this project are nest disturbance, lack of food, poisoning and electrocution. The main objectives are therefore:

1. Reducing nestling mortality by minimizing nest disturbance and by improving the rescue and rehabilitation operations of the Beli Rescue Center for Griffon Vultures.
2. Increasing food availability for vultures by improving and expanding the existing network of managed feeding stations and by increasing natural feeding opportunities.
3. Prevention of poisoning events by exploring best preventive measures to avoid the use of poisoned baits, by promoting the use of lead-free ammunition and by capacity building of relevant enforcement agencies for combating illegal wildlife poisoning.
4. Reducing mortality arising from electrocution by applying appropriate mitigation measures on the most important electrocution hotspots.
5. Promoting Griffon Vultures and raising awareness of their threats and needs to local stakeholders, the wider public and government bodies.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS

Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
1	COO	Udruga BIOM	UDRUGA BIOM	HR	948167823
2	BEN	VCF	STICHTING THE VULTURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	NL	905576384
3	BEN	JU Priroda	JAVNA USTANOVA PRIRODA	HR	904537611
4	BEN	PZ otok Krk	POLJOPRIVREDNA ZADRUGA OTOK KRK	HR	890828407
5	BEN	HEP-ODS d.o.o.	HEP-OPERATOR DISTRIBUCIJSKOG SUSTAVA DOO ZA DISTRIBUCIJU I OPSKRBU ELEKTRICNE ENERGIJE D.O.O.	HR	955030476
6	AP	MINGOR	MINISTARSTVO GOSPODARSTVA I ODRZIVOG RAZVOJA	HR	916533310

LIST OF WORK PACKAGES

Work packages <i>Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
Work Package No	Work Package name	Lead Beneficiary	Effort (Person-Months)	Start Month	End Month	Deliverables
WP1	Project Management & Coordination	1 - Udruga BIOM	120.60	1	60	D1.1 – KPI webtool extract (beginning) D1.2 – KPI webtool extract (end) D1.3 – Progress Report
WP2	Decrease Nestling Mortality	3 - JU Priroda	55.80	1	54	D2.1 – Guidelines for vulture population monitoring D2.2 – Good practice guide for boat owners
WP3	Increase Food Availability	1 - Udruga BIOM	44.40	1	60	D3.1 – Report on the changes in habitat and animal husbandry on the Kvarner Islands and Učka
WP4	Prevention of Poisoning Events	1 - Udruga BIOM	44.40	1	54	D4.1 – Report on tackling lead poisoning and introducing non-lead ammunition to hunters in Kvarner area
WP5	Prevention of Electrocution Events	5 - HEP-ODS d.o.o.	18.60	1	56	D5.1 – Electrocution hotspot analysis report
WP6	Monitoring & Evaluation	1 - Udruga BIOM	60.60	1	57	D6.1 – Overall report on monitoring of success of conservation D6.2 – Report on stakeholder awareness activities D6.3 – Griffon vulture movements report
WP7	Communication, Dissemination & Visibility	1 - Udruga BIOM	68.40	1	60	D7.1 – Project Website D7.2 – Educational material and program D7.3 – Final Conference
WP8	Sustainability, Replication & Exploitation of Project Results	1 - Udruga BIOM	39.60	9	60	D8.1 – Griffon vulture Management Plan Revision D8.2 – After-LIFE conservation plan

Work package WP1 – Project Management & Coordination

Work Package Number	WP1	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Work Package Name	Project Management & Coordination		
Start Month		End Month	60

Objectives

Work package on Project management and coordination is linked to all project specific objectives (4 specific objectives related to threats and one specific objective related to promoting Griffon vultures and raising awareness).

Expected results

- Efficient administrative, technical and financial implementation of the project via Project Management Board. Project Reports submitted on time. As little delays in implementation of project activities as possible.
- Monitoring of project progress via Project Steering Committee (PSC). Regular annual meetings of the PSC and meeting minutes/conclusions.
- Monitoring and measuring KPIs via Work package 6 on Monitoring and Evaluation. Regular monitoring of KPIs. KPI reporting done on time.

Description

T.1.1 Coordination and administration of the project (BIOM, VCF, JUP, PZO Krk, HEP DSO, NPD-MESD):

Project coordination between different partners will be the responsibility of BIOM. BIOM staff are experienced in managing EU-funded projects at national and international levels and have a long-standing experience in biodiversity monitoring and protection. Project manager (PM) will be responsible for coordination of implementation of all actions. Project administrator (PA) will be responsible for coordination of administrative aspects of the project.

The PM will ensure effective and timely implementation of all project activities, hold meetings and discussions for assessing project progress and eventually discuss the strategic actions to be taken. The PM will oversee the work of the PA and will conduct regular communications with the EU and project monitor. The PM will guide technical implementation of all project activities and will work in close collaboration with the PA to ensure that all contracts and agreements for consultants and project beneficiaries are prepared on time. The PM will also ensure that the project budget is used effectively and that expenses are paid on time.

The PA will ensure effective and timely administrative and financial project reporting, provide support to project beneficiaries on administrative and financial aspects of project management. She will ensure collecting supporting documentation from all partners for all expenditures, and all other relevant administrative and financial documentation, such as tender documents, invoices, purchase orders, proof of payments, salary slips, timesheets and other documents used for the calculation and presentation of costs.

The PM and PA will prepare and supervise the preparation of all reports to the EC. Each partner will have staff dedicated to financial administration of the LIFE budget and implementation of activities under their responsibilities. More details of the key staff can be found in the Participant Information file.

Day to day coordination among project beneficiaries will be organized regularly through e-mails, by telephone contact, video and teleconferences. BIOM will set up the internal project planning and reporting system, which will include quarterly reporting and planning (both technical and financial) in order to secure regular reporting and possible adjustments of plans. This will also provide opportunities to promptly react to any challenges in project implementation and will enable adaptive management, in coordination with the Project Monitor and Project Advisor. BIOM will also provide an appropriate platform for communication and storing relevant project materials and documents (such as Slack, Basecamp, Dropbox, NextCloud, Flickr...). The details will be agreed among all partners at the beginning of the project. As some beneficiaries have a history of previous project cooperation this will allow for easier project start and internal communication.

Project Management Board (PMB)

Project internal coordination will be ensured through the Project Management Board (PMB) that will include key project staff from all five project beneficiaries. PMB will be coordinated by BIOM, and the board will be in charge of overall activities planning, ensuring good communications flows, monitoring and evaluating project progress, anticipating risks and solving potential problems, and planning cooperation with key stakeholders. PMB will hold regular meetings, minimum every three months. In order to lower carbon footprint meetings will be held online. PMB will meet once a year in person at the time when LIFE project monitor visits the site or back to back with other project events, which will further limit the carbon footprint.

Project Steering Committee (PSC)

Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established in order to ensure good communication and support of national level key stakeholders. It will include representatives of the Nature Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (NPD-MESD) (associated partner) and the Ministry of Agriculture, and representatives of each of the national project beneficiaries. PSC will meet once a year in person, and if necessary organize additional online meetings. PSC will be updated by the project beneficiaries on the project progress, discuss potential problems and solutions, provide key input for the project After-LIFE Plan and discuss sustainability and upscaling possibilities. The PSC will be directly involved in the discussion on improving national policy related to conservation of Griffon vultures – both conservation and veterinary regulations. It will provide a review of most relevant reports, and support in their dissemination.

BIOM will be in charge of conducting an external audit for the project to verify the project compliance with the accounting standards and certify that all project expenses are in line with the LIFE Grant Agreement. Auditors will also check the project funding resources, ensuring that there is no double funding by other EU funding. In addition, external auditors conduct regular annual audit reviews of BIOM.

Although most of the deliverables will be written in English, the list also contains several reports in Croatian because they deal with local stakeholders or have a local scope. However, as most of the outcomes will contain valuable information, which can be used for upscaling the project results, these reports will be translated to English as well. This particularly concerns the deliverables of WP2, WP3 and WP4.

T.1.2 Monitor and measure horizontal KPIs and project specific indicators (BIOM, VCF, JUP, PZO Krk, HEP DSO):

Two types of indicators will be used when reporting on project outcomes: horizontal KPIs for the LIFE Programme, as well as specific KPIs relevant to the proposal. These indicators will contribute to evaluating the impact of the LIFE project in view of the overall objectives of the LIFE Programme, in line with the Regulation and the Multi-annual Work Programme for 2021-2027. The project specific indicators listed in Part C of the application will be revised before the start of the conservation actions, especially regarding the absolute and relative quantification of the relevant indicators. KPIs will then be used to identify the impact of the relevant actions towards the end of the project and five years after the project has been completed. Information for completing quantitative and qualitative elements of the indicators table will be collected on the regular basis. Information about project outcomes and contribution to objectives of the LIFE Programme will be regularly monitored and evaluated as part of WP6. Project team will be updated on the trends of specific indicators once per year and the implications for the project will be discussed at the Project Management Board meetings. The action will actually run throughout the whole project, but majority of the work will be done before each of the activity reports, when all data will be collected and summarized and indicator tables will be filled in.

Budget for the WP1 consist of the following:

Kick off meeting Brussels form BIOM (EUR 1.280) - travel

Annual Project Management Board meetings in Rijeka incl. monitor visit for all partners (EUR 20.115) - travel + venue & catering

Annual Steering Committees meetings in Zagreb for all partners (EUR 1.500) - travel + refreshments

Project vehicle for access to the project area (LPG) - BIOM (EUR 25.000) - equipment

Yearly project vehicle insurance and registration for BIOM (EUR 3.500)

Project laptops - BIOM (3) & VCF (1) (EUR 6.100) - equipment

Work station for advanced GIS analysis - BIOM (EUR 4.000) - equipment

Project Audit (1% of total budget) for BIOM (EUR 20.000)

Translations of deliverable/ milestone reports - BIOM (EUR 4.800)

Project fleece for project staff via BIOM (EUR 1.350)

Work package WP2 – Decrease Nestling Mortality

Work Package Number	WP2	Lead Beneficiary	3. JU Priroda
Work Package Name	Decrease Nestling Mortality		
Start Month	1	End Month	54

Objectives

Reducing nestling mortality by minimizing nest disturbance and by improving the rescue and rehabilitation operations of the Beli Rescue Center for Griffon vultures.

Expected results

- Reduced percentage of nestlings falling into the sea to a maximum of 15%.
- Increased understanding and surveillance of colony disturbance during the critical period of breeding.
- Increased awareness among boat owners (fishermen, excursion boats, tourists) about best practices for good behaviour near Griffon vulture colonies. 10 000 people (boat owners, tourists, fishermen) reached and their awareness raised by the end of the project
- Improved rescue and rehabilitation facilities and operations of the Beli Rescue Centre.

Description

T.2.1 Establish a baseline for the monitoring of Griffon vulture populations and its threats (BIOM, JUP):

The aim of this activity is to collect data from the literature, technical reports as well as from personal experiences regarding the positions of Griffon vulture colonies in Kvarner in order to develop basic guidelines for monitoring the vulture population, and their breeding success. Apart from desk work, a thorough survey of all currently known and potential (future) nesting sites in the SPA Kvarnerski otoci is going to be conducted in the first season of the project. The developed guidelines will include a detailed list and photos of cliffs with the location of each individual nest, maps of the spatial distribution of the colonies, recommendations of when and how often to do the monitoring throughout the project period and how to record and process gathered data. JUP will support this task by providing their boat and staff for the planned surveys.

T.2.2 Establish a video surveillance of Plavnik colony (JUP, BIOM):

Implementation of a pilot project of video surveillance on the Island of Plavnik, where we find that vulture nests are most exposed to disturbance from the touristic boats. The installation of the system on the cliff itself would be done in the first year, in late summer when the vultures are not breeding. The system consists of two cameras. One records the location of one selected nest, and the other camera covers the cliff with the remaining nests and part of the coastal sea. All other equipment consisting of battery, router and solar panels are located on the plateau at the top of the cliff. The video system remains on site throughout the project period. For the implementation of the video surveillance system, external assistance will be subcontracted. The aim of this remote monitoring activity is to collect more data on the threat of disturbance of young birds on cliffs by tourist boats. The data will be used in the analysis of the tourist pressure on the vulture colony on the island of Plavnik, a hotspot for drowning nestlings. In addition, the presence of video surveillance on Plavnik will indirectly lead to more responsible behaviour of individual boat owners (once they know they are being monitored). BIOM will support JUP in this task by coordinating volunteers assisting in video footage analyses as well as by supporting a desk study on nest disturbance.

It is important to note that the Croatian Regulation on conservation objectives and measures for target bird species in ecological network sites (Official Gazette 25/20 and 38/20) already prescribes that 80 meters from the cliffs where Griffon vultures are breeding or resting it is not allowed for boats to stay there, it is not allowed that boats anchor there, the boat speed cannot be higher than 5 knots, the use of loudspeakers is not allowed, nor is the intentional disturbance of species allowed. In addition, floating signs need to be put 80 meters from cliffs where Griffon vultures breed or rest. However, this is not respected, therefore the project is implementing the relevant activities (Task 2.2, 2.4 and 2.5). In addition, JU Priroda will advocate for the Regulation to be implemented, with the support of the NPD-MESD, as this part of the Regulation needs to be implemented by the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure.

Task 2.3 Upgrading the facilities of Beli Rescue Centre (JUP, VCF):

All Griffon vultures that return to the wild after recovery are released from the feeding station on the island of Cres, managed by JUP. Currently it is done by the 'hard-release' method, which means releasing the birds directly from a transporter after half an hour of driving to the release site. Since this is a stressful method, which can often affect the success rate of birds returning safely to nature, the plan is to design, build and install a small 'soft-release' aviary near the current feeding station, in which the Griffon vultures can be accommodated a few days before their release. The aviary will be equipped with an automatic door opening / closing system, and at a convenient time when there are other vultures on the feeding station, the door will open and the birds from the aviary will join them, thus directly increasing their chances of survival. This aviary will also be used to capture vultures in order to tag them with GPS transmitters during the project, especially adult birds that cannot be caught in any other way. The preparation of the necessary documentation (blueprints) as well as constructing the aviary will be completed in the second year of the project, and external assistance will be subcontracted for these services.

Also, an observation station will be assembled on the release site. Beside observing and recording the behaviour of vultures first hand at the feeding station, it is also needed as a logistical point for the optimal functioning of the feeding station itself and the activities that take place around it. The observation place will also be used for employees to stay when releasing and catching birds and a location for storing the necessary equipment. The revision of the already existing documentation for the observation station, as well as its construction, will be completed in the third year of the project, and an external associate will be subcontracted for this service. The new observation station will also allow for attractive

photographs to be taken, which can be used for making promotional materials for the LIFE SUPport project and the Beli Rescue Centre in general. Therefore, a suitable camera and a photo camera with a telephoto lens will be purchased. VCF will support this task as an experienced international partner by advising JUP on the details required for the soft release aviary, and the best ways for it to serve both for releasing rescued and recovered birds, as well as capturing adult birds for tagging. VCF will also facilitate visits for Beli Rescue Centre staff to Spain (Rescue Centre exchange) and Italy (Cornino feeding station with soft-release aviary) for the purpose of knowledge exchange and increasing the capacity of Beli Centre staff.

T.2.4 Vigilance network of volunteers to prevent disturbance during the sensitive breeding season (BIOM, JUP):

During the period of raising juvenile Griffons in the nest, in late spring and summer, a more frequent presence of rangers from JUP will be ensured at sea, in order to sanction (un)intentional disturbance of Griffon vultures and raise awareness among other boat owners/ nautical tourists to behave responsibly near the colonies. However, to truly have a strong project presence around the Griffon vulture colonies during the most critical period of breeding (when most nestlings fall into the sea), BIOM and JUP will attract volunteers to support in this activity. BIOM will select and coordinate the volunteers, while JUP provides them with free accommodation at the Beli Rescue Centre. The volunteers (trained by JUP) will survey the colonies for a period of 2 months, for which a skipper with boat will be subcontracted. This activity is important for several reasons in this project. First of all, it will allow for an increased number of young Griffons to be rescued from drowning. This will include young vultures from more distant colonies on Krk, which otherwise cannot be visited as frequently. Second of all, increased presence in the area will allow for awareness raising of colony disturbance among a much larger number of people (including fishermen, tourists, excursion boat owners, etc.) by talking with them and providing them with information leaflets (developed via task 2.5). These leaflets will include information about how to behave in the vicinity of colonies, who to contact and what to do when you see a vulture in distress, etc. In addition, the volunteers will report to the JU Priroda if boat operators are not abiding to the rules, so that the rangers can react accordingly. This way, nest disturbance will not only be reduced during the actual presence of the surveillance team, but its effects will also remain after the project finishes, because people are more aware of the threat they pose to young Griffons. Finally, it is fantastic way to promote the LIFE SUPport project in general by having a lot of interactions with people, creating high visibility for the project.

T.2.5 Good practice guidance document for boat operators near the colonies (JUP, BIOM):

Due to the attractive and the fact that during the summer months juvenile vultures, who are not yet skilled fliers, and are visible on the cliffs, especially on the island of Plavnik, where nests are located low above the sea, many tourist boats and other vessels come to observe them. In order for this activity to take place in a sustainable way, the project will establish guidelines of good practice especially for tourist boat operators in which terms the same can be implemented. A partnership of mutual understanding will be established with the boat owners (tourist boat operators), all with the aim of preventing disturbance of the colonies. This activity will be implemented in the first year, and the document will be produced in the second year of the project.

As part of the cooperation with the boat operators, JU Priroda will organize meetings with the boat operators in order for them to better understand the issues and the threats their activities pose to the Griffon vultures. We expect that 5 years is enough for the boat operators to respect the regulations. In case 5 years is not enough, JU Priroda will continue with the volunteer vigilance network (Task 2.4).

Budget for the WP2 consist of the following:

Baseline monitoring of Griffon vulture colonies together with JUP - BIOM (EUR 1.731) - travel

System camera for JUP (EUR 6.700) - equipment

Maintenance of system camera for JUP (EUR 13.500)

Professional photo camera with tele-objective and GoPro video camera for JUP (EUR 5.400) - equipment

Network Attached Storage for storing and retrieval of large amounts of high fidelity video data (8HD, 8TB each) for BIOM (EUR 3.500) - equipment

Leaflet/ best practice for boat owners (design & printing) for BIOM (EUR 2.000)

Volunteer coordination for BIOM (EUR 1.107) - travel

Volunteer vigilance network for nest disturbance monitoring and awareness raising (3 seasons, 2 months, 2 volunteers) for BIOM (EUR 6.510) - travel

Skipper + boat for 40 days during high season for BIOM (EUR 37.500) - subcontracting

Boat fuel for nest disturbance monitoring and awareness raising (3 seasons) for BIOM (EUR 22.500)

Implementation of video surveillance of Plavnik colony for JUP (EUR 16.000) - subcontracting

Study travel in Italy to learn about aviary of Cornino for JUP (EUR 350) - travel

Study travel in Spain for JUP (EUR 1.600) - travel

Soft release aviary - documentation for JUP (EUR 2.700) - subcontracting

Soft release aviary - construction for JUP (EUR 20.000) - subcontracting

Observation platform - revision of documentation for JUP (EUR 1.350) - subcontracting

Observation platform - construction for JUP (EUR 47.000) - subcontracting

Work package WP3 – Increase Food Availability

Work Package Number	WP3	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Work Package Name	Increase Food Availability		
Start Month		End Month	60

Objectives

Increasing food availability for vultures by improving and expanding the existing network of managed feeding stations and by exploring possibilities to increase natural feeding opportunities.

Expected results:

- Amount of food delivered to feeding stations increased to 40 tons per year.
- Improved permit conditions for feeding stations (to include a larger area for collecting carcasses).
- Establishment of the first feeding station on the island of Krk, run by PZO Krk and supplied by local shepherds.
- Basis laid for future work on habitat restoration and the improvement of extensive shepherding practises.

Description

T.3.1 Mapping food availability and necessity for Griffon vultures from the Kvarner Islands (BIOM):

In order for the existing Griffon vulture population to survive in the Kvarner area and potentially grow and spread to neighbouring areas, it is crucial to ensure an adequate amount of constantly available food. At the moment, attempts are being made to provide this to the feeding stations on Cres and Mt. Učka. The need to establish a feeding station appeared to be crucial due to the decline of the natural food source of this population – domestic sheep. Abandonment of traditional sheep farming is one of the main reasons for the endangerment of this Griffon vulture population. Additionally, the overgrown pastures are inaccessible to vultures, so any sheep dying there cannot be reached by the vultures. On top of that, the invasive wild boars are competing with the vultures for carcasses, further reducing the number of carcasses available to vultures.

In order to establish a sustainable model that provides food for the existing population, it is necessary to define all available food sources and necessity for Griffon vultures. Food availability and necessity for Griffon vultures will be mapped by conducting a desktop study by BIOM staff, with the support from JUP staff. The document/report will be produced to summarize the findings. Results of the mapping will represent a basis and enable working on the improvement of food availability to Griffon vultures in the coming years.

T.3.2 Improve existing supplementary feeding operations (JUP, BIOM, PZO Krk):

The amount of natural food resources available for the Griffon vulture population is steadily declining. This primarily refers to the abandonment of sheep farming as an important economic activity in the Kvarner islands and the surrounding mainland. As a result, vultures are becoming increasingly dependent on established feeding stations for food. It is known how much food an individual should have available each day, and this portion increases significantly during the nesting season. However, existing supplementary feeding practices need to be improved as the amount of food available to vultures is insufficient, in particular during the breeding season when Griffon vultures need to fly all the way to northern Italy where the nearest safe food source is located (the feeding station at Lake Cornino Nature Reserve).

The delivery of food to the existing feeding stations is closely related to the business practice of the company Agroproteinka, which is the only company in Croatia that has the regulatory permit (contract with the Ministry of Agriculture) to deliver an appropriate number of animal carcasses to the existing feeding stations, which is why they will need to be subcontracted for this activity. At the moment, in accordance with the existing regulations of the Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, food is delivered to the existing feeding stations from the counties of Primorje-Gorski Kotar and Istria. The need to provide more food will indicate the need for additional areas from which food can be delivered to existing feeding stations. In order to extend the permit for feeding station to be broadened and include food from a larger area in Croatia it will be necessary to follow all regulatory sanitary procedures set out by the Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Regular and adequate supply of feeding stations is currently a crucial item to be provided in coordination with Agroproteinka and the Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture. Therefore, during the project it is necessary to ensure regular communication with these entities and their participation in some activities. Communication with these entities will be coordinated by JUP and BIOM.

PZO Krk is currently involved in the supply of the existing feeding station on Cres (Strganac) and in order to improve that supply PZO Krk must obtain a more suitable vehicle. It must be registered for this activity and be able to move on demanding terrain. At this point, the animal remains that come to the feeding station on Cres are mostly the remains of slaughterhouse waste. Providing a suitable vehicle and the necessary permits to perform the activity of collecting and driving carcasses will certainly enable the collection of carcasses with higher nutritional value. Once the new feeding station on Krk is up and running, the project vehicle will be used to supply this feeding station instead.

T.3.3. Establishment and promotion of new feeding station on the island of Krk (PZO Krk, JUP, BIOM)

3.3.1. Providing a legislative basis for the establishment of feeding station

Currently there are two officially established feeding stations for vultures in Croatia, for which an appropriate legal procedure was followed in order to establish them. For the establishment of the first feeding station on Krk island, these procedures would need to be followed again. The required permits need to come from the Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and the from the relevant municipality where the feeding station should be established. As PZO Krk, who will be running the new feeding station, is inexperienced in this regard it will be supported by JUP and BIOM to make sure the necessary meetings with the relevant and competent people in the ministry take place. Furthermore, BIOM and JUP will assist PZO Krk in identifying the right location for the feeding station with regard to the needs for Griffon vultures (no disturbance, enough space, easy to land and fly away, etc.). The new feeding station is planned to be established on the municipality grounds of either Baška or Punat, who will also need to be involved in the process and agree with the proceedings and site selection (a 1st step being their letter of support).

3.3.2. Establishment of a feeding station for vultures on the island of Krk

After obtaining permits and appropriate documentation, it is necessary to obtain the necessary equipment after which the construction of the new feeding station can start. Appropriate contractors will be subcontracted for the latter, and will mostly ensure the fact that the feeding station will become exclusively available to Griffon vultures, and exclude competitors such as Golden jackals and Wild boars. Construction should be finished latest in the 4th year of the project after which the station should be fully functional. The newly established feeding station will be supplied with sheep carcasses and entrails from the island of Krk, which PZO Krk will be collecting from local shepherds with their newly acquired project vehicle. Following sanitary practises, Agroproteinka will need to be subcontracted to collect carcass remains from the feeding station a couple of times per year.

3.3.3. Ensuring the visibility of the newly established feeding station for Griffon vultures

It is planned that the newly established feeding station will be supplied by sheep carrion from the island of Krk. For this reason, it is necessary to raise awareness among local shepherds about its existence. This will be done in person by PZO Krk to its shepherd members, as well as on local food markets where other shepherds are selling their products. Additionally, the new feeding station on Krk will provide the option to local shepherds to buy their old sheep from them, so that they can be used for the feeding station. This concept has been introduced by JUP on Cres and seems to be a successful initiative.

T.3.4 Mapping the changes in habitat and animal husbandry practices on the Kvarner Islands (BIOM, PZO Krk, JUP):

3.4.1. Long term study to include motivations and drivers for shepherds to continue or stop shepherding. Conflicts with wildlife, overgrowing fields.

The lack of natural sources of food for vultures is a continuous process for which it is necessary to determine the reasons that led to the current situation. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a survey of the local population in the Kvarner islands. It is planned to create a semi structured questionnaire in order to collect the best possible data on all the reasons why people leave sheep farming (economic choice, conflicts with wildlife, way of life, etc.). In doing so, it is important to find out what steps need to be taken in order to continue sheep farming in the future and how to prevent the ongoing decline in this activity. For this purpose, it is planned to subcontract an expert who will create and analyse surveys, with the assistance of BIOM.

3.4.2. Conduct habitat mapping of overgrown pastures

The abandonment of extensive sheep farming in the Kvarner islands and on the neighbouring mainland resulted in the karstic pastures overgrowing. In order to determine the current situation, it is necessary to conduct a study that should provide information about their condition. Using satellite and orthofoto images, as well as the available habitat and vegetation maps for the project area, we will map the current extent of pastures on the islands Cres, Rab and Krk and in Nature park Učka. The study would include a field trip to the area of Učka and the islands of Krk, Rab and Cres in order to check the necessary data. Each pasture will then be subdivided into 3 categories based on the level of encroachment of woody vegetation (grassland, transition, shrubland), giving us an estimate of the pasture's conservation status. Thus, we will have an objective tool for selecting the areas, which are most suitable for pasture conservation and restoration, considering the needs of our target species. It will also include a list of priority sites for restoration in the SPAs Kvarnerski otoci & Učka & Čićarija.

3.4.3. Increase the level of knowledge about the possibilities of restoration of overgrown pastures

Overgrowing of pastures is a threat to biodiversity in the entire coastal and mountainous part of Croatia. This is also the case in the Kvarner islands, and in order to preserve them, it is necessary to start with the necessary conservation

measures as soon as possible. With the aim of revitalizing the currently overgrown areas on the Kvarner islands and beyond, a two-day workshop will be conducted on the island of Cres which would transfer knowledge related to the restoration of karst grasslands through the “Dinara back to LIFE” project to the Kvarner islands. The workshop should be attended by relevant stakeholders from the SPAs Kvarnerski otoci and Učka I Čičarija, with amongst them staff from Učka Nature Park, Pramenka, and local agricultural cooperatives such as PZ Cres or PZ Rab. The workshop will be organized by BIOM and led by project staff from Dinara back to LIFE who are currently planning and implementing measures to restore overgrown pastures on the Mt. Dinara. As relevant local stakeholders, PZO Krk and JUP will be joining as participants.

T.3.5 International workshop on best practice experience regarding the implementation of the EU sanitary regulation (VCF, BIOM, PZO Krk, JUP, NPD-MESD)

The EU sanitary regulation 1069/2009 and 142/2011 represent a cornerstone for providing a supplementary supply of safe food to vulture populations that are affected by food availability in their natural foraging areas. The abovementioned legislation lays down the rules for using animal by-products and entire carcasses of dead animals for supplementary feeding of vultures and other scavengers in defined sites (supplementary feeding stations), as well as outside these sites. Although the national legislation in Croatia relevant to the use of animal by-products for the feeding of vultures at supplementary feeding stations and for disposing of dead animals in the environment is well synchronized with the relevant EU regulations, supplementary feeding of vultures outside feeding stations is not implemented in Croatia. Additionally, Croatia has a very well-functioning carcass removal system, where most of dead livestock is quickly collected by a major company for carcass removal (Agroproteinka) and destroyed by cremation. This system works well on pretty much all territory excluding some islands (e.g. Cres). Agroproteinka is collecting from all big livestock owners and extensive breeding (where there is a chance that some dead animals will not be collected) is in decline in Croatia. Therefore, apart from officially established supplementary feeding programmes, this food source is practically unavailable to vultures and other scavengers in the country.

In Europe, the immediate conservation of current vulture populations depends on changes in health regulations affecting the availability of food provided by domestic carcasses. Avian scavengers are part of the detrital food web of ecosystems, and they provide the important ecological service of recycling carrion biomass to prevent the accumulation of dead biomass, thereby contributing to waste removal, disease regulation and nutrient cycling. During the course of this action we will learn from the practical experience from Spain and Portugal in implementation of this sanitary regulation and the effects it has on food availability and consequent effects on populations of avian scavengers, especially Griffon vultures. Sudden changes in the availability of food may cause changes in the population dynamics of species. Low availability of food causes halt and subsequent decline in population growth of the most meat-dependent species, such as the Griffon vulture. Research about the effects of food availability on vulture populations conducted in Spain suggest that food limitations mainly affect Griffon vultures. Vultures might respond to food shortages by shifting their spatial distribution leading to population decline and these effects could accelerate in coming years if food limitations continue. From an ecological perspective, Griffon vultures are the dominant species of the avian scavenger guild because they can monopolize resources to the detriment of other species. This indicates that the provision of supplementary feeding stations as a substitute measure to meet food deficits would mainly favour this species. A more advisable management measure would be to reduce the amount of food provided at large feeding stations and promote the creation of smaller sites that simulate a trophic scenario which resembles more closely natural ecosystems, thereby preventing behavioural changes or any negative effects on population dynamics. Such scenarios are in line with the Regulation 142/2011 and have already been successfully implemented in Spain (“muladares”- small feeding stations where farmers from one or several villages deposit carcasses from their own herds) as France (“light feeding stations”- individual feeding stations where farmers are allowed (by official authorization) to deposit on a specific site in their property only the carcasses from their own herd).

Within this action we will organize an international workshop for relevant stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, public officials and farming associations from municipalities from Cres and Krk islands, where the participants will have the opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices on the implementation of EU sanitary regulation and effects that their practical implementation has on vultures. During the workshop participants will discuss the possibilities and the best course of action for establishing small communal feeding stations in the Kvarner islands to the benefit of both the breeding Griffon vulture population and to livestock breeders from local communities. The 2-day workshop will be organized by VCF and conducted in Croatia with the support from BIOM.

As a follow-up to the workshop project partners will implement advocacy activities in order to reinforce the impact of the project. Results of the International workshop on best practice experience regarding the implementation of the EU sanitary regulation will include policy recommendations, including arguments for the revision of the current national legislation in favour of supplementary feeding of vultures outside feeding stations.

In addition to this, project partners, including the NPD-MESD, will advocate towards the Ministry of Agriculture to revise the current national legislation in favour of supplementary feeding of vultures outside feeding stations. This means

that project partners will lobby for the new regulation to grant Kvarner Islands exception from the national sanitary regulation, in accordance with EU sanitary regulation 1069/2009 and 142/2011. However, considering the complexity of the issue and the existing challenges, this project is focusing on the better implementation of the current sanitary regulation (with small amendments). Amendments of the regulation in favour of supplementary feeding of vultures outside feeding stations is beyond the scope of this project, although project partners will do their best to lobby for it. We see this as the necessary next step in order to further increase food availability for Griffon vultures.

Budget for the WP3 consist of the following:

Bringing carcasses to the feeding station on Cres, and collecting carcass remains for JUP (EUR 67.500) - subcontracting
 Transport vehicle able to approach off road posts for collection of carcasses for PZO Krk (EUR 30.000) - equipment
 Fuel and maintenance of transport vehicle for PZO Krk (EUR 10.000) - other goods, works & services
 Yearly trip to Krk to help establish feeding station for BIOM (EUR 1.395) - travel
 Collecting carcass remains feeding station Krk for PZO Krk (EUR 900) - subcontracting
 Construction work of the feeding station for PZO Krk (EUR 10.000) - subcontracting
 Creation and dissemination of promotional material and promotion of the new feeding station for PZO Krk (EUR 15.000) - other goods, works & services
 Equipment for the feeding station for PZO Krk (EUR 14.000) - equipment
 Field work for habitat mapping on Krk, Cres and/ or Rab for BIOM (EUR 775) - travel
 International workshop on EU sanitary regulations for BIOM, VCF, NPD-MESD (EUR 4.108) - travel
 Organization and travel costs for international experts to International workshop on EU sanitary regulations and capacity building of police on Kvarner for VCF (EUR 8.000)
 Habitat restoration experience exchange with Dinara back to LIFE for BIOM (EUR 3.120) - travel, accommodation for invited guests, venue & catering
 Stakeholder meetings on Kvarner Islands for PZO Krk (EUR 400) - travel
 Support for interviewing shepherds for BIOM (EUR 2.045) - travel
 Questionnaire with shepherds (about drivers, motives, conflicts with wildlife, etc.) creation, conducting and analysis for BIOM (EUR 5.000) - subcontracting

Work package WP4 – Prevention of Poisoning Events

Work Package Number	WP4	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Work Package Name	Prevention of Poisoning Events		
Start Month	1	End Month	54

Objectives

Prevention of poisoning events by exploring best preventive measures to avoid the use of illegal poisoned baits, by promoting the use of lead-free ammunition and by capacity building of relevant enforcement agencies for combating illegal wildlife poisoning

Expected results:

- By the end of the project, hunters from the Kvarner islands understand the impact of lead on wildlife and there is a reduction of at least 18 kg of lead in the environment, due to using lead-free ammunition.
- By the end of the project, the number of livestock killed by predators will be reduced by 500 animals on Krk island, due to introducing preventive measures such as fences, fladry systems and shepherd dogs.
- By 2027, at least 20 police officers from Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and other law enforcement officers are educated about best practices concerning tackling poisoning incidents.
- By the end of the project, at least 30 specimens of blood and tissue samples from birds will be analysed for lead intoxication, thus contributing to the evaluation of the scope of lead poisoning in Kvarner.
- By the end of the project 25 Griffon vultures are tagged and their movement data incorporated in the early-warning system for poisoning events.

Description

T.4.1 Evaluation of the scope of lead intoxication on the Kvarner Islands (BIOM, JUP, VCF):

T 4.1.1. Review of previous cases of lead poisoning in birds

The impacts of lead poisoning through the ingestion of spent lead ammunition used by hunters and game reserve

managers is well known for a wide range of bird species. This threat contributes to population declines of waterbirds and scavengers. Avian scavengers, whose diet typically includes game birds and mammals, are especially at risk of lead poisoning from ingestion of carcasses with fragmented or residual lead ammunition that is used in hunting. This activity aims to investigate the scope of lead intoxication and its effects on wildlife in Croatia, focusing especially on the Kvarner islands, as the single most important region for Griffon vultures in the country and one of their last strongholds in the Balkan Peninsula. The evaluation of the scope of lead intoxication on the Kvarner islands will consist of two main components. The first component entails compilation and analysis of data related to lead intoxication of wildlife from the Kvarner islands and Croatia. For data gathering, a questionnaire will be prepared by BIOM and sent to relevant governmental institutions. The questionnaire will focus on acquiring information regarding: historical data about lead intoxication in wildlife, with a special focus on birds from the Kvarner area. Also, the project beneficiaries will endeavour to obtain all publicly available data regarding lead poisoning (official records and reports from relevant national institutions, published papers and project reports, internal databases of CSOs). VCF will assist with questionnaire development and result analysis, as they have vast experience in reviewing such data. In scope of this activity an external expert on lead poisoning of wildlife will be hired to consult the project beneficiaries in tackling this threat for Griffon vultures.

The gathered data will be compiled in the form of a report by BIOM and will be incorporated in the deliverable "Report on tackling lead poisoning and introducing non-lead ammunition to hunters in the Kvarner area". Increasing and improving available information on the scope of lead poisoning in Croatia is essential for better understanding of its drivers and origins, conveying the message to the general public and other target audiences that it is a public hazard and that it has damaging effects to numerous wildlife, especially scavengers.

T 4.1.2 Toxicological analysis of bird samples

The second component of the evaluation of the scope of lead intoxication represents the conduction of toxicological analysis from samples collected from avian scavengers, such as Griffon vultures, but also from other bird species. At least 30 specimens of blood and tissue will be analysed for presence of lead and levels of lead intoxication. JUP will assist in collecting the tissue samples, along with BIOM. Results obtained from these analyses will enable the project beneficiaries, as well as relevant stakeholders, to gain additional insight into the current scope and frequency of this threat to birds. Toxicological analysis of collected samples will be conducted by a professional laboratory/institute. The findings of this activity will be compiled in the form of a report and also incorporated in the deliverable "Report on tackling lead poisoning and introducing non-lead ammunition to hunters in the Kvarner area".

T.4.2 Boost voluntary use of lead-free ammunition by local hunters on Kvarner (BIOM, JUP, PZO Krk):

Establishment of official collaboration with local hunting associations in the area of Kvarner islands Krk, Rab and Cres is crucial for promoting the use of lead-free ammunition in the region. BIOM has already established good collaboration with two hunting associations from Cres during the implementation of the "Kvarner Unleaded project" in 2019, with whom we will proceed to collaborate within this project. Promoting the use of lead-free ammunition will be an entirely new activity for the islands of Krk and Rab. Due to the existing conflicts that local communities are having with wild boars, which have been introduced as game animals on the islands and jackals, there is an interest from local hunting associations to participate in this activity.

Two educational workshops and one meeting will be organized on each of the three Kvarner islands during the project. The programme of the workshops will focus on all aspects of the use of non-lead ammunition, from its effectiveness from a ballistics point of view, to its conservation impact on the environment in comparison to lead bullets. The first workshops will be carried out in the first year of the project, during which the LIFE SUPport project will be presented to the hunters by BIOM, and lectures will be held by external presenters about non-lead ammunition. During the first workshops participants will have an opportunity to take non-lead ammunition which they are encouraged to use for their hunting activities in order to verify its effectiveness. Hunters will in return be asked for feedback on their satisfaction with the use of distributed ammunition through a survey.

A meeting with hunters will also be organized on each island in the middle of the project to gain further insight into their use of lead-free ammunition. During this meeting the hunters will also have an opportunity to take more lead-free ammunition if needed. We plan to distribute the lead-free ammunition to about 150 hunters (around 6,000 rounds in total). The second workshop will be conducted in 2025 on each of the Kvarner islands, during which information about hunters' experiences and attitudes related to the performance of non-lead ammunition will be presented. Again, the workshops will be held in cooperation with external experts that will be contracted for this service.

The results of the cooperation with hunters from the Kvarner islands will be presented during a one-day final conference, on which hunters from across the Primorje-Gorski Kotar county will be invited. The planned number of participants is 75. Apart from hunters from Kvarner islands that were involved in testing non-lead ammunition, we plan to invite national experts on the topic, as well as a foreign hunter, who has experience in using non-lead ammunition.

JUP will participate in the workshops as they manage the Natura 2000 sites in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and hunters are very important stakeholders to tackle threats for birds. PZO Krk will also participate in the workshops and facilitate collaboration with hunting associations on Krk island.

For this activity, BIOM will produce a report on tackling lead poisoning and introducing non-lead ammunition to hunters in the Kvarner area, which will serve as an additional tool to boost the promotion of the use of no-lead ammunition for hunting. The results of the work with hunters will also be published in a selected hunting magazine.

T.4.3 Capacity building of police on Kvarner (BIOM, VCF):

This activity aims to raise the operational capacities of police officers from the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and staff of other governmental institutions on the topic of combating wildlife poisoning. In 2018, BIOM staff have already gave a lecture to police officers in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar county on the topic of tackling illegal killing of birds. Through a questionnaire at the end of the workshop, the police officers have stated a further need for education on the topic. Thus, in scope of this project we will organize two one day workshops for law enforcement officers based on the training model developed under the auspices of the BalkanDetox LIFE project (LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016), and will consist of conducting the Basic anti-poisoning training course from the Wildlife Crime Academy (WCA). The Basic anti-poisoning training course covers all aspects of the practice of illegal wildlife poisoning and enables the participants to gain general knowledge about the efforts that need to be invested from each relevant governmental authority to tackle this threat to wildlife. The training will be given by representatives from the Croatian institutions that completed the full training programme of the WCA in Spain and have acquired certificates as trainers. Also, two representatives from the Regional Government of Andalusia (Junta de Andalucía), who organized the WCA, will be invited as lecturers. For this purpose, a translating service will be purchased for the workshop. VCF will facilitate cooperation with Junta de Andalucía, as they have already cooperated in the WCA. VCF will also assist BIOM in designing the workshop content.

T.4.4 Implement best preventive measures to avoid using illegal poisoned baits on small scale areas (PZO Krk, BIOM):

Within this activity the project beneficiaries will promote the use of preventive measures, safe for animals and the environment, which can significantly reduce the losses of the most relevant stakeholders for wildlife poisoning (livestock breeders, farmers, hunters) inflicted by wild animals (primarily predators). Thus, this activity aims to reduce the human-wildlife conflicts, which are recognized as the main motives behind illegal poisoning in the Balkan region.

In addition to the socio-economic research conducted as part of activity T.3.4.1., shepherds and other livestock breeders on Krk will be offered potential solutions to the issue of suffering losses due to predation by jackals and wild boars on the island, in order to prevent the occurrence of potential poisoning of wild animals. Livestock on Krk island is kept in a traditional way, following extensive agro-grazing practices. Since there were no natural predators present on the Kvarner islands until the middle of the 20th century, livestock herds needed no protection and were generally rarely attended by shepherds. This practice has endured still on the islands, which is another reason why livestock breeders are suffering frequent losses of sheep, especially lambs, from jackals and wild boars. Considering that the jackal has been present on the island of Krk for about ten years, causing regular damages to livestock, especially during the lambing period, we believe that there will be significant interest in the local communities of Krk to actively engage in the implementation of this action and to apply some of the preventive measures. As PZO Krk already works closely with shepherds on Krk island, they will be leading the implementation of this whole activity.

The project team will introduce several preventive measures to the local communities on Krk, such as the purchase of shepherd dogs for guarding and steering cattle during grazing, installing fladry systems, fencing pastures with an electric fence or fencing sheep with solid barriers or fences. Through the course of this action local livestock breeders will assess the effectiveness of these preventive measures. The implementation of this activity will enable the project team, as well as the local stakeholders, to identify the optimal preventive measure that can be applied or adapted to suit their specific circumstances with predation by jackals and wild boars. By fencing the sheep, however, we will change the current practises of extensive shepherding where sheep are allowed to roam freely. PZO Krk will therefore subcontract external assistance to assess the quality of the habitat in these experimentally fenced pastures, in case certain measures should be taken by/ communicated to the shepherds to make sure habitat quality is ensured. In addition to the above-mentioned testing of best-practises, the close cooperation with hunting associations should help in reducing the predation on livestock, and the subsequent conflicts that arise with wildlife. Golden jackal and Wild boar are officially regarded as invasive species to the island and therefore hunting is permitted on them throughout the year. Local hunters would be encouraged to hunt using lead-free ammunition, which will be provided under action T.4.2, in areas of the island where conflicts with predators most often occur.

T.4.5 Further development and adaptation of the early warning system for accidents and mortality events (VCF, BIOM, JUP):

Through the course of the LIFE SUPport project we will tag 25 Griffon vultures from the Kvarner population, which will be constantly monitored, their movements and transmitted data analysed in order to be vigilant for potential poisoning incidents that might occur in the environment and respond timely with field investigations. The tagged birds will be used for investigative purposes, according to best practice method developed under another Life funded project - LIFE 14NAT/BG/649 project, as described in the manual "Early warning system for wildlife poisoning based on intensive GPS tracking of Griffon vultures". Staff members from BIOM will serve as an "Alarmist" and will follow the movements of tagged vultures each hour during the day 24/7. The "Alarmist" will send information to the appointed local focal point

(project partner) if he suspects any unusual behaviour, movement, or body temperature data from the tracked vultures. Then the local focal point will directly make a field search or organize and navigate logistics for other teams. The field search with exact GPS coordinates provided from the "Alarmist" will determine the probable reason for landing of the vultures and will be reported back to the "Alarmist" (in order to remain vigilant and closely monitor other GPS tracked vultures in the area) and signal to the respective competent authorities will be send in case an action is needed.

Should the field search detect signs of potential poisoning, or discover dead vultures, the local focal point will report the incident to the relevant authorities according to the jurisdiction protocol. This protocol that describes the respective roles and responsibilities of relevant governmental authorities along the chain of custody is already being developed under the auspices of the BalkanDetox LIFE project (LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016) and will be put to use within LIFE SUPport project as well in order to ensure the timely response from the right law enforcement agencies to potential poisoning incidents. Once established in full, the early warning system will also involve local project partners (including the role of the Alarmist) to create more local capacity and to increase the communication and understanding of the practice among project partners and beyond.

Monitoring of the GPS tracked vultures is good to be done by local working groups as they are more familiar with the local circumstances and specifics, which sometimes cannot be fully understandable from the "Alarmist" working remotely. The optimal data collection is taking GPS fix every 10 min and data load of every 2 to 4 hours. In case of emergency certain tags could be shifted to take GPS fixes every 5 min and data load to 20 min or alike. The Alarmist will check the GPS transmitters through his smart phone in internet platform every 1 -2 hours during the daylight 365 days in the year. It will intensify the checks upon situations of emergency or if a problematic situation is supposed or identified. Additionally, the project beneficiaries will provide an early warning system app for enforcement agents in each project country. The early warning system will be provided to BIOM by the VCF. The initial version of the application will be developed and adapted to Croatian during the implementation of the LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016 project and made available to the Project team. BIOM will be in charge of further adaptation and possible improvement of the app and its distribution to relevant law enforcement bodies in Croatia (police, environmental inspection, nature conservation institutes, forestry service, ranger service). The wide distribution of the early warning system app among relevant stakeholders will significantly increase their response time to potential mortality incidents in the environment, enabling them to react immediately to any problematic situation that might occur according to the data received through the app.

Budget for the WP4 consist of the following:

Tagging and releasing of birds for BIOM (EUR 5.770) - travel

Tags for studying bird movement (inclusive harness material), additional data fee and inclusion WildlifeMonitor for VCF (EUR 45.000) - other goods, works and services

Teflon tape for replacing fallen tags from Griffon vultures for BIOM (EUR 500) - other goods, works and services

Training workshop on vulture tagging for VCF (EUR 900) - travel

Field work to collect vulture samples for BIOM (EUR 2.656) - travel

Analyses of tissue and blood samples of Griffon vultures for BIOM (EUR 5.000) - other goods, works and services

Pathomorphological analysis cost (5 birds per year, 5 years) for JUP (EUR 5.000) - other goods, works and services

Experts for selection of appropriate dog breed, acquirement of dogs, and their training to protect sheep on Krk for PZO Krk (EUR 8.000)

Equipment purchasing for experimental fenced pasture (set up by shepherds) for PZO Krk (EUR 15.000) - equipment

Support for best-preventive measures for BIOM (EUR 1.845) - travel

Monitoring of the effects of extensive shepherding and experimental fenced pastures on the state of the valuable habitat - 5 years for PZO Krk (EUR 29.000) - subcontracting

Lead-free ammunition, 40 bullets per hunter (150 hunters) for BIOM (EUR 18.000) - other goods, works and services

Stakeholder meetings on Kvarner Islands for PZO Krk (EUR 500) - travel

Meetings with hunters on Cres, Krk and Rab for BIOM (EUR 14.181) - travel, lecturers, venue & catering

Expert on lead poisoning of wildlife to consult the project partners for BIOM (EUR 1.500)

Work package WP5 – Prevention of Electrocution Events

Work Package Number	WP5	Lead Beneficiary	5. HEP-ODS d.o.o.
Work Package Name	Prevention of Electrocution Events		
Start Month	1	End Month	56

Objectives

Reducing mortality arising from electrocution by applying appropriate mitigation measures on the most important electrocution hotspots in the project area.

Expected results:

- Priority sites for bird electrocution mitigation on the medium voltage network identified.
- Mitigation measures applied by retrofitting ~200 medium voltage poles for bird safety.
- At least 10 volunteers have received training about bird electrocution, ensuring the sustainability of the work.
- Three workshops held (targeting 60 persons) in order to mainstream bird conservation among energy sector employees at the county level.

Description

T.5.1 Improve the knowledge base on bird electrocution in the Kvarner area (BIOM, HEP DSO, VCF):

The aim of this task is to establish a baseline for the project in relation to Griffon vulture electrocution in the project area, and to further the knowledge about local GV movements and behaviour, in order to identify priority areas for mitigation. The task includes:

- 5.1.1. Carcass searches around high-risk MV infrastructure, in three locations chosen by priority for Griffon vultures. The first carcass searches will be used as a baseline in this project, and will be repeated in three subsequent years (2023, 2024, 2025) as part of project impact monitoring (WP6). The carcass searches will focus on a) areas where the MV infrastructure is highly risky for birds by design, b) areas known to be frequently visited by Griffon vultures for roosting, feeding etc., as determined by the movement analysis described as sub-task 5.1.3. This activity will be performed by BIOM, with assistance from local HEP DSO employees as appropriate.

- 5.1.2 Training volunteers for monitoring bird electrocution. Two workshops will be organised in order to recruit and train volunteers that will contribute to the monitoring of impact for the activities of this project (WP6). The workshops will be prepared and performed by BIOM. One workshop will be held on the island of Cres, and another at a location yet to be determined.

- 5.1.3 Movement analysis of GPS tagged Griffon vultures for the purpose of determining the electrocution risk. Existing movement data for Griffon vultures in Croatia will be combined with newly collected data and analysed comprehensively to better understand the habitat preference, habitat availability and movement patterns of Griffon vultures in order to enable the prediction of new electrocution hotspots. This activity will be performed by BIOM, with support from VCF. This sub-task will also feed into the later broader movement analysis to be performed by VCF, which will incorporate all Griffon vulture movement data collected during project implementation (task 6.2.4.).

As a result of task 5.1, we will have a clear picture of where the priority hotspots for bird electrocution are in the project area, we will know what the baseline for the project is in terms of bird electrocution, and we will ensure that the monitoring of bird electrocution is cost-effective and sustainable by recruiting and training volunteers willing to perform the monitoring in the future.

T.5.2 Applying mitigation measures to priority bird electrocution hotspots (HEP DSO, BIOM)

The aim of this task is to retrofit selected areas of the medium voltage (10 - 35 kV) network to be bird-safe by applying specific mitigation measures. The areas with the highest priority will be selected as established by Task 5.1. The exact locations will be selected jointly by BIOM and HEP DSO to maximise conservation impact.

The most appropriate method of mitigation/retrofitting will be decided by HEP DSO according to the specifics of each location, considering practical technical limitations (pole design, surrounding terrain etc.) in order to ensure the biggest conservation impact within the allocated budget. The possible bird electrocution mitigation measures will be, in decreasing order of preference:

- Replacing segments of uninsulated medium voltage conductors with semi-insulated conductors.
- Installing insulating covers on individual medium voltage poles.
- Installing raised perches or diverters.

The technical designs (project documentation) as well as installation will be subcontracted by HEP DSO to a third party licensed to design and perform the necessary construction work.

As a result of Task 5.2, an expected 200 new MV poles or pole-mounted transformers will be made bird-safe in the project area. The exact number of individual retrofitted poles will depend on the chosen method for retrofitting as well as geography (e.g. coarser terrain increases the cost per pole.)

T.5.3 Mainstreaming of bird conservation and bird electrocution mitigation with targeted energy companies (BIOM, HEP DSO):

The aim of this task is to raise awareness among targeted stakeholders about bird conservation. Towards this purpose, three stakeholder seminars will be organised by BIOM with support from HEP DSO. The seminars will cover the topic of bird electrocution, including its detection and mitigation. The target audience for the seminars will be HEP DSO county-level employees, employees of MV maintenance subcontractors and employees of county public institutions for the

management of protected areas, including rangers. The purpose will be to raise the sensitivity of different stakeholders to the issue of electrocution, to mainstream biodiversity conservation in the energy sector at the county level, and specifically to increase the rate of detection of bird electrocution events during other activities (regular MV maintenance, ranger surveillance).

Budget for the WP5 consist of the following:

Carcass search to establish baseline Griffon vulture electrocution hotspots (Cres, Ucka and TBD) for BIOM (EUR 2.533) - travel

Field equipment for volunteers w/ Biom & project branding (softshell jacket, stationery, steel water flask, hat) (€ 110 per set, 20 sets) for BIOM (EUR 2.200) - other goods, works and services

Volunteer trainings on 2 locations (Cres and TBD) for BIOM (EUR 7.140) - travel, venue & catering

Production of technical project documentation for substituting existing MV power lines with insulated overhead cables for HEP DSO (EUR 27.000) - subcontracting

Equipment for mitigation measures - pylon insulation OR insulated overhead cables (depending on the priority hotspot analysis) for HEP DSO (EUR 145.000) - equipment

Implementation of mitigation measures: installation of pylon insulation OR substitution of existing overhead lines with insulated overhead cables for HEP DSO (EUR 98.000) - subcontracting

Seminars for staff of targeted energy companies (Rijeka, Gospić and 2-TBD) for BIOM & HEP DSO (EUR 4.752) - travel, venue & catering

Training course on state-of-the-art animal movement analysis for BIOM (EUR 2.600) - course fee + travel

Work package WP6 – Monitoring & Evaluation

Work Package Number	WP6	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Work Package Name	Monitoring & Evaluation		
Start Month		End Month	57

Objectives

Improving the breeding conditions for the last population of Griffon vulture in Croatia by tackling multiple threats simultaneously. Improved understanding of their movements, needs and behaviour of the species.

Expected results:

- An increase of the number of breeding pairs by the end of the project from 110 to 125
- A breeding success increase from 70 to 75%
- A total of 25 Griffon vultures are tagged and their movements analysed for identifying differences in dispersal and behaviour between adult and juvenile birds, changes in their feeding range, as well as potential areas of electrocution hotspots or other mortality events.
- Overarching report outlining the impacts of the project conservation actions related to each of the threats.
- By the end of the project the general public is more aware of Griffon vultures and their threats, as well as of the project and its results - increase by at least 15% from the beginning until the end of the project

Description

T.6.1 Monitoring of Griffon vultures breeding and movements (BIOM, JUP, VCF):

T 6.1.1 Based on results of task 2.1, Griffon vulture colonies will be thoroughly monitored every year in order to assess their breeding pair numbers and breeding success. Monitoring of colonies will be mostly done by boat since the majority of the Croatian population of Griffon vultures nests on the cliffs above the sea. Every year throughout the duration of the project, all Griffon vulture colonies will be surveyed by staff of JUP and BIOM at least three times. Timing of surveys will be planned accordingly considering phenology of the species so the whole breeding period is covered. During each visit, all observed birds will be recorded, their position coordinates will be recorded and most important data collected (status of nesting) to determine overall size of breeding population as well as its breeding success. Population size and breeding success will be calculated on the level of sub-colony because it is known that on this level birds usually coordinate the nesting preparation and start of incubation (Sušić 2010.). This activity will be carried through the whole project on the same schedule and with the same method so data collected will be comparable between different years and will be useful in determining the trend of the Croatian breeding population. Results of these surveys will be published on a yearly basis.

T 6.1.2. The implementation of the method, developed within 'Vultures back to LIFE' – LIFE 14NAT/BG/649, intensive

monitoring of Griffon vultures tagged with GPS transmitters will ensure in this project the detection of possible cases of poisoning of Griffon vultures or other threats that would cause death of birds, such as. electrocution. Given that the escalating problem on the Kvarner islands is non-native game (wild boar and jackal) which causes great damage to extensive sheepherding, there is a real danger of illegal poisoning in the habitat. Therefore, it is crucial to establish this type of monitoring, considering the specifics of the Kvarner population. By regularly monitoring GPS locations, it is possible to detect very quickly whether the birds are not moving, and for all potentially suspicious situations, a field inspection is performed.

In order to effectively apply the method, the project will procure 25 GPS transmitters that will be equipped on 10 adult and 15 juvenile vultures through five years of project implementation. The movement data will be analysed by VCF in order to determine the Griffon vultures' habitat preference, site use and general movement/ migration patterns. As the output of this task, a report mapping and explaining the data will be produced and made available to stakeholders.

T.6.2 Monitoring of threats and the effectiveness of the project conservation actions (BIOM, JUP, PZO Krk, VCF):

6.2.1 Nest disturbance

Through analysing video material obtained as part of task 2.2, the interaction between boat owners and Griffon vultures on Plavnik island will be assessed in detail. Additional data will be collected by frequent field visits by the volunteer vigilant task force which will be active around the colonies during the sensitive summer period for breeding. Constant video surveillance on Plavnik and frequent visits to colonies by volunteers will allow the project team to collect a bigger data set needed to better assess the scope of impact of this threat. Also, numbers of drowned, rescued, rehabilitated and released birds will be recorded each year with relevant details (e.g. date, cause of drowning if known, weight of the bird, overall condition, injuries, result of recovery etc.) and used to feed into a yearly report that will be produced and shared with relevant stakeholders.

6.2.2 Food availability

As a significant increase in the availability of food for the Griffon vulture population is planned throughout the duration of the project, it will be monitored on an annual basis. A short report on the quantity of food delivered to existing feeding stations will be prepared on an annual basis. Data will be obtained from the competent public institutions and Agroproteinka, and from PZO Krk once the new feeding station is established and functional. Furthermore, video footage of vultures visiting the feeding stations will be analysed by the project staff. Knowledge of the amount of available food will enable the reflection of this parameter on the overall condition of the population and the need to act in case of identified deficiencies.

6.2.3 Lead and carcass poisoning (using poisoned baits)

Related to the topic of poisoning there are several stakeholders involved, namely shepherds, hunters and police officers. With regard to lead poisoning, several indicators will be monitored to measure the impact of the project actions, namely 1) the number of hunters that used non-lead ammunition during the project and their satisfaction with the use of such ammunition, as well as information if they plan to continue to use it after the project period; 2) the reduced amount of lead in the environment by boosting voluntary use of lead-free ammunition among hunters; 3) the general awareness of key stakeholders regarding lead poisoning and its effect on Griffon vultures and other wildlife, will be measured through surveys or interviews conducted at workshops and meetings (task 4.1 and 4.2). For poisoning by the use of poisoned bait it is more difficult to quantify the results directly (as this is an illegal activity and therefore hard to monitor), but at least the number of shepherds participating in the best preventive measures and their assessment of their effectiveness, and related to that the drop in numbers of sheep being killed by jackals will be monitored. Additionally, the number of educated law enforcement officers and feedback as to how well the learning goals were achieved will be recorded.

6.2.4 Monitoring of mitigated power infrastructure through carcass searches

In order to assess the effectiveness of applied mitigation measures, bird electrocution monitoring will be performed on years 2, 3, and 4 on the same hotspots/segments of MV power lines where baseline carcass searches will have been conducted as part of Task 5.1. The parameters recorded will be MV pole design, material, console configuration and any birds found. Discovered bird carcasses will be carefully removed from the premises upon discovery to prevent double records. In the case of Griffon vulture, if there is suspicion of poisoning, birds will be collected for autopsy. This monitoring will be performed by volunteers as well as BIOM personnel.

6.2.5 Ecosystem services study

The goal of this task is to conduct ecosystem services study and describe the starting conditions and values of the project area. The results will help to demonstrate the benefits provided by the local ecosystems to the local community, general public, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders. Results will be promoted and available through a report.

In order to ensure consistency with the national and EU frameworks, ecosystem services will be assessed in accordance with the MAES Analytical Framework, i.e. its methodology and indicators, considering the guide Assessing ecosystems and their services in LIFE projects, and adapting it to the site level and local conditions if needed. Assessment will use Common International Classification of ecosystem services.

VCF will conduct ecosystem services with the help of an external expert (scientist) in order to ensure best quality of the study.

T.6.3 Monitoring of public awareness (BIOM, JUP, PZO Krk)

During the course of the project, we will monitor and measure public awareness regarding the conservation of the Griffon vulture and the project in general, via a public attitude survey / public opinion poll at the beginning and end of the project. The poll will be targeted at the general public, but with a special focus on local communities from Primorje-Gorski Kotar, Istria and Lika-Senj counties and on specific stakeholder groups (shepherds, hunters, people working in tourism, boat owners). By conducting a baseline and endline study, we gain insight into the percentage of local stakeholders that became aware of Griffon vulture conservation and their threats, due to the impact of this project.

The following public attitudes will be surveyed: awareness of Griffon vultures, their importance in the ecosystem and existing threats to them; support towards Griffon vulture conservation and related conservation measures; interest form target stakeholders to test non-lead ammunition and preventive measures regarding predation of livestock, in potential future projects; and awareness about the LIFE SUPport project.

Socio-economic impact of project actions on the local economy and population will be assessed through the socio-economic survey implemented in the final year of the project. Survey results will be shared with local and regional stakeholders with the idea of further awareness raising and motivation to engage in nature conservation.

Expert(s) will be subcontracted in order to design the methodology for the surveys (develop questions and the most appropriate approach for the surveys). Expert(s) will also provide survey analysis with conclusions and estimates on reached targets. Depending on the market analysis either a joint procurement or two separated procurement procedures will be conducted.

Communication, dissemination and visibility is covered in WP7.

Budget for the WP6 consist of the following:

Monitoring of Griffon vulture colonies together with JUP - BIOM (12 trips - 3 trips per year) (EUR 6.924) - travel

Rent a boat for winter monitoring for JUP (EUR 6.750)

2 x professional binoculars to assist in colony monitoring for BIOM (EUR 6.000) - equipment

Bird electrocution monitoring (Cres, Ucka and TBD) for BIOM staff & volunteers (EUR 7.599) - travel

5 x GPS for bird electrocution monitoring and mapping of colonies for BIOM (EUR 2.000) - equipment

Field clothing for 5 staff (5 x field jackets for cold weather, hiking shoes, fieldwork pants) for BIOM (EUR 3.750)

Ecosystem services survey for VCF (EUR 5.000) - subcontracting

Public attitude impact survey for BIOM (EUR 16.000) - subcontracting

Socioeconomic impact survey for BIOM (EUR 16.000) - subcontracting

Work package WP7 – Communication, Dissemination & Visibility

Work Package Number	WP7	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Work Package Name	Communication, Dissemination & Visibility		
Start Month	1	End Month	60

Objectives

Promoting Griffon vultures and raising awareness of their threats and needs to local stakeholders, the wider public and government bodies.

Expected results:

- 687 local stakeholders with direct connections to threats for Griffon vultures actively targeted by or involved in project activities, including excursion boat operators (22), shepherds (95), hunters (490), police officers (20) and employees of energy companies (60).
- 360 children, from 12 different schools in the project area, educated about Griffon vultures and their threats, by means of introductory lectures, interactive workshops and field trips.
- During the last year of the project a total of 3.900.000 impressions of Croatian persons reached through online media. With VCF as a partner this number is expected to be much higher even on an international scale.
- Active engagement of at least 52 volunteers in activities related to Griffon vulture conservation, such as bird electrocution monitoring, nest disturbance monitoring, camera footage analyses and awareness raising among boat owners.

Description

T.7.1 Development and implementation of the LIFE SUPport communication plan (BIOM, JUP, PZO Krk, VCF, HEP DSO, NPD-MESD):

Whereas the threat-specific work packages (2 to 5) contain tasks that target specific audiences which are needed to mitigate existing threats (e.g. shepherds, hunters, boat owners, local municipalities, etc.) the tasks in this package additionally aim at reaching the wider public (e.g. school children, island inhabitants, etc.) and promote the LIFE SUPport project and the Griffon vultures in general. A communications plan is necessary for communication and outreach events to take place in a structured way. The plan will be developed at the beginning of the project by all project beneficiaries in order to specify key messages, communications channels and tools for each target group. Basic outline of communication material and content for events will also be defined, as well as distribution list and ways of distribution. Communication material targeting visitors will be in Croatian and English, other materials mostly in Croatian. A project logo will be developed which will be used on all project content and stickers and flags will be used for EU LIFE visibility. The majority of communication actions will take place on the larger islands of the SPA Kvarnerski otoci, and when needed in other (coastal) areas of the counties Primorje-Gorski Kotar and Lika-Senj. Communication activities will be implemented through the whole project duration.

Communication material will be produced and distributed to the target audiences based on the communication plan. Notice boards describing the project will be displayed on the islands of Cres and Krk. A project webpage will be developed on the lead beneficiary's website and put online within 6 months after the project starts, regularly updated during the project period and will be maintained online at least 5 years after the project's end. Project website will contain all information on the project, its partners and funding sources; information on vultures; electronic versions of project communication material; information on project activities and results. The website will be connected to partners' websites and news also posted on partners' social networks pages. A project leaflet will be created, as well as posters for the ferries to the islands, banners for the boat used during the project. Furthermore, educational materials will be developed for the school visits specifically, but also for general awareness raising events. Finally, promotional material will be produced and distributed to key stakeholders, such as t-shirts, mugs, mouth masks, stickers, etc.

T.7.2 LIFE SUPport communication and awareness raising events (BIOM, JUP, PZO Krk, VCF, HEP DSO, NPD-MESD):

At the beginning of the project a kick-off event will be organized on the islands of Cres and Krk, and one more on either Rab or some place on the mainland. These kick-off events are important to introduce our project and the different project beneficiaries to the local (island) communities. The events are planned to take place during the first summer, which is the period when most people reside on the islands and when larger numbers of tourists are expected to be present in the region.

In addition, there will be several events throughout the duration of the project (some on yearly basis) to reach out to the general public. JUP usually organizes activities at the Beli Visitor Centre during the International Vultures Awareness Day (IVAD). During the weekend everyone has free entrance and a special programme is being prepared for visitors. There are educational workshops for children, presentations on the protection of vultures and their threats, screening of promotional films (video material) related to saving vultures or having an exhibition that raises awareness of the general public about the protection of Griffon vultures in the Kvarner area. BIOM and PZO Krk will support and attend the yearly organization of IVAD. The event is often also celebrated in Zagreb ZOO (very often a mutual collaboration between JUP and ZOO), so there is good opportunity to attract national TV, radio, newspapers and other media. The media will also be invited to cover other important parts of the project, such as the yearly releases of rehabilitated Griffon vultures in October, and infrastructural achievements (e.g. new feeding station on Krk or the renovated observation platform near the feeding station on Cres).

Finally, to make sure children are also aware of our project an educational programme and materials on Griffon vulture and their threats will be developed for the local schools. The program will be implemented by BIOM in 12 schools during the project period, engaging a total of 360 children. Local schools from the islands of Cres, Krk, Rab and Lošinj, as well as several of those from the Kvarner area (e.g. Rijeka, Opatija, Lovran) will be included. The programme will consist of an introductory lecture about Griffon vulture and the project, an interactive workshop about the threats faced by Griffon vulture in Croatia and a short field trip to suitable near-by locations which will encompass these learning objectives through school in nature.

T.7.3 Dissemination of LIFE SUPport project results (BIOM, JUP, PZO Krk, VCF, HEP DSO, NPD-MESD):

Dissemination of the project results will be realized through various activities across the different work packages and will target both relevant stakeholders as well as the general public. Important project results will be shared via all project beneficiaries' websites, social media, via other media outlets (tv, radio, magazines, etc.), during meetings and events with local, regional and national stakeholders, during (international) conferences and networking events, and by sharing reports written for a variety of tasks. Of course, the disseminated results will be tailored to the background knowledge of each of the stakeholders (varying from general to technical).

Additionally, BIOM will be attending two international conferences where, besides networking, the goal will be to

disseminate some of the most important project results. One of these conferences will be the Birds and Wires conference in Hungary, which will be jointly attended by someone from BIOM and someone from HEP DSO, to present the results of the project with regard to electrocution mitigation. The Birds and Wires conference is regularly organised in collaboration between MAVIR, the Hungarian transmission system operator company and the Herman Otto Institute, and is attended by ornithologists and energy company stakeholders alike. The second conference to be attended will be decided upon during the project implementation, but will most likely cover the conservation work done on a different threat. Finally, near the end of the project, a closing conference will be organised at the end of the project to disseminate information about the project work to conservation professionals in Croatia and other interested parties across the Mediterranean and the rest of Europe. It will be a 3-day conference, including a 1-day field trip, for up to 50 participants and organised in Rijeka, Croatia. The agenda and list of invitees for the conference will be developed during the course of the project. We expect it will include representatives from all of the project beneficiaries; the statutory conservation agencies in Croatia; the wider conservation community in the Mediterranean (including other LIFE projects); other relevant organisations from other parts of Europe. A booklet will be compiled with English abstracts of each of the presentations held during the closing conference of the project and will be disseminated to conference attendees and via the project webpage.

Budget for the WP7 consist of the following:

EU visibility stickers and flags for BIOM (EUR 250)
 Project visual identity and logo design for BIOM (EUR 2.000)
 Project roll-up (2x) for BIOM (EUR 200)
 LIFE info boards - design and production (2 - Krk & Cres) for BIOM (EUR 3.000)
 Project leaflets and posters for ferries- design and printing for BIOM (EUR 3.500)
 Promotion materials (cups, shirts, masks, etc.) - design and production for BIOM (EUR 12.000)
 Project 'props' for events and conferences for BIOM (EUR 2.500)
 3 kick-off events on Cres, Krk and TBD for BIOM, HEP DSO, PZO Krk, NPD-MESD (EUR 5.430) - travel, venue/stands & catering
 Communication plan - travel for the NPD-MESD (associated partner) (EUR 200)
 Project sub-page on the BIOM & VCF websites with regular maintenance (EUR 6.500)
 Social media advertising to increase reach and awareness when publishing about key news and important actions for VCF (EUR 750) - other goods, works and services
 Professional photos, clips and movies for BIOM (EUR 10.000)
 Animation videos and films for international audience for VCF (EUR 8100)
 Assisting in media coverage of events for BIOM (EUR 2.865) - travel + refreshments
 Education workshop materials for school children for BIOM - purchase and printing (EUR 1.800)
 Education of school children (12 trips - 3 schools per year) for BIOM (EUR 9.852) - travel
 Bus rental for 12 school field trips (3 schools per year) for BIOM (EUR 3.600)
 Binoculars for educational purposes (10x) for BIOM (EUR 1.800) - equipment
 Media Toolkit to monitor media appearances for BIOM (EUR 6.250) - other goods, works and services
 International Vulture Awareness Day on Cres for BIOM (EUR 2.365) - travel
 2 x International conferences for BIOM & HEP DSO (EUR 4.060) - travel, conference fee
 Final Conference for all project partners (EUR 20.153) - travel, travel for experts, venue & catering + field trip

Work package WP8 – Sustainability, Replication & Exploitation of Project Results

Work Package Number	WP8	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Work Package Name	Sustainability, Replication & Exploitation of Project Results		
Start Month	9	End Month	60

Objectives

Ensuring sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results by enabling conditions and providing means for the successful management of Griffon vultures in the SPA Kvarnerski otoci and finding opportunities for future projects on Griffon vultures that would focus on the broader scale.

Expected results

- Griffon vulture Management Plan reviewed towards the end of the projects
- Guidelines for Management plan for SPA Kvarner Islands drafted

- Successful management of Griffon vultures by the JUP and relevant stakeholders
- Experiences and best practices successfully shared with other regional stakeholders - minimum Nature Park Učka, Rewilding Europe, DOPPS and Karlovac University of Applied Sciences;
- Networking with other (LIFE) projects successfully implemented - minimum with LIFE SAFE for VULTURES in Sardinia, Italy and LIFEwithVulturesCY in Cyprus
- After-LIFE conservation plan designed, appropriate replication and upscaling opportunities identified - at least one project on Griffon vultures developed, building on the results of the LIFE SUPport project

Description

T.8.1 Share experiences and best practices with other regional stakeholders (BIOM, JUP, VCF, PZO Krk, NPD-MESD):
During the project we aim to have annual online meetings with regional stakeholders to discuss the project progress and results and explore opportunities for replication. BIOM will organize the meetings and final field visit, while the local project beneficiaries (JUP and PZO Krk) will share their first-hand experiences from the field. VCF will participate, when relevant, to share best practices from other international projects working on (Griffon) Vultures and to make sure lessons learned via LIFE SUPport will reach those relevant stakeholders as well. At this moment, four important regional stakeholders are identified, but this 'regional project board' will be inclusive, meaning that if new, relevant stakeholders are identified during the project implementation they will be invited to join the meetings and further help replicate the project results. Currently identified stakeholders are:

- Nature Park Učka: share best practices on how to improve feeding station operations; involving them in activities related to grassland restoration.
- Rewilding Europe (RWE): share experience on setting up a new feeding station, including procedures with the Ministry, how to select a site, etc.; evaluate the use of lead-free ammunition as RWE leases several hunting grounds; introducing them to the topic of making power infrastructure bird-friendly.
- DOPPS (Slovenian BirdLife partner): share experience on dealing with EU sanitary regulation and establishing a new feeding station, as supplementary feeding stations in Slovenia could benefit Griffon vultures dispersing to Italy; evaluate the possibility of replicating activities related to illegal wildlife poisoning and lead poisoning.
- Karlovac University of Applied Sciences (Faculty of Wildlife Management): Several lecturers of this university have good contacts in the hunting community and are very interested in bridging the topics of hunting and nature conservation. They could therefore be very influential in advocating for the use of lead-free ammunition and promoting alternatives to carcass poisoning in a much wider area in Croatia.

Near the end of the project the regional stakeholders will be invited to visit the project area where all project accomplishments and experiences can be shared, discussed and visited in the field. Possibilities of regional upscaling and the potential to support each other's initiatives will be evaluated.

T.8.2 Networking with other (LIFE) projects (BIOM, VCF, JUP, PZO Krk, HEP DSO, NPD-MESD):

The goal of this task is to exchange knowledge and experiences of all partners of the project team with other related LIFE and/or non-LIFE initiatives and international stakeholders. Networking will increase the effectiveness of the project conservation measures, increase international cooperation and gather relevant experience for after-LIFE management. Networking with other LIFE projects is essential for utilising the transferable and replicable character of LIFE projects. There are currently two LIFE projects going on in the EU which are of particular interest to us, which are:

- LIFE SAFE for VULTURES in Sardinia, Italy (2021 – 2026). The setting is similar to our project area, with island-breeding Griffon vultures. As this LIFE is a follow-up project of LIFE under Griffon wings (2015-2020), the team must have a vast experience in tackling threats for Griffon vultures and raising awareness among local island stakeholders and the general public.

- LIFEwithVulturesCY in Cyprus (2019 – 2023). Although this project will be in the final year when LIFE SUPport is supposed to start, making the possibilities of an in-person meeting limited, we will definitely reach out to their project and establish networking relations even in an online setting. On Cyprus Griffon vultures are critically endangered as only few breeding pairs are left on the island. It will be good for the LIFE SUPport project team to experience what final actions can be taken in case numbers of Griffon vultures dwindle to a critical point in our project area.

Of course, these are two interesting projects which will be able to equip the project team of LIFE SUPport with important knowledge, but throughout the duration of the project we will also reach out to other organizations and BirdLife partners (e.g. in Bulgaria, or Spain) to explore the possibilities of valuable networking opportunities. The network of relevant contacts of VCF will greatly contribute to this.

Furthermore, BIOM (as BirdLife partner in Croatia) will attend several Nature Task Force (NTF) meetings of BirdLife Europe, which has the scope to influence the EU policy agenda. Meetings are held twice a year (online and in-person) with the participation of BirdLife Partners and BirdLife Secretariat. BirdLife International is a global partnership of conservation organizations and is the leading authority on the status of birds, their habitats and the issues affecting birds. One NTF meeting will be organized within the framework of this project, in order to use the opportunity to exchange

knowledge and experience across organisations dedicated to bird conservation in Europe. This will be a good opportunity to enable the transfer to the wider audience from the Mediterranean and also to raise the profile of the remote islands in Croatia and support the local community.

T.8.3 Reviewing Griffon vulture strategic documents (NPD-MESD, BIOM, JUP):

8.3.1 Griffon vulture Management Plan review

The background document for the Griffon vulture Management Plan was developed in 2019. The MESD will adopt the Management Plan in 2022 (stated in the Annex to the application), as it is a prerequisite for the implementation of the Priority Action Framework (PAF) which is supposed to be implemented through European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027. Five years after the adoption of the Management Plan, which should be still within the timeframe of the project, the project will evaluate and review the implementation of the Griffon vulture Management Plan. The review will be done using a structured and participatory approach, with a series of workshops with clear goals. Five-year review should enable going full cycle, including lessons learnt and adaptation of the Management Plan for the next 5 years.

8.3.2 Guidelines for Management plan for SPA Kvarner otoci

Management plan for SPA Kvarnerski otoci has not yet been developed. In order to provide relevant information for the future development of the Management plan, project beneficiaries will review and update conservation objectives and measures for this SPA and develop short guidelines for the development of the Management plan. Guidelines will be developed by consulting relevant experts from project beneficiaries and external experts, where appropriate.

T.8.4 After-LIFE conservation plan (BIOM, JUP, VCF, PZO Krk, HEP DSO, NPD-MESD):

Project After-LIFE conservation plan will be produced before the end of the project and submitted together with the final report. It will be produced in Croatian and English, in electronic format. The Plan will include sustainability, replication and upscaling of project results and will target specific stakeholders, such as decision makers, PA management authorities, civil society and relevant experts. The Plan will describe how actions initiated in the project will be continued and developed in the years that follow the end of the project and how the long-term management of Griffon vultures in the project area will be assured. It will also consider the two Griffon vulture strategic documents from T.8.3. This means that the Plan will include a set of actions to be integrated into the Management Plan of the SPA Kvarnerski otoci which needs to be developed by the JUP. Actions will refer to project elements dealing with the lowering of direct and indirect threats, monitoring of Griffon vultures' population and their threats, information dissemination and awareness raising. It will also provide a set of actions to be taken in order to improve national compliance with EU legislation, primarily Birds Directive, in respect to setting SMART objectives and conservation measures.

The After-LIFE Plan will be developed by project beneficiaries in close consultation with the Project Steering Committee in order to build a realistic plan and to get national level support for its implementation. The Plan will be distributed among the key stakeholders and project network established during the project - at the local, regional, national and international level. JUP will be in charge of the local and regional level, BIOM and NPD-MESD of national level, and VCF of international level.

Budget for the WP8 consist of the following:

LIFE Networking for BIOM, JUP, PZO Krk, HEP-DSO, NPD-MESD (EUR 18.600) - travel

Nature Task Force meeting in Rijeka - for BIOM (EUR 9.109) - travel + venue + field trip

Attending Nature Task Force meetings for BIOM (EUR 7.280) - travel

Final regional stakeholder workshop - BIOM, VCF, NPD-MESD (EUR 5.272) - travel + travel for relevant stakeholders

Workshops for strategic documents development/ review - for BIOM (EUR 798) - travel

Griffon vulture Management Plan review - for BIOM & NPD-MESD (EUR 6.800) - venue & catering, travel for external participants

Guidelines for SPA Kvarnerski otoci Management Plan - for BIOM & NPD-MESD (EUR 1.300) - venue & catering

After-LIFE plan - BIOM & VCF (EUR 1.800) – travel + catering + travel

STAFF EFFORT

Staff effort per participant <i>Grant Preparation (Work packages - Effort screen) — Enter the info.</i>									
Participant	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	WP8	Total Person-Months
1 - Udruga BIOM	75.00	33.60	14.40	15.60	12.60	42.00	55.20	27.00	275.40
2 - VCF	16.80	2.40	4.20	9.00	1.20	6.60	7.80	4.80	52.80
3 - JU Priroda	6.00	19.80	8.40	9.60		8.40	3.00	4.20	59.40
4 - PZ otok Krk	19.80		17.40	10.20		3.60	0.60	1.80	53.40
5 - HEP-ODS d.o.o.	3.00				4.80		1.80	1.80	11.40
Total Person-Months	120.60	55.80	44.40	44.40	18.60	60.60	68.40	39.60	452.40

LIST OF DELIVERABLES

Deliverables <i>Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.</i> <i>The labels used mean:</i> <i>Public — fully open (🚩 automatically posted online)</i> <i>Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement</i> <i>EU classified —RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision 2015/444</i>						
Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D1.1	KPI webtool extract (beginning)	WP1	1 - Udruga BIOM	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	9
D1.2	KPI webtool extract (end)	WP1	1 - Udruga BIOM	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	60
D1.3	Progress Report	WP1	1 - Udruga BIOM	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	45
D2.1	Guidelines for vulture population monitoring	WP2	1 - Udruga BIOM	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	13
D2.2	Good practice guide for boat owners	WP2	3 - JU Priroda	R — Document, report	PU - Public	24
D3.1	Report on the changes in habitat and animal husbandry on the Kvarner Islands and Učka	WP3	1 - Udruga BIOM	R — Document, report	PU - Public	48
D4.1	Report on tackling lead poisoning and introducing non-lead ammunition to hunters in Kvarner area	WP4	1 - Udruga BIOM	R — Document, report	PU - Public	54
D5.1	Electrocution hotspot analysis report	WP5	1 - Udruga BIOM	R — Document, report	PU - Public	18
D6.1	Overall report on monitoring of success of conservation	WP6	1 - Udruga BIOM	R — Document, report	PU - Public	57
D6.2	Report on stakeholder awareness activities	WP6	1 - Udruga BIOM	R — Document, report	PU - Public	56
D6.3	Griffon vulture movements report	WP6	2 - VCF	R — Document, report	PU - Public	54

Deliverables

Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.

The labels used mean:

Public — fully open (🚩 automatically posted online)

Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement

EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision [2015/444](#)

Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
D7.1	Project Website	WP7	1 - Udruga BIOM	DEC — Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	PU - Public	6
D7.2	Educational material and program	WP7	1 - Udruga BIOM	R — Document, report	PU - Public	24
D7.3	Final Conference	WP7	1 - Udruga BIOM	R — Document, report	PU - Public	56
D8.1	Griffon vulture Management Plan Revision	WP8	6 - MINGOR	R — Document, report	PU - Public	60
D8.2	After-LIFE conservation plan	WP8	1 - Udruga BIOM	R — Document, report	PU - Public	60

Deliverable D1.1 – KPI webtool extract (beginning)

Deliverable Number	D1.1	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	KPI webtool extract (beginning)		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	9	Work Package No	WP1

Description

Electronic report in English (~ 6 pages).

Deliverable D1.2 – KPI webtool extract (end)

Deliverable Number	D1.2	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	KPI webtool extract (end)		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	60	Work Package No	WP1

Description

Electronic report in English (~ 6 pages).

Deliverable D1.3 – Progress Report

Deliverable Number	D1.3	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	Progress Report		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	45	Work Package No	WP1

Description

Electronic report in English (~ 20 pages).

Deliverable D2.1 – Guidelines for vulture population monitoring

Deliverable Number	D2.1	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	Guidelines for vulture population monitoring		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	SEN - Sensitive
Due Date (month)	13	Work Package No	WP2

Description

Electronic report in Croatian (with English summary; ~40 pages) Guidelines will provide exact positions of all colonies, sub-colonies and individual nests across in the SPA Kvarnerski otoci. Also, it will provide the appropriate methodology for monitoring these colonies.

Deliverable D2.2 – Good practice guide for boat owners

Deliverable Number	D2.2	Lead Beneficiary	3. JU Priroda
Deliverable Name	Good practice guide for boat owners		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	24	Work Package No	WP2

Description

Leaflet in Croatian (4 pages, A5 format)

Deliverable D3.1 – Report on the changes in habitat and animal husbandry on the Kvarner Islands and Učka

Deliverable Number	D3.1	Lead Beneficiary	1. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	Report on the changes in habitat and animal husbandry on the Kvarner Islands and Učka		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	48	Work Package No	WP3

Description

Electronic report in Croatian (with summary in English); ~ 30 pages. Results of the questionnaire with shepherds and analyses on pasture restoration possibilities.

Deliverable D4.1 – Report on tackling lead poisoning and introducing non-lead ammunition to hunters in Kvarner area

Deliverable Number	D4.1	Lead Beneficiary	1. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	Report on tackling lead poisoning and introducing non-lead ammunition to hunters in Kvarner area		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	54	Work Package No	WP4

Description

Electronic report in Croatian (with summary in English); 50 pages. Through the course of the project, hunters on the Kvarner islands will be given lead-free ammunition for hunting. They will in return assess the effectiveness and satisfaction regarding the ammunition. Also, three events will be organized for hunters regarding lead-free ammunition. The findings of all of those activities will be encompassed in a report. This deliverable will also include findings from activity 4.1.1, i.e. the scope of poisoning incidents on Kvarner islands.

Deliverable D5.1 – Electrocutation hotspot analysis report

Deliverable Number	D5.1	Lead Beneficiary	1. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	Electrocutation hotspot analysis report		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public

Due Date (month)	18	Work Package No	WP5
-------------------------	----	------------------------	-----

Description

Electronic report in English; 15 pages. Report including electrocution hotspot analysis based on historic carcass search and movement data. To be used for site selection of implementation of mitigation measures.

Deliverable D6.1 – Overall report on monitoring of success of conservation

Deliverable Number	D6.1	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	Overall report on monitoring of success of conservation		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	57	Work Package No	WP6

Description

Electronic report in English (~75 pages) discussing the overall effects of the implemented conservation work with regard to each of the threats. It will include yearly monitored data gathered throughout LIFE SUPport on number of breeding pairs, breeding success, rescued/ rehabilitated birds, food delivered to feeding stations, sheep killed, carcass search results (below power lines and poles) and tissue analyses of bird samples.

Deliverable D6.2 – Report on stakeholder awareness activities

Deliverable Number	D6.2	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	Report on stakeholder awareness activities		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	56	Work Package No	WP6

Description

Stakeholder awareness report encompassing results of the public attitudes survey, targeted stakeholder surveys and socio-economic survey; Electronic report in Croatian with a summary in English; ~50 pages.

Deliverable D6.3 – Griffon vulture movements report

Deliverable Number	D6.3	Lead Beneficiary	2. VCF
Deliverable Name	Griffon vulture movements report		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	54	Work Package No	WP6

Description

During the last year an overall site use map and report of the movements of the 25 tagged Griffon vultures will be produced. Electronic report in English; 25 pages.

Deliverable D7.1 – Project Website

Deliverable Number	D7.1	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	Project Website		
Type	DEC —Websites, patent filings, videos, etc	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	6	Work Package No	WP7

Description

Dedicated project page on each of the beneficiaries' websites in English and/ or Croatian.

Deliverable D7.2 – Educational material and program

Deliverable Number	D7.2	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	Educational material and program		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	24	Work Package No	WP7

Description

Educational program and materials (in Croatian) created and tailored to suit the school children.

Deliverable D7.3 – Final Conference

Deliverable Number	D7.3	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	Final Conference		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	56	Work Package No	WP7

Description

Conference agenda and participant list in English.

Deliverable D8.1 – Griffon vulture Management Plan Revision

Deliverable Number	D8.1	Lead Beneficiary	6. MINGOR
Deliverable Name	Griffon vulture Management Plan Revision		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	60	Work Package No	WP8

Description

Griffon vulture Management Plan revised after 5 years of implementation; Management Plan in Croatian; ~50 pages, electronic format.

Deliverable D8.2 – After-LIFE conservation plan

Deliverable Number	D8.2	Lead Beneficiary	I. Udruga BIOM
Deliverable Name	After-LIFE conservation plan		
Type	R — Document, report	Dissemination Level	PU - Public
Due Date (month)	60	Work Package No	WP8

Description
After-LIFE conservation plan drafted in a participatory approach with all project beneficiaries. Electronic plan in English; ~15 pages.

LIST OF MILESTONES

Milestones <i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i>					
Milestone No	Milestone Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Means of Verification	Due Date (month)
1	Consortium agreement drafted and signed	WP1	1-Udruga BIOM	Consortium agreement signed, defining mutual roles, obligations and communication	2
2	Improved vulture release system	WP2	3-JU Priroda	Soft release aviary constructed together with monitoring platform	24
3	Construction of observation platform	WP2	3-JU Priroda	New observation station constructed near the feeding station	36
4	Established and functional video surveillance on Plavnik colony + report on impact of nest disturbance	WP2	3-JU Priroda	A two-camera system will be set up on Plavnik in order to collect data on nest disturbance as well as deter irresponsible boat owners from approaching the cliffs. Data from video surveillance will be collected and analysed and a report will be produced	36
5	Volunteer vigilance	WP2	1-Udruga BIOM	After 3 seasons of active colony and nest disturbance surveillance by volunteers, boat operators in the Kvarner area (fishermen, tourists, excursion boats, etc.) have been made aware of best practices of good behaviour around cliffs with GV breeding colonies	48
6	Establishment of the feeding station on Krk	WP3	4-PZ otok Krk	Establishment of the 1st supplementary feeding station on Krk island, operated by PZO Krk	48
7	Renewed permit for supplementary feeding stations	WP3	3-JU Priroda	Renewed permit for supplementary feeding stations to include a larger source area in Croatia for carcasses to be transported to feeding stations	42
8	International workshop organized on EU sanitary regulation	WP3	2-VCF	International workshop held about the EU	18

Milestones					
<i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i>					
Milestone No	Milestone Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Means of Verification	Due Date (month)
				sanitary regulation and exchange of best practices from other EU member states	
9	Article about work with hunters on Kvarner islands	WP4	I-Udruga BIOM	Our work with regard to the promotion of non-lead ammunition among hunters in the Kvarner area will be published in a selected hunting magazine	51
10	Report on testing best preventive measures to avoid carcass poisoning	WP4	4-PZ otok Krk	The applied preventive measures will be described and analysed in a final report. The report will also encompass shepherds' satisfaction regarding the preventive measures	48
11	Workshops for key stakeholders held	WP4	I-Udruga BIOM	Workshops will be held for law enforcement officers on wildlife poisoning, and for hunters on lead poisoning and the use of lead-free ammunition	54
12	25 Griffons tagged	WP4	2-VCF	Tagging of 15 juvenile and 10 adult Griffon vultures completed	48
13	Power infrastructure mitigated	WP5	5-HEP-ODS d.o.o.	200 medium-voltage pylons retrofitted and made bird safe	36
14	Seminars with energy stakeholders	WP5	I-Udruga BIOM	Seminars with 60 HEP DSO employees and subcontractor companies were organized, educating them about issues of bird electrocution	56
15	Volunteers engagement	WP5	I-Udruga BIOM	Minimum 10 volunteers trained for bird electrocution monitoring	24
16	Article on GV colony sizes and breeding success	WP6	I-Udruga BIOM	A yearly report on GV breeding population on Kvarner will be produced, with total number of breeding pairs, positions of the sub-colonies and nests as well as breeding success	54

Milestones					
<i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i>					
Milestone No	Milestone Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Means of Verification	Due Date (month)
17	Project Logo	WP7	I-Udruga BIOM	Project logo designed, which will be used on all materials developed during the project	2
18	Notice Boards	WP7	I-Udruga BIOM	Notice boards installed on Krk and Cres to raise awareness about LIFE SUPport	7
19	Project kick-off	WP7	I-Udruga BIOM	1st project kick-off event organized in the project area	7
20	Griffon vulture Management Plan adopted	WP8	-	Griffon vulture Management Plan adopted	12
21	Workshop Regional Stakeholders	WP8	I-Udruga BIOM	Final workshop of regional stakeholders in person in the project area	54
22	Nature Task Force meeting organized	WP8	I-Udruga BIOM	Meeting of the Nature Task Force organized in the project area	47
23	Networking with other LIFE projects	WP8	I-Udruga BIOM	Experience exchange organized with other LIFE Project	45

LIST OF CRITICAL RISKS

Critical risks & risk management strategy			
<i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
1	Permit for new feeding station on Krk - High impact, low likelihood - As with every permit, some delays can be expected in getting the permit for	WP3	Project beneficiaries already have good communication with the MoA and the MoA understands the issues of food availability for Griffon vultures, which they confirmed in their

Critical risks & risk management strategy			
<i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
	the new feeding station on Krk by the Ministry of Agriculture. The risk is marked low likelihood as the MoA has already issued 2 permits in the past, so the process is not new		letter of support - clearly stating that they will contribute to finding solutions for the issue of food availability. The NPD-MESD, as an associate partner, will help in lobbying with the MoA in case of issues with the permit.
2	Extending the permit for feeding station to be broadened and include food from a larger area in Croatia - High impact, medium likelihood - We expect possible issues with the extension of the permit for the feeding station to include food from a larger area as the sanitary issues need to be considered when extending the permit. The risk is marked medium likelihood as detailed justifications will be needed. However, the MoA has already issued these permits to 2 feeding stations, so the process is not new.	WP3	Project beneficiaries have good communication with the MoA and also experience with these permits and with lobbying to change the extent of the permit. Detailed justification of the reasoning behind the extension should suffice to mitigate this risk. The NPD-MESD, as an associate partner, will help in lobbying with the MoA in case of issues with the permit.
3	Not permitting police officers to join the lectures - Low impact, medium likelihood - Considering the political and hierarchical structure of police departments it can be expected that by the time the project starts there are different persons in charge who are not that understanding of the issues of wildlife crime. However, the risk is marked as low impact, since the approach can be adjusted in case of police not being permitted to join the lectures.	WP4	Project beneficiaries have already good collaboration with the regional police, as they work together with JUP's rangers and they also attended lectures held jointly by the State Inspectorate and BIOM on illegal killing of birds. To avoid this risk, we will build on the network of police established through BalkanDetox LIFE. We will also collaborate with other government institutions in organizing the lecture for police, that can influence them to come (for example State Inspectorate, Police Academy) and with whom project beneficiaries have already established relationships. In the event that police will not be able to join the lectures, even after all the above measures are implemented, project approach will be adjusted and educational materials will be produced and shared with the police without the lectures.
4	Risk of stalling the public procurement for mitigation of electrocution - Medium impact, medium likelihood - As with many public procurements, there is a risk that the public procurement procedures will take longer than	WP5	Project beneficiaries HEP DSO has extensive experience with public procurement, having a dedicated department for public procurement. The risk will be mitigated by preparing the project technical documentation as clear as possible and by starting the public procurement procedure as soon as possible.

Critical risks & risk management strategy <i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
Risk number	Description	Work Package No(s)	Proposed Mitigation Measures
	expected since there might be appeals to the procedure. The impact would be medium in case of public procurement being stalled, as the mitigation measures would then be implemented later in the project. We do not expect this for other public procurement procedures, as the amounts are lower.		HEP DSO is currently doing similar work through another LIFE Project – LIFE Danube Free Sky, which should also help in recognizing and mitigating this risk on time.
5	Restriction due to COVID-19 pandemic - Medium impact, medium likelihood - Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic it can be expected that there would be restrictions related to public gatherings, which could impact the organisation of meetings, events, workshops, training and particularly international.	WP1, WP5, WP8, WP2, WP4, WP6, WP7, WP3	Considering that the COVID-19 pandemic has been with us since early 2020, project beneficiaries have already adjusted their operations to this risk. In case of restrictions, project beneficiaries will adapt their activities to online formats wherever possible and also to open spaces (in case of education for school children). Meetings, workshops and training can be organized online, using the available collaboration platforms. Even experience exchange (networking) could be organized online if necessary. Public events would either be postponed or moved to online format, albeit with limited reach.

ANNEX 1



Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

Description of the action (DoA)

Part B

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

1. RELEVANCE	3
1.1 Background and general project objectives	3
1.2 Specific project objectives	5
1.3 Compliance with LIFE programme objectives and call topic	7
1.4 Concept and methodology	8
1.5 Upscaling results of other EU funded projects	10
1.6 Complementarity with other actions	11
1.7 Synergies and co-benefits with other LIFE sub-programmes	12
1.8 Synergies and co-benefits with other EU policy areas	12
2. IMPACT	13
2.1 Ambition of the impacts	13
2.2 Credibility of the impacts	15
2.3 Sustainability of project results	18
2.4 Exploitation of project results	19
2.5 Catalytic potential: Replication and upscaling	20
3. IMPLEMENTATION	21
3.1 Work plan	21
3.2 Stakeholder input and engagement	21
3.4 Timetable	24
3.5 Impact monitoring and reporting	28
3.6 Communication, dissemination and visibility	28
4. RESOURCES	30
4.1 Consortium set-up	30
4.2 Project management	31
4.3 Green management	32
4.4 Budget	33
5. OTHER	33
5.1 Ethics	33
5.2 Security	33
6. DECLARATIONS	34
ANNEXES	34
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION	35
MAPS	43
DESCRIPTION OF SITES	47
DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES AND HABITATS	50
LETTERS OF SUPPORT	52
HISTORY OF CHANGES	76

1. RELEVANCE

1.1 Background and general project objectives

Background and general project objectives

Explain the problem and the needs to be addressed in the project. Describe the background, starting point / quantified baseline of the project.

Please explain in which location and/or sector the main activities of the project will take place and justify that choice.

Provide a clear and quantified description of the conservation issue and threats targeted, as well as relevant background information and quantified figures defining the baseline to justify the proposed interventions by

At stage 1 (concept note) when relevant, describe the main species/habitats directly targeted by the project: scientific name; refer to the Annex(es) of the EU Birds or Habitats Directive where they are listed; population size within each project area; conservation status; habitat name and Natura 2000 code; % of the cover within each project area; conservation status.

At stage 2 (full proposals), when relevant, provide a brief description of the areas where conservation actions will be implemented and main species and / or main habitats directly targeted by the project, and submit the following annexes:

- maps
- description of sites
- description of species and habitats

Describe the previous conservation efforts in the project area or for the habitats/species targeted.

The Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) is a large scavenging bird of prey from the family of Accipitridae. The species is protected by EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Annex II, Bonn Convention Annex II, MoU Raptors Annex I under Bonn Convention, CITES Annex II and EU regulation of trade of fauna and flora Annex A.

In Croatia, the Griffon vulture is named 'Bjeloglavi Sup' and the species is considered Endangered (EN) as it disappeared from most of its Croatian breeding range during the 20th century. Formerly the species was breeding from Mount Učka, the Primorje region, Kvarner islands and Mount Velebit to the canyons of certain Dalmatian rivers, the island of Brač, Mount Biokovo and part of the Dubrovnik Littoral. However, with the last breeding pairs disappearing from the Croatian mainland in 2003 (National Park Paklenica), the entire autochthonous population of Griffon vultures in Croatia is nowadays restricted for breeding to a few islands in the SPA Kvarnerski otoci (HR1000033): Cres, Krk, Prvić and Plavnik. Here the species breeds on cliffs directly above the sea, which is a unique feature, not observed in any other countries of its breeding range.

The current breeding population is assessed at around 110 pairs and it forms the connection between the breeding populations of the Alps in Italy and those of the rest of the Balkans. The Expert Background Study for the Griffon vulture Management Plan (BIOM, 2019) recognizes the following main threats for the population: lack of food, electrocution, poisoning and disturbance at their breeding colonies.

Due to the decline of traditional animal husbandry in Croatia, the Griffon vulture has been faced with lack of food which is in correlation with the number of breeding pairs. The number of sheep on most of the islands have declined since the beginning of the 20th century and it has experienced a change from extensive to intensive husbandry. The change in keeping also resulted in a decrease in sheep mortality which further decreased the availability of food for vultures. An adult Griffon vulture needs around 0.5 kilograms of food daily, which increases during the breeding season. It eats around 182.5 kilograms of food per year, and around 228 kilograms of food a year if it successfully raises an offspring. It was estimated in 2017 that in the SPA food is available for 143 adult breeding individuals (around 70 pairs) in hypothetical case every sheep ends up as food available for vultures, however because a part of carcasses ends up in places unreachable to vultures, or are eaten by ravens, dogs, jackals, foxes or boars the actual amount of available food is significantly lower. According to the registry of domestic animals there are around 31 500 sheep in the area, and assuming that the yearly mortality is around 5% there are around 1 500 sheep carcasses available in the area. In the Kvarnerski otoci area there is a lack of 27.6 tons of food for vultures (or 41.5 tons of carcasses of sheep) per year just to keep the current population stable (110 pairs or 220 individuals). From 1982 to 2012 there was organised feeding of vultures, where in some years more than 50 tons of carcasses were thrown to the vultures. In 2012 the organised feeding was stopped and the population of vultures decreased in the following years.

The amount of available food on Kvarner islands is not sufficient to sustain the population of vultures, so feeding stations have been set up. One feeding station has been set up within the SPA Kvarnerski otoci, and another one in the SPA Učka i Čićarija. The feeding stations caused the population to stabilise, but a general lack of food is still a looming problem.

Electrocution on energy infrastructure is one of the main causes of death for vultures of all ages. This problem has been known for some time, and in 2007 and 2008, seven cases of electrocuted Griffon vultures were recorded in the Kvarner area, and a further 20 cases have been found from 2017 to 2019. Electrocution typically happens on a medium-voltage pole when a bird bridges two live wires or one live wire and one earthed element (e.g. such as a steel pole). Because of this, larger birds that tend to perch on poles are at greatest risk because they can more easily bridge the gap between conductive elements. Medium-voltage (distribution) infrastructure (voltages between 10 and 35 kV) is specified because the distance between live elements is sufficient for birds to bridge the gap, with high-voltage elements (100 kV and more) used in the electrical transmission system generally being sufficiently far apart to prevent bird electrocution. Griffon vultures, buzzards, eagle owls and tawny owls have been found electrocuted in the Kvarner area. Electrocution can happen throughout the year, and if an adult bird dies during the breeding season, their brood fails.

It is important to retrofit medium-voltage network elements to mitigate the threat of electrocution of Griffon vultures and to identify all possible bird electrocution hotspots within their home range. It is crucial for planning and building of medium voltage power lines to minimise the possibility of electrocution of birds.

Poisoning is one of the main reasons for mortality in vultures in general. There are three types of poisoning affecting vultures, accidental poisoning caused by poisoned baits meant for predator control, lead poisoning caused by exposure to remains of ammunition (saturnism) and poisoning caused by veterinarian/medical products. The most dangerous for Griffon vultures are accidental poisonings caused by poisoned bait meant for predators. Vultures are usually accidental victims of poisoning meant to target dogs, jackals, foxes, wolves or other animals. Most commonly used poisons are insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, herbicides, or snail repellents. The poison is usually spread on the meat or on the whole carcass. The carcasses are placed in easily accessible places where predators and vultures can come and feast on the remains. The biggest recorded accidental poisoning of Griffon vultures was in 2001 on the Island of Rab. A sheep carcass was covered with carbofuran, and 17 dead Griffon vultures were found in its vicinity, and four more were found afterwards. In 2016 three poisoned Griffon vultures were found on the Island of Krk. The last inland population of Griffon vultures died out because of several cases of poisoning during the 90s near Paklenica. Lead poisoning of Griffon vultures hasn't been researched enough in Croatia. It happens when vultures consume carcasses that have lead ammunition in them. This can happen if during hunting the ammunition doesn't kill the animal and it runs away and dies later, or hunters leave remains purposely for the vultures, unknowing of the danger of lead poisoning to the vultures. In 2018 two Griffon vultures were recorded with elevated blood lead levels, and in 2019 one dead Griffon vulture was recorded with the most probable cause being lead poisoning (Tišljar et al, 2019). It is necessary to cooperate with the hunters, so they don't leave carcasses with lead ammunition in them, and to encourage the use of ammunition without lead in Croatia. The use of anti-inflammatory medication like Diclofenac in veterinary can cause poisonings on vultures. In India, during the 90s and early 00s, several species within the genus *Gyps* were almost decimated because they fed on livestock that were treated with Diclofenac. Vultures that consume diclofenac die quickly after, with their kidneys shutting down. Diclofenac is still allowed in some European countries, but Croatia has no registered veterinarian/medical product that contains diclofenac. During a consultation that the European Commission held with EU member states that Croatia attended in 2015, it was concluded that in case of registration of a veterinarian/medical product that contains diclofenac it has to inform the user that only veterinarians can apply the medication, and it cannot be used on animals that have not been registered.

Disturbance of the breeding population happens near the cliffs where the Griffon vultures breed. Touristic and scuba diving boats that drive near them disturb the breeding birds and their young. A lot of touristic boat tours include visiting the cliff, and the boats stop underneath the cliffs so the tourists can take photos or make noises to try to make the vulture fly. Also, individuals that rent boats also visit the cliffs. This kind of disturbance during late breeding season can disturb the young birds that are not ready to fly yet, and they fall into the sea. In some years all of the young birds fell into the sea. The disturbance of adult birds also prevents them from landing and feeding the young, and the young that are capable of flight are still not good fliers to fly to different locations or to scavenge for themselves. Disturbance of adult birds during early breeding can cause them to leave their nest and their eggs become more vulnerable to predation by ravens and gulls. It is suggested that tourist boats and boats with scuba divers can come up to a safe distance of 80 meters close to the cliff without disturbing the birds and it should be necessary that all boats follow that suggestion. The young that fall into the sea are transported to the Beli Rescue Centre. The centre gets around 10 Griffon vultures per year, and almost all of the birds are from the most visited colonies. After rehabilitation, the young vultures are released in nature, usually in the spring of the following year. Since there is no specialised infrastructure on the feeding station on Cres where vultures are usually released, they are brought there in transporter boxes and released on the same day. The release process would be much better and less stressful for the

young birds if there was a soft release aviary where they would spend some time without human presence and in contact with wild Griffon vultures that come to feed on the site.

Current policy framework in Croatia includes the Croatian Regulation on Ecological Network (Natura 200) and jurisdictions of public institutions for management of ecological network sites (Official Gazette 80/19) and Croatian Regulation on conservation objectives and measures for target bird species in ecological network sites (Official Gazette 25/20 and 38/20).

The Regulation on Ecological Network lists the bird species for which SPAs were designated. In total 5 sites were designated - 2 for breeding and feeding (HR1000023 SZ Dalmacija i Pag, HR1000033 Kvarnerski otoci) and 3 for feeding (HR1000018 Učka i Čičarija, HR1000019 Gorski Kotar i sjeverna Lika, HR1000022 Velebit), albeit the last breeding pairs on breeding site SZ Dalmacija i Pag were recorded in 1997.

The Regulation on conservation objectives and measures contains the target species conservation objectives and measures for protecting bird species in SPAs. Conservation objective for site relevant for breeding (SPA Kvarnerski otoci) is conserved population and habitats (vertical island cliffs above the sea for breeding and extensive pastures for feeding) for maintenance of the breeding population of 110-130 pairs. Conservation objective for sites relevant for feeding is conserved population and habitats (extensive grasslands) for feeding of the breeding population.

The project objectives and activities of LIFE SUPport will significantly contribute to implementing conservation measures and achieving conservation objectives listed for the Griffon vultures for SPAs Kvarnerski otoci and Učka i Čičarija.

The overall goal of the project LIFE SUPport is to improve breeding and survival conditions for the last remaining population of Griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) in Croatia, located on the Kvarner Islands. By tackling the most important threats on their breeding grounds, the current population of around 110 pairs will increase in number, which should allow them to re-colonize the Croatian mainland in the future and connect to other populations of Griffon vultures in the Alps and the Balkans. Recolonization of the Croatian mainland will hopefully be a goal of some future LIFE projects.

1.2 Specific project objectives

Specific project objectives

Describe the specific objectives of your project (clear, measurable, realistic and achievable within the duration of the project).

The project LIFE SUPport aims to improve breeding and survival conditions for the last remaining population of Griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) in Croatia, located on the Kvarner Islands. The urgency and need for such a project have been outlined in the expert background study prepared for the currently pending adoption of the Griffon vulture Management Plan in Croatia. By tackling the most important threats on their breeding grounds, the current population of ~110 pairs will continue to survive and possibly increase in number, which is an important first step for the species to re-colonize their historical breeding ranges on the Croatian mainland and connect to other populations of Griffon vultures in the Alps and Balkans. The most important threats targeted by LIFE SUPport are nest disturbance, lack of food, poisoning and electrocution. The main objectives are therefore:

1. Reducing nestling mortality by minimizing nest disturbance and by improving the rescue and rehabilitation operations of the Beli Rescue Centre for Griffon vultures. Currently around 25% of the nestlings fall into the sea, of which roughly half are saved and rehabilitated. By increased surveillance of colony disturbance and through awareness raising among boat operators during the critical period of the breeding season, this number should be reduced to 15%. With a camera system installed on Plavnik colony in specific, a better understanding of interactions between boat owners and Griffon vulture colonies can be obtained which will improve future surveillance of the area to match periods of high boat activity. Furthermore, rehabilitation practises of the Beli Rescue Centre should be ameliorated by the construction of a soft-release aviary, reducing the birds' stress on the day of release.
2. Increasing food availability for vultures by improving and expanding the existing network of managed feeding stations and by exploring possibilities to increase natural feeding opportunities. The current yearly drop of sheep carcasses on supplementary feeding stations is 15 tons. During the project this should be increased to 40 tons to meet the needs of the current Griffon vulture population. This will be achieved by improving the current permit conditions for existing feeding stations and by establishing a new feeding station on the island of Krk, which

- will be run by PZO Krk and supplied by shepherds from the island. In addition, the project will establish the basis for future work on habitat restoration and the improvement of extensive shepherding practises, which continue to decline.
3. Prevention of poisoning events by exploring best preventive measures to avoid the use of illegal poisoned baits, by promoting the use of lead-free ammunition and by capacity building of relevant enforcement agencies for combating illegal wildlife poisoning. A single poisoned carcass can quickly decimate a large part of the current population of Griffon vultures. One important reason for shepherds to put out poisoned bait, or to quit their line of work altogether is due to the damage done by Golden jackals on their herds. Currently 2300 sheep and lambs are killed yearly by jackals on the island of Krk. By testing different kinds of fences, using shepherd dogs and engaging with hunters, the project aims to reduce this number to 1800 per year with ongoing reductions after the project finishes as a result of local upscaling of the preferred method. 150 hunters from Cres, Krk and Rab will also be engaged in LIFE SUPport by the promotion and testing of lead-free ammunition and by informing them about the environmental impacts of lead poisoning. Replacing 6000 bullets will reduce the amount of lead in the environment by at least 18kgs (but could potentially be up to 210 kgs, depending on the size of the bullet). To better understand the impact of lead poisoning on Griffon vultures and other birds (mostly raptors and owls) from the Kvarner islands, at least 30 samples will be taken and analysed. Finally, LIFE SUPport aims to have a workshop with at least 20 policemen from the project area to educate them about illegal wildlife poisoning.
 4. Reducing mortality arising from electrocution by applying appropriate mitigation measures on the most important electrocution hotspots in the project area. Several years ago, 200 medium voltage poles ('killer poles') were retrofitted for bird safety, on just the island of Cres. During LIFE SUPport the aim is to double the number of mitigated 'killer poles' and include electrocution hotspots on other Kvarner Islands and mountain Učka in this process. Additionally, 10 local volunteers will be trained to do carcass searches to measure the effects of the mitigation measures, and at least 60 employees of energy companies will be educated about the importance of maintaining and improving power infrastructure for the sake of bird conservation.
 5. Promoting Griffon vultures and raising awareness of their threats and needs to local stakeholders, the wider public and government bodies. The objectives dealing with each of the main threats will target specific threat-related stakeholders, which include excursion boat operators (22), shepherds (95), hunters (490), police officers (20) and employees of energy companies (60). Furthermore, the project aims to hold education about Griffon vultures in at least 12 schools in the project area, directly involving around 360 school children. Through LIFE SUPport and the wide range of stakeholders involved it is also very likely to expect a strong increase in the number of impressions on Griffon vulture of the general public through online media. In 2020 the number of impressions among the Croatian public was 773.000, and it is expected that the project can reach up to 3.900.000 impressions just among Croatians. With VCF as a partner on this project it is likely to reach a much higher number of impressions on an international level. Finally, LIFE SUPport foresees the help of at least 52 volunteers in several of its activities, such as bird electrocution monitoring, nest disturbance monitoring, camera footage analyses and awareness raising among boat owners. This will actively involve both international and Croatian volunteers in Griffon vulture conservation.
 6. Ensuring sustainability and replication of project results by enabling conditions and providing means for the successful management of Griffon vultures in the SPA Kvarnerski otoci and finding opportunities for future projects on Griffon vultures that would focus on the broader scale. The Griffon vulture strategic documents, such as the Griffon vultures Management Plan and the Guidelines for Management plan for SPA Kvarner Islands, are an important aspect of sustainability. Experience and best practice exchange among regional and international stakeholders (via LIFE networking) are important for providing replicability. After-LIFE conservation plan should identify appropriate replication and upscaling opportunities, with the minimum of developing at least one project on Griffon vultures, building on the results of the LIFE SUPport project.

Overall, by mitigating each of the above-mentioned threats, an increase in the number of Griffon vulture breeding pairs is expected from 110 to 125 pairs, as well as improved breeding success of the species going up from 70 to 75% in the project area. As the species is long-lived and needs time to reach reproductive age, the effects are likely to continue improving after the project is finished and therefore many of the project outcomes are aimed at having a long-lasting impact (mitigated power infrastructure, new and improved feeding stations, capacity building of relevant stakeholders, etc.). All this is an important first condition to be met for a future re-colonization of the mainland by Griffon vultures. Lastly, during the course of the project a total of 25 Griffon vultures will be tagged for multiple reasons, which will contribute to each of the above-mentioned threats. The tagged birds will provide general information of Griffon vulture movements, which will help identify differences in dispersal and behaviour between

adult and juvenile birds, changes in their feeding range, as well as potential areas of electrocution hotspots. Furthermore, the data will feed into the early-warning system for poisoning events (started by BalkanDetox LIFE).

1.3 Compliance with LIFE programme objectives and call topic

Compliance with LIFE Programme objectives

Explain how the project contributes to the specific objectives of the LIFE Programme and the sub-programme targeted by the call (Nature and Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Quality of Life, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation or Clean Energy Transition).

The LIFE SUPport project is contributing to the boosting and integrating the implementation of the EU's policy objectives for halting and reversing loss of wildlife habitats and species across all sectors, as it involves mainstreaming biodiversity into veterinary science, energy sector, and rural development. It directly contributes to all of the specific objectives of the sub-programme "Nature and Biodiversity".

First – to develop, demonstrate, promote and stimulate scale up of innovative techniques, methods and approaches (including nature-based solutions and ecosystem approach) for reaching the objectives of the EU legislation and policy on nature and biodiversity, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practices, including through the support of the Natura 2000. The project directly contributes to the implementation of the Birds Directive, the Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures, and the Croatian Griffon vulture Management Plan (in draft, to be adopted in 2022). The project will gather valuable data on the Griffon vultures and secure improved management of the species by reducing nest disturbance, mitigating electrocution and providing food at feeding stations. It will also secure prerequisites for improved habitat management by prioritization of habitat to be restored, by testing best practice preventive measures against jackals, and reducing the amount of lead in the environment. The project will also provide valuable baseline data for the future repopulation feasibility study, which is planned as part of the draft Croatian Griffon vulture Management Plan.

Second – to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of EU legislation and policy on nature and biodiversity, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society, also taking into due consideration the possible contributions provided by citizen science. The project will evaluate and review the implementation of the Griffon vultures Management Plan (which will be adopted in 2022) and provide guidelines for the future SPA Kvarnerski otoci Management Plan. It will significantly improve the capacities of the JUP and Beli Rescue Centre to manage the Griffon vulture population in the future. The project will improve coordination between two relevant national authorities - the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MESD) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) by improving national policy related to conservation of Griffon vultures – both conservation and veterinary regulations. Also, the project will enhance capacities of the private sector, namely PZO Krk, to manage a feeding station and engage local shepherds in Griffon vulture conservation. Finally, civil society will also build its capacity, from local stakeholders to project beneficiaries.

Third – to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful solutions/approaches for implementing EU legislation and policy on nature and biodiversity, by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance. The project aims to ensure sustainability and replicability of project results. It will enable future deployment of successful solutions and approaches to Griffon vulture conservation and management by providing best practice at several levels - new feeding stations for Griffon vultures, Beli Rescue Centre operations, state-of-the-art mitigation measures for electrocution, excursion boat operators near the colonies, hunters using non-lead ammunition, shepherds testing best preventive measures, etc.

Compliance with the call topic

Indicate the call topic to which your proposal relates, and explain how the proposed project addresses the scope of the topic description in the Call document.

The LIFE SUPport project proposal falls under the intervention area "Safeguarding our species". The project is directly aimed at improving the conditions of species through focusing its activities on reducing

the mortality of Griffon vultures and tackling all relevant threats - lack of food, electrocution, poisoning and disturbance at their breeding colonies. Project also contributes to resolution of conflicts in wildlife management as both wild boars and jackals predate sheep, which are the main food source for Griffon vultures. By tackling lead poisoning caused by lead ammunition used by hunters and carcass poisoning by shepherds, the project works on improving acceptance and promotes coexistence with Griffon vultures as protected species. LIFE SUPport aims to significantly raise awareness of targeted stakeholders (shepherds, hunters, excursion boat operators, school children, police, tourist, boat owners/ nautical tourist, fishermen).

Additionally, the project will create certain preconditions for future projects in the intervention area **"Space for Nature"** by providing guidelines for the SPA Kvarnerski otoci Management Plan development. Also, the project will secure prerequisites for improved habitat management by prioritization of habitat to be restored, by testing best practice preventive measures against jackals, and reducing the amount of lead in the environment.

Considering policy priorities, the LIFE SUPport project directly supports the **implementation of the EU Birds Directive**. This project proposal aims at improving the conservation status of Griffon vulture, a species of EU importance. The project is implementing objectives and measures as outlined in the national **Prioritized Action Framework (PAF)** (draft, in public consultation until 07/12/2021) - implementation of the Management Plan for Griffon vultures is listed as a priority for the 2021-2027.

As described above, the project deals with direct threats to Griffon vultures - lack of food, electrocution, poisoning and disturbance at their breeding colonies. Threat mitigation will have indirect positive effects on other Bird Directive Annex 1 species: Golden Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Eagle Owl, Hen Harrier, Shag, Peregrine Falcon and Lesser Kestrel.

The project also deals with the implementation of conservation objectives for SPA Kvarnerski otoci, as listed in the Croatian **Regulation on conservation objectives and measures for target bird species in ecological network sites** (Official Gazette 25/20 and 38/20). Conservation objective for SPA Kvarnerski otoci is conserved population and habitats (vertical island cliffs above the sea for breeding and extensive pastures for feeding) for maintenance of the significant breeding population of 110-130 pairs.

The project also implements the **EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030**. The Strategy aims for a coherent network of protected areas and the project deals with one of the 3 key nature protection commitments by 2030 - Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately. The project is focused on the SPA Kvarnerski otoci and implementation of conservation objectives and measures, as well as their monitoring. Also, the Strategy aims for building on an integrated and whole-of-society approach by improving knowledge, education and skills. The project is focused on gathering the best data and developing the best nature-based solutions, as well as education and awareness raising of many targeted stakeholders (school children, hunters, police, shepherds, excursion boat owners etc.).

1.4 Concept and methodology

Concept and methodology

Describe the overall intervention logic of the project, including the main idea and assumptions (i.e. how are the proposed activities and steps of your project expected to lead to the intended changes in terms of outcomes and impacts).

Explain the methodology, i.e. the main tools, techniques, methods and procedures you will use to implement the technical part of your project. Justify why the proposed methodology is the most suitable for achieving the project's objectives.

The Griffon vulture population on Kvarner islands is the last remaining population of this historically widespread species in Croatia. In the beginning of the 20th century its distribution range was continuous throughout the country, from the very eastern borders, through the whole continental part of the country to the southern nesting areas of the wider Konavle area. Merely 50 years ago, they were still breeding regularly along the Dalmatian coast, with colonies in the canyons of rivers Zrmanja, Cetina, Krnjeza, Paklenica and Krka as well as cliffs of Biokovo mountain in the very south. Today their last breeding colonies remain on cliffs of 4 islands in the northern Adriatic (Cres, Krk, Plavnik and Prvić). Reason for this rapid decline of breeding range is a cumulative effect of different threats, mainly **lack of food** due to abandonment of traditional extensive agriculture, **poisoning**, and in more recent times, **nest disturbance** and **electrocution**. Project LIFE SUPport ("Sup" in Croatian means vulture) is conceptualised in a way that each of these most severe threats is covered with their own work package containing specific tasks designed to mitigate the detrimental effect of the respective threat to the last

Griffon vulture population in Croatia. Through dealing with these threats, the project aims to reverse this negative trend and secure Kvarner island as the last sanctuary of Griffon vultures.

Nest disturbance in the Kvarner area is a particularly serious threat because of the specific nesting habits of the local population. Majority of their nests are situated on the cliffs above the sea, so disturbance of nestlings in critical periods usually results in their falling into the sea and drowning. Unfortunately, this critical period when young vultures are fledging (June/July) overlaps with the high tourist season when many boats travel beneath the cliffs daily. Some irresponsible touristic boat owners are also intentionally coming very close to the nests to provide their customers a better view of the birds and it can have a very strong impact on newly fledged birds that are not yet ready to fly. This is especially common on the island of Plavnik, where the nests are positioned low above the sea and in certain years, all nestlings from that colony end up in the sea, where they either drown or end up in the Beli Rescue Centre which is operated by Public Institution Priroda. Through WP2, the project will tackle nest disturbance and nestling mortality by video surveillance of Plavnik colony and forming a volunteer-based vigilance task that will survey the Griffon vulture colonies and both deter irresponsible boat owners and distribute educational materials to tourists about the importance of responsible behaviour near Griffon vulture colonies. Also, through task 2.3. Project aims to increase capacity of Beli centre to take care of rescued nestlings and secure soft release aviary to maximise their chance of successful release in the nature upon recovery as well as observation platform to monitor the release and feeding station use on Cres.

Reason why the last breeding population of Griffon vulture remained on Kvarner island lies in traditional extensive husbandry practices still used on these islands today. Sadly, these practices as well as sheep numbers in general are steadily declining. According to available reports, on the island of Cres the number of sheep in 1576. was 70 000. In 1910. That number dropped to 43 000, in 1961. 23 833, in 1993. 14 176 (Posavi et al, 2002). In 2018. It is estimated that around 11 000 sheep still graze on Cres. Apart from the fact that the number of sheep and other cattle has been greatly reduced in the last centuries, in the last 50 years there has been a significant shift from extensive husbandry to intensive one. This results in lower sheep mortality which was estimated to be around 5% in 2010. as opposed to 10% after World war 2 (Sušić & Radek, 2010). Also, intensive husbandry results in gradual succession of open habitats into maquis as sheep are no longer roaming free and maintaining the grasslands which is reducing the available feeding habitat for Griffon vultures. Additional factor that adds up to reduced food availability for Griffon vultures is the introduction of wild boar on the island of Cres and jackal on island of Krk. These two species also feed on carcasses and thus compete with Griffon vultures for already dwindling food resources. Also, since both wild boar and jackals predate sheep, their presence on these islands further deters local shepherds from traditional extensive husbandry and increases potential of mass poisoning events as collateral effect of human-wildlife conflict. Since land abandonment, especially in island areas, is a complex issue rooted in socio-economic factors that are beyond the scope of any single nature conservation project, this project aims to mitigate this threat by establishing new and upgrading existing supplementary feeding stations for Griffon vulture as a first aid method through Work package 3. Supplementary feeding stations or "Vulture restaurants" are a common and well-established successful practice for increasing food supply for vultures applied in many countries with clear positive results. Having a functional supplementary feeding station is a best fast response method for increasing food supply as the carcasses are laid out in the open and are available to vultures unlike the carcasses in the overgrown maquis that vultures can't reach and end up being eaten by either wild boar or jackals. Also, since supplementary feeding stations are fenced, carcasses placed there are not available to jackals and wild boar.

In 2017, HEP DSO and BIOM performed a baseline study of bird mortality in Natura 2000 areas. As part of this study, predicted habitat use models for select bird species were overlaid with existing Middle voltage infrastructure to produce a "risk map" and categorise areas by priority for carcass searching. The subsequent carcass search found significant mortality of both Griffon vultures and other bird species. In addition to the aforementioned study, regular carcass searches have been performed by BIOM on the island of Cres yearly since 2018, funded by MAVA in the scope of the Adriatic Flyway 4 project coordinated by Euronatur. As a result of these findings, HEP DSO has already retrofitted ~200 high-risk medium voltage poles on the island of Cres to make them bird-safe. Through this project, we seek to expand this beyond the island of Cres and roughly double the number of retrofitted poles, with ~200 new retrofitted poles in the project area. We estimate that the baseline mortality from electrocution for the entire project area is around 2-3 Griffon vultures per year. While the risk to birds from overhead medium voltage power lines can never be exactly zero, through the activities in this project we estimate that Griffon vulture electrocution mortality in the project area will be reduced below detectable levels and cease to be a significant threat to the Kvarner population.

Poisoning is identified as a direct threat for Griffon vultures on Kvarner islands, either by ingesting remains of lead ammunition or poisoned bait. Their social nature and feeding habits make them especially sensitive to this threat, because they search for food and feed in groups and a single poisoned carcass can result in many poisoned vultures. Most recent mass poisoning event of Griffon

vultures in Croatia was in 2004, on the island of Rab when at least 17 vultures were found dead around the sheep carcass which was baited with carbofuran. These events, although rare, can have a devastating effect on vulture population, especially a relatively small one such as this.

However, the scope of the threat is still locally unknown, hence in this project we will investigate the scope of lead intoxication and its effects on wildlife in the area. Hunters are an especially important stakeholder group to tackle lead intoxication and if they do not switch to lead ammunition, Griffon vultures will continue to become potential victims of lead poisoning when eating remains of game animals. We decided to raise awareness of hunters on lead poisoning via handing them lead-free ammunition and organizing hunter to hunter education on the benefits of using such ammunition. This was proven as a good method during previous BIOM projects on the island of Cres. By including shepherds in our project activities, we can potentially prevent large poisoning events. Such poisoning incidents are likely to happen in the future, since jackals have arrived on the island of Krk and are causing damage on livestock ever since. However, with an early warning system implemented through task 4.5, catastrophic effect of mass poisoning can be minimised by a quick response from the project team that will go on the field, cover the poisoned bait and alert the competent authorities. Also, local police officers are currently not trained to investigate and process such cases. Thus, in this project we will raise their capacities and enable them to learn from Spanish authorities, who are considered a best practice example to tackle poisoning of wildlife.

1.5 Upscaling results of other EU funded projects

Upscaling results of other EU funded projects

Explain if and how the proposal builds on or up-scales results of other EU funded projects.

LIFE SUPport aims to reduce the effect of threatening factors that the Griffon vulture breeding population is currently facing in the Kvarner islands, and in doing so to create favourable conditions for the species to gradually expand its distribution range to the mainland of Croatia, to the many sites it used to occupy in the past. Similar to Croatia, vulture populations throughout the Balkan Peninsula, and most of Europe, suffered severe depletion and even regional extinction, which is why the nature conservation organizations have been very active in the field of vulture conservation in the region. This project will endeavour to make use of all deliverables and outputs produced under EU funded projects with complementary actions and objectives, especially those relevant to mitigation of threats that vultures in Croatia are currently facing. For reducing the threat of electrocution, the project team will research the best options and methods (model of insulators, manufacturer, instalment procedures) for isolating dangerous powerlines, already tested under several LIFE projects such as LIFE14 NAT/BG/000649, LIFE16 NAT/BG/000612, LIFE16 NAT/BG/000874.

Combating illegal wildlife poisoning will be conducted according to best practices implemented within BalkanDetox LIFE project (LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016), by adopting the training programme developed under the auspices of the Wildlife Crime Academy (WCA) and implementing it towards law enforcement officials in Croatia. Attendees of the WCA in Spain from Croatia will upon completion of the entire training programme be certified as trainers and will transfer the knowledge gained there to a much greater number of other law enforcement officers and agents from the country, especially from the Kvarner islands, through the conduction of national training courses. These national training courses conducted within LIFE SUPport will ensure that capacity building of the most relevant national stakeholders is carried out in continuity in Croatia on a much larger scale, well after project LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016 ends.

LIFE SUPport project will additionally adopt another best practice model developed in LIFE14 NAT/BG/649 and further implemented under LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016 project, the "Early warning system for wildlife poisoning based on intensive GPS tracking of Griffon vultures". The practice provides for intensive monitoring of GPS tracked Griffon vultures in order to improve detection of potential poisoning incidents in the environment. The tagged birds are monitored on an online monitoring tool developed within LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016 project, which currently monitors the movements of over 40 vultures from the Balkan Peninsula and in cooperation with many stakeholders from the region. Larger number of the vultures tracked allows the coverage of colonies and feeding events over a larger range. This method allows us to discover poisoning incidents, but also to act preventively, based on the behavioural and movement patterns of the tagged birds, and prevent potential poisoning incidents on a larger scale. LIFE SUPport will equip at least 20 Griffon vultures with GPS tags, which will significantly improve the probability of detecting potential poisoning incidents in Croatia and beyond.

The project will also adopt the early warning system app, which is developed within the LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016 project, and will adapt and distribute the app to law enforcement officers and other

relevant stakeholders in the country. The wide distribution of the early warning system app among relevant stakeholders will significantly increase their response time to potential poisoning incidents in the environment, enabling them to react immediately to any problematic situation that might occur according to the data received through the app.

Implementing preventive measures against predation by mammalian predators is one of the key actions contributing to reduction of human-wildlife conflict, which is the most frequent driver behind the illegal use of poison baits in the environment. LIFE SUPport project will build upon the results and experiences from the LIFE16 NAT/BG/000874 with selection and testing methods of the prevention measures and tools that the project will introduce to local livestock breeders.

1.6 Complementarity with other actions

Complementarity with other actions

Explain how the project is complementary to other regional, national or international initiatives/activities/projects. How will it integrate the results from these other actions?

Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) is a global conservation action plan for African and Eurasian vultures, that was approved by the Convention for Migratory Species (CMS) at COP12 in 2017. LIFE SUPport aims to tackle all conservation threats deemed to be of critical priority for the vulture populations in Europe, Central and East Asia - unintentional poisoning (using poison baits), electrocution on energy infrastructure and decline of food availability. All of these threats are present in the Kvarner islands and represent the main obstacles standing in the way of population increase of the local breeding population and its natural dispersion towards former breeding areas on Croatian mainland. The actions proposed under the LIFE SUPport project to tackle the main threats that vultures in Croatia face today are complementary to those proposed in the framework of actions of the Vulture MsAP and are recognized to be of essential priority for implementation.

Croatian Griffon vulture Management Plan (with action plan) is planned to be adopted by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MESD, associated partner) in 2022, which is also written in the Annex submitted by the NPD-MESD to this project application. The project activities are complementary to the draft Management Plan and after its adoption will directly implement the Management Plan and many of its activities.

LIFE SUPport endeavours to adopt and adapt best conservation practices that have already been developed and implemented in other projects and conservation initiatives. The actions of our project directly address one of the most dominant threatening factors that vulture populations are facing today - wildlife poisoning. One of the main obstacles in dealing with wildlife poisoning are low awareness and operational capacities among relevant governmental institutions in Croatia, especially law enforcement institutions, which is why this type of environmental crime often has low priority for them and why wildlife poisoning incidents often remain poorly investigated. LIFE SUPport will adopt the Level 1 (Basic) training programme developed and implemented already under the BalkanDetox LIFE project and implement it in Croatia. This training programme is designed to provide law enforcement institutions with basic knowledge and operational tools related to conducting investigations of wildlife crime, including illegal poisoning, poaching, but also electrocution and collision with power lines. The anti-poisoning actions foreseen within LIFE SUPport project are complementary to the initiatives taken under the Mediterranean Anti-Poisoning Project (Fighting poisoning-reducing vultures (and other scavengers and predators) mortality due to the use of poison baits and lead ammunition across the Mediterranean), which aims to minimise the scale and scope of poisoning in the Balkans.

The project will contribute to intensive monitoring of Griffon vultures from the Balkan Peninsula in order to improve possibilities of detecting potential poisoning incidents and act preventively, a method developed in LIFE14 NAT/BG/649 and further implemented under LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016 project. Griffon vultures from the breeding population of the Kvarner islands will be tagged with GPS transmitters and their movements will be monitored via an online platform (BalkanDetox Control Panel). This online platform enables the users to jointly monitor and examine in real time movement patterns of all vultures tagged within LIFE14 NAT/BG/649, LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016 and many other conservation initiatives from the Balkan region, amounting to over 50 birds.

Apart from the issues of poisoning, core actions of the LIFE SUPport project are focused on reducing the risk of electrocution on energy infrastructure, and food availability on the Kvarner islands, which are recognized as one of main threatening factors for the local vulture populations. The actions of our project are in line with best practices implemented to reduce the risk of soaring birds dying from

electrocution and collision in many LIFE funded projects, such as LIFE14 NAT/IT/000484, LIFE14 NAT/BG/649, LIFE18 NAT/BG/000278, LIFE10 NAT/BG/000152, LIFE16 NAT/BG/000874, LIFE18 NAT/CY/001018, LIFE19 NAT/IT/000732. Additionally, methods and practices used in these projects to establish supplementary feeding programmes and new feeding stations for providing a safe food source for vultures and increasing food availability will be taken into consideration when implementing actions to increase food availability for the Griffon vultures of Kvarner islands.

1.7 Synergies and co-benefits with other LIFE sub-programmes

Synergies and co-benefits with other LIFE sub-programmes

Describe synergies with other LIFE sub-programmes (Nature and Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Quality of Life, Climate Change or Clean Energy Transition). Describe spillover effects (co-benefits) in addition to those targeted by the project. If possible, quantify the contribution.

Identify the activities/tasks that address these policy objectives of other LIFE sub-programmes.

Climate Change and Clean Energy Transition: The green energy transition, while it is a crucial step towards mitigating the looming global threat of climate change, poses significant challenges at the national level when it comes to assessing and mitigating the local biodiversity impacts of new infrastructure such as wind farms, solar farms and power lines. Future energy generation projects will inevitably require an expanded and more robust energy transmission and distribution network, which will in turn need built in safeguards for biodiversity. Through this project, in addition to specifically addressing the issue of bird electrocution on medium voltage infrastructure in the project area, we will work with energy companies on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, to ensure that they consider biodiversity conservation in their work in the future.

Circular Economy and Quality of Life: One of the main objectives of the LIFE SUPport project is to reduce the mortality of Griffon vultures in Croatia induced by the use of lead ammunition and illegal use of poison baits in the environment. Poison baits in Croatia are most commonly prepared with Carbofuran, a pesticide which has been banned for use in agriculture in the EU due to its high toxicity and damaging effects it has on human health. The use of poison baits is a nonselective method of extirpating animals and it represents a public hazard, as unaware citizens may easily come in contact with poisoned animals both in urban and natural environments. The tasks foreseen within our project are in line with the policy objectives of the Circular Economy and Quality of Life sub-programme as they directly focus on preventing and reducing the impact that these hazardous substances have on the environment and human health. Additionally, by working on prevention and deterrence of using illegal highly toxic compounds in the environment, and the use of lead ammunition for hunting in the Kvarner islands the project will significantly contribute to eliminating and preventing the adverse effects of soil pollution.

Another essential activity of the LIFE SUPport project is to significantly reduce the mortality of juvenile Griffon vultures caused by nest disturbance from tourist boats. As the Griffon vultures of Kvarner islands nest on cliffs in coastal waters they represent a significant attraction and there are dozens of tour boat operators that take tourists to see the breeding vulture colonies. The peak of the tourist season coincides with the fledging period of Griffon vultures, and apart from the disturbance that often causes the newly fledged birds to abruptly abandon the nests and drown in the sea such large amount of people that visit these sites also results in significant pressure on the marine environment, primarily through littering.

1.8 Synergies and co-benefits with other EU policy areas

Synergies and co-benefits with other EU policy areas

Describe the synergies and positive spillover effects (co-benefits) with other EU policy areas (for example agriculture, health, civil protection, jobs and growth, etc.). If possible, quantify the contribution.

Identify the activities/tasks that address these other EU policy objectives.

Common Agriculture Policy: LIFE SUPport project endeavours to maintain and promote traditional animal husbandry practices and local livestock breeds, which have been present in the Kvarner region for centuries. These traditional extensive farming and agro-grazing practices support biodiversity and the maintenance of landscapes. Traditional grazing practices that are still to a large extent implemented in this region have a beneficial effect on the foraging success of Griffon vultures. They inhibit the overgrowing of karst grasslands and fields and thus have a beneficial effect on food availability and

foraging success of Griffon vultures, making it easier for them to locate natural occurring feeding opportunities in the environment. Additionally, this type of environmentally sustainable farming enables the local livestock breeders to produce food whilst simultaneously protecting nature and safeguarding biodiversity, which is one of the priorities and focus areas of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU. As these traditional, environmentally friendly animal husbandry practices, as well as sheep populations are in decline in the Kvarner region, there is less available food for the vultures, both for naturally occurring feeding events and existing supplementary feeding stations. This project will endeavour to investigate in detail the current changes in habitat and animal husbandry practices on the Kvarner Islands, including motivations and drivers for shepherds to continue or abandon shepherding and conflicts with wildlife in order to propose and promote optimal solutions for increasing natural food availability for the Griffon vultures and maintaining this environmentally friendly way of farming.

Public and animal health policy: In the EU, Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 of the Council of 29 April 2004 on persistent organic pollutants and amending Directive 79/117/EEC aims to better protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants by prohibiting, phasing out as soon as possible, or restricting the production, placing on the market and use of substances subject to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, some of which are active compounds of substances frequently used for poison baits and intentional poisoning of wildlife.

The LIFE SUPport project will propose to integrate the project results on the use of toxic compounds in Croatia into the REACH policy. The Project team will consult REACH policy revision and seek consultations on how to propose suggestions and amendments to REACH Regulation for the 5-year obligatory review to monitor progress in the achievement of its objectives, following the review conducted in 2017.

In addition, the project directly deals with the EU sanitary regulation 1069/2009 and 142/2011. This Regulation lays down implementing measures for the public and animal health rules for animal by-products and derived products. Detailed provisions concern the disposal and use of animal by-products and derived products. Project is improving the operations of the feeding station on Cres and setting up a new feeding station on Krk, for which a permit for new feeding station on Krk and extending the permit for feeding station to be broadened and include food from a larger area in Croatia will be necessary. The permits are to be issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. Also, the project will organize an international conference on the EU sanitary regulation to which also relevant national authorities will be invited. As a follow-up to the workshop as part of WP3, the project will produce policy recommendations, including arguments for the revision of the current national legislation in favour of supplementary feeding of vultures outside feeding stations. The project partners, including the NPD-MESD, will advocate towards the Ministry of Agriculture for the new regulation to grant Kvarner Islands exception from the national sanitary regulation, in accordance with EU sanitary regulation 1069/2009 and 142/2011. We expect to contribute to the improvement of the national policy related to conservation of Griffon vultures – both conservation and veterinary regulations.

Reducing lead in the environment is related to public health policy as well. The European Chemical Agency (ECHA) has assessed the health and environmental risks posed by the use of lead projectiles for hunting and outdoor sports shooting as well as lead used in fishing sinkers and lures. The ECHA is in the process of bringing forward a proposal for further EU-wide restrictions on the use of lead in ammunition for hunting and outdoor sports shooting as well as in fishing. The proposal aims to address the risks of lead in these activities to protect people, wildlife and the environment. The Agency concluded that an EU-wide restriction would be justified. ECHA's proposal to further restrict the use of lead follows an earlier one covering lead in gunshot for hunting and sports shooting in or around wetlands. The European Commission adopted this restriction under the REACH Regulation on 25/01/2021. It will apply in all EU countries from 15 February 2023. The project will contribute to reducing lead in the environment by securing lead-free ammunition to local hunters, who have provided the letter of support for the project. The results of the project will be shared with the EC in order to provide relevant data on the experience of using lead-free ammunition on Kvarner Islands.

2. IMPACT

2.1 Ambition of the impacts

Ambition of the impacts

Identify and quantify the effects of the project (during the implementation and up to 5 years after its end).

Be specific and provide only information about impacts that are a result of your project. The impact of other projects should not be taken into account.

Wherever possible, use quantified indicators and targets.

Note: *In addition to the description above, include quantified indicators in Part C of the application forms (both horizontal KPIs for the LIFE programme as well as any specific KPIs relevant to the proposal).*

Lead poisoning and carcass poisoning:

Local hunters are equipped with lead-free ammunition and the wider hunting society is aware of lead poisoning and its impact on the environment. Awareness will be measured by questionnaires and their satisfaction with the use of such ammunition, as well as information if they plan to continue to use it after the project period. We estimate that by handing out 6000 lead-free bullets in the course of the project, there will be at least 18 kg of lead less in the environment.

Shepherds are aware of best preventive measures to protect livestock from potential predators and will assess their effectiveness. These preventive measures will potentially deter shepherds to use illegal poisoned bait for predator control and thus lowering the possibility of Griffon vultures becoming collateral victims of such incidents. During the course of the project, we will monitor the number of sheep killed by jackals before and after setting up preventive measures. In 2021, jackals killed a total of 2000 lambs and 300 sheep on the island of Krk. By testing implementation of best-preventive measures, such as shepherd dogs and different kinds of fences, as well as a deeper collaboration with local hunters, the number of sheep killed by jackals should decrease during the project implementation. We will also monitor the spill-over effect of information to other shepherds (mediated PZO Krk as partner) and check if other shepherds adapted new measures outside our project.

Police officers from Kvarner are aware and educated about processing cases regarding wildlife poisoned from lead and poisoned bait. We will monitor the number of poisoning cases detected and processed during the project, with anticipation that the number of police reports will increase. If such cases are correctly investigated on sight, i.e. by police officers on the field, there is a higher possibility that the case is processed in the whole enforcement chain and results in a conviction of the perpetrator. Hence, we will also monitor court cases regarding poisoning.

By sharing results and activities of the project, the general public will also become more aware concerning poisoning incidents. We will communicate with them how to report findings of dead animals and poisoning cases. Thus, we anticipate that the number of dead vultures/ birds/ animals reported by local people is elevated at the end of the project, in comparison to its start.

Colony disturbance:

Griffon vulture colonies are closely monitored, both by implementation of video surveillance on the island of Plavnik and increased presence of project staff and volunteers during the most sensitive period. Increased presence of project staff and active engagement with local stakeholders responsible for nest disturbance, namely excursion boat operations but also individual tourists and scuba divers visiting waters around colonies will result in change of their behaviour for the benefit of Griffon vultures. Also, capacity of Beli rescue and recovery center responsible for rescuing and rehabilitating fallen vultures will be raised by construction of a soft release aviary and observation platform that will result in better conditions for vulture rehabilitation. These activities will result in overall decrease of juvenile mortality and expected decrease in the percentage of young nestlings that fall in the sea each year from 25% which is the current estimation to 15% by the end of the project. Also, through working with the boat excursion operators in the field as well as other stakeholders, the project aims to reach at least 10.000 people and raise their awareness on how to behave around Griffon vulture colonies.

Electrocution:

Bird conservation has been mainstreamed among companies and employees working on the medium voltage network. Preparations of internal HEP DSO document how to design power lines in Natura 2000 sites. BIOM has worked together with HEP DSO on mitigating bird electrocution on the island of Cres since 2017. In the first year of carcass searching 10 Griffon vultures were found, indicating a serious problem of 'killer poles'. We estimate that currently 2-3 new Griffon vulture electrocution events happen every year -- this number is particularly alarming given the species' long life and generation periods as well as Croatia's small total population. Through the activities in this project we aim to reduce this number to zero in the project area. During LIFE SUPport the aim is to double the number of mitigated 'killer poles' and include electrocution hotspots on other Kvarner Islands and mountain Učka in this process.

Food availability:

Increase food availability from 15 tons to at least 40 tons, which is a rough estimate for the current need of the Kvarner population. Establishing supplementary feeding is first aid, because we cannot reverse

this trend of decreasing extensive shepherding (source of natural food) in the duration of the project. By working with shepherds and preparing a ground for pasture restoration possibilities our project will create a road map to reverse the decline. Project is a big investment in local capacity of PZO Krk and their support to local shepherds and conserving the extensive shepherding practises.

Cumulative effect of aforementioned impacts will result in increased number of breeding pairs and higher breeding success. Number of breeding pairs is expected to rise to 140 by 5 years beyond project end and breeding success is expected to be 80%.

2.2 Credibility of the impacts

Credibility of the impacts

Show the steps of your calculations and base yourself on the activities mentioned in your work plan.

Justify and substantiate the baselines, benchmarks and assumptions you used, making reference to relevant publications, studies or statistics.

Try to use the same methodologies for calculating impacts (avoid using different methodologies for each partner, region or country).

Calculations are based on the data coming from the Expert Background Study for the Griffon vulture Management Plan (with action plan), produced by BIOM in 2019 and other relevant references.

Monitoring

Lucić, V., Kapelj, S., Andevski, J., Budinski, I., Modrić, M., Vuleta, E. (2019) Griffon vultures research results 2018 & 2019. Association BIOM, p. 46.

Lucić V. and Koce U. (2020) Report on implemented monitoring. Association BIOM and DOPPS, p. 33.

Disturbance

Disturbance of breeding birds occurs continuously near the cliffs where Griffon vultures breed in Croatia. Excursion and diving boats put lots of pressure on most of the known colonies, and with the encouragement of "experience tourism" this pressure could be even more pronounced. Boats usually stop under the cliffs, to give tourists the opportunity to photograph the cliffs and Griffon vultures. Some boat owners act irresponsibly and approach the cliffs at only 10 meters, do not control the behaviour of tourists, and even make noise that forces juvenile vultures to take off from the nest. Juvenile vultures are not ready for flight and often this results in young falling into the sea and drowning. Also because of this disturbance, parents start to avoid nests and do not feed their young, and in the early stages of incubation, they leave the nest and leave the eggs or chicks unprotected. Therefore, it is urgent to ensure the implementation of measures from the Corrigendum to the ordinance on conservation objectives and conservation measures for target bird species in ecological network areas (NN 38/2020) (30.3.2020.) which prescribes that anchoring and navigation of all types of vessels it is not allowed at a distance of less than 80 m from coastal breeding, feeding and resting sites of vultures. The Beli Vulture Centre and Visitor Recovery Centre alleviate the consequences of the disturbance of Griffon vultures in breeding colonies. The Beli Centre can receive around 10 birds per year. After the rescue, the vultures are transported to the Centre Beli where they remain in care for as long as necessary, usually until the spring of next year. After recovery, the vultures are released. Another form of disturbance that could become a problem in the future is climbing tourism. This problem has been identified in several countries, but in Croatia for now is not significant. However, in the future, if vultures re-inhabit Učka or Paklenica, where they used to breed, this should be considered and ensure mitigation measures.

Relevant references:

Harel, R., Horvitz, N. and Nathan, R. (2016) „Adult vultures outperform juveniles in challenging thermal soaring conditions“, *Scientific Reports*. Nature Publishing Group, 6(27865). doi: 10.1038/srep27865.

Schenk, H. (1977) „Status and conservation of Birds of Prey in Sardinia. With a special note on the impact of man on a Griffon vulture population“, u *Proc. Int. Conf. Birds of*.

Sušić, G. (2013a) „Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)“, u Tutiš, V. i et.al.(ur.) *Red data book of birds in Croatia*. 2. ed. Zagreb: Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, State Institute for Nature Protection, p. 145–146.

Sušić, G. and Radek, V. (2010) *Action plan for the protection of the last population of Griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) in Croatia*

Food availability

The reduction in the total number of livestock in extensive farming on the islands, and in the rest of Croatia, together with the reduction of natural mortality of livestock, has resulted in a significant reduction in available food for Griffon vultures. There has been a change in the management of domestic animals and improved livestock health, thus reducing mortality. After the 2nd World War, the natural annual mortality of sheep on Cres was 10%, while today it has been reduced to 5%. This also reduced the amount of food available for scavengers, especially vultures. By a simple calculation of the trophic potential, it can be determined that the amount of available food derived from sheep in the Kvarner islands is not sufficient even for the current population of Griffon vultures. Therefore, feeding stations have significant importance for maintaining a stable population of Griffon vultures in Croatia.

Relevant references:

Modrić, M. and Vuleta, E. (2018) *Expert explanation of the justification of business with animal by-products for the purpose of feeding the Kvarner population of Griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) by the Public Institution "Priroda" Rijeka*

Sušić, G. (2013a) „Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)“, u Tutiš, V. i et.al.(ur.) *Red data book of birds in Croatia*. 2. ed. Zagreb: Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, State Institute for Nature Protection, p. 145–146.

Sušić, G. (2015a) *Expert study for the establishment of a feeding ground for Griffon vultures in the Učka Nature Park - I. part*.

Sušić, G. (2015b) *Expert study for the establishment of feeding grounds for Griffon vultures in the Učka Nature Park - II. part*. Senj.

Sušić, G. and Radek, V. (2010) *Action plan for the protection of the last population of Griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) in Croatia*

Lucić V. (2020) Feeding station monitoring plan. Association BIOM, p. 13.

Lucić V. (2020) Volunteer monitoring program for feeding station monitoring. Association BIOM and DOPPS, p. 22.

Poisoning

For the conservation of Griffon vultures in Croatia, two types of poisoning are relevant: unintentional poisoning of Griffon vultures through illegal poisoned baits intended for predator control and lead poisoning through exposure to the remains of hunting ammunition (saturnism). Cases of poisoning of vultures in Croatia with pesticides and rodenticides from the group of carbamates and organophosphates (carbofuran, methomyl, deltamethrin) and also organochlorine hydrocarbon residues such as DDT and its isomers were recorded.

Poisoning by poisoned baits

Griffon vultures are collateral victims of attempts to poison other animal species, most often predators, with illegal poisoned baits. Poisons used are usually insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, herbicides, or agents for controlling snails. The illegal use of poisonous baits to exterminate species that come into conflict with humans due to damage on crops and livestock is a common practice in many rural parts of Europe and Croatia. Some cases of such poisoning have decimated the vulture population in Croatia. In 2004, sheep carcasses were poisoned with carbofuran on the island of Rab resulting in at least 17

vultures being killed. Poisoning also destroyed the last population of the Griffon vultures on Paklenica, which eventually disappeared through several cases of poisoning in the 1990s.

Lead poisoning (Saturnism)

Lead poisoning is a well-known cause of death of vultures. Among the vultures that arrived at the Beli Centre in 2018, 2 first-year Griffon vultures with elevated blood lead levels were recorded. Also, in 2019, one vulture death was recorded where the most probable cause was lead poisoning. Lead poisoning in Kvarner is a particularly pronounced threat. Due to a lack of food in the area, the vultures exploit every source of food including carcasses and remains of game, which can often contain lead residues. Therefore, it is necessary to work with hunters to use unleaded ammunition, which has long been available on European markets and it is necessary to encourage its use in Croatia. BIOM has already worked with hunters on Cres island regarding non-lead ammunition in 2019 by providing them with non-lead ammunition. The hunters reported that they were satisfied with the power and performance of the ammunition. Thus, this project will also be a continuation of work with this stakeholder group, but broadening it to the islands of Krk and Rab.

Additionally, at an EU level, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) assessed all the uses of lead - sport shooting, fishing activities and hunting upon request of the European Commission. ECHA concluded that there are risks from these uses to wildlife, livestock, the environment and human health that are not adequately controlled and which need to be addressed at EU level. Thus, among else, ECHA proposed a ban on the use of lead in hunting, with an adequate transition period. Our work with hunters on Kvarner will ease their transition to non-lead ammunition, if its use becomes obligatory.

Relevant references:

Association BIOM (2020) Kvarner Unleaded project final report, p.3.

Association BIOM (2020) Poison – Better Not Touch final report, p.3.

Botha, A. J. et al. (2017) Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures. CMS Raptors MOU Technical Publication, (5), pp. 164. Available at: https://www.cms.int/raptors/sites/default/files/publication/vulture-msap_e.pdf.

Čurić, S. et al. (2008) „Handel mit Carbofuran – Gefahr für die gefährdete Population der Gänsegeier (*Gyps fulvus*) in Kroatien“, Tierärztliche Umschau, 68(8), pp. 437–441. Available at: <https://www.bib.irb.hr/364849>.

European Chemical Agency (2021). echa.europa.eu/. Accessed on 22nd November 2021.

Lukač, G. (1999) „Extinction is obvious or why the only terrestrial breeding place of Griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus* Hablizl 1783) in Croatia has disappeared “. Starigrad-Paklenica.

Međugorac, B. et.al. (2001) „The content of heavy metals and chlorinated hydrocarbons in the tissues of the Griffon vulture “, in XXVIII. Expert meeting of the Section for Health Ecology of the Croatian Pharmaceutical Society of the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Institute of Public Health "Challenges in Ecology": book of abstracts, pp. 199–200. Available at: <https://www.bib.irb.hr/108439>.

Pantović, U. and Andevski, J. (2018) Review of the problem of poison use and vulture poisoning in the Balkan Peninsula.

Sabočanec, R. et.al. (2005) „Fatal poisoning of a Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) with methomyl“, European Journal of Wildlife Research, 51(3), pp. 210–212. doi: 10.1007/s10344-005-0099-7.

Sušić, G. (2013a) „Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)“, u Tutiš, V. i et.al.(ur.) *Red data book of birds in Croatia*. 2. ed. Zagreb: Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, State Institute for Nature Protection, p. 145–146.

Tišljar, M. et.al. (2019) Pathomorphological Investigation and the Causes of Deaths in 2018 – 2019 as a Step in Protection and Conservation of Griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) population in Croatia.

Zorbaš A. (2021) Analysis of the use of lead-free ammunition on the island of Cres. Master thesis, University of Karlovac, p.42.

Electrocution

Electrocution on medium-voltage power infrastructure is an important risk factor that affects many bird species. In 2017, 2018, and 2019, several medium-voltage power lines were investigated on Cres, and the deaths of Griffon vultures, and other species of birds (including eagle owls and tawny owls), were

confirmed. In that period, at least 20 electrocution cases were recorded on the island of Cres. Prior to that, in 2007 and 2008, 7 Griffon vulture electrocution cases were recorded on the island of Cres. It is therefore extremely important to work on identifying and retrofitting critical hotspots on the medium-voltage network to make them safe for Griffon vultures. Solving the problem of electrocution is an obligation according to the Corrigendum to the ordinance on conservation objectives and conservation measures for target bird species in ecological network areas (NN 38/2020) (30.3.2020.) which prescribes that it is necessary to plan and build the electricity infrastructure to prevent electrocution of birds on medium voltage (MV) lines and that technical measures for preventing further bird mortality need to be implemented on sections of existing lines where monitoring confirms increased risk of electrocution.

Relevant references:

Association BIOM (2020) Guidelines on Impact Assessment of Power Lines on Birds, p. 18.

Korša, M. (2019) Bird mortality by electrocution on the island of Cres. University of Zagreb.

Sušić, G. (2013a) „Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)“, u Tutiš, V. i et al. (ur.) Red data book of birds in Croatia. 2. ed. Zagreb: Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, State Institute for Nature Protection, p. 145–146.

Sušić, G. and Radek, V. (2010) Action plan for the protection of the last population of Griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) in Croatia.

Zec, M., Katanović, I. and Čulig, P. (2017) Identification of the most critical parts of the MV network for bird deaths within the Natura 2000 area in order to implement measures to protect birds from electrocution - Final Report.

2.3 Sustainability of project results

Sustainability of project results

Describe your strategy to sustain the project's results after the EU funding ends. Consider the following aspects:

- *How will the project impact be ensured and sustained? Which tasks will you carry out during the project to ensure that?*
- *Which parts of the project should be continued or maintained? How will this be achieved and which resources will be necessary?*

LIFE SUPport aims at ensuring sustainability of project results by providing means for the successful management of Griffon vultures in the SPA Kvarnerski otoci.

In order to secure sustainability of Griffon vulture management, LIFE SUPport will use the following approaches:

- mitigation of relevant threats to Griffon vultures - food availability, poisoning, electrocution and nest disturbance
- working with targeted stakeholders - shepherds, hunters, police, etc.
- work at the policy level by reviewing and developing Griffon vulture strategic documents and improving implementation of EU sanitary regulation

Mitigation of threats and working with stakeholders

Camera system on the Plavnik colony to better understand interaction between boats and birds on nests, to determine peak periods to adjust future work to be more present during critical periods will be installed during the project. Their operations should continue after the project and JUP will secure covering of maintenance costs in their annual budget. Awareness raising among boat operators should be continued to keep colonies safe in future. This will be done via JUP boat surveillance and/or continuation of volunteer vigilance network implemented as part of the project.

Small infrastructure constructed as part of the project will stay in the project area. Local organisations (JUP, Beli Rescue Centre and PZO Krk) will be in charge of their maintenance, securing the budget for it in their operational plans.

Improving the legislative procedure in the functioning of existing feeding stations will ensure a sufficient amount of food for the existing Griffon vulture population and enable its growth. At the same time, this can contribute to the establishment of new feeding stations and their functionality. The inclusion of PZO Krk in the establishment of feeding stations is a completely new practice in Croatia, since so far they

have been managed only by public institutions from the nature protection sector. Such an example could serve as an example to similar entities, and thus the network of feeding stations would continue to expand. It is also expected that shepherds will be more willing to cooperate with PZO Krk since it is an entity with which they cooperate in other fields in their business or are its members. As PZO Krk will procure a vehicle for transporting carrion, it will ensure the long-term sustainability of this feeding station.

Opening additional areas from which carcasses can be provided (e.g. from Lika-Senj County) will remain effective after the project ends as well, which should provide additional security for having enough food to be delivered to the feeding station in Cres and possible future feeding stations.

Given the sensitivity of the area, continuous monitoring of bird electrocution is necessary, both to ensure the functioning of existing mitigation measures and to continue to identify possible new electrocution hotspots which can arise due to changes in habitat structure or new feeding stations. HEP DSO has a continuing commitment to keep their infrastructure bird-safe. Installed mitigation measures will be maintained/replaced in the future.

PZO Krk, as a local cooperative for farmers, will keep supporting local shepherds with best practice preventive measures. The fences and shepherd dogs will continue to be in use in the area even after the project ends. PZO Krk will also continue to facilitate collaboration with hunting associations on Krk island, also to the benefit of shepherds (dealing with jackals, boars).

In order to prevent lead poisoning incidents in the area, hunters should continue to use non-lead ammunition. During the course of the project they will test and assess non-lead ammunition, as well as become aware of the negative impact of lead on the environment and human health. Also, there will potentially be a total ban in the EU on the use of lead in hunting in the near future. Hunters participating in this project will be better prepared once the ban will be in force.

JUP (managers of Natura 2000 sites in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County) are important for sustainability. Throughout the project they will become more connected to local stakeholders to tackle the threats and more equipped (infrastructure, staff capacity) for dealing with threats related to Griffons. JUP will position themselves as a focal point for reporting injured and dead wildlife, among the local community.

Policy work

As for the policy work, the project will work on the strategic documents, namely evaluation and revision of the Griffon vulture Management Plan and development of Guidelines for Management plan for SPA Kvarner Islands. These strategic documents will be developed using a participatory approach, which will in turn secure ownership of the documents by relevant stakeholders. The most important stakeholder is the JUP - project partner. The project will raise JUP' capacities for management, as well as improve many aspects of Griffon vulture management. Having these Griffon vulture strategic documents prepared will set a basis for future successful management of Griffon vultures by the JUP and relevant stakeholders.

International workshop on EU sanitary regulation will be implemented within LIFE SUPport, which in turn will result in improving the implementation of EU sanitary regulation and better coordination between two relevant national authorities - the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MESD) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) on issues related to conservation of Griffon vultures.

Development of the After-LIFE conservation plan will in more detail discuss appropriate sustainability options.

2.4 Exploitation of project results

Exploitation of project results

Do you foresee other ways of exploiting the project's results (e.g. utilisation in further research, in developing / creating / marketing a product or process, in creating / providing a service, in standardisation activities etc.)? Who are the targeted users?

Note: Don't forget to include the activities in the mandatory Work Package for Sustainability, replication, and exploitation of project results.

LIFE SUPport project results could be used in future research of Griffon vultures.

The Griffon vulture population of Croatia is unique in Europe because the vast majority of the breeding population nests above the sea. It is also the last population of Griffon vultures which connects the populations in the Alps with those in the Balkan peninsula. Movement data and analyses of birds from

this unique population will therefore greatly improve the general understanding of Griffon vulture movement patterns and behaviour and could be used in further research of Griffon vultures.

Early warning system could also be further used by other projects dealing with Griffon vultures.

Shepherding is declining, also thanks to the negative effects of jackals on Krk and wild boars on all Kvarner Islands. LIFE SUPport will create an enabling environment and support shepherds to continue being shepherds, as the issue of jackals will start to be dealt with. Results of the best practice preventive measures, if successful, could be used to standardise these activities.

2.5 Catalytic potential: Replication and upscaling

Catalytic potential: Replication and upscaling

Describe the potential for the results to be replicated in the same or other sectors or places. Which factors might favour or limit the replication?

Describe the potential for the results to be up-scaled by public/private actors or through mobilising larger investments or financial resources. What is the coverage and size of the market? Who are the potential users of the results?

Describe the strategy and tasks to multiply the impact of the project (during implementation or afterwards). How will its main actions and results be replicated elsewhere?

Note: Don't forget to include the activities in the mandatory Work Package for Sustainability, replication, and exploitation of project results.

LIFE SUPport aims at ensuring replication and exploitation of project results by enabling conditions for the successful management of Griffon vultures in the SPA Kvarnerski otoci and finding opportunities for future projects on Griffon vultures that would focus on the broader scale.

In order to secure replicability and upscaling of Griffon vulture management, LIFE SUPport will use the following approaches:

- providing relevant data to target stakeholders and project beneficiaries on best practices and options for replication and upscaling
- sharing of experiences and best practices with local, regional and international stakeholders
- networking with other (LIFE) projects

The establishment of a feeding station not managed by public bodies will potentially encourage other entities (Rewilding Velebit Foundation) with a similar interest to establish new feeding stations in Croatia and in neighbouring countries like Slovenia (DOPPS - BirdLife Slovenia).

Promoting practices related to pasture restoration will certainly improve their conservation and contribute to their spread to other parts of Croatia. Pastures in the karst area are disappearing, and appropriate practices for their restoration have not yet been developed at the state level. They support a significant degree of biodiversity both in the Kvarner islands and in the rest of the coastal part of Croatia.

The report that will be created during this project and which connects potential areas for pasture restoration and provides insight into the background of the abandonment of extensive sheep breeding will serve as a basis for future restoration programs in the subject area. This is important because Griffon vultures are entirely dependent on people and without proper management they would not survive.

Bird electrocution mitigation is straightforward to upscale and apply to other areas as information and funds are available. The relative risk from different kinds of power infrastructure (e.g. pole material, console configuration) will be analysed and made available to facilitate identification of high-risk infrastructure in other areas.

Since jackals will most likely continue to spread, important lessons learned in the Kvarner area regarding the use of preventive measures for livestock predation, can be used on other sites in Croatia and other surrounding countries with similar conflicts (limiting factor is presence of wolves in many other areas).

Other BirdLife partners in the area can use knowledge gained through the lead-free ammunition experiment in the Kvarner and replicate it in their own countries. Hunters who participated in the activities can influence other hunters to change their practices and use lead-free ammunition. This will be especially important if a total ban on the use of lead goes into force in the EU (money for equipment might be a limiting factor or availability of lead-free ammunition).

Other police county stations can also receive the training developed on tackling poisoning under this project. The police training can also be modified for neighbouring countries and can be used by other

BirdLife partners in their work with law enforcement officers. Limiting factors for holding such training may be funds for organization.

An early-warning system for poisoning events can be shared with regional partners (Slovenia, Italy, Serbia) and help in fast response in case of poisoning events.

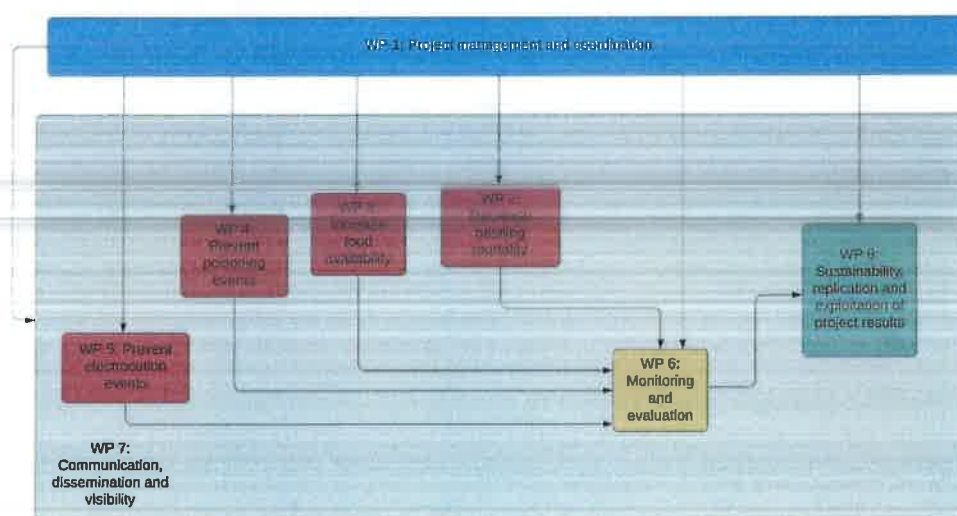
Development of the After-LIFE conservation plan will further discuss appropriate replication and upscaling opportunities.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Work plan

Work plan

Provide a brief description of the overall structure of the work plan (list of work packages or graphical presentation (Pert chart or similar)).



3.2 Stakeholder input and engagement

Stakeholder input

Identify any key stakeholders outside the consortium that are required to ensure the success of the project. How will you mobilise them to contribute to your project activities or participate in these?

Annex Letters of support to demonstrate the type and level of commitment already secured (if any).

If your project (or a part of it) depends on support of the competent authority or stakeholders, provide letters of support to show their commitment to the project

Support letters from all relevant stakeholders attached.

Food availability:

In order to ensure the implementation of all project activities related to the establishment and functioning of feeding stations, the involvement of the Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture is crucial. This body is already involved in the legislative procedure related to the establishment and operation of feeding stations and during the project plans to continue to be involved in all activities for which it is responsible, including through participation in meetings and similar activities, as well as taking part in the Project Steering Committee (PSC). Agroproteinka, a company that currently performs this activity,

will also attend the meetings related to the food supply of the existing feeding stations. Public Institution Nature Park Učka is also expected to participate in them, because it manages a feeding station outside the project area where birds from the Kvarner islands feed.

Since the planned feeding station will be positioned in the municipality of Baška or the municipality of Punat, their representatives who support the establishment of the feeding station in the area of their municipalities and thus the preservation of the Griffon vulture on the island of Krk will be involved in the whole process of site selection.

Poisoning:

For the duration of the project, it is planned to strengthen the existing ties of individual project beneficiaries with shepherds, since their activities are extremely important for the long-term survival of the Griffon vulture in Kvarner. Through this project, overlapping interests are being promoted with the aim of achieving a common goal - the preservation of pastures. This is secured by having PZO Krk as a partner, and by having local stakeholder meetings.

Shepherds of Krk (and Cres) are also needed for testing of best preventive measures as alternatives to carcass poisoning. The project will provide shepherd dogs and fences for protecting sheep from jackals. PZO Krk is already encompassing shepherds in their day to day work. To ensure a real commitment from this stakeholder group, PZO Krk will do all cooperation with shepherds locally in person, on the island of Krk (via visits and/or meetings).

Hunters from Cres, Krk and Rab will be provided with free non-lead ammunition. Hunters will be directly contacted through their hunting associations by BIOM on Rab and Cres, with whom we have already cooperated in scope of previous projects. First communication with hunters from Krk will be through PZO Krk and later also directly by BIOM. Personal contact is desirable and all events will be live (not online), since hunters are a specific group that is very social and this should be used for better future cooperation on the project. Three events will be organized during the course of the project for direct cooperation with hunters. The results of the cooperation with hunters from the Kvarner islands will be presented at a one-day final conference, on which hunters from across the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County will be invited. Apart from hunters from Kvarner islands that were involved in testing non-lead ammunition, we plan to invite national experts on the topic (most likely from the University of Karlovac), as well as a foreign hunter, who has experience in using lead ammunition. The results of the work with hunters will also be published in a selected hunting magazine to reach a wider hunting population. We have acquired support letters from two hunting societies on Cres, one from Krk, one from Rab and from the University of Karlovac, which has a specialised hunting study programme. We also have a support letter from Association "Pramenka" from Cres island, whose members encompass shepherds, who are also hunters.

Police in the Kvarner area will be contacted through the main county police department of Primorje-Gorski Kotar. The Primorje-Gorski Kotar Police Department organizes, coordinates, directs and supervises the work of all police stations in the aforementioned county. Since police officers from the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County are key stakeholders in tackling illegal killing of Griffon vultures, through the project we will provide them with the opportunity of free capacity building on tackling wildlife crime. We will also include experienced law enforcement personnel from Spain in the training to share their experience with Croatian law enforcement.

Electrocution:

Education on the threats arising from bird electrocution will be organised for stakeholders, including:

- Companies that build and maintain the power lines (external contractors that are typically contracted by HEP DSO), to increase the number of reports of bird electrocution coming from power company employees;
- Public Institution employees, including rangers, to increase the number of reports from rangers and increase pressure from protected area management authorities to promptly respond to reports.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

3.5 Impact monitoring and reporting

Impact monitoring, evaluation and reporting strategy

Describe your overall approach to monitor and evaluate the impact indicators during your project. Ensure that you include specific tasks to monitor, evaluate and report impacts in the work plan (section 2 of this template).

Impact indicators have been defined in the respective work packages and KPIs. The overall approach used to monitor and evaluate the impact indicators includes both impacts of conservation actions and impacts of awareness raising actions.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of impacts of conservation actions includes Monitoring of Griffon vultures breeding success and movements (6.1) and Monitoring of effects of conservation actions (including ecosystem services) (6.2). Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of impacts of awareness raising actions includes Monitoring of stakeholder awareness (including socio-economic and public attitudes surveys) (6.3), semi-structured interviews with shepherds (3.4), short evaluation questionnaires for hunters (4.4), police (4.3) and school children (6.3).

Monitoring will include data collection through the above-mentioned tasks. Evaluation of the impacts will be done by experts (of project beneficiaries or external) after data collection. Reporting will be ensured via drafting reports relevant for each of the above-mentioned tasks.

These tasks will feed relevant data for the KPIs.

Tasks to monitor, evaluate and report impacts are detailed in the WP6 on Monitoring and evaluation.

3.6 Communication, dissemination and visibility

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding

Define your target audience(s). Describe the planned communication and dissemination activities to promote the action and its results and maximize the impact (to whom, which format, how many copies, etc.). Clarify how your intent to reach each target audience, and explain the choice of the dissemination channels. Describe the methods and indicators (quantitative and qualitative) to monitor and evaluate the outreach and coverage of the communication and dissemination activities and results.

Describe how the visibility of EU funding will be ensured.

LIFE SUPport project has a WP dedicated to communication (WP7). Here we present relevant target audiences and communication and dissemination activities for each WP.

WP2 – excursion boat operators, tourists, fishermen

Increased awareness among boat owners (fishermen, excursion boats, tourists) about best practices for good behaviour near Griffon vulture colonies will be achieved through volunteer-based vigilance task that will survey the Griffon vulture colonies in summer period that is critical in young Griffon vulture development as they are fledging but are still incapable to fly. They will both deter irresponsible boat owners from venturing too close to colonies and distribute educational materials to tourists about the importance of responsible behaviour near Griffon vulture colonies. There are 22 known excursion boat operators that work in the project area and we expect to reach all of them. We expect to reach 10.000 people (boat owners, tourists, fishermen) and raise their awareness by the end of the project. Volunteers will spend 3 seasons actively surveilling colony and nest disturbance by boat operators in the Kvarner area (fishermen, tourists, excursion boats, etc.) and making them aware of best practises of good behaviour around cliffs with GV breeding colonies. In addition to the volunteers a more frequent presence of rangers from JUP will be ensured at sea, in order to sanction intentional disturbance of Griffon vultures and raise awareness among excursion boat operators and their tourists, boat owners/ nautical tourists and fishermen to behave responsibly near the colonies.

During the tours, leaflets (10.000 copies) and appropriate information developed through task 2.5, on how to behave in the vicinity of colonies, to whom and how to provide timely information on the vulture in distress, will be distributed to excursion boat operators, tourists present on their boats, but also individual tourists, scuba divers and fishermen etc.

WP3 – shepherds

Setting up of the new feeding station on the island of Krk will be promoted even before its construction, in order to ensure adequate supply of dead animals to the feeding station. The promotion will be done through leaflets, but also through participation in various gatherings of shepherds. The opening ceremony

of the feeding station is planned as a central event for its promotion and connection with the local community and their production. As shepherds are crucial for the successful functioning of the future feeding station, through communication with them, it will be possible to provide feedback and alignment with their possible needs and suggestions. We plan to engage with 95 shepherds - either directly or via awareness raising.

WP4 – hunters, shepherds, police

Hunters (150 in the islands of Cres, Krk and Rab) will be contacted through their hunting societies. Our work with hunters will take part in the form of workshops and meetings (in live). The results of our work with hunters will be disseminated to other hunters from the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County through a final workshop event. We expect to reach at least 490 local hunters via our awareness raising activities. They will be contacted through the county's hunting association. Hunters on a national level will become aware of our joint activities through an article in a hunting magazine (circulation of 15.000 copies). We will also develop a report encompassing our work with hunters, which will be publicly available.

Shepherds will be contacted by PZO Krk. To ensure a real commitment from this stakeholder group, PZO Krk will do all cooperation with shepherds locally in person, on the island of Krk. Shepherds will be contacted via cooperative and one-by-one (those that will implement best preventive measures). The report on testing best preventive measures will be shared with other relevant institutions that work with livestock breeders, especially focusing on areas with human-wildlife conflict. Our work with shepherds will be disseminated to the general public through articles and social media.

The police officers will be contacted through the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County police department, which coordinates the work of all police stations in the county. We plan to train approximately 20 police officers from Kvarner Islands. Our work with them will be shared with the general public through partner web pages and social media.

WP5 – energy sector stakeholders (HEP DSO county distribution areas and their subcontractors)

Three seminars will be held for county-level HEP DSO distribution area employees and county protected area (PA) management institutions. 20 people are planned to attend each seminar (60 attendees total).

County-level distribution area employees of HEP DSO will be reached through internal communication procedures. Representatives of subcontractors will be contacted by HEP DSO. County PA management institutions will be contacted by BIOM. LIFE visibility will be displayed clearly at all seminars.

WP7 – general public, school children

WP7 deals with project communication, awareness raising and dissemination. This is the main package that will ensure communication and dissemination of all project activities and results. Addressing specific target groups related to threats facing Griffon vultures will be done through communication, awareness raising and dissemination activities described for each work package. Therefore, WP7 deals with the general public and school children.

The following communication and promotional materials will be developed - project leaflet, project poster for ferries, project banner for vehicles, project stickers for (reasonably sized) equipment, project page on partners' websites, project promotional materials.

At the beginning of the project a communication plan will be developed by all partners, led by BIOM in order to plan and coordinate communication and promotion activities.

The majority of materials will be produced online, but one project leaflet will be produced and printed (minimum in English and Croatian, minimum 1.000 copies in each language) in order to be used at project events and while attending different national and international events. Project posters will be put on ferries connecting Kvarner Islands to the mainland (7 lines, 2 ships each), as the approach was successful in LIFE Artina. Project beneficiaries will develop a dedicated LIFE SUPport project page and use it to promote project activities and results. Project beneficiaries will also use their own social media channels to promote the project. In 2020 the number of impressions among the Croatian public was 773.000, and it is expected that the project can reach up to 3.900.000 impressions just among Croatians. We expect further impressions thanks to the engagement of the VCF which has numerous international audiences. Promotional videos will be produced (short animation videos and films). Promotional material will be produced and distributed to key stakeholders, such as t-shirts (100), mugs (100), mouth masks (100), stickers (1000), etc. They will be disseminated at relevant project events. Project fleece will be produced for project beneficiaries in order to promote project and LIFE Program (ca 30 pieces).

Project events will be organized in order to promote project activities and results, such as kick-off events, International Vulture Awareness Day, vulture releases with media coverage, Final Conference etc.

School children represent an important target audience of the project. Educational materials will be developed for the school visits, but also for general awareness raising events. Educational program will

be implemented by BIOM in 12 schools during the project period, engaging a total of 360 children. Local schools from the islands of Cres, Krk, Rab and Lošinj, as well as several of those from the Kvarner area (e.g. Rijeka, Opatija, Lovran) will be included.

Monitoring of the outreach and coverage of the communication and dissemination activities and results will be secured by following web page and social media statistics of all project beneficiaries, by using Mediatoolkit - online monitoring and analysis of mentions and reach. Monitoring will also be ensured by having participant lists on each project event and assessment of attendees for each public event. KPIs also include communication. Evaluation will be done on an annual basis, as per revision of the communication plan.

More details on general communication and dissemination activities can be found in the WP7.

WP8 – regional stakeholders (Nature Park Učka, Rewilding Europe, DOPPS, Karlovac University of Applied Sciences), other LIFE projects, relevant stakeholders for the Griffon vulture Management Plan (PA management authorities, scientists, NGOs, tourism sector, hunters, shepherds...)

WP8 deals with sustainability and replication of project results, so there will be different opportunities to promote project activities and results. Sharing experiences and best practices with other regional stakeholders will be an opportunity to promote the project and project results and encourage replication. As part of networking with other (LIFE) projects and BirdLife Nature Task Force, project activities and results will be shared and experience exchanged in detail, with a prospect of joint future initiatives. Development of the After-LIFE conservation plan will be another opportunity to promote and discuss project results and to plan for integration of project results into relevant policies, regulations and management practices.

Most activities of the WP8 will include key stakeholders relevant for sustainability and replicability of project results. Therefore, their engagement will be monitored through their attendance to project activities, the level of their engagement during these activities (e.g. in the regional stakeholder meetings, development of strategic documents, and development of the After-LIFE plan). Ultimately, their engagement will be visible by following future conservation activities for Griffon vultures that will be implemented in Croatia and the region.

LIFE and Natura 2000 visibility (flags, roll-ups, logos) will be put on all deliverables and materials and visibility will be ensured during all events. Project beneficiaries have experience with LIFE and Natura 2000 visibility and will also use available opportunities to promote LIFE Program, such as presentations on LIFE Info Days, Conservation Service Meetings, etc.

4. RESOURCES

4.1 Consortium set-up

Consortium cooperation and division of roles (if applicable)

Describe the consortium composition. How will all the partners together bring the necessary expertise?

In what way does each of the participants contribute to the project? Show that each has a valid role and adequate resources to fulfil that role.

Fill out the Participant information (annex) with more details on the participants and their project teams (key staff).

The consortium composition consists of a balanced team of beneficiaries with international, national and regional experience needed for the successful implementation of LIFE SUPport.

Association BIOM is the BirdLife partner in Croatia and is the leading organisation in Croatia for wildlife research and conservation. It is well connected with relevant stakeholders in the sector of nature conservation, has experience as coordinating beneficiary in two other LIFE projects and will be the leading partner for LIFE SUPport. BIOM has been working on Griffon vultures in collaboration with JUP for a number of years (monitoring, tagging, tracking...) and was in charge of the development of the Expert Background Study for Griffon vultures Management Plan. BIOM will take care of overall project management and synergy, lead or assist in each of the project work packages, lead communication about the project and make sure activities are carried out on time.

Vulture Conservation Foundation is an international foundation committed to the conservation of Eurasian and African Vultures. Over the years they have been involved and leading many LIFE projects

related to vultures on a European wide scale. VCF will contribute to LIFE SUPport by sharing their expertise with regard to dealing with threats for vultures; by facilitating collaboration and exchange of experiences with other organizations working with vultures across the Mediterranean; by upscaling important project results to other regions in Europe (and vice versa) and by spreading the most important project outcomes to an international audience.

Javna ustanova Priroda is responsible for management of all Natura 2000 sites in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County of Croatia. Both SPA Kvarnerski otoci and (most of) SPA Učka i Čičarija are part of this county. JUP has been running the Beli Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre for Griffon vultures on the island of Cres since 2014. Part of their operations include the yearly monitoring of Griffon vulture colonies (together with BIOM), the rescuing and rehabilitation of drowning Griffon nestlings, and running the feeding station of Strganac on Cres. During the LIFE SUPport they will improve the operations and staff capacity of the Beli Rescue Centre, advise PZO Krk on how to run a feeding station, and mitigate the threat of nest disturbance.

Poljoprivredna zadruga Otok Krk is an agricultural cooperative that works with local farmers and shepherds on the island of Krk. They have experience with other EU-funded projects, such as Interreg, and strive to help their members in advancing and raising their production and in branding and placement of their local produce. With this close contact to shepherds, but also to local municipalities and local hunting organizations, PZO Krk will have an important role in engaging them in several activities of the project, particularly to reduce the use of poison and lead, and by making sheep carcasses available to Griffon vultures. PZO Krk will be in charge of the feeding station which will be constructed during LIFE SUPport.

HEP Distribution System Operator Ltd. is responsible for safe supply of electricity to customers in Croatia and it is also responsible for the maintenance and operation of the distribution network. HEP DSO is committed to reduce its negative impacts on biodiversity and environment and has done some implementation of anti-electrocution measures on medium voltage overhead power lines in all its distribution areas. Furthermore, HEP DSO is currently a project beneficiary of the LIFE Danube Free Sky (LIFE19 NAT/SK/001023). HEP DSO will be in charge of WP 5 which deals with mitigating the most important hotspots for electrocution risk in the SPAs Kvarnerski otoci and Učka i Čičarija.

The Nature Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (NPD-MESD) is a national authority responsible for the conservation of species and habitats, designation of SPAs and supervising the work of public institutions that manage Natura 2000. They are responsible for national policy on nature conservation and drafting relevant laws and regulations. The NPD-MESD is also responsible for the adoption and implementation of the Management Plan for Griffon vultures (with action plan), the key document relevant for the LIFE SUPport project, as the project will be implementing different parts of the Management Plan. The NPD-MESD has also adopted the conservation objectives and measures for Griffon vultures in SPAs Kvarnerski otoci and Učka i Čičarija and the LIFE SUPport project will be implementing most of the prescribed conservation measures. The NPD-MESD is responsible for the authorization of derogations from the measures of strict protection for birds in accordance with the Birds Directive, as well as for authorization of research and other activities in protected areas. The NPD-MESD will be an associated partner to BIOM. The NPD-MESD will co-lead the WP 8 on sustainability and replication and will lead the task 8.3 Reviewing Griffon vulture strategic documents. They will work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture related to veterinary policies that enable Griffon vulture conservation. The NPD-MESD will participate in the international workshop on EU sanitary regulation and in the Project Steering Committee. They will contribute to networking, dissemination of project results and drafting of the After-LIFE plan.

4.2 Project management

Project management, quality assurance and monitoring of progress

Describe the management structures and decision-making mechanisms within the consortium. Explain how decisions will be taken and how regular and effective communication will be ensured.

Describe the measures and methods planned to ensure good quality, monitoring, planning and control of project implementation.

BIOM will coordinate the overall project implementation, conduct monitoring of project progress and reporting.

Project will be managed in close coordination among the consortium members. At the very beginning of the project all partners will sign the consortium agreement defining mutual roles, obligations and communication. Project internal coordination will be ensured through the **Project Management Board (PMB)** that will include key project staff from all five project beneficiaries plus the associate partner. PMB will be coordinated by BIOM, it will be in charge of overall activities planning, ensuring good communications flows, monitoring and evaluating project progress, anticipating risks and solving potential problems, as well as planning cooperation with key stakeholders. PMB will hold regular meetings, minimum every three months. Once a year PMB will meet in person in order to contribute to the team building and ownership towards the project. All other meetings of the PMF will be online to save the carbon footprint.

Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established in order to ensure good communication and support of national level key stakeholders. It will include representatives of two competent ministries - Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (also associated partner) and Ministry of Agriculture, BIOM, JUP, PZO Krk and HEP DSO. The PSC will be chaired by the Project Manager, it will meet once a year in person, and if necessary organize additional online meetings. The PSC will be updated by the project beneficiaries on the project progress, discuss potential problems and solutions, provide key input for the project After-LIFE Plan and sustainability of project results. It will be directly involved in the discussion on improving national policy related to conservation of Griffon vultures – both conservation and veterinary regulations. It will provide a review of most relevant reports, and support in their dissemination.

BIOM will set up the **internal project planning and reporting system**, which will include quarterly reporting and planning (both technical and financial) in order to secure regular reporting and possible adjustments of plans. This will also provide opportunities to promptly react to any challenges in project implementation and will enable adaptive management, in coordination with the Project Monitor and Project Advisor. BIOM will also provide an appropriate **platform for communication and storing relevant project materials and documents** (such as Slack, Basecamp, Dropbox, NextCloud, Flickr...). The details will be agreed among all partners at the beginning of the project.

BIOM will be in charge of conducting an **external audit for the project** to verify the project compliance with the accounting standards and certify that all project expenses are in line with the LIFE Grant Agreement. Auditors will also check the project funding resources, ensuring that there is no double funding by other EU funding. In addition, external auditors conduct regular annual audit reviews of BIOM.

4.3 Green management

Green management

Describe the measures proposed to reduce the environmental impact of your project, for example through the use of green procurement, environmental management systems, etc.

During the course of the project we will have in mind the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, European Green Deal, Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for the Republic of Croatia, Croatian Law for Promotion of green vehicles (official gazette NN 52/21), Low-carbon development strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030 with a view to 2050 (official gazette NN 63/2021) and Decision for Green procurement in central public procurement procedures (official gazette NN 49/2021). We will use the MESD portal on green procurement (<https://zelenanabava.hr/>) as a reference. By having a strategic approach to green management, as described below, we will promote sustainable development and usage of low greenhouse gases. We will be implementing measures in the protection of biodiversity, which will help the natural food chain.

During the **procurement of equipment and materials** necessary for the implementation of the project we will choose the least environmentally damaging goods: used equipment will meet the latest Energy Star standards for energy performance, such as Computers free of lead, mercury, PVC and halogenated flame retardants. They will also comply with the RoHS Directive 2002/95/EC (Restriction of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment).

As the site locations are mostly islands and remote locations, we will not be able to access by using different **transportations** other than a car. However, whenever possible, we will use public transportation (buses) to reach project locations, e.g. when engaging volunteers. We will use the car as sustainably as possible - sharing the car with other organisations, not only within BIOM. The Kvarner Islands are not connected to the railways, and some islands can only be accessed with a boat or a ferry. Additionally, the transport of some construction equipment, or transport instance dead animals will not be possible using public transport. Therefore, we will purchase a project vehicle with a low carbon

emission (e.g. LPG or hybrid car), and with a long usage rate. The specialized vehicle for transport of dead animals will be purchased abiding the regulatory requirements for such vehicles.

While producing the **promotional and educational materials** we will use recycled or recyclable materials. We will get promotional apparel made from eco-friendly recycled materials with no micro plastics. Promotional and educational flyers and posters will be used scarcely and most of the promotions for the project will be made digitally - using social media and our website.

Printing or photocopying documents will be avoided unless hard copy will be absolutely necessary; recycled papers or from sustainably managed forests (FSC certificate) and vegetable inks will be used for office operations. Multifunction printers will be used rather than separate machines for different functions for printing, copying, scanning, faxing. Printers will foresee duplexing (i.e. print on both sides of a piece of paper) and energy-saving features.

During the project implementation we will aim to **limit the number of in-person meetings** and organize online meetings instead. For example, in-person meetings of the Project Management Board will be kept to a minimum (once per year) and will coincide with other project meetings, or the monitor visit in order to lower the carbon footprint. When, however, we do have in-person meetings or educational events we will supply the participants with **locally grown food**. The food will be mainly plant based and the meat will mostly be coming from local farmers which have an important role in our project. By doing that we will promote the local community of farmers that do not use pesticides or use them scarcely and it will minimise our reliability on importing red meat in Croatia. While getting **accommodations** we will seek out more sustainable options, and hotels or bigger apartments will be booked only if there is no available accommodation. For the Final Conference we will seek to find a hotel that has a sustainability certificate.

Finally, our actions of preventing the use of lead ammunition will help prevent lead from being circulated in the food chain and being distributed in waters. This action will help the biodiversity of the area. Also, by preventing the use of poisoned baits will help reduce chemicals in our ecosystems and food chains. These actions will create a toxic-free environment and prevent pollution from being generated as well as help to clean and remedy the waters and soil.

4.4 Budget

Estimated budget — Resources

See detailed budget table (annex 1 to Part B).

5. OTHER

5.1 Ethics

Ethics

Not applicable


5.2 Security

Security

Not applicable

6. DECLARATIONS

Higher funding rate	YES/NO
Do you fulfil the conditions set out in the Call document for a higher funding rate (75% or 67%)? If YES, explain and provide details.	NO

Double funding	
Information concerning other EU grants for this project  Please note that there is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions).	YES/NO
We confirm that to our best knowledge neither the project as a whole nor any parts of it have benefitted from any other EU grant (including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, e.g. Erasmus, EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, European Investment Bank, etc.). If NO, explain and provide details.	YES
We confirm that to our best knowledge neither the project as a whole nor any parts of it are (nor will be) submitted for any other EU grant (including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, e.g. Erasmus, EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, European Investment Bank, etc.). If NO, explain and provide details.	YES

Financial support to third parties (if applicable)
If in your project the maximum amount per third party will be more than the threshold amount set in the Call document, justify and explain why the higher amount is necessary in order to fulfil your project's objectives.
Not applicable

ANNEXES

LIST OF ANNEXES

Standard

Participant information
Maps
Description of sites
Description of species and habitats
Letters of support

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

PROJECT

Project name and acronym:

Securing a future for Griffon Vultures in Croatia — LIFE SUPport

PARTICIPANT 1 *(use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).*

Legal name (short name):

Association BIOM (Biom)

DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT

Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.

Biom was established in 2006 and since then it became one of the most relevant NGOs in nature conservation in Croatia. Its vision is to harmonize human development with nature protection and to maintain a high level of biodiversity in Croatia by applying EU standards. Today Biom has more than 300 members, 36 fulltime employees and 5 to 10 local and international volunteers, in two offices (Zagreb and Sinj). Since its beginnings Biom has implemented more than 150 nature conservation projects, which included surveys, monitoring and mapping of wildlife, in cooperation with relevant authorities, management institutions of protected area and with stakeholders.

Biom is well connected with relevant stakeholders in the sector of nature conservation and is the leading organisation in Croatia for wildlife research and conservation, implementing concrete conservation measures on the ground. At international level Biom is a member of the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) and it is the Croatian partner of BirdLife International, the world's largest network of wildlife conservation NGOs.

Biom is currently leading two EU LIFE projects: LIFE Artina (LIFE17/NAT/HR/000594) & Dinara back to LIFE (LIFE18/NAT/HR/000847). It is also a partner in LIFE Lynx (LIFE16/NAT/SI/000634), LIFE Against Bird Crime (LIFE17/GIE/NL/000599) and BalkanDetox LIFE (LIFE19/GIE/NL/001016).

KEY STAFF

Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.

Andreas Engelen, male, project manager, MSc Biodiversity and Conservation Ecology

Andreas is a conservation biologist and ornithologist and has been working for Association Biom as fieldwork coordinator for the LIFE Artina (LIFE17/NAT/HR/000594) and Adriatic Seabird Guardians projects since 2019. Prior to that he worked for three years for a commercial company (Rifcon GmbH) as principal investigator for several environmental impact assessment studies related to agricultural wildlife. He has experience in delegating teamwork, talking with stakeholders and project reporting.

Sanja Bogdanić, female, project administrator, high school degree (Administration)

Sanja has been working as financial project administrator for the last 8 years and has experience with both EU funded projects and projects from other programmes. She is currently leading or supporting the administration of 5 LIFE projects in which BIOM is involved.

Goran Šikić, male, project communicator, MSc Journalism

Goran has been head of communications at Biom since 2020. He is responsible for media outreach, communication with concerned citizens and stakeholders, as well as for the improvement of overall visibility of associations' activities in nature restoration and conservation. Before joining Biom Goran was working as a journalist and editor for more than 20 years.

Sven Kapelj, male, programme manager bird team, MSc Biology

Sven is programme manager of the Bird conservation programme in Biom and experienced in conservation work and bird monitoring. He is one of the co-authors of the background document for the national management plan for Griffon Vulture. By contributing to this document, he acquired considerable understanding about the species and its threats, as well as the different stakeholders relevant for Griffon Vulture conservation in Croatia. Sven has been cooperating with JU Priroda on the subject of Griffon vultures specifically since 2016, including work such as

assisting the colony monitoring, determining breeding success, helping with quality control for the educational materials for the visitor centre, etc. He also introduced them to GPS tagging of rescued and rehabilitated juvenile vultures.

Dubravko Dender, male, programme manager bird team, MSc Biology

Dubravko is programme manager of the bird conservation programme in Biom. During his career he got his working experience at the public and non-governmental sector. Through his work in the state administration body, he gained various experiences necessary for cooperation with representatives of other sectors and various stakeholders whose interests overlap with the goals in nature protection. Such skills are crucial for projects like this, since it deals with the conservation of a species that today is largely dependent on humans, and is threatened primarily by activities of other sectors. Dubravko has also been coordinating and participating in various projects related to bird monitoring.

Ivana Šarić, female, programme manager safe flyways team, MSc Experimental Biology

Ivana is the Safe Flyways programme manager in Association Biom. This programme encompasses Biom's projects that focus on tackling illegal killing of birds, poisoning, bycatch, electrocution and collision. She is currently managing the Life Against Bird Crime project (LIFE17 GIE/NL/000599), on which Association Biom is a partner. She also has vast experience in facilitating and moderating workshops with various stakeholders. In 2018 she served as a trainer for police officers in Croatia, regarding tackling illegal killing of birds. Ivana is also one of the co-authors of the National action plan for the conservation of the Griffon Vulture in Croatia

Iva Šostarić, female, programme manager education team, MSc Molecular Biology

Iva has over 5 years of experience organising educational trainings, workshops and lectures for both children and adults, designing educational materials and programmes implemented in both indoor and outdoor setting. During the same period she has also been involved in the organizations of volunteer camps, international long-term volunteering projects, citizen science actions and the coordination of local volunteers. During the last 2 years she has been managing the wider strategic programme for education, volunteers and members within Biom.

Mate Zec, male, programme manager IT, MSc Biology

Mate has been working for Biom since 2014 and is currently programme manager in for IT and data analysis. He is experienced in GIS, movement analyses, ecological modelling. Through the projects Mediterranean Flyway Phase II (BirdLife Small Grant, funded by MAVA) and Adriatic Flyway 4 (Euronatur, funded by MAVA) he has been involved a lot in carcass searching and engaging with energy companies for the purpose of bird conservation.

Nera Fabijanić, female, conservation officer, MSc Agriculture

Nera is working within the Safe Flyways and Mammals programme in Association Biom. She is currently project manager for BalkanDETOX LIFE (LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016) and LIFE Lynx (LIFE16 NAT/SI/000634) on which Association Biom is a partner. She has experience in organizing workshops with various stakeholders. During the last 4 years Nera has also been a lecturer at the Karlovac University of Applied Sciences in the Department of wildlife management and nature protection.

Petra Čulig, female, conservation officer, MSc Experimental Biology

Petra has 5 years of working experience, mostly in nature conservation. She has done bird monitoring and surveys in protected areas, education of adults and coordination of volunteer actions. She has experience in organising workshops, coordinating projects, editing publications and is a licensed drone pilot. Petra has a bird ringing licence with additional education in tagging vultures with telemetry devices.

Josip Turkalj, male, conservation officer, MSc Ecology and Nature Protection

Josip is an ornithologist and has been involved several projects regarding bird ringing, monitoring and conservation of birds. He has a bird ringing licence and participated in several ringing camps during which he was also involved in various educational activities. Josip participated in Griffon Vulture ringing and releasing and has assisted in the colony monitoring during several years.

Nikolina Petrac, female, volunteering officer, MSc Education of Croatian language and literature and MSc of Czech language and literature

Nikolina has more than 5 years of experience in coordinating volunteers and even more experience volunteering herself. For two years she worked in Amnesty International Czech Republic with volunteers with fewer opportunities and coordinated Erasmus+ interns. She developed not only an in-depth understanding of volunteer needs and the challenges they face, but also of the process of setting up the learning objectives and reflection on acquired competences. In Biom she has already coordinated 3 ESC projects, one currently ongoing, and is also responsible for Biom's volunteering programmes in general.

PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES

List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.

- Authoring the background document for the National Griffon Vulture Management Plan
- In collaboration with JU Priroda, Biom took part in Griffon Vulture colony monitoring and was responsible for tagging and ringing rescued and rehabilitated birds.
- Kvarner Unleaded
- Interreg LIKE
- BalkanDetox LIFE (LIFE19/GIE/NL/001016)

AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.

The Nature Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (NPD-MESD) will be associated partner to BIOM Association.

The NPD-MESD is a national authority responsible for the conservation of species and habitats, designation of SPAs and supervising the work of public institutions that manage Natura 2000. They are responsible for national policy on nature conservation and drafting relevant laws and regulations. The MESD is also responsible for the adoption and implementation of the Management Plan for Griffon Vultures (with action plan), the key document relevant for the LIFE SUPport project, as project will be implementing different parts of the Management Plan. The MESD has also adopted the conservation objectives and measures for Griffon Vultures at SPA Kvarnerski otoci and Učka and Čičarija and LIFE SUPport project will be implementing most of the prescribed conservation measures. The MESD is responsible for the authorisation of derogations from the measures of strict protection for birds in accordance with the Birds Directive, as well as for authorisation of research and other activities in protected areas.

The MESD will actively contribute to the review of the Management Plan implementation 5 years after its adoption, which will be implemented as part of the project. They will also contribute to the development of the Guidelines for Management Plan for SPA Kvarnerski otoci.

The NPD of the MESD will also participate to the international workshop on best practice experience regarding the implementation of the EU sanitary regulations 1069/2009 and 142/2011 and will cooperate with the Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture related to veterinary policies that enable Griffon Vulture conservation.

The activities foreseen by this project can be permitted in accordance with the Nature Protection Act for the purpose of species conservation and research, so the MESD will issue relevant permits for planned activities and will assist the project beneficiaries to obtain necessary permit from other authorities (namely from the Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture).

A representative from the MESD will take part in the Project Management Board and in the Steering Committee of the LIFE SUPport project. The MESD will contribute to dissemination of project results and networking, especially through participation at project events and relevant meetings. The MESD will contribute to the sustainability and replicability of the project results.

PARTICIPANT 2 (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).

Legal name (short name):

Vulture Conservation Foundation (VCF)

DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT

Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.

The VCF is an international foundation committed to the conservation of European vultures. The VCF has extensive experience in captive breeding, reintroduction, restocking and conservation of vultures in their natural habitats. The VCF is the lead organisation in all aspects of the conservation of vultures in Europe. In particular, the VCF coordinates the highly successful reintroduction of the Bearded Vulture in the Alps, including the coordination of monitoring at an alpine scale, thus working with a wide range of partners, and is also reintroducing

this species in Andalusia, Corsica, Grands Causses (France) & Maestrazgo (Spain). The VCF also coordinates the captive breeding network for this species.

The VCF has also been contributing to the reintroduction of the Griffon Vultures to Bulgaria, Cinereous Vultures to France and Bulgaria and to the restocking of Griffon Vultures in Sardinia and Cyprus, mostly by translocation of birds from rehabilitation centres in Spain. VCF is also actively engaged in Egyptian Vulture conservation – notably through many LIFE projects.

The VCF has also co-led the production of the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan – the global blueprint for conservation of Old-World vultures, that has been endorsed by the CMS, and has led the development of the latest international species action plans for the Cinereous and the Bearded Vulture, that have also been adopted by the EU in 2018. The VCF gathers the latest data, produces best-practice and know-how on vulture conservation in Europe.

Finally, the VCF is at the forefront of actions to minimize threats to vultures, namely illegal poisoning – including leading a broad anti-poisoning LIFE project in the Balkans.

KEY STAFF

Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.

José Tavares, male, director, PhD

José Pedro Tavares, a Portuguese national, is a biologist with a life-long vocation and action in the field of nature conservation, with 20+ years of experience in developing and managing LIFE projects. After doing his university in Lisbon, he went on to the UK to do a PhD on ornithology. He then worked for the Portuguese Government National Park Service, and spent 12 years at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the biggest nature conservation organization in Europe. At the VCF since February 2013, José is working towards turning the VCF into a sustainable, effective, leading organization securing the protection of vultures and their habitats. This work involves not only on-the-ground conservation projects and activities on vultures, but also, crucially, organizational development and management. José has co-managed several LIFE projects in multiple countries and will secure here overall project management, budget control, partnership and stakeholder building and problem-solving.

Jovan Andevski, male, Vultures Programmes Manager, BSc

Jovan Andevski started to work on vulture conservation in North Macedonia (2003) for the Macedonian Ecological Society. In 2007 started to work for the Black Vulture Conservation Foundation as coordinator of the Balkan Vulture Action Plan until 2011, when continue to work on vulture conservation for the Frankfurt Zoological Society. Since 2013 he is working for the Vulture Conservation Foundation, currently as Programmes Manager. In his 18 years of working experience has been involved in many vulture conservation projects across Europe: Cinereous Vulture conservation in Mallorca, Bulgaria and France; and in the Griffon Vulture reintroduction project in Bulgaria, Sardinia and Cyprus. He was also involved in the preparation of the Multi-species Action Plan to conserve African-Eurasian Vultures (Vulture MsAP) appointed as European Coordinator, and also an author of the Cinereous Vulture Flyway Action Plan and the EU SAP for the Cinereous Vultures.

Uros Pantovic, male, BalkanDetox LIFE project coordinator, MSc

Ornithologist by profession with a strong background in managing conservation projects. Uros is dedicated to improving the situation with vultures and wildlife poisoning in the Balkan region, namely through the BalkanDetox LIFE project which he coordinates. He is also experienced in developing project proposals, including LIFE applications.

Franziska Loercher, female, scientific and conservation coordinator, MSc

Population Biologist by training and is working with vultures since 2010. Beside experience with the release of young Bearded Vultures, Franziska was involved in several LIFE mainly on monitoring and research actions. Her expertise is in databases, GPS tagging and analysis as well as the genetic monitoring. She also has experience in leading LIFE applications.

Julien terraube, male, research officer, PhD

Julien is a population ecologist and conservation scientist with a particular interest in understanding the effects of global environmental change on top avian predators and scavengers. His expertise is in ecological data management and statistical analyses, habitat suitability analyses and raptor demography. He is currently the research officer at the VCF and has experience in the management and implementation of several LIFE projects.

Eleni Karatzia, female, communication officer, BA

Communications professional with a strong background in content marketing, digital campaigns, and event organisation, having worked in various countries in Europe and on different projects. As the Communication

Officer, for LIFE-funded projects, she is actively supporting the communication actions and outputs when the VCF is an associated beneficiary and is also coordinating the communication activities for the BalkanDetox LIFE project, where the VCF is the leading beneficiary.

Alice Gama, female, financial manager and administrative assistant, BSc

Responsible for project development, proposal submission and project management tasks since 2007, including LIFE projects, among other funding programmes. On the LIFE programme, she is financial manager on several projects developed by the VCF, both on the associated beneficiary side, but currently also on the coordinating beneficiary side, within LIFE BalkanDetox.

Consuelo Benedetti, female, financial assistance, MA

Financial Manager and Financial Assistant in several EU funded project funded under LIFE Programme (both as associated and coordinating side), Horizon2020, Interreg territorial cooperation, since 2012. Within the VCF, she is currently involved as financial assistant in BalkanDETTOX Life and SaveforVultures LIFE projects.

PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES

List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.

- BalkanDetox LIFE (LIFE19/GIE/NL/001016)
- Development of Multi-species Action Plan to conserve African and Eurasian Vultures 2016-2017
- LIFE Under Griffon Wigs - Implementation of best practises to rescue Griffon Vultures in Sardinia (LIFE14/NAT/IT/000484)
- LIFE RE-Vultures - Conservation of Black and Griffon Vultures in the cross-border Rhodopes Mountains (LIFE14/NAT/NL/000901)
- vultures Return in Bulgaria (LIFE08/NAT/BG/278)

AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.

Not applicable

PARTICIPANT 3 (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).

Legal name (short name):

Javna Ustanova Priroda (JUP)

DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT

Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.

The Priroda Public Institution manages the NATURA 2000 area and protected areas where Griffon Vultures nest, runs the Visitor and the Griffon Vulture Recovery Centre in Beli on the island of Cres, as well as the vulture feeding site in a separate location. Participates actively in monitoring of the population and raising awareness among the general public about the need to preserve the last population of Griffon Vultures in Croatia. Considering the stated competence and the implementation of measures, within the project it has a key role in the implementation of activities that further improve and create quality conditions for further protection.

KEY STAFF

Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.

Irena Jurić, female, Director of the Institution, BSc Marine Traffic

Project managing for many EU project, leading Institution, human resources management.

Marko Modić, male, head ranger, BSc Forestry

Conducting activities regarding Griffon Vulture protection.

Petra Stijelja, female, consultant on project management, BSc Biology

Conducting activities regarding coordinating project activities.

Elvis Vuleta, male, ranger – consultant, BSc Forestry

Participates in activities regarding Griffon Vulture protection.

Tomislav Anić, male, research assistant, BSc Communication

Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator in Recovery Centre.

PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES

List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.

- Founding and managing of Recovery Centre in Beli on the island of Cres
- Founding and managing feeding site for griffon vultures
- Conducting monitoring of Griffon Vultures colonies
- EU projects of raising awareness and restauration of wet habitats (Mediterranean ponds) - LOKNA / Interreg SLO-HR
- EU projects of raising awareness about large carnivores as part of 1) Interreg SLO – HR Sožitje; and 2) Structural funds - Large Carnivores Visitor Center

AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.

Not applicable

PARTICIPANT 4 (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).

Legal name (short name):

Poljoprivredna zadruga Otok Krk - PZO Krk

DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT

Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.

Agricultural cooperative Island of Krk gathers twenty farmers from the Krk island (Croatia) and provides services for the farmers of the whole island. Most of agricultural practices in Krk revolve around traditional extensive sheep and cattle grazing, viticulture, and olive cultivation.

Apart from economic empowerment of producers from the island through shared marketing and distribution platform, the cooperative is also engaged in circular economy practices with agricultural by-products (transformation of sheep wool, olive cuttings and pomace in organic products), protection of Natura 2000 sites via the promotion of high nature value farming practices (HNVf), and advocacy work aiming to improve the use of abandoned agricultural fields, and protect the traditional farming practices from the threat of allochthon wild animals.

KEY STAFF

Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.

Karla Škorjanc, female, executive manager, MSc Sustainable Agriculture and BSc Political Science

Karla has experience in research concerning sustainable farming practices and forced migration, volunteer management, journalism, and mentoring students. She is currently in charge of communicating with farmers from

Krk island, providing consultation services concerning EU funds, writing projects, marketing, and organizing events. Apart from working in the cooperative, she was also working on a HORIZON2020 project AE4EU as one of the coordinators, and is developing a new certification scheme for European farms for the Agroecology Europe association. She has been executive manager of the Agricultural cooperative Island of Krk since April 2022.

PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES

List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.

- mediation between shepherds, hunters' associations, forestry agency, and local, regional, and national governments on the topic of allochthons wild animals
- developing effective subsidy mechanisms and other public programmes for the respective municipalities present in the island
- modernizing of the public tender for the loan of national agricultural land in cooperation with the city of Krk

AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.

Not applicable

PARTICIPANT 5 (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).

Legal name (short name):

HEP-Distribution system operator ltd. (HEP DSO)

DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT

Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.

HEP-Distribution system operator ltd. (HEP DSO) is responsible for safe supply of electricity to customers in Croatia. HEP ODS is a subsidiary company in complete ownership of HEP d.d. which is wholly owned by the state. The company conducts the distribution of electricity taken from the transmission network and it is also responsible for the maintenance and operation of the distribution network in Croatia. The company consists of 21 distribution areas throughout the territory of Croatia with 2.444,542 grid users. With that in mind we are the only company in Croatia capable of and responsible for mitigation and prevention of bird electrocution.

KEY STAFF

Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.

Marta Malenica Čepelak, female, Environment protection coordinator, Master of ecology and nature protection

7 years of work experience in headquarter of HEP DSO as environment protection coordinator. Marta is currently Project coordinator in LIFE Danube Free Sky (in which HEP DSO is a Beneficiary Partner).

Vojko Sirotnjak, male, Assistant Director, Electrical Engineer

Assistant director of Elektroprimorje Rijeka, distribution area responsible for distribution network in the Kvarner area.

PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES

List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.

- Special agreement for protection of white stork with the Ministry of Environment and Energy since 2004 (revision 2016)

- Implementation of bird protection measures in Nature park Lonjsko polje (2018 -2019)
- Associated Beneficiary in the project Trans-national conservation of birds along the Danube River (LIFE DANUBE FREE SKY)
- Memorandum of cooperation with Birdlife partner in Croatia – Association BIOM since 2016
- Active shareholder in the national action plans for protection of *Gyps fulvus*, *Coracias garrulus* and *Aquila chrysaetos*

AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.

Not applicable

MAPS

MAP OF THE GENERAL LOCATION

Provide a map of the general location of the project area(s). **Locate** the project area(s) within the country and, if necessary, within the region(s) concerned. If your project does not target a defined area, indicate, as clearly as possible, where the project is implemented (city, area, region, etc.).

Maps can be provided in an **A4 or A3** format.

Project name and acronym:

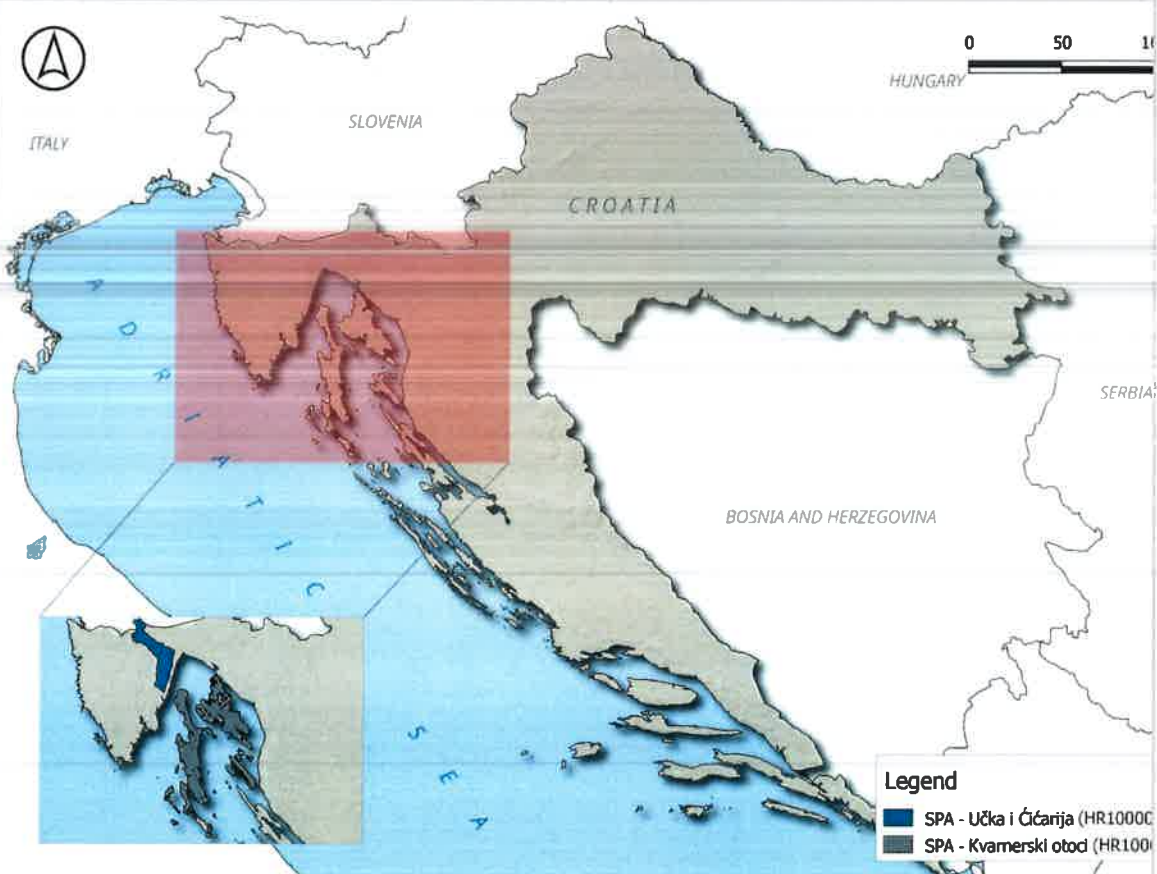
Securing a future for Griffon Vultures in Croatia —
LIFE SUPport

Country(ies)/region(s):

Croatia, Primorsko-goranska county

Map name:

Overview map with general location of the project areas



MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

- the location of the main habitats / species targeted by the project
- the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal
- a legend with all project activities that have been located on the map and an explanation of the habitats (official names and codes).
- the boundaries of Natura 2000 sites, if relevant. If the proposal includes actions targeting species / habitats of the Habitats Directive, indicate also SCI / SAC boundaries; if it includes actions targeting bird species of the Birds Directive, indicate also SPA boundaries.
- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

Project name and acronym:

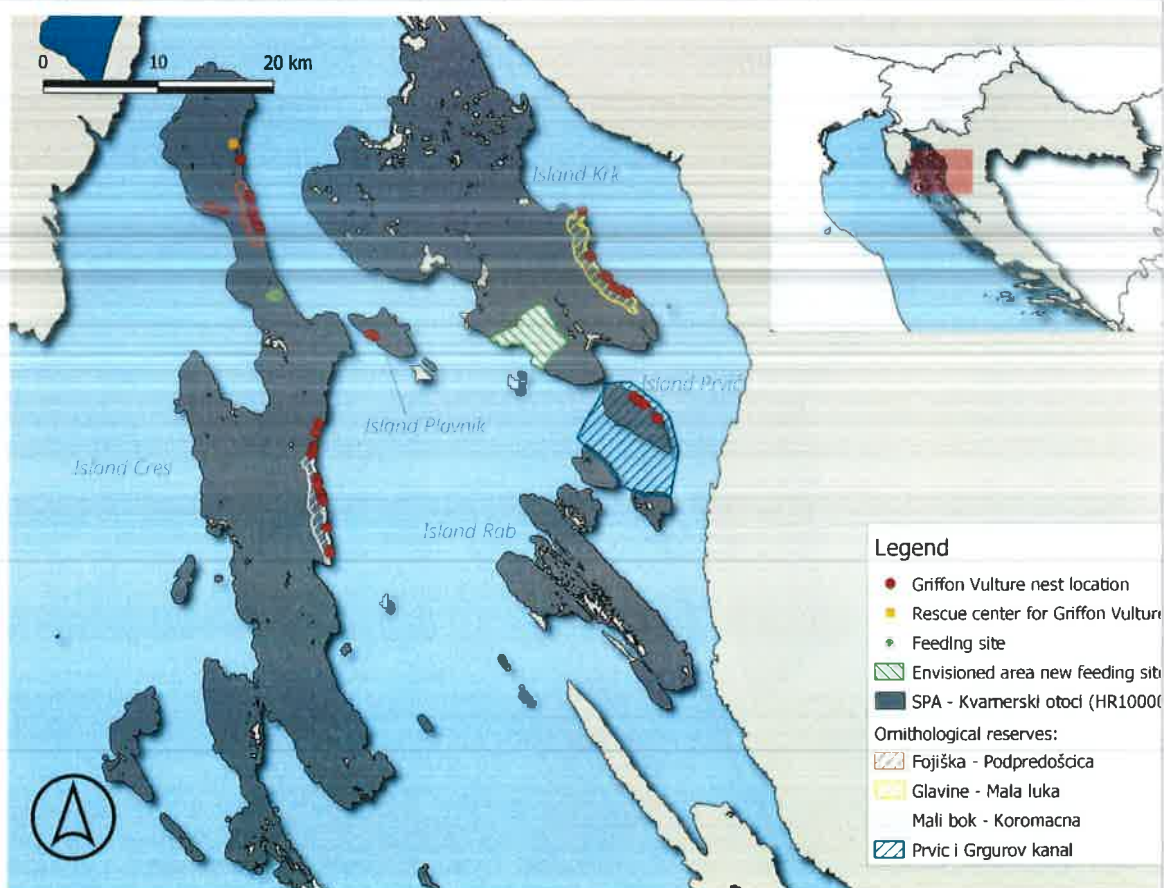
Securing a future for Griffon Vultures in Croatia — LIFE SUPport

Country

Croatia

Map name:

SPA Kvarnerski otoci



MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

- the location of the main habitats / species targeted by the project
- the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal
- a legend with all project activities that have been located on the map and an explanation of the habitats (official names and codes).
- the boundaries of Natura 2000 sites, if relevant. If the proposal includes actions targeting species / habitats of the Habitats Directive, indicate also SCI / SAC boundaries; if it includes actions targeting bird species of the Birds Directive, indicate also SPA boundaries.
- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

Project name and acronym:

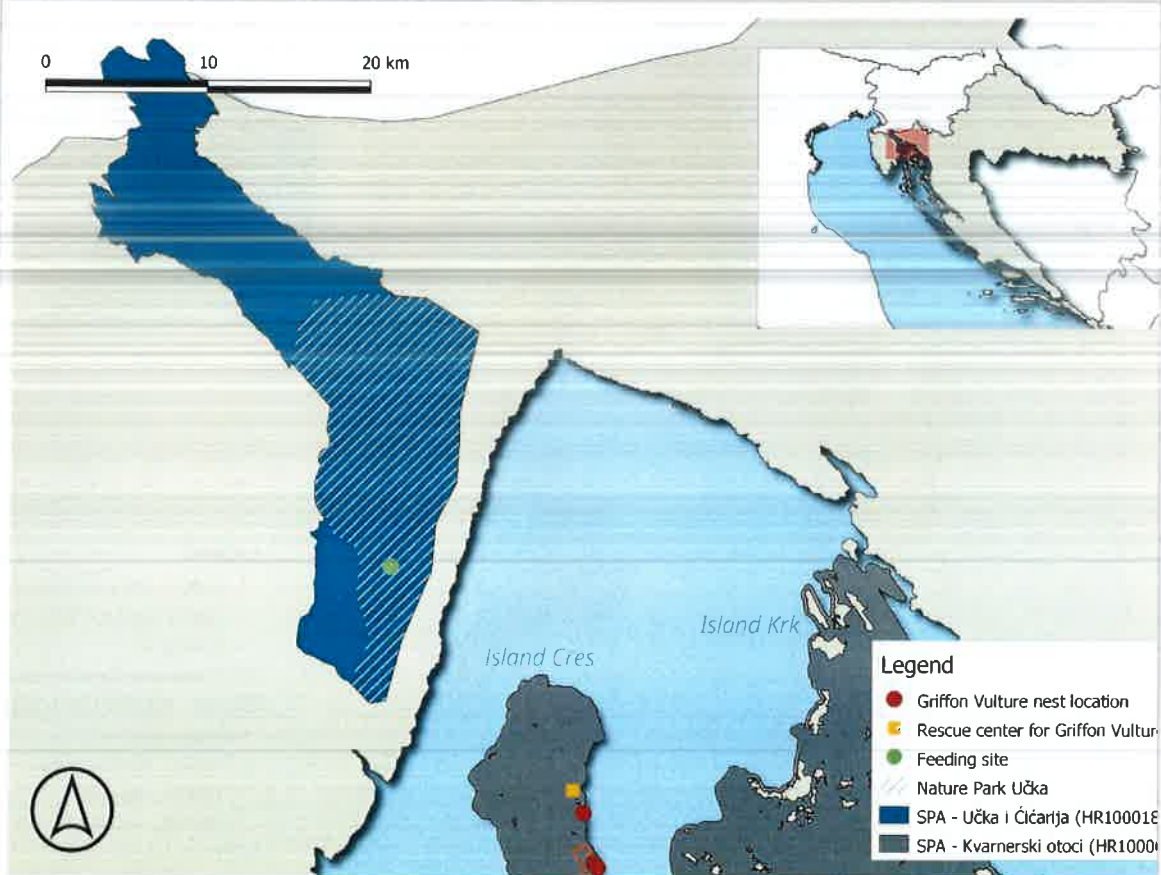
Securing a future for Griffon Vultures in Croatia — LIFE SUPport

Country

Croatia

Map name:

SPA Učka I Čičarija



MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

- the location of the main habitats / species targeted by the project
- the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal
- a legend with all project activities that have been located on the map and an explanation of the habitats (official names and codes).
- the boundaries of Natura 2000 sites, if relevant. If the proposal includes actions targeting species / habitats of the Habitats Directive, indicate also SCI / SAC boundaries; if it includes actions targeting bird species of the Birds Directive, indicate also SPA boundaries.
- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

Project name and acronym:

Securing a future for Griffon Vultures in Croatia — LIFE SUPport

Country

Croatia

Map name:

Current and historical breeding range of Griffon Vulture in Croatia



DESCRIPTION OF SITES

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
Project name and acronym:		Securing a future for Griffon Vultures in Croatia — LIFE SUPport
Name of the project area: <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>		Kvarnerski otoci
Surface area (ha): <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>		114147.95 ha
EU protection status (if applicable)	SCI	HR2001357 (Krk), HR2001358 (Cres), HR2001359 (Rab)
	SAC	-
	SPA	HR1000033
Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):		Not applicable
Main land uses and ownership status of the project area <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>The area is located in the Northern Adriatic and encompasses several large islands (Cres, Krk, Rab and part of Lošinj), and surrounding smaller islands. The exact land ownership is unknown and is currently being mapped. The area has no dominant habitat type, but several different habitats with fairly similar coverage. The largest one is broad-leaved deciduous woodland (20,67%, habitat code N16); followed by heath, scrub, maquis and garrigue, phrygana (16,87%, habitat code 08); marine areas, sea inlets (14,16%, habitat code N01); dry grassland, steppes (13,89%, habitat code N09); other arable land (12,21%, habitat code N15); inland rocks, screes, sands, permanent snow and ice (8,56%, habitat code N22); mixed woodland (4,2%, habitat code N19); coniferous woodland (3%, habitat code N17); shingle, sea cliffs, islets (2,83%, habitat code N05); non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (1,79%, habitat code N21); other land (0,8%, habitat code N23); inland water bodies (0,55%, habitat code N06); extensive cereal cultures (0,4%, habitat code N12); coastal sand dunes, sand beaches, machair (0,04%, habitat code N04); and bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation, fens (0,03%, habitat code N07).</p> <p>In the project area there are a lot of tourist activities, mostly concentrated near the inhabited areas and marine areas.</p>		
Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible) <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>		
<p>Cres, Krk and Rab are the largest islands of the project area, sized 405.7 km², 405.22 km² and 102.6 km² respectively. Important habitat for vultures and raptors is extensive open and mixed landscapes (dry grasslands). The sea cliffs in the area are used by Griffon Vultures for breeding, representing the entire Croatian national breeding population.</p>		

Apart from being a Natura 2000 site, the SPA includes several areas with additional conservation status. These are Natural monument Oak in Sv. Petar, two ornithological Special reserves Fojiška-Podpredošćica and Mali bok-Koromacna, Special reserve of forest vegetation Glavotok and Košljun, ornithological Special reserves Glavine-Mala luka, botanical-zoological Special reserve Prvic and Grgurov kanal, Significant landscape Lopar, Special reserve of forest vegetation Dundo and Forest Park Komrcar. All four ornithological reserves are important breeding sites for Griffon Vultures.

In fact, the coastal cliffs from Cape Glavina to the cove of Mala Luka on the island of Krk, proclaimed an ornithological reserve in 1969, was the first bird reserve in the world whose primary goal was the protection of Griffon Vultures. Later on, the island of Prvić in 1972, and two cliff locations on the eastern side of Cres in 1986 were proclaimed as well. The reserve in the northeastern part of the island of Cres stretches from the cove of Fojiška to the cove of Pod Predošćica, whereas the southeastern reserve encompasses the coastal area from the cove of Mali Bok to the cove of Koromacna. In these four special reserves, the use of the space and also the activities carried out must be aimed exclusively at the preservation of the natural phenomena for which the reserve was proclaimed. This means that no interventions or activities are allowed which could endanger them. Even though the majority of Griffon Vultures nests within these reserves, some important nesting sites are located elsewhere in the SPA, most notably the colony of vultures that regularly nest on the cliffs of the island of Plavnik.

Apart from vultures, the SPA Kvarnerski otoci also holds other important populations of raptors: Lesser Kestrel (100% of national population), Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (12%), Short-toed Snake-Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* (11%) and Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (12%). The SPA is also important for other bird species, most notably Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedipnemus* (100% of national population), Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (15%), European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii* (22%), Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* (20%) and Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (11%). Furthermore, SPA Kvarnerski otoci contains 24% of national wintering population of Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* and 12,5 % of Black-throated Loon *Gavia arctica*, while the wet grasslands on Krk Island are used by migratory Common Crane *Grus grus*.

DESCRIPTION OF SITES

Project name and acronym:		Securing a future for Griffon Vultures in Croatia — LIFE SUPport
Name of the project area:		Učka i Čičarija
<i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>		
Surface area (ha):		16051.33 ha
<i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>		
EU protection status (if applicable)	SCI	HR2000601 (Park priroda Učka)
	SAC	-
	SPA	HR1000018
Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):		Part of the SPA "Učka i Čičarija" is also protected as a Nature Park (IUCN category V) in Croatia and it is managed by the Public Institution (PI) Park prirode Učka since 1999.
Main land uses and ownership status of the project area		
<i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		

Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.

The exact land ownership is unknown and is currently being mapped. The site consist predominantly of broad-leaved deciduous woodlands (53.97%, habitat code N16); followed by mixed woodlands (10.44%, habitat code N19); dry grassland, steppes (10.78%, habitat code N09); heath, scrub, maquis and garrigue, phrygana (10.25%, habitat code N08); other arable land (4.89%, habitat code N15); coniferous woodlands (4.5%, habitat code N17); extensive cereal cultures (including rotation cultures with regular fallowing) (4.28%, habitat code N12); inland rocks, screes, sands, permanent snow and ice (0.54%, habitat code N22); and other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial site) (0.35%, habitat code N23).

There is extensive livestock farming (mostly sheep) and traditional agriculture in the populated part of the protected area, which is declining due to emigration of local people. There is not a lot of tourist activities, but there are several restaurants and hunting and mountain lodges. There is a relatively small amount of forest logging in the area, with only 1.59% harvested of the total wood supply of 1 134 321 m³.

Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)

Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.

Mountains Učka and Čičarija are situated on the northeast area of Istria peninsula called White Istria because of domination of limestone, less flysch zones. Due to its relief, proximity to the sea but also spreading deeply in to the continent, the area is characterized by a particular mixed continental and Mediterranean climate and development of different kind of habitats (forest, open area, meadows partly in succession, rocks etc.) important for ornithofauna.

The site includes significant landscape Učka-North part, Učka Nature Park with geomorphological natural Monument Vela Draga and partly significant landscape Lisina. This area has many ponds, torrential flows that create valleys (Mošćenička draga, Lovranska draga, etc.) and canyons (Vela draga), sensitive limestone habitats and pits important for some steno-endemic species like *Croatodirus bozicevici*, *Campanula tommasiniana* and relict *Lacerta horvathi*.

With regard to the the ornithofauna, SPA Učka i Čičarija holds important populations of raptors: Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (12% of national population), Short-toed Snake-Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* (3.6%) and Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (2.5%). The SPA also holds 8.6% of national breeding population of Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*. Until the 1970s the SPA hosted a breeding colony of Griffon Vultures *Gyps fulvus*, but these days the area is only used as a feeding site and regular fly-over area for individuals coming from the Kvarnerski otoci. Exactly for this reason, a supplementary feeding station with observatory was built in the Učka Nature Park in 2017.

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

Project name and acronym:

Securing a future for Griffon Vultures in Croatia — LIFE SUPport

Species

For each of the main species directly targeted by the project, please indicate:

- scientific name (in Latin). If the species is a priority species according to Annex II of the Habitats Directive or is on the list of priority bird species, please mark with an asterisk
- the Annex(es) of the EU Birds or Habitats Directive where the species is listed, if relevant
- population size within the project area. In case the project does not include actions targeting a well-defined area, please indicate the population size at regional, national or multinational level, as relevant
- the conservation status within the project area. Please provide quantitative details. In case the project does not include actions targeting a well-defined area, please indicate the conservation status at regional, national or multinational level, as relevant
- for bird species, please indicate whether the project area (if relevant) is used for breeding, wintering or staging.

The Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) is a large scavenging bird of prey from the family of *Accipitridae*. The species is protected by EU Birds Directive Annex I, Bern Convention Annex II, Bonn Convention Annex II, MoU Raptors Annex I under Bonn Convention, CITES Annex II and EU regulation of trade of fauna and flora Annex A.

In Croatia, the Griffon Vulture is named 'Bjeloglavi Sup' and the species is considered Endangered (EN) as it disappeared from most of its Croatian breeding range during the 20th century. Formerly the species was breeding from Mount Učka, the Primorje region, Kvarner islands and Mount Velebit to the canyons of certain Dalmatian rivers, the island of Brač, Mount Biokovo and part of the Dubrovnik Littoral. However, with the last breeding pairs disappearing from the Croatian mainland in 2003 (National Park Paklenica), the entire autochthonous population of Griffon Vultures in Croatia is nowadays restricted for breeding to a few islands in the SPA Kvarnerski otoci: Cres, Krk, Prvić and Plavnik. Here the species breeds on cliffs directly above the sea, which is a unique feature, not observed in any other countries of its breeding range.

The current breeding population is assessed at 110-130 pairs and it forms the connection between the breeding populations of the Alps (Italy) and those of the Balkans (e.g. Serbia). Even though the population is currently considered stable, the species faces multiple threats in the area which could all together could have detrimental effects on its small population size. An example of this is an unintentional poisoning event that took place on the island of Rab in 2004, where 21 Griffon Vultures got killed because of consuming poisoned bait which was intended for Golden Jackals. Other problems the species faces range from lack of food (due to a ongoing decrease in extensive sheep farming and livestock breeding on the islands) to accidents (electrocution; collisions with power infrastructure), disturbance at their breeding colonies and indirect poisoning via lead. Therefore, in order to secure truly stable breeding conditions for the species and support a future recolonization of the mainland, it is important to tackle the major threats at the last remaining breeding ground urgently and at the same time, which is exactly what LIFE SUPport intends to do.

Furthermore, Griffon Vulture can be seen as sort of an umbrella-species, because tackling its threats also increases the well-being of several other bird species in the area. Mitigating electrocution risk, for instance, will benefit breeding and wintering species such as Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)*, Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)*, Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*)*, Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*), Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)*, Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) and Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*)*. Preventing nest disturbance is going to positively affect other cliff-breeding species like Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)*, Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)*, European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*)* and Raven (*Corvus corax*). Similarly, reducing poisoned baits and lead in the environment is going to benefit pretty much all above-mentioned raptors, owls and corvids.

* species listed in the EU Birds Directive Annex I

Habitats

For each of the main habitats directly targeted by the project, please indicate:

- name and Natura 2000 code, as indicated in the EU Habitats Directive. If the habitat is a priority habitat (according to Annex I of the Habitats Directive), please mark with an asterisk
- the % of the cover of the habitat type over the whole project area and for each sub-area
- the conservation status within the project area. Please provide quantitative details.



LETTERS OF SUPPORT

LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status:

Učka Nature Park Public Institution

Full address:

Liganj 42,
Lovran 51415,
Croatia

Tel: +385 (0)51 770 100 , +385 (0)51 770 161 E-mail: evasilic@pp-ucka.hr

Contact person (name and function):

Egon Vasilic, univ. dipl. polit., Director

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

Our public institution is in charge of the SPA Učka i Čićarija and the Nature park Učka which are important as a flyover sites for Griffon vultures. LIFE SUPport tackles threats of the Griffon vulture and we are aware of the activities of the project and support the project. We as an institution that manages the Nature park Učka and one of two feeding stations for Griffon vultures in Croatia see the importance of the project for conservation of Griffon vultures.

We support the project efforts to tackle all relevant threats to griffon vultures at their breeding sites. Ensuring long term sustainability of food availability as well as mitigating electrocution are very important contributions to solving threats to the Kvarner population of griffon vultures. We also support setting up of the feeding site at the Island of Krk in order to provide additional food supply for the vulnerable population on the island. We believe that the project results will be useful for the future survival and conservation of griffon vultures in Croatia.

We will actively participate in dissemination of LIFE SUPport results and networking. We are also willing to take into account project results and seize any future opportunities for replicating project deliverables in Nature park Učka area.

Signature and date: Lovran, 08 November 2021

Name and status of signatory:

Egon Vasilic, Director





REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
MINISTARSTVO POLJOPRIVREDE
UPRAVA ZA VETERINARSTVO I
SIGURNOST HRANE
Planinska 2a, 10000 Zagreb
Tel.: 6443 540



KLASA: 322-01/21-01/157
URBROJ: 525-10/0532-21-2
Zagreb, 23. studenog 2021.

Udruga BIOM
Čazmanska 2
10000 Zagreb
n/p Dubravko Dender, dipl.biol,
Voditelj programa za očuvanje ptica

PREDMET: Pismo podrške za prijavu projekta iz LIFE programa 2021. – 2027. godina vezanog za očuvanje vrste bjeloglavi sup (*Gyps fulvus*) na području Kvarnerskih otoka
- daje se

Poštovani,

Temeljem dopisa, Vaš UR.Br.: 1-21-145 od 22. studenoga 2021. godine kojim ste ovom tijelu predstavili projekt - LIFE SUPport na području Kvarnerskih otoka i planina Učke i Čičarije, a čiji je glavni cilj stvaranje okvira za dugoročno očuvanje jedine preostale populacije bjeloglavog supa (*Gyps fulvus*) u Hrvatskoj, radi prijave projekta iz LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027 programa, dostavljamo mišljenje kako slijedi:

Uprava za veterinarstvo i sigurnost hrane Ministarstva poljoprivrede nadležna je, između ostalog, za područje nusproizvoda životinjskog podrijetla koji nisu za prehranu ljudi (u daljnjem tekstu: nusproizvodi). Zakonodavna osnova ovog područja je u Zakonu o veterinarstvu („Narodne novine“, broj 82/13, 148/13, 115/18, 52/21), a način postupanja od prikupljanja, prijevoza i skladištenja do prerade, uporabe i uklanjanja radi sprečavanja da predmetni nusproizvodi dovedu u opasnost zdravlje ljudi i životinja ili okoliš, propisani su Uredbom (EZ) br. 1069/2009¹ i Uredbom Komisije (EU) br. 142/2011².

Navedene uredbe, predviđaju mogućnosti za odstupanja od pravila o uporabi nusproizvoda, kada je to prikladno, radi olakšavanja hranjenja životinja koje nisu namijenjene za ljudsku potrošnju. Konkretno, omogućena je uporaba nusproizvoda rizičnijih materijala kategorije 1 i kategorije 2 u prehrani ugroženih ili zaštićenih ptica vrste lešinara i drugih vrsta koje žive u svom prirodnom staništu, s ciljem

¹ Uredba (EZ) br. 1069/2009 Europskog parlamenta i Vijeća od 21. listopada 2009. o utvrđivanju zdravstvenih pravila za nusproizvode životinjskog podrijetla i od njih dobivene proizvode koji nisu namijenjeni prehrani ljudi te o stavljanju izvan snage Uredbe (EZ) br. 1774/2002 (Uredba o nusproizvodima životinjskog podrijetla) (SL L 300, 14. 11. 2009., sa svim izmjenama i dopunama)

² Uredba Komisije (EU) br. 142/2011 od 25. veljače 2011. o provedbi Uredbe (EZ) br. 1069/2009 Europskog parlamenta i Vijeća o utvrđivanju zdravstvenih pravila za nusproizvode životinjskog podrijetla i od njih dobivene proizvode koji nisu namijenjeni prehrani ljudi i o provedbi Direktive Vijeća 97/78/EZ u pogledu određenih uzoraka i predmeta koji su oslobođeni veterinarskih pregleda na granici na temelju te Direktive (SL L 54, 26. 2. 2011., sa svim izmjenama i dopunama)

promicanja biološke raznolikosti. Kako bi se utvrdio odgovarajući način očuvanja tih vrsta, ta je praksa hranjenja dozvoljena u skladu s uvjetima kojima se sprečava širenje bolesti. Važno je da se u tim uvjetima zdravlja životinja vodi računa o prirodnim obrascima hranidbe dotičnih vrsta te o ciljevima Zajednice za promicanje biološke raznolikosti, kako je navedeno u Priopćenju Komisije od 22. svibnja 2006. pod naslovom „Zaustavljanje gubitka biološke raznolikosti do 2010. i u razdoblju nakon toga”.

Budući da je ovo tijelo državne uprave sudjelovalo u uspostavi postojećih hranilišta supova na Cresu i Učkoj i dozvolilo korištenje određenih nusproizvoda za njihovu hranidbu, poznato je s problematikom nedostatka hrane potrebne za očuvanje bjeloglavog supa na predmetnom području, kao i činjenicom da zbog napuštanja tradicionalnog stočarstva te pojave divljih svinja i čagljeva na otocima, opstanak bjeloglavog supa uvelike ovisi o uspostavi odgovarajućih hranilišta koja nisu dostupna navedenim sisavcima.

Sukladno tome, spremni smo podržati predstavljeni projekt ovim pismom podrške, sudjelovanjem na sastancima projektnih partnera i radionicama kako bi informirali sve dionike o relevantnom zakonodavstvu te kako bi u okviru veterinarskih propisa definirali rješenja za problematiku dostupnosti hrane za bjeloglave supove i uspostavu novog hranilišta.

Uprava za veterinarstvo i sigurnost hrane je također spremna sudjelovati u reviziji Plana upravljanja bjeloglavim supom (s akcijskim planom) u okviru svoje nadležnosti.

U tom smislu na predstavljeni projekt LIFE SUPport na području Kvarnerskih otoka i planina Učke i Čićarije, koji doprinosi ispunjavanju obveza Republike Hrvatske sukladno Direktivi o očuvanju divljih ptica (Council Directive 79/409/EEC; 2009/147/EC), a s ciljem prijave projekta iz LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027 programa, Uprava za veterinarstvo i sigurnost hrane daje pozitivno mišljenje te podržava njegov razvoj i provedbu do konačne realizacije.

S poštovanjem,

RAVNATELJICA

mr. sc. Tatjana Karačić, dr. med. vet.



Dostaviti:

1. Udruga BIOM, Čazmanska 2, 10000 Zagreb,
2. Pismohrana – ovdje.



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
MINISTARSTVO POLJOPRIVREDE
UPRAVA ZA VETERINARSTVO I
SIGURNOST HRANE
Planinska 2a, 10000 Zagreb
Tel.: 6443 540

CLASS: 322-01/21-01/157
REG. NO.: 525-10/0532-21-2
Zagreb, 23 november 2021

Association BIOM
Čazmanska 2
10000 Zagreb
to Dubravko Dender, dipl.biol.,
Bird Programme Manager

SUBJECT: Letter of support for project application for the LIFE programme 2021 – 2027 aimed to the conservation of the griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) in the Kvarner islands area - is delivered

Dear,

Based on your letter, No. 1-21-145 from 22 November 2021, by which you presented to this body the project - LIFE SUPport on the Kvarner islands and mountains Učka and Čičarija, and whose main goal is to create a framework for long-term conservation of the only remaining population of Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) in Croatia, in order to apply for a project from the LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027 programme, we present an opinion as follows:

The Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible, inter alia, for the subject of animal by-products not for human consumption (hereinafter: by-products). The legislative basis of this subject is in the Veterinary Act ("Narodne novine", Nos. 82/13, 148/13, 115/18, 52/21), and the manner of handling, from collection, transport and storage to processing, use and disposal, for prevention of the by-products endangering human and animal health or the environment are laid down in Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009¹ and Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011².

Those regulations provide for the possibility of derogating from the rules on the use of by-products, where appropriate, in order to facilitate the feeding of animals not intended for human consumption. In particular, it is possible to use by-products of riskier Category 1 and Category 2 materials in the diet of endangered or protected vulture species and other species living in their natural habitat, with the aim of promoting biodiversity. In order to determine the appropriate way to conserve these species, this type of feeding is allowed in accordance with the conditions that prevent the spread of the disease. It is

¹ Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council from 21 October 2009 on health rules concerning animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and on repealing Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002 (Animal by-products Regulation) (OJ L 300, 14.11.2009, as amended)

² Commission Regulation (EU) No. 142/2011 from 25 February 2011 on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on health rules concerning animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and implementing Council Directive 97/78 / EC in regard of certain samples and objects exempt from veterinary checks at border based on Directive (OJ L 54, 26.2.2011, as amended)

important that these animal health conditions consider the natural feeding patterns of the species concerned and the objectives of Community for the promotion of biological diversity, as set out in the Communication from the Commission from 22 May 2006 entitled "Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and beyond - Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being".

Since this state administration body participated in the establishment of the existing vulture feeding grounds on Cres and Učka and permit the use of certain by-products for their feeding, it is familiar with the problem of lack of food needed to preserve the griffon vulture in the subject area, so is with the fact that due to the abandonment of traditional animal husbandry and the occurrence of wild boars and jackals on islands, the survival of the griffon vulture largely depends on the establishment of suitable feeding grounds that are not available to mentioned mammals.

Accordingly, we are ready to support the presented project with this letter of support, also with participation in project partner meetings and workshops to inform all stakeholders about relevant legislation and to define solutions within the veterinary regulations for food availability to griffon vultures and the establishment of a new feeding ground.

The Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate is also ready to participate in the revision of the Griffon Vulture Management Plan (with an action plan) within its jurisdiction.

In this sense, the presented project LIFE SUPport in the Kvarner islands and mountains Učka and Čičarija, which contributes to meeting the obligations of the Republic of Croatia in accordance with the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409 / EEC; 2009/147 / EC), with the aim of applying for a project from the LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027 programme, The Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate gives a positive opinion and supports its development and implementation until final implementation.

Regards,

DIRECTOR
mr.sc Tatjana Karačić, dr.med.vet

To be delivered to:

1. Association BIOM, Čazmanska 2, 10000 Zagreb,
2. Archives – here.

LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status:

Agroproteinka d.d.,(joint stock company)

Full address:

**Strojarska cesta 11,
Sesvete 10360,
Croatia**

**Tel: +385 1 2046 774, +385 (0)1 2040 301 Fax: +385 (0)1 2046 201 E-mail:
info@agroproteinka.hr, zlatko.heruc@agroproteinka.hr**

Contact person (name and function):

Zlatko Heruc, CEO Assistant for HACCP control and Veterinary

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

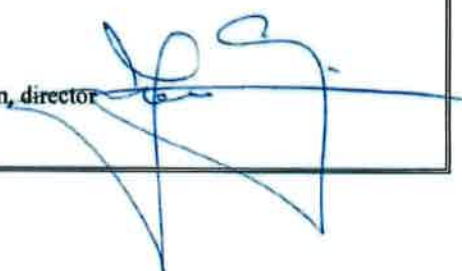
Agroproteinka d.d. is interested in supporting LIFE Support project. We are aware of the planned activities of the project and understand their importance in Griffon vulture conservation. As a company that deals with ecological disposal of animal by-products, we have an important role of taking care of food supply for feeding stations for Griffon vultures. We understand the impact of the lack of food as a direct threat to this species, and how our role will help with their conservation.

Agroproteinka d.d. will participate in LIFE SUPport with supplying the feeding stations with animal by-products that the Griffon vultures can use as food. As the only company that deals with animal by-products category 1 and 2 (animal carcasses) in Croatia we see that we are a very important stakeholder for that part of the project.

Signature and date: 8th November 2021

 **AGROPROTEINKA**
d.d.
SESVETE, Strojarska cesta 11
6

Name and status of signatory: Ivica Orlić Radman, director



LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status:

Municipality of Baška, local self-government unit

Full address:

Palada 88,
51523 Baška
Croatia

Tel: 051/750-550, E-mail: opcina-baska@ri.t-com.hr

Contact person (name and function):

mr.sc. Toni Juranić, dipl.oec. (Mayor)

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

The municipality of Baška extends over some of the most important nesting and feeding sites for the griffon vultures on the Krk island. In the area of the Municipality of Baška there are two oldest ornithological reserves for the protection of griffon vultures in Croatia - Kuntrep (reserve Glavine - Mala Luka, declared in 1969) and Prvić (declared in 1972).

LIFE SUPport tackles threats for the griffon vulture and we are aware of the activities of the project, support the project and see the importance of the project for conservation of Griffon vultures.

We support the project efforts to tackle all relevant threats to griffon vultures at their breeding and nesting sites. Ensuring long term sustainability of food availability, preventing poisoning as well as mitigating electrocution, are all very important contributions to solving threats to the Kvarner population of griffon vultures.

We also support setting up of the feeding site at the Island of Krk on the premises of municipality of Baška in order to provide additional food supply for the vulnerable population on the island. We believe that the project results will be useful for the future survival and conservation of griffon vultures in Croatia.

Signature and date:

9th November 2021 in Baška

Name and status of signatory:

Toni Juranić, Mayor of the Municipality of Baška



LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status:

Municipality of Punat, local self-government unit

Full address:

Novi put 2,
51521 Punat
Croatia

Tel: 051/854-140, **E-mail:** opcina@punat.hr

Contact person (name and function):

Daniel Strčić, bacc. inf. (Mayor)

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

The municipality of Punat extends over some of the most important feeding sites for the griffon vultures on the Krk island. The LIFE SUPport project tackles some of the most important threats for the griffon vulture. We are aware of the activities of the project, support them and see the importance of the project for conservation of Griffon vultures.

We support the project efforts to tackle all relevant threats to griffon vultures at their breeding and nesting sites. Ensuring long term sustainability of food availability, preventing poisoning as well as mitigating electrocution, are all very important contributions to solving threats to the Kvarner population of griffon vultures.

We also support setting up of the feeding site at the Island of Krk on the premises of municipality of Punat in order to provide additional food supply for the vulnerable population on the island. We believe that the project results will be useful for the future survival and conservation of griffon vultures in Croatia.

Signature and date: 22.11.2021.

Name and status of signatory:

Daniel Strčić, Mayor of the Municipality of Punat



LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status:

Town of Cres, local self-government unit

Full address:

Creskog statute 15

51557 Cres

Croatia

Tel: 051/661 950 E-mail: grad@cres.hr

Contact person (name and function):

Marin Gregorović, mag.polit (Mayor)

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

The largest part of the griffon vulture population in Croatia is located in the area of the City of Cres. Since this is a very charismatic species whose survival on Cres has been associated with sheep farming for centuries, we welcome the activities of the LIFE SUPport project. In the area of the City of Cres, there is also the largest feeding ground for Griffon Vultures, created as a result of a decreasing amount of naturally available food for birds.

We are aware of the project activities and we support them, and believe that they will contribute to the preservation of the Griffon Vulture in the Kvarner area. We especially support the activities of the project related to the support of extensive sheep farming and cooperation with the local community on the island of Cres.

Signature and date:

23th November 2021 in Cres

Name and status of signatory:

Marin Gregorović, Mayor



LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status:

CROATIAN VETERINARY INSTITUTE

Full address:

Savska cesta 143, 10000 ZAGREB

Tel: 01/6190845 Fax: 01/6190841 E-mail: ured@veinst.hr

Contact person (name and function):

Prof. Boris Habrun, PhD, Head of Institute

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

The Croatian Veterinary Institute is a leading research, diagnostic and analytical institute in the Republic of Croatia. The Croatian Veterinary Institute has already established good cooperation with Association BIOM in scope of the Balkan DETOX LIFE project (LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016) and we would like to continue cooperating for the benefit of biodiversity in this new project.

The project LIFE SUPport aims to improve breeding and survival conditions for the last remaining population of Griffon Vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) in Croatia, located on the Kvarner Islands. The urgency and need for such a project has been outlined in the expert background document prepared for the currently pending adoption of the National Species Action Plan for Griffon Vulture in Croatia. For our institution the most important threat targeted by this project is tackling of poisoning incidents of wildlife. We recognize that the LIFE SUPport project will focus on prevention of poisoning events by exploring best preventive measures to avoid carcass poisoning and by promoting the use of lead-free ammunition.

We are aware of the activities of the LIFE SUPport project and we give it our support.

Signature and date: 29. 11. 2021.

Name and status of signatory:

Prof. Boris Habrun, PhD Head of Institute

LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status: Karlovac University of Applied Sciences, Public body

Full address: Trg Josipa Jurja Strossmayera 9, 47000 Karlovac, Croatia

Tel: +385 (0)47 843 500 Fax: +385 (0)47 843 503 E-mail: dckanat@vuka.hr

Contact person (name and function): Ivan Štedul, acting dean

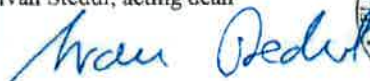
Please specify whether, why and how you will support this project:

Karlovac University of Applied sciences supports this project as one of our departments – Department of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation strongly combines two key factors involved within this project – hunting and nature conservation. We strongly support the fact that the hunters are recognized within this project proposal as one of the key stakeholders important for conservation of griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*) and believe that this project can significantly contribute to clever and successful inclusion of hunters into long-term conservation of this species.

Since LIFE SUPport project tackles most important threats for the griffon vultures, we are aware of the activities of the project and support the project.

Signature and date:

Name and status of signatory:
Ivan Štedul, acting dean





LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status:

Zoological Garden of Zagreb

Full address:

Maksimirski perivoj bb,
10 000 Zagreb,
Croatia

Tel: +385 (0)1 2302-198, E-mail: damir.skok@zoo.hr

Contact person (name and function):

Damir Skok, dr. vet. med., Director

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

Our institution, as an active member of European Association of Zoos and Aquaria since 1997, is dedicated to conservation of animal species and their habitats, research and education. For years we are successfully cooperating with JU Priroda and BIOM and supporting their conservation work regarding griffon vultures rehabilitation (protocols development, veterinary assistance, accommodation of animals, etc.), construction and management of Beli Visitors Centre and Rescue Centre for Griffon Vultures, education activities and staff training.

We think that this project will significantly contribute griffon vultures conservation and as an institution we will join certain activities within the project, depending on our available resources.

Signature and date: 19th of November 2021.



Name and status of signatory: Damir Skok dr.vet.med, Director of Zoological Garden of Zagreb

LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status: Hunting association “Golub” Kampo, Rab

Full address: Kampo 66, 51280 Rab

Contact person (name and function):

Zdenko Perić – president, mob:098/343-660

Mišo Klasnić – secretary, mob:098/800-220, email: mklasnic@gmail.com

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

Since the island Rab is an important site for griffon vultures, and the LIFE SUPport project tackles most important threats for the griffon vultures, we are aware of the activities of the project and support the project.

Our hunting association “Golub” Kampo from island Rab has 20 members.

We will support and actively participate in the testing of unleaded ammunition on Kvarner. We will help with evaluation and feedback information on the use of unleaded ammunition for the help and survival of the griffon vulture population in Kvarner. We understand and want to contribute to the reduction of lead in nature, which is also a threat to wild animals such as griffon vultures due to the way they feed. We commit to continue using non-lead ammunition in the long term, after the project end.

Signature and date: Rab, 28.05.2022.

Name and status of signatory: Mišo Klasnić, Secretary of the hunting association



LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status: Lovačko društvo "Orebica" Cres

Full address: Šetalište 20.Travnja 1, 51557 Cres

Tel: +385914469000 Fax: E-mail: ld.orebica.cres@gmail.com

Contact person (name and function): Jozo Matošević, president

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

Our hunting association Orebica Cres from island Cres has 100 members. We control two hunting grounds, VIII/108 "Cres", VIII/130 "Tramuntana" which are an area of total 21.318 ha. We wish to support and will actively participate in the testing of unleaded ammunition on our island. We will help with evaluation and feedback information on the use of unleaded ammunition for the help and survival of the griffon vulture population in Kvarner. We understand and want to contribute to the reduction of lead in nature, which is also a threat to wild animals such as griffon vultures due to the way they feed. We commit to continue using non-lead ammunition in the long term, after the project end. Since the island Rab is an important site for griffon vultures, and the LIFE SUPport project tackles most important threats for the griffon vultures, we are aware of the activities of the project and support the project.

Signature and date: Cres, 28.05.2022.

Name and status of signatory: Jaroslav Honjek, secretary



LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027**DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY**

Name and legal status:

Hunting association "Orebica" Krk, NGO

Full address:

Dr. Dinka Vitezića 1
51500 Krk
Croatia

Tel: +385 91 1500 925, +385 91 1500 975 E-mail: ldorebica@gmail.com

Contact person (name and function):

Goran Krajačić, Secretary

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

The hunting association "Orebica" is the lessee of all three hunting grounds in Krk island (VIII/1 Baška, VIII/17 Punat and VIII/101 Krk), meaning that we carry out our activities in the whole island. Our association is organized through 8 hunting units without legal personality. Since the island is an important nesting and feeding site for griffon vultures, and the LIFE SUPport project tackles most important threats for the griffon vultures, we are aware of the activities of the project and support the project.

More specifically, we will support the project efforts to tackle all relevant threats to griffon vultures at their breeding and feeding sites. We see the importance of ensuring long term sustainability of food availability for the survival of griffon vultures, especially considering the threats of poisoning due to the high pressure of allochthonous wild animals, which our association has been trying to combat to the best of its abilities. We will gladly cooperate with Agricultural Cooperative Island of Krk to find ways to improve food availability for the griffon vultures and reduce risk of poisoning from the poison intended for allochthonous wild animals.

Moreover, we will actively participate in the testing of unleaded ammunition which will reduce the risk of griffon vulture poisoning, and help with the analysis of the currently available food for griffon vultures, and analysis of various poisoning threats.

We also support setting up of the feeding site at the Island of Krk in order to provide additional food supply for the vulnerable population on the island. We believe that the project results will be useful for the future survival and conservation of griffon vultures in Croatia.

We will also gladly participate in dissemination of LIFE SUPport results and networking.
We commit to continue using non-lead ammunition in the long term, after the project end.

Signature and date:
27 May 2022

Name and status of signatory:
Goran Krajačić, Secretary



LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status: Association "Pramenka", Cres, NGO

Full address: Orlec 4, 51557 Cres, Croatia

Contact person (name and function):

Danijel Kučica, president

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

Association "Pramenka" is a non-profit organization located on the island of Cres that has been founded in 2010, to support traditional extensive shepherding and to tackle with uprising issue with allochthonous wild animals such as wild boars and deer. With its dual function, most of the members of the association are both shepherds and hunters at the same time to protect their sheep from attacks and extinction of the local sheep breed "creska pramenka". From 2010. Up to now, association was a leader or a partner in projects at local, regional and national level. Currently, there are 70 members that support the mission and activities of the association itself.

More specifically, we will support the project efforts to tackle all relevant threats to griffon vultures at their breeding and feeding sites. We see the impact of ensuring long term sustainability of food availability for the survival of griffon vultures, which our association has been trying to combat to the best of its abilities. We will gladly reduce the risk of poisoning from the poison intended for allochthonous wild animals.

Moreover, we will actively participate in the testing of unleaded ammunition which will reduce the risk of griffon vulture poisoning, and help with the analysis of the currently available food for griffon vultures, and analysis of various poisoning threats. We also commit to continue using non-lead ammunition in the long term, after the project end.

We plan to actively participate in workshops related to the restoration of overgrown grasslands that will be held during the project on the island Cres. We will also gladly participate in dissemination of LIFE SUPport results and networking.

Signature and date: Orlec, 28.05.2022

Name and status of signatory: Danijel Kučica, president

Danijel Kučica



LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Police Administration of Primorsko Goranska County
Žrtava fašizma 3
51000 Rijeka
Croatia

Phone: +385 51 430 112, e-mail: primorsko-goranska@policija.hr

Police Administration of Primorsko Goranska County organizes, coordinates, directs and supervises the work of all police stations in the aforementioned county. Since police officers from the Police Administration of Primorsko Goranska County are key stakeholders in tackling illegal killing of griffon vultures, they will participate in an educational workshop organized for them by Association Biom in scope of the LIFE SUPport project. Since the County is an important nesting and feeding site for griffon vultures, and the LIFE SUPport project tackles most important threats for the griffon vultures, we are aware of the activities of the project in which we will take part and support the project.

We believe that the project results will be useful for the future survival and conservation of griffon vultures in Croatia.

1 December 2021

Head of Police Administration of Primorsko Goranska County
Tomislav Dizdār





CONSEJERÍA DE AGRICULTURA, GANADERÍA,
PESCA Y DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE
Dirección General de Medio Natural, Biodiversidad y
Espacios Protegidos

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Project LIFE NATURE: Securing a future for Griffon Vulture in Croatia

Acronym: LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport

Duration: January 2023 to end of 2027 (60 months)

Name and legal status:

Dr. Iñigo Fajardo, Head of the Plan de Recuperación de las Aves Necrófagas de Andalucía – Vulture Conservation Programme of Andalucía-

Dirección General de Medio Natural, Biodiversidad y Espacios Protegidos Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible Ambiente, Junta de Andalucía – Public body

Full address: Avda. Manuel Siurot, 50 41013 – Sevilla

Tel: +34 955 003 400

Email: dgmnbep.cagpds@juntadeandalucia.es

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

This project largely contributes in the conservation of the Griffon vulture population in Croatia, mitigating the threats affecting this species.

The Vulture Conservation Programme of the Regional Government of Andalusia, Spain (Junta de Andalusia) has a long-standing conservation programme for vulture conservation and strategy against the illegal use of poison in the nature, therefore we count with experience in this filed for more than 20 years.

The Vulture Conservation Programme of the Regional Government of Andalusia fully supports this project and will liaise with the LIFE Project on those fields where collaboration might be needed, like fighting against poison and best practices as well as any other field where liaison is perceived as positive for the conservation of the species.



FIRMADO POR	IÑIGO FAJARDO LOPEZ CUERVO	30/11/2021	PÁGINA 1/1
VERIFICACIÓN	64oxu849HHR5Mz4yAwfP/3P/Mqpsg	https://ws050.juntadeandalucia.es/verificarFirma/	

LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027**DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY**

Name and legal status:

Rewilding Velebit Foundation

Full address:

Žabica 19, Žabica
53000 Gospić
Croatia

Tel: +381 91 7977 670

E-mail: marija.krnjajic@rewilding-velebit.com

Contact person (name and function):

Marija Krnjajić, Director of Foundation

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

Rewilding Velebit Foundation was established with the purpose to promote the restoration of wild nature, to raise awareness need to preserve wildlife on Mt. Velebit and to help enhance people's awareness and commitment to the preservation of nature and natural resources for the benefit of society. Currently, Rewilding Velebit Foundation (RVF) is managing 23,000 ha of 4 hunting concession in Velebit mountain. All 4 hunting concessions are located in Velebit area. One of our core activities is to support wildlife comeback through overseeing a transition from a traditionally managed hunting concession to a wildlife corridor. In the next 5 year our aim is to bring back Griffon vulture on Velebit Mt. Jablanac as one of our 4 hunting concession, is located at the position that is often visited by griffon vultures and the birds are often visited flying over the area in the search of food.

LIFE SUPport project tackles most important threats for griffon vultures, and we support projects activities since its results can bring further benefits for griffon vulture survival and conservation in Croatia. We believe that activities of setting up the feeding site at the Island of Krk will more over contribute in Griffon Vulture population reinforcement and that project actions tackle all relevant questions of creating appropriate conditions for this species to regain its old ranges. We will gladly support and participate in the activities related in the testing of unleaded ammunition that will reduce the risk of griffon vulture poisoning and in analysing various poisoning threats. Also, we will participate in the activities connected to improving food availability for griffon vulture. We will gladly participate in communication and dissemination activities LIFE SUPport project.

Signature and date:

November 19, 2021

Marija Kmjačić

**REWILDING VELEBIT
ZAKLADA
Gospić
OIB: 48052666474**

Name and status of signatory:

Marija Kmjačić, Rewilding Velebit Foundation, Director



Društvo za opazovanje in
proučevanje ptic Slovenije
Tržaška cesta 2
SI – 1000 Ljubljana
Slovenija
T +386 1 426 58 75
F +386 1 425 11 81
dopps@dopps.si
www.ptice.si

ID za DDV: SI88956029
TRR: SI56 0430 2900 3155 297

Letter of support

Name and legal status: DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia, private non-commercial

Full address: Tržaška cesta 2, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Tel: + 386 1 426 58 75 **E-mail:** dopps@dopps.si

Contact person (name and function): Damijan Denac, director

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

We fully support the LIFE proposal for the project LIFE SUPport. The actions of the project complement our efforts for the conservation of the Griffon Vulture on their migration corridor through Slovenia. We believe that concrete conservation actions proposed by this project are crucial to species survival in Croatia. We also think that the exchange of ideas and solutions between our organisations, especially regarding the tackling electrocution and establishing feeding sites, will also be very valuable. We are willing to share and participate with our experiences in the project.

Place & date: Ljubljana, 8th November 2021

Name and status of signatory: Damijan Denac, director



LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027**DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY**

Name and legal status:

Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB), association, non-governmental organization

Full address:

Yavorov District, Block 71, entr. 4, app. 1

Sofia 1111, p.o. box 50

Bulgaria

Tel: +359 2 9799500 E-mail: bspb_hq@bspb.org

Contact person (name and function):

Vanya Ratarova-Georgieva, Executive Director

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


Our association Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB) is the BirdLife partner in Bulgaria. We organise and implement various actions in nature conservation and bird protection. We have projects for protection of vultures on the Balkan Peninsula like LIFE RE-Vulture so we support and encourage Bioms LIFE SUPport project. The project is vital to sustain and help one of the breeding colonies in the Balkans and to reduce acute threats to enable the maintenance and recovery of Griffon vultures.

We support the project efforts to tackle all relevant threats to griffon vultures at their breeding sites. Ensuring long term sustainability of food availability, mitigating electrocution and poisoning are very important contributions to solving threats to the Croatian population of Griffon vultures. We also support setting up additional feeding sites in Croatia in order to provide additional food supply for the vulnerable population. We believe that the project results will be useful for the future survival and conservation of Griffon vultures in Croatia.

We will actively participate in dissemination of LIFE SUPport results and networking. We will also participate in consultations about various threat mitigation measures and share our experience on vulture conservation.

Signature and date:

Sofia, 23.11.2021



Name and status of signatory:

Vanya Ratarova-Georgieva,
BSPB Executive Director

LIFE Nature & Biodiversity 2021-2027

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Name and legal status:

Stichting BirdLife Europe (which is the European and Central Asian Division of BirdLife International)

SBE is a non-profit organisation under Dutch law. It was formed voluntarily for the public good and does not distribute profits to members or management or pursue the commercial interests of its members. It is independent of government and other public authorities.

Full address: Cours Saint-Michel 30B, 1040 Brussels (c/o Hive5), Belgium

Tel: +32 (0) 2280 08 30 **E-mail:** europe@birdlife.org

Contact person (name and function): Martin Harper, Regional Director

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

BirdLife supports the Life SUPport project as its objectives are in line with the BirdLife Partnership strategy. We encourage and support working with Griffon vultures, particularly towards the goal of conserving Croatia's important and vulnerable population.

BirdLife will support the project as needed with expertise and knowledge sharing. We will participate in dissemination of project results and networking, through participation at project events and workshops. As the largest nature conservation partnership in the world we are in a position to disseminate project results and encourage our partners to replicate project deliverables.

Signature and date:

17/11/21

Name and status of signatory: Martin Harper, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia

**HISTORY OF CHANGES**

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
		Impact - Part C - Changing 2 project specific indicators so that they reflect the actual impacts instead of outputs of the activities (now using expected reduction of poisoning incidents and of electrocution / birds saved). One indicator had to be removed due to the maximum no. of indicators allowed (namely number of impressions of Griffon vultures by the general public).
		Impact – Section 1.8 and Task 3.5 - Impact of the project on national legislation and coordinator between relevant national authorities in relation to the implementation of the EU Sanitary Regulation reinforced by producing policy recommendations and implementing advocacy activities.
		Implementation – Work packages and activities – Section 2.3 – Reinforcing the sustainability of the use of non-lead ammunition by amending letters of support by 4 hunting societies to include their long-term commitment to the use of non-lead ammunition, after the project ends.
		Implementation – Work packages and activities – WP2, Task 2.2, 2.4 and 2.5 – Reinforcing the impact of the measures related to the mitigation of the disturbance by tourist boats by including advocacy work for the existing regulation to be enforced, by volunteers reporting if boat operators are not abiding to the rules, and by organizing meetings with the boat operators to better understand the issues and the threats their activities pose to the Griffon vultures.
		Resources – amending the tables Staff effort per work package and Staff effort per participant by using person-months instead of the Full Time Equivalent.

Detailed Budget Table									
LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport									
Important: You may add rows but no additional tabs. This may result in your proposal being considered inadmissible. Please ensure that the file can be printed on a format of 1 page wide (number of pages depending on the number of participants). Please make sure that the figures in this table are consistent with the total budget provided in part A section 3 of the application. In case of inconsistencies, part A will prevail.									
Staff effort allocation Fill in the effort per work package and Beneficiary/Affiliated Entity. Please indicate the number of person-months over the whole duration of the planned work. Adapt the columns to the number of work packages in your proposal. Identify the work-package leader for each work package by showing the relevant person-month figure in bold.									
Participant Number/Short Name	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	WP8	Total
1 BIOM	75	33.6	14.4	15.6	12.6	42	55.2	27	275.4
2 VCF	16.8	2.4	4.2	9	1.2	6.6	7.8	4.8	52.8
3 JUP	6	19.8	8.4	9.6	0	8.4	3	4.2	59.4
4 PZO Kik	19.8	0	17.4	10.2	0	3.6	0.6	1.8	53.4
5 HEP DSO	3	0	0	0	4.8	0	1.8	1.8	11.4
Total person-months	120.8	55.8	44.4	44.4	18.6	60.6	68.4	39.6	452.4
Personnel costs Present your estimated 'Personnel costs' split into 3 categories as per the table below. If you do not have any personnel costs falling under 'A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries' or 'A.5 Volunteers', all personnel costs should be budgeted under 'A1. Employees (or equivalent); A2. Natural persons under direct contract and A3. Seconded Persons'. For A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries: please note that as per Annex 2a of the LIFE General Model Grant Agreement (MGA), a unit cost is applied to this cost category. The unit is the days spent working on the action (rounded up to the nearest half-day) and the amount per unit (daily rate) is calculated according to the following formula: (EUR 5,000 / 18 days = EUR 282.22 per day) multiplied by (country-specific correction coefficient of the country where the beneficiary is established). Note that the country-specific correction coefficient to use is the one applied for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). Yearly rates are published in the Horizon Europe Work Programme – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under the funding and tender portal Reference Documents (work programme and call documents section), available at https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents-programme-code=HORIZON . For A.5 Volunteer Costs: a unit cost is also applied to this cost category. The unit is the days spent working on the action (rounded up to the nearest half-day) and the amount per unit (daily rate) is a country-specific rate of the country where the beneficiary is established. Country-specific rates to apply can be found in the LIFE MGA on pages 83 & 84.									
Participant Number/Short Name	Country	Number of person months (staff effort per beneficiary)	Average monthly salary rate	A1. Employees (or equivalent); A2. Natural persons under direct contract and A3. Seconded Persons (costs)	A.4 SME owners and natural person (sole trader) beneficiaries (Unit costs in €)	Subtotal personnel costs without volunteers (A1+A2+A3+A4) - must be the same as in part A section 3	A.5 Volunteers (Unit costs) must be the same as in part A section 3	Total Personnel costs	
1 BIOM	Croatia	275	1,782.6	491,205.0		474,125.0	19,458.0	593,578.0	
2 VCF	Malta	53	3,018.6	159,985.8		159,985.8		159,985.8	
3 JUP	Croatia	59	2,294.4	135,580.0		135,580.0		135,580.0	
4 PZO Kik	Croatia	53	1,363.0	72,500.0		72,500.0		72,500.0	
5 HEP DSO	Croatia	11	2,186.4	24,315.0		24,315.0		24,315.0	
Total		452		866,860.0	0	866,860.0	19,458.0	886,318.0	
Subcontracting Give details on subcontracted action tasks (if any) and explain the reasons why (as opposed to direct implementation by the participants). Subcontracting — Subcontracting means the implementation of action tasks, i.e. specific tasks which are part of the action and are described in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement. Note: Subcontracting concerns the outsourcing of a part of the action to a party outside the Consortium. It is not simply about purchasing goods or services. We normally expect the participants to have sufficient operational capacity to implement the project activities themselves. Sub-contracting should therefore be exceptional (include only subcontracts that comply with the rules (i.e. best value for money and no conflict of interest; coordinator tasks can normally not be subcontracted)).									
Participant Number/Short Name	Subcontract Description	Cost (€)	WP	Justification (Why is subcontracting necessary?)					
3/JUP	Implementation of video surveillance of Plesnik colony	16,000 €	2	Video surveillance has to be subcontracted as professional service is necessary for setting up, installing and implementing of video surveillance					
3/JUP	Soft release aviary - documentation	2,700 €	2	Documentation for the soft release aviary has to be subcontracted as only licensed companies can develop technical project documentation					
3/JUP	Soft release aviary - construction	20,000 €	2	Construction of soft release aviary needs to be subcontracted as it is required that construction works are performed by authorised company					
3/JUP	Observation platform - revision of documentation	1,350 €	2	Revision of the documentation for the observation has to be subcontracted as only licensed companies can produce technical project documentation (including its revision)					
3/JUP	Observation platform - construction	47,000 €	2	Construction of the observation platform needs to be subcontracted as it is required that construction works are performed by an authorised company					
1/BIOM	Subcontracting skipper + boat for 40 days during high season	37,500 €	2	Professional skipper is needed for 3 seasons to take volunteers to monitor nest disturbance and influence the behaviour change of tourist and excursion boat operators					
3/JUP	Bringing carcasses to the feeding station on Cres and collecting carcass remains	57,500 €	3	Subcontracting Agroproteinka as it is the only company in Croatia that has concession for collecting and disposal of animal carcasses					
4/PZO Kik	Collecting carcass remains feeding station Kik	900 €	3	Subcontracting Agroproteinka as it is the only company in Croatia that has concession for collecting and disposal of animal carcasses					
4/PZO Kik	Construction work of the feeding station	10,000 €	3	Construction of the feeding station needs to be subcontracted as it is required that construction works are performed by an authorised company					
1/BIOM	Questionnaire with shepherds (about drivers, motives, conflicts with wildlife, etc.) creation, conducting and analysis	5,000 €	3	Professional service of social scientist(s) is needed to design the methodology for the service, create the questionnaire, conduct it (with the assistance of project partners) and interpret and analyse results using expert social science methods					
4/PZO Kik	Monitoring of the effects of extensive shepherding and experimental fenced pastures on the state of the valuable habitat - 5 years	29,000 €	4	The effects of keeping sheep in experimentally fenced pastures with regard to habitat quality need to be monitored with external expertise as an essential second opinion to the expertise already existing within PZO Kik					
5/HEP DSO	Production of technical project documentation for substituting existing MV power lines with insulated overhead cables	27,000 €	5	Documentation for substituting existing MV power lines with insulated overhead cables has to be subcontracted as only licensed companies can develop technical project documentation					
5/HEP DSO	Implementation of mitigation measures: installation of pylon insulation OR substitution of existing overhead lines with insulated overhead cables	98,000 €	5	Construction works for implementing mitigation measures need to be subcontracted as it is required that construction works are performed by an authorised company					
2/VCF	Ecosystem services survey	5,000 €	6	Subcontracting an expert scientist in the field is necessary to ensure best quality of the study, as project partners have limited expertise in conducting ecosystem services surveys					

I/Biom	Socioeconomic impact survey	15 000 €	6	Socioeconomic impact survey will be implemented towards the end of the project. Professional service of social scientist(s) is needed to design the methodology for the socioeconomic impact survey create the questionnaire, conduct it (with the assistance of project partners) and interpret and analyse results using expert social science methods
I/Biom	Public attitude impact survey	15 000 €	6	Public attitude impact study will be implemented at the beginning and towards the end of the project. Professional service of social scientist(s) is needed to design the methodology for the public attitude impact survey, create the questionnaire, conduct it (with the assistance of project partners) and interpret and analyse results using expert social science methods
	Total estimated costs	300,850 €		
If subcontracting for the entire project, give beyond 30% of the total eligible costs, give specific reasons				(Insert text)
Other direct costs				
Please complete the table below for each participant. If required add further tables at the end of this work sheet (one per participant). Please ensure that the information provided is sufficient to assess the relevance of the costs in relation to the activities proposed. For major cost items add lines below, in order to provide a detailed breakdown within one cost category. For major items listed in the justification column, indicate the work package / task to which they belong. For equipment and infrastructure, please explain if the cost represents the full cost or the depreciation				
I/Biom	Cost (€)	Justification		
Travel & subsistence	1,280 €	WP1: Kick off meeting Brussels (1 trip, 2 days, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	4,745 €	WP1: Annual Project management board meetings in Rijeka incl. monitor visit (5 trips, 3 days, 3 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	1,731 €	WP2: Baseline monitoring of Griffon vulture colonies together with JUP (3 trips (Year 1), 3 days, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	6,510 €	WP2: Volunteer vigilance network for nest disturbance monitoring and awareness raising (free accommodation for volunteers) (3 seasons, 2 months, 2 volunteers)		
Travel & subsistence	1,107 €	WP2: Volunteer coordination (2 trips, 1 day, 1 person)		
Travel & subsistence	1,108 €	WP3: International workshop on EU sanitary regulation (1 trip, 3 days, 3 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	1,365 €	WP3: Yearly trip to Krk to help establish feeding station (5 trips (1 per year), 1 day, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	2,043 €	WP3: Support for interviewing shepherds (5 trips, 2 days, 1 person)		
Travel & subsistence	775 €	WP3: Field work for habitat mapping on Krk, Cres and/or Rab (1 trip, 5 days, 1 person)		
Travel & subsistence	1,420 €	WP3: Habitat restoration experience exchange with Dinara back to LIFE (1 trip, 3 days, 4 persons (2 from Senj office, 2 from Zagreb office))		
Travel & subsistence	2,565 €	WP4: Field work to collect vulture samples (8 trips (over the span of 5 years), 1 day, 1 person)		
Travel & subsistence	3,681 €	WP4: Meetings with hunters Cres, Krk and Rab (9 trips in total (3 per year), 2 days, 1 person)		
Travel & subsistence	393 €	WP4: Final conference with Primorje-Gorski Kotar County hunters to share findings on lead-free ammunition (1 trip, 2 days, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	547 €	WP4: Kvarner police capacity building (1 trip, 3 days, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	1,845 €	WP4: Support for best-practice measures (5 trips, 2 days, 1 person)		
Travel & subsistence	5,770 €	WP4: Tagging and releasing of birds (10 trips (2 per year), 2 days, 3 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	2,533 €	WP5: Carcass search to establish baseline Griffon vulture electrocution hotspots (Cres, Učka and TBD) (3 trips, 4 days, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	5,140 €	WP5: Volunteer trainings on 2 locations (Cres and TBD) (4 trips (2 on each location), 2 days, 2 persons + 8 volunteers)		
Travel & subsistence	1,800 €	WP5: Training course on state-of-the-art animal movement analysis (EU travel) (1 trip, 7 days, 1 person)		
Travel & subsistence	1,376 €	WP5: Seminars for staff of targeted energy companies (Rijeka, Gospić and 2-TBD) (4 trips, 2 days, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	8,924 €	WP6: Monitoring of Griffon vulture colonies together with JUP (12 trips (3 trips per year, Years 2-5), 3 days, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	7,298 €	WP6: Bird electrocution monitoring (Cres, Učka and TBD) (8 trips (1 trip per location per year), 4 days, 2 volunteers)		
Travel & subsistence	1,841 €	WP7: Kick off events on Cres, Krk and TBD (3 trips, 3 days, 3 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	2,365 €	WP7: Assisting in media coverage of events (5 trips (1 per year), 2 days, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	2,365 €	WP7: International Vulture Awareness Day on Cres (5 trips (1 per year, 2 days, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	9,852 €	WP7: Education of school children (12 trips (3 schools per year), 4 days, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	1,690 €	WP7: Final Conference (1 trip, 4 days, 7 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	2,460 €	WP7: International conferences on bird conservation (Birds and Wires Conference in Hungary and TBD) (2 trips, 4 days, 1 person)		
Travel & subsistence	772 €	WP8: Final regional stakeholder workshop (1 trip, 2 days, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	5,280 €	WP8: LIFE networking (2 trips, 4 days, 3 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	1,109 €	WP8: Nature Task Force meeting in Rijeka (1 trip, 4 days, 3 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	7,280 €	WP8: Attending Nature Task Force meetings (4 trips (1 per year), 4 days, 2 persons)		
Travel & subsistence	798 €	WP8: Workshop for strategic documents development/ review (3 trips, 1 day, 3 persons)		
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	4,500 €	WP1: 3 project laptops		
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	25,000 €	WP1: Project vehicle for access to the project area (LPG)		
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	4,000 €	WP1: Work station for advanced GIS analysis		
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	3,500 €	WP2: Network Attached Storage for storing and retrieval of large amounts of high fidelity video data (8HD, 8TB each)		
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	6,000 €	WP6: 2 x professional binoculars to assist in colony monitoring		
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	2,000 €	WP6: 5 x GPS for bird electrocution monitoring and mapping of colonies		
Other goods, works and services	4,800 €	WP1: Translations of deliverable milestone reports		
Other goods, works and services	3,500 €	WP1: Annual Project Management Board meetings in Rijeka - venue & catering (5 - 1 per year)		
Other goods, works and services	500 €	WP1: Annual Project Steering Committee meetings in Zagreb - refreshments (5 - 1 per year)		
Other goods, works and services	20,000 €	WP1: Project Audit (1% of total budget)		
Other goods, works and services	2,000 €	WP1: Annual Project Management Board meetings in Rijeka - travel & accommodation for the NPD-MESD (associated partner)		
Other goods, works and services	1,350 €	WP1: Project fence for project staff (5 partners - 30 staff in total)		
Other goods, works and services	3,500 €	WP1: Yearly project vehicle insurance and registration		
Other goods, works and services	22,500 €	WP2: Boat fuel for nest disturbance monitoring and awareness raising (3 seasons)		
Other goods, works and services	1,500 €	WP2: Leaflet/ best practice for boat owners (design)		
Other goods, works and services	500 €	WP2: Leaflet/ best practice for boat owners (printing)		
Other goods, works and services	600 €	WP3: International workshop on EU sanitary regulation - travel & accommodation for the NPD-MESD (associated partner)		
Other goods, works and services	1,250 €	WP3: Habitat restoration experience exchange with Dinara back to LIFE - venue & catering (10 participants)		
Other goods, works and services	500 €	WP3: Habitat restoration experience exchange with Dinara back to LIFE - accommodation for invited guests		
Other goods, works and services	1,500 €	WP4: Expert on lead poisoning of wildlife to consult the project partners		
Other goods, works and services	5,000 €	WP4: Analyses of tissue and blood samples of Griffon vultures		
Other goods, works and services	6,000 €	WP4: Lecturers for meetings with hunters on Cres, Krk and Rab (design, implementation, analysis of satisfaction questionnaire) & meetings (2 per island) in total (beginning & end) + attending the final conference, 2 lecturers (all costs - contract)		
Other goods, works and services	3,000 €	WP4: Meetings with hunters on Cres, Krk and Rab - venue and catering (6 meetings in total)		
Other goods, works and services	1,500 €	WP4: Mid-term meetings with hunters on Cres, Krk and Rab - venue & catering		
Other goods, works and services	18,000 €	WP4: Lead-free ammunition: 40 bullets per hunter (150 hunters)		
Other goods, works and services	1,750 €	WP4: Final conference with Primorje-Gorski Kotar County hunters - venue & catering		
Other goods, works and services	1,200 €	WP4: Final conference with Primorje-Gorski Kotar hunters - international speaker (all costs - contract)		
Other goods, works and services	244 €	WP4: Final conference with Primorje-Gorski Kotar hunters - travel for invited hunters (1 per island)		
Other goods, works and services	1,000 €	WP4: Kvarner police capacity building (2 days) - lecturer (all costs - contract)		
Other goods, works and services	2,400 €	WP4: Kvarner police capacity building (2 days) - venue & catering		
Other goods, works and services	2,200 €	WP4: Kvarner police capacity building (2 days) - translation services (Spanish - Croatian)		
Other goods, works and services	500 €	WP4: Teflon tape for replacing fallen tags from Griffon vultures		
Other goods, works and services	2,000 €	WP5: Volunteer trainings on 2 locations (Cres & TBD) - venue & catering		
Other goods, works and services	2,200 €	WP5: Field equipment for volunteers w/ Biom & project branding (softshell jacket, stationery, steel water flask, hat) (€110 per set, 20 sets)		
Other goods, works and services	800 €	WP5: Training course on state-of-the-art animal movement analysis - course fee		
Other goods, works and services	2,500 €	WP5: Seminars for staff of targeted energy companies (Rijeka, Gospić and 2-TBD) - venue & catering		
Other goods, works and services	3,750 €	WP6: Field clothing for 5 staff (5 x field jackets for cold weather, hiking shoes, fieldwork pants)		
Other goods, works and services	1,500 €	WP7: Design of LIFE info boards (2 - Krk & Cres)		
Other goods, works and services	1,500 €	WP7: LIFE info boards (2 - Krk & Cres)		
Other goods, works and services	2,000 €	WP7: Project visual identity and logo design		
Other goods, works and services	4,000 €	WP7: Project webpage (subpage on BIOM website) - design, regular content translation/maintenance		
Other goods, works and services	2,000 €	WP7: Design of promotion materials		
Other goods, works and services	10,000 €	WP7: Promotion materials (coups, shirts, masks, etc.)		
Other goods, works and services	250 €	WP7: EU visibility stickers and flags		
Other goods, works and services	10,000 €	WP7: Professional photos, clips and movies		

Other goods, works and services	200 €	WP7: Project roll-up (2x)
Other goods, works and services	2 000 €	WP7: Design of project leaflets and posters for feries
Other goods, works and services	1 500 €	WP7: Project leaflets and poster for feries printing
Other goods, works and services	2 500 €	WP7: Project "props" for events and conferences
Other goods, works and services	200 €	WP7: Communication plan - travel for the NPD-MESD (associated partner)
Other goods, works and services	800 €	WP7: 3 kick-off events on Cres, Krk and TBD - venue stands & catering
Other goods, works and services	500 €	WP7: Major media events - refreshments (5x)
Other goods, works and services	600 €	WP7: Education workshop materials for school children
Other goods, works and services	1 200 €	WP7: Workshop/ educational material for school children - printing
Other goods, works and services	1 800 €	WP7: Binoculars for educational purposes (10x)
Other goods, works and services	3 600 €	WP7: Bus rental for 12 school field trips (3 schools per year)
Other goods, works and services	1 541 €	WP7: 3 kick-off events on Cres, Krk and TBD - travel for the NPD-MESD (associated partner)
Other goods, works and services	2 489 €	WP7: Final Conference in Rijeka - travel & accommodation for the NPD-MESD (associated partner)
Other goods, works and services	5 250 €	WP7: Final Conference in Rijeka - venue & catering (50 participants, 3 days)
Other goods, works and services	1 000 €	WP7: Final Conference in Rijeka - 1 day field trip to Bari - bus rental & ferry
Other goods, works and services	1 800 €	WP7: Final Conference in Rijeka - accommodation & travel for 3 experts
Other goods, works and services	3 000 €	WP7: Final Conference in Rijeka - accommodation for 15 outside participants
Other goods, works and services	600 €	WP7: International conferences on bird conservation (Birds and Wires Conference in Hungary and TBD) - conference fee (2x)
Other goods, works and services	6 250 €	WP7: Media Toolkit to monitor media appearances (€ 1,250 per year)
Other goods, works and services	2 300 €	WP8: Final regional stakeholder workshop - travel, accommodation & food for 8 relevant stakeholders
Other goods, works and services	600 €	WP8: Final regional stakeholder workshop - travel & accommodation for the NPD-MESD (associated partner)
Other goods, works and services	3 800 €	WP8: LIFE networking - travel & accommodation for the NPD-MESD (associated partner) (2 trips, 8 days)
Other goods, works and services	4 500 €	WP8: Nature Task Force meeting in Rijeka - venue & catering (40 participants)
Other goods, works and services	2 500 €	WP8: Nature Task Force meeting in Rijeka - travel for 5 international speakers
Other goods, works and services	1 000 €	WP8: Nature Task Force meeting in Rijeka - 1 day field trip to Bari - bus rental & ferry
Other goods, works and services	1 000 €	WP8: Griffon vulture Management Plan review - 2 meetings in Zagreb - venue & catering (15 participants)
Other goods, works and services	1 800 €	WP8: Griffon vulture Management Plan review - 1 meeting in Zagreb - travel for external participants
Other goods, works and services	1 800 €	WP8: Griffon vulture Management Plan review - 2 meetings in Rijeka - venue & catering (30 participants)
Other goods, works and services	1 800 €	WP8: Griffon vulture Management Plan review - 1 meeting in Rijeka - travel for external participants
Other goods, works and services	600 €	WP8: Griffon vulture Management Plan review - 2 meetings in Rijeka - travel for the NPD-MESD (associated partner)
Financial support to third parties	500 €	WP8: Guidelines for SPA Kvarnerki otoci Management Plan - 1 meeting in Zagreb - venue & catering (15 participants)
Other goods, works and services	800 €	WP8: Guidelines for SPA Kvarnerki otoci Management Plan - 1 meeting in Rijeka - venue & catering (30 participants)
Other goods, works and services	200 €	WP8: After-LIFE meetings in Zagreb - 2 meetings - catering
Financial support to third parties	- €	N/A
Land purchase	- €	N/A
Total	362,766 €	
IVCF	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel & subsistence	8,000 €	WP1: Annual Project Management Board meetings in Rijeka incl. monitor visit (5 trips, 3 days, 2 persons)
Travel & subsistence	2,400 €	WP3: International workshop on EU sanitary regulations (1 trip, 3 days, 3 persons)
Travel & subsistence	900 €	WP4: Training workshop on vulture tagging (1 trip, 3 days, 1 person)
Travel & subsistence	1,300 €	WP4: Kvarner police capacity building (1 trip, 4 days, 2 persons)
Travel & subsistence	2,000 €	WP7: Final Conference (1 trip, 5 days, 2 persons)
Travel & subsistence	1,800 €	WP8: After-LIFE plan (1 trip, 3 days, 2 persons)
Travel & subsistence	1,500 €	WP8: Final regional stakeholder workshop (1 trip, 3 days, 2 persons)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	1,900 €	WP1: Laptop for project management
Other goods, works and services	3,300 €	WP1: Organisation and travel costs for international experts to international workshop on EU sanitary regulations and capacity building of police on Kvarner (accommodation and food for 10 participants, 4 days meeting)
Other goods, works and services	45,000 €	WP4: Steps for establishing feed management (pre-emptive business measures - additional steps like work inclusion, etc.)
Other goods, works and services	4,000 €	WP4: Organisation and travel costs for international experts for Kvarner police capacity building (accommodation and food for 2 participants, 4 days)
Other goods, works and services	2,500 €	WP7: Development of a sub-page on the VCF website about the project with regular updates made including for project news
Other goods, works and services	8,100 €	WP7: Animation videos and films for international audience with English voiceover and subtitles
Other goods, works and services	750 €	WP7: Social media advertising to increase reach and awareness when publishing about key news and important actions
Financial support to third parties	N/A	
Land purchase	N/A	
Total	88,050 €	
IVJUP	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel & subsistence	350 €	WP2: Study travel in Italy to learn about aviary of Cornino (1 day, 5 persons)
Travel & subsistence	1,800 €	WP2: Study travel in Spain (4 days, 2 persons)
Travel & subsistence	3,320 €	WP8: LIFE networking (2 trips, 4 days, 2 persons)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	5,400 €	WP2: Professional photo camera with teleobjective and go-pro video camera
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	6,700 €	WP2: System camera
Other goods, works and services	13,500 €	WP2: Maintenance of system camera
Other goods, works and services	5,000 €	WP4: Pathomorphological analysis cost (5 birds per year, 5 years)
Other goods, works and services	6,750 €	WP6: Rent a boat for winter monitoring
Financial support to third parties	N/A	
Land purchase	N/A	
Total	43,220 €	
IVZO Krk	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel & subsistence	1,000 €	WP1: Annual Steering Committees meetings (5 trips, 1 day, 1 person)
Travel & subsistence	400 €	WP3: Stakeholder meetings on Kvarner Islands (at least twice per year, 1 day, 2 persons)
Travel & subsistence	500 €	WP4: Stakeholder meetings on Kvarner Islands (at least twice per year, 1 day, 2 persons)
Travel & subsistence	640 €	WP7: 3 kick-off events on Cres, Krk and TBD (3 trips, 1 day, 1 person) and yearly International Vulture Awareness Day on Cres (5 trips, 1 day, 1 person)
Travel & subsistence	840 €	WP7: Final conference (1 trip, 4 days, 3 persons)
Travel & subsistence	2,800 €	WP8: LIFE Networking (1 trip, 4 days, 2 persons)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	30,000 €	WP3: Transport vehicle able to approach off road posts for collection of carcasses
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	14,000 €	WP3: Equipment for the feeding station
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	15,000 €	WP4: Equipment purchasing for experimental fenced pasture (set up by sheepfence)
Other goods, works and services	10,000 €	WP3: Fuel and maintenance of transport vehicle
Other goods, works and services	15,000 €	WP3: Creation and dissemination of promotional material and promotion of the new feeding station
Other goods, works and services	9,000 €	WP4: Experts for selection of appropriate dog breed, acquisition of dogs, and their training to protect sheep on Krk
Financial support to third parties	N/A	
Land purchase	N/A	
Total	97,880 €	
IVHEP DSO	Cost (€)	Justification
Travel & subsistence	1,870 €	WP1: Annual Project Management Board meetings in Rijeka incl. monitor visit (5 trips, 3 days, 1 person)
Travel & subsistence	1,378 €	WP5: Seminars for staff of targeted energy companies (Rijeka, Gospić and 2-TBD) (4 trips, 1 day, 2 persons)
Travel & subsistence	508 €	WP7: 3 kick-off events on Cres, Krk and TBD (3 trips, 1 day, 1 person)
Travel & subsistence	1,000 €	WP7: International conference on bird conservation (Birds and Wires Conference in Hungary) (1 trip, 3 days, 2 persons)
Travel & subsistence	443 €	WP7: Final Conference (1 trip, 4 days, 2 persons)
Travel & subsistence	2,000 €	WP8: LIFE networking (1 trip, 4 days, 2 persons)
Equipment (incl. infrastructure)	145,000 €	WP5: Equipment for mitigation measures - pylon insulation OR insulated overhead cables (depending on the priority hotspot analysis)
Other goods, works and services	N/A	
Financial support to third parties	N/A	
Land purchase	N/A	
Total	162,297 €	


Proposal Info Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5106813 - 13/07/2022**Proposal ID**
SEP-210783135**Call for Proposal**
LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT**Topic**
LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE**Type of Action**
LIFE-PJG**LIFE Programme – Application Forms (Part C – KPI)****Horizontal KPIs for all LIFE applicants (Mandatory to report on all the KPIs of this section).**

Innovation Is your project proposal developing, demonstrating and promoting innovative techniques and approaches? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Governance Is your project proposal improving governance through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Plans & strategies Is your project proposal implementing key plans or strategies? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Catalytic effect - Financial Will your project trigger additional investments? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Catalytic effect - Spatial Will the results of your project be replicated beyond its intended geographical scope? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Catalytic effect - Thematic Will the results of your project be replicated (transferred) beyond its intended thematic scope? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Catalytic effect - Societal Will your project : a) Contribute to the development of new or existing national legislation, policies, regulations, incentives and voluntary commitments? b) Achieve a step-change in more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union environmental and climate legislation and/or in policy implementation? c) Achieve a step-change in awareness and support of environmental and climate matters? d) Establish a new macroregional or national model of cooperation (networking)? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Rio markers for climate, biodiversity and air quality Please indicate if your proposal: • Has climate change/ biodiversity/ air quality as their primary objective • Has climate change/ biodiversity/ air quality as their secondary objective and provide substantial contributions to these objectives • Does not contribute significantly to climate change/ biodiversity/ air quality Climate change Not contributing Biodiversity Primary Objective Air quality Not contributing	

LIFE Programme - Context selection

<p>Please select the EU Member State(s) or/and Associated Countries (if any) or/and potential Associated Countries (if any) that best describe the geographical context of your project proposal, i.e. the area(s) of work or/and area(s) of impact.</p> <p>Please select the type of country you wish to add</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> EU Member States <input type="radio"/> Associated Countries</p>

☐ To Be Associated Countries

 Associated with document Ref. Ares(2022)5106813 - 13/07/2022

Croatia(HR)

If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.

EU Country

Croatia

Typology

SPA: Special Protection Area

Natura 2000 sites

HR1000033: Kvarnerski otoci

If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.

EU Country

Croatia

Typology

SPA: Special Protection Area

Natura 2000 sites

HR1000018: Učka i Ćićarija

LIFE Programme - Annex II - Section 2 - Specific KPIs - (Please report on KPIs you consider relevant).

Please select the relevant indicators for your project. For each selected indicator please provide any required values and comments. Please note that if you deselect an indicator, all values entered will be lost.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water efficiency | <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resource efficiency | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy savings | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (environment) | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (humans) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (habitats) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (number of Species) | <input type="checkbox"/> GHG emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> GHG sequestration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate vulnerability (humans) | <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (Invasive Alien Species) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other project specific KPIs | <input type="checkbox"/> C2M projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Investments and Financing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate area vulnerability reduction | | |

Biodiversity (number of Species)

Number of species whose population loss is being halted and reversed

The start-value is pre-set to 0. In the end-value please provide an estimate of the number of species whose population loss is being halted and reversed due to your project, at project-end. The end-value is expected to be higher than the start-value, demonstrating an increase in the number of species positively affected, due to the project actions. Please also provide the estimated number, 3/5 years after the project-end, to demonstrate if further species will be positively affected. Please also provide relevant comments (e.g. 3 most relevant species addressed, their populations, ranges/areas, etc).

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	14	14	Number of species

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

While the LIFE SUPport project focuses on Griffon Vultures, there will be a number of other bird species that will benefit from the threats tackled through this project, namely (* = species of annex 1 Bird Directive):

Electrocution mitigation: Golden Eagle*, Short-toed Eagle*, Eagle Owl*, Common Buzzard, Hen Harrier*, Kestrel, Lesser Kestrel*, Tawny Owl, Hooded Crow, Yellow-legged Gull

Increasing food: Raven, Golden Eagle*

Decreasing nest disturbance: Peregrine Falcon*, Shag*, Raven, Golden Eagle*

Reducing poisoned baits: Golden Eagle*, Common Buzzard, Raven

Reducing lead in the environment: pretty much all above-mentioned raptors, owls and corvids.

All species will continue to benefit from the project results after the project finishes, because of increased awareness among relevant local, regional and national stakeholders and because some of the project solutions are of a permanent character (e.g. mitigated powerlines; new feeding site).

Employment

Number of jobs created in FTE

The start-value is pre-set to 0. In the end-value please provide your estimated number of new jobs created due to your project, at project-end. The end-value is expected to be higher than the start-value, demonstrating an increase in the

number of jobs created, due to the project actions. Please also provide the estimated number, 3/5 years after the project-end, to demonstrate if further jobs would be created. Please also provide relevant comments.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	6	6	FTE

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

The project will foresee in staff deployment for Biom (4), VCF (1) and PZ Krk (1). While LIFE SUPport aims to tackle the threats which have an immediate impact on the last remaining population of Griffon Vultures in Croatia, there is also a need for habitat restoration on the Kvarnerski otoci and Učka i Čičarika to foresee in the long-term needs of Griffon Vultures (and other biodiversity of the area). A follow-up project is therefore a likely next step to make, which could continue to foresee in deployment of staff. Also, by offering solutions to shepherds to prevent sheep from being killed by Golden Jackals, the project might help keep shepherds employed, which would otherwise give up due to large yearly losses.

Other project specific KPIs

Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	360	2,000	Children educated

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

Children educated

The plan is to organize educational activities in 12 schools in the region, with an estimated 30 children and 1 teacher per class. Furthermore both school children and teachers could share the lessons learned and educational materials with friends and family members. In the years after the project it is expected that teachers can pass on the acquired knowledge and materials to next generations of school children as well.

Other project specific KPIs

Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
110	125	140	Number of breeding pairs of GV in the project area

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

Number of breeding pairs of GV in the project area

Over the course of the project time, the population is expected to show a small increase in number due to improved breeding and survival conditions. The small population size and the time required for young birds to reach reproductive age explain why it needs time for the species to increase in number. However, as the positive effects of mitigated threats will also last after the project finishes, the breeding pairs are likely to continue to increase, and possibly even colonize new areas outside the Kvarner islands.

Other project specific KPIs

Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
70	75	80	% breeding success

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

% breeding success

Reduced nest disturbance and improved rescue and rehabilitation facilities, should increase the Griffon Vultures breeding success of the population during the project. The effects are expected to increase after the project finishes due to improved operational capacity and facilities of the Beli Rescue Centre for GV, as well as strong awareness raising among boat operators and locals which will reduce nest disturbance.

Other project specific KPIs

Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
--------------------------------	-------------------	------------------------------------	------

2,300

1,800

Value

Associated with document Ref: Area(2022)5106813 13/07/2022

Sheep killed by jackals yearly

1,200

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

Sheep killed by jackals yearly

In 2021, Golden Jackals killed a total of 2000 lambs and 300 sheep on the island of Krk. By testing implementation of best-preventive measures, such as shepherd dogs and different kinds of fences, as well as a deeper collaboration with local hunters, the number of sheep killed by jackals should decrease during the project implementation. Results of the different methods tested will be shared within the shepherd community, and preferred options can continue to be implemented after the project finishes, which will ultimately reduce the number of sheep being killed even further. The loss of sheep is one of the main reasons for shepherds to put out poisoned carcasses in the field (bad for GV), and can also be a reason for them to stop their profession entirely (also bad for GV as sheep are its largest natural source of food).

Other project specific KPIs

Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
15,000	40,000	50,000	Kgs of food provided on feeding sites

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

Kgs of food provided on feeding sites

Currently the existing feeding sites are supplied yearly with 15.000kgs of sheep carcasses on Cres (10 tons) and Učka (5 tons). Through LIFE SUPport the aim is to have 40 tons of food available on feeding stations for Griffon Vultures, which is the need for the current breeding population. This will be achieved through different actions 1) establishing a feeding site on Krk which will be supplied by local shepherds; 2) improving the operations of current feeding sites (e.g. broadening their permit to include more supply areas in Croatia); 3) stressing the importance of feeding sites for GV to relevant Ministries. By promoting the new feeding site on Krk to local shepherds, the site will continue to be operational also after LIFE SUPport finishes. With an envisioned increase of the population due to the LIFE SUPport, tons of food made available should increase in the years after the project (e.g. by upscaling project results to other potential areas).

Other project specific KPIs

Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	687	2,000	Number of threat-specific target persons reached

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

Number of threat-specific target persons reached

Throughout the duration of LIFE SUPport we will at least target 697 individuals who are either directly or indirectly connected to the threats for Griffon Vultures. These individuals belong to different stakeholder groups that are included in the project, namely: excursion boat operators (22); shepherds from Cres (70) and Krk (25); hunters from Cres (120), Krk (350) and Rab (20); police officers from Kvarner area (20) and employees of energy companies (60). This is the minimum reach of threat-specific target audiences, as most of these individuals will probably know other people in the same field of occupation, who they can share/ discuss the gathered information with. By engaging all relevant threat-related stakeholders in one big project a strong synergy among locals is created. Also, by highlighting the importance of the project area for GVs a sense of ownership among local threat-specific audiences is created, which will remain and g

Other project specific KPIs

Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
12	64	94	Number of volunteers engaged

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

Number of volunteers engaged

BIOM has been having a total of 10 international ESC volunteers during the last 3 years, which were all involved for a few months of their stay in work done by JUP and the Beli Rescue Centre. Additionally, 2 Croatian volunteers have assisted in electrocution monitoring activities. Throughout the 5 years of LIFE SUPport an additional 52 volunteers are expected to contribute to Griffon Vulture conservation work (50% Croatian/ 50% international), by 1) preventing nest disturbance (6 in total); 2) carcass monitoring (10 in total); 3) analyzing videos on interactions of Griffon Vultures and boat operators (16 in total); 4) helping out the Beli Rescue Centre as part of ESC (20 more). After the project finishes, we intend to continue involving ESC volunteers (4 per year) in Biom and to support the work of Beli Centre, as well as train more local volunteers (2 per year) to help out with carcass monitoring of powerlines mitigated during the project.

Other project specific KPIs

Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
25	15	15	% nestlings falling in the sea

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

% nestlings falling in the sea

In 2021, an estimated 25% of the nestlings fell into the sea, of which roughly half of the individuals could be saved from drowning and rehabilitated. By engaging volunteers in order to increase the time spent at sea during the critical period of the breeding season (2 months prior to fledging), the rescue operations of the Beli Rescue Centre will be improved: 1) more frequent surveillance of colonies, particularly more distant ones; 2) more drowning birds are found in time to be rescued; 3) nest disturbance will be reduced by increased awareness of boat owners and tourists. Particularly the latter point will make sure that the results also last after the project finishes. This, and a better understanding of interactions between boats and birds which will allow the rescue centre to better focus their efforts.

Other project specific KPIs

Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	0	0	No. of poisoning incidents

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

No. of poisoning incidents

There have been no officially recorded poisoning cases on the Kvarner Islands since 2016, therefore we aim for 0 poisoning incidents, both by the end of the project, but also beyond.

However, it is important to note that jackals have only recently been present on the islands of Krk and Rab. This fact had a significant impact on the extensive shepherding practices and we need to be very careful that this fact does not result in poisoning incidents. That is why we need to work on the issue, as one poisoning incident can be fatal for a significant part of the Griffon vulture population.

Other project specific KPIs

Please enter your project's specific KPI title and provide clarifications in the comment box.

Please specify any other KPIs you wish to present that you consider relevant and not included in the existing KPI list.

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	100	160	No. of birds (not just Griffon vultures) saved

Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.

No. of birds saved

Monitoring of 500 high-risk medium-voltage pylons on Cres island by BIOM (since 2017) has shown that 0.1-0.2 birds are electrocuted per pole each year. This equals to 50-100 birds annually, including around 1-3 Griffon vultures. Mitigating 200 poles by month 36 of the project will therefore prevent electrocution of 20-40 birds annually (= 40-80 during the implementation of the project). In the first 5 years after the project ends this measure will thus save another 100-200 birds, and the further mitigation of 100 'killer poles' during this period will prevent another 10-20 birds from getting electrocuted annually. This totals to around 160-320 birds (incl. 3-10 Griffon vultures) prevented from electrocution from the start of the project until 3-5 years after the project's end. We plan to use the number of birds (not just Griffon vultures) saved as the KPI as we find it more relevant, since the mitigation measure will save more bird species than just Griffon vultures.

ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE ACTION

¹ See Article 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be expressed in EUR (see Article 21 for the conversion rules).

² The consortium remains free to decide on a different internal distribution of the EU funding (via the consortium agreement – see Article 7).

³ Indirect costs already covered by an operating grant (received under any EU funding programme) are ineligible (see Article 6.3). Therefore, a beneficiary/affiliated entity that receives an operating grant during the action duration cannot declare indirect costs for the year(s)/reporting period(s) covered by the operating grant, unless they can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please immediately contact us via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal for details.

⁴ See Data Sheet for the funding rate(s).

⁵ This is the theoretical amount of the EU contribution to costs, if the reimbursement rate is applied to all the budgeted costs. This theoretical amount is then capped by the 'maximum grant amount'.

⁶ The 'maximum grant amount' is the maximum grant amount decided by the EU. It normally corresponds to the requested grant, but may be lower.

⁷ See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, cost per unit).

⁸ See Data Sheet for the flat-rate.

ANNEX 2a

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIT COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

SME owners/natural person beneficiaries without salary (Decision C(2020) 7115¹)

Type: unit costs

Units: days spent working on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)

Amount per unit (daily rate): calculated according to the following formula:

{EUR 5 080 / 18 days = **282,22**}
multiplied by
{country-specific correction coefficient of the country where the beneficiary is established}

The country-specific correction coefficients used are those set out in the Horizon Europe Work Programme (section Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions) in force at the time of the call (see [Portal Reference Documents](#)).

Volunteers (Decision C(2019)2646²)

Type: unit costs

Units: days spent working on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)

Amount per unit (daily rate):

Country	Daily rate in €
Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Liechtenstein, Norway	157
Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Finland, United Kingdom, Iceland	131
Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia	78
Bulgaria, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia	47
Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Macao, New Zealand, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Switzerland	92
Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Dominica, Gabon, Grenada, Ivory Coast, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Mexico, Montenegro, Nigeria, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe	45
Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El	32

¹ Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7715).

² Commission [Decision](#) of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646).

Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Micronesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Senegal, South Africa, Surinam, Swaziland, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, Vanuatu	
Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Myanmar, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo – Democratic Republic of the-, Cuba, Korea (DPR), Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji Island, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Solomon, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste – Democratic Republic of, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen	17

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

STICHTING THE VULTURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (VCF), PIC 905576384,
established in ANTOON VAN HOOFFPLEIN 1, ARNHEM 6816 SH, Netherlands,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101074212 — LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport ('the Agreement')

between UDRUGA BIOM (Udruga BIOM) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

JAVNA USTANOVA PRIRODA (JU Priroda), PIC 904537611, established in GRIVICA 4, RIJEKA 51000, Croatia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101074212 — LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport ('the Agreement')

between UDRUGA BIOM (Udruga BIOM) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

POLJOPRIVREDNA ZADRUGA OTOK KRK (PZ otok Krk), PIC 890828407, established in TRG BANA JOSIPA JELACICA 5, KRK 51500, Croatia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101074212 — LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport ('the Agreement')

between UDRUGA BIOM (Udruga BIOM) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any amendments to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANNEX 3

ACCESSION FORM FOR BENEFICIARIES

HEP-OPERATOR DISTRIBUCIJSKOG SUSTAVA DOO ZA DISTRIBUCIJU I OPSKRBU ELEKTRICNE ENERGIJE D.O.O. (HEP-ODS d.o.o.), PIC 955030476, established in ULICA GRADA VUKOVARA 37, ZAGREB 10000, Croatia,

hereby agrees

to become beneficiary

in Agreement No 101074212 — LIFE21-NAT-HR-LIFE SUPport ('the Agreement')

between UDRUGA BIOM (Udruga BIOM) and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission').

and mandates

the coordinator to submit and sign in its name and on its behalf any **amendments** to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 39.

By signing this accession form, the beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to implement it in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

SIGNATURE

For the beneficiary

ANEXO 5.2.117 M24 - M27B - 14/03/21

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR [PARTICIPANT NAME] FOR REPORTING PERIOD [NUMBER]

I) Costs (per budget category)											II) Contributions				B) Revenues	
Direct costs										Indirect costs ¹	Total costs	EU contribution (in eligible costs)				Total requested EU contribution
A. Personnel costs		B. Subcontracting costs	C. Purchase costs			D. Other indirect costs		E. Indirect costs ²	Funding rate % ³			Maximum EU contribution ⁴	Requested EU contribution			
1.1 Personnel (by function)	1.2 Personnel (by activity)	1.3 Personnel (by project)	1.4 Personnel (by project)	1.5 Personnel (by project)	1.6 Personnel (by project)	1.7 Personnel (by project)	1.8 Personnel (by project)	1.9 Personnel (by project)	1.10 Personnel (by project)	1.11 Personnel (by project)	1.12 Personnel (by project)	1.13 Personnel (by project)	1.14 Personnel (by project)			
Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs			
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			

The participating financial entity hereby certifies that:

1. The information provided is true and correct.

2. The information provided is complete and accurate.

3. The information provided is reliable and verifiable.

4. The information provided is consistent with the information provided in the financial statements of the participating financial entity.

5. The information provided is consistent with the information provided in the financial statements of the participating financial entity.

6. The information provided is consistent with the information provided in the financial statements of the participating financial entity.

7. The information provided is consistent with the information provided in the financial statements of the participating financial entity.

8. The information provided is consistent with the information provided in the financial statements of the participating financial entity.

9. The information provided is consistent with the information provided in the financial statements of the participating financial entity.

10. The information provided is consistent with the information provided in the financial statements of the participating financial entity.

[1] - Please declare all eligible costs and contributions, even if they exceed the amounts indicated in the estimated budget (see Annex 2). Only projects that were declared in your previous financial statements can be taken into account later, in order to replace costs already covered by the funding.

[2] - See Annex 6 for the eligibility conditions. All amounts must be supported in the Annex 2 for the operating budget.

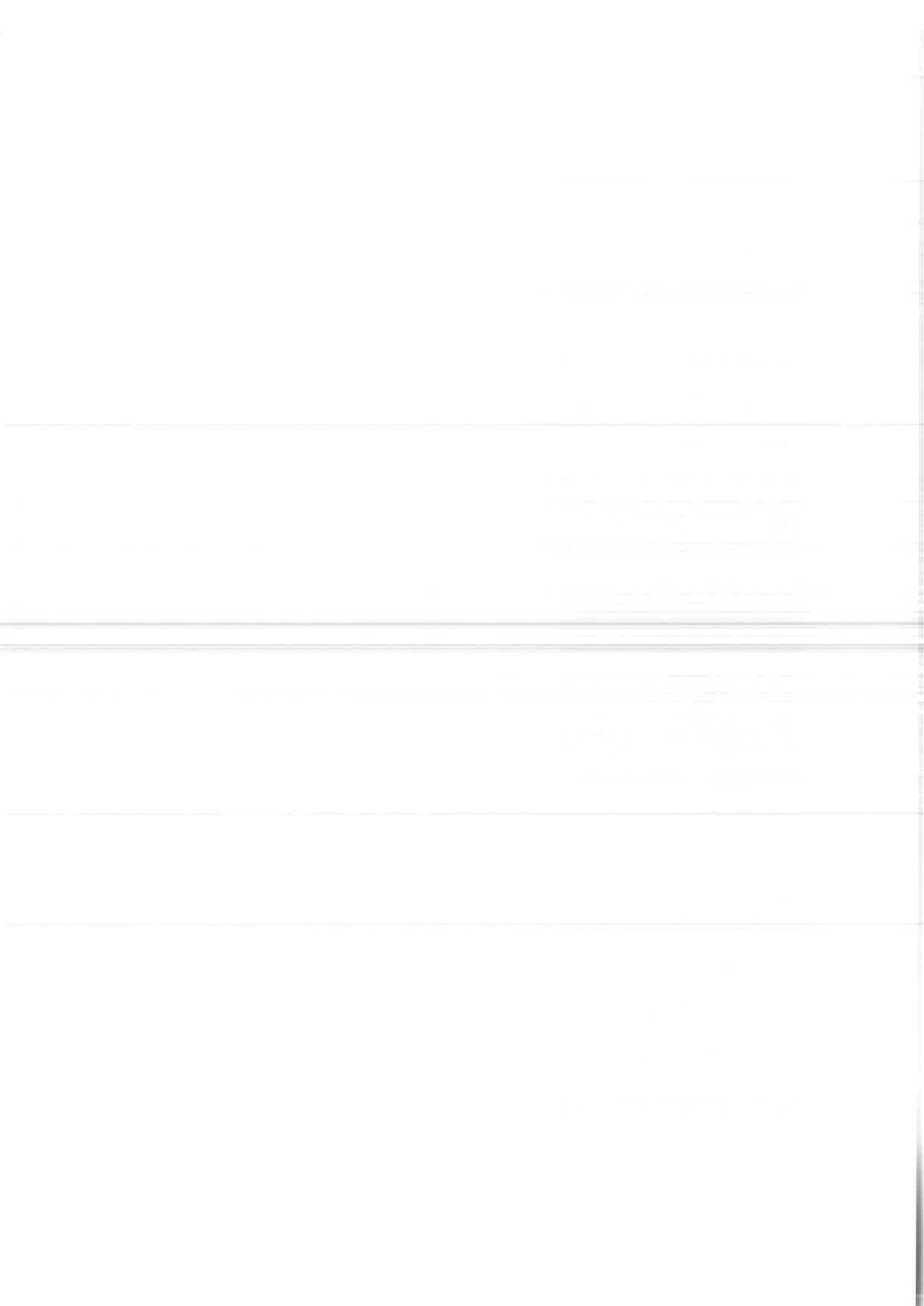
[3] - If you have also received an EU operating grant during the reporting period, you cannot claim indirect costs, unless you can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any costs of the action. This requires specific accounting tools. Please contact us immediately via the EU Grant & Funding Portal for details.

[4] - See Annex 2 for the reimbursement rates.

[5] - This is the theoretical amount of EU contribution (in case that the system calculates automatically (by multiplying the reimbursement rates by the costs declared). The amount you request (in the column requested EU contribution) may be less.

[6] - See Annex 2 for additional information on the estimated budget for the eligible costs, per year and per project.

[7] - See Annex 2 for the flat rate.



ANNEX 5

SPECIFIC RULES

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE (— ARTICLE 16)

Rights of use of the granting authority on results for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes

The granting authority also has the right to exploit non-sensitive results of the action for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes, using any of the following modes:

- **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- **distribution to the public** in hard copies, in electronic or digital format, on the internet including social networks, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file
- **editing** or **redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, changing, correcting, cutting, inserting elements (e.g. meta-data, legends or other graphic, visual, audio or text elements extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts or use in a compilation
- **translation** (including inserting subtitles/dubbing) in all official languages of EU
- **storage** in paper, electronic or other form
- **archiving** in line with applicable document-management rules
- the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties, including if there is licensed background, any of the rights or modes of exploitation set out in this provision
- **processing**, analysing, aggregating the results and **producing derivative works**
- **disseminating** the results in widely accessible databases or indexes (such as through 'open access' or 'open data' portals or similar repositories, whether free of charge or not.

The beneficiaries must ensure these rights of use for the whole duration they are protected by industrial or intellectual property rights.

If results are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they

comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY (— ARTICLE 17)

Communication and dissemination plan

The beneficiaries must provide a detailed communication and dissemination plan, setting out the objectives, key messaging, target audiences, communication channels, social media plan, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

Additional communication and dissemination activities

The beneficiaries must engage in the following additional communication and dissemination activities:

- **present the project** (including project summary, coordinator contact details, list of participants, European flag and funding statement and special logo and project results) on the beneficiaries' **websites or social media accounts**
- for actions involving equipment, infrastructure or works, display as soon as the work on the action starts a **printed or electronic sign** of appropriate size, with European flag and funding statement and special logo
- upload the public **project results** to the LIFE Project Results platform, available through the Funding & Tenders Portal .

Special logos

Communication activities and infrastructure, equipment or major results funded by the grant must moreover display the following logo:

- the LIFE Programme logo



and

- for projects in Natura 2000 sites or contributing to the integrity of Natura 2020 network: the Natura 2000 logo



SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION (— ARTICLE 18)

Durability

Unless exempted by the granting authority, beneficiaries of Standard Action Projects, Strategic Nature Projects and Strategic Integrated Projects must commit to continue to use and maintain after the end of the action equipment bought and eligible at full costs, for activities pursuing the action's objectives. Such equipment must be used for these purposes — for at least five years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) or until the end of its economic lifespan (i.e. until it has been fully depreciated) — whichever is earlier.

Specific rules for blending operations

When implementing blending operations, the beneficiaries acknowledge and accept that:

- the grant depends on the approved financing from the Implementing Partner and/or public or private investors for the project
- they must inform the granting authority both about the approval for financing and the financial close — within 15 days
- the payment deadline for the first prefinancing is automatically suspended until the granting authority is informed about the approval for financing
- both actions will be managed and monitored in parallel and in close coordination with the Implementing Partner, in particular:
 - all information, data and documents (including the due diligence by the Implementing Partner and the signed agreement) may be exchanged and may be relied on for the management of the other action (if needed)
 - issues in one action may impact the other (e.g. suspension or termination in one action may lead to suspension also of the other action; termination of the grant will normally suspend and exit from further financing and vice versa, etc.)
- the granting authority may disclose confidential information also to the Implementing Partner.



This electronic receipt is a digitally signed version of the document submitted by your organisation. Both the content of the document and a set of metadata have been digitally sealed.

This digital signature mechanism, using a public-private key pair mechanism, uniquely binds this eReceipt to the modules of the Funding & Tenders Portal of the European Commission, to the transaction for which it was generated and ensures its full integrity. Therefore a complete digitally signed trail of the transaction is available both for your organisation and for the issuer of the eReceipt.

Any attempt to modify the content will lead to a break of the integrity of the electronic signature, which can be verified at any time by clicking on the eReceipt validation symbol.

More info about eReceipts can be found in the FAQ page of the Funding & Tenders Portal.

(<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq>)



KLASA: 023-01/22-01/1
URBROJ: 2170-52-01/1-22-32
Rijeka, 18. srpnja 2022.

Na temelju članka 10. Odluke o osnivanju Javne ustanove „Priroda“ (Službene novine broj 42/13 i 40/20) i članka 22. Statuta Javne ustanove „Priroda“ (KLASA: 023-01/20-01/01; URBROJ: 2170-52-01/1-20-70 od 9. prosinca 2020.), Upravno vijeće Javne ustanove „Priroda“ na 9. sjednici koja je održana dana 18. srpnja 2022. daje

**pozitivno mišljenje
za potpisivanje Ugovora o dodjeli bespovratnih sredstava
za projekt „LIFE SUPport“**

Članak 1.

Daje se pozitivno mišljenje Javnoj ustanovi „Priroda“ za potpisivanje Ugovora o dodjeli bespovratnih sredstava za projekt „LIFE SUPport“.

Članak 2.

Ovlašćuje se ravnateljica da Ugovor o dodjeli bespovratnih sredstava za projekt „LIFE SUPport“, putem nadležnog Upravnog odjela za prostorno uređenje, graditeljstvo i zaštitu okoliša, dostavi Županu Primorsko-goranske županije na suglasnost.

Članak 3.

Odluka stupa na snagu danom donošenja.

Predsjednica Upravnog vijeća

Nina Bojanić, v.r.

