



LIFE Project Number
LIFE16 GIE/CY/000709

Final Report
Covering the project activities from 02/10/2017¹ to 30/09/2020

Reporting Date²
30/09/2020

LIFE PROJECT NAME or Acronym
iLIFE-TROODOS

Data Project

Project location:	Cyprus	
Project start date:	02/10/2017	
Project end date:	30/09/2020	Extension date: -
Total budget:	€ 1,237,771.74	
EU contribution:	€ 708,769.74	
(%) of eligible costs:	60	

Data Beneficiary

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¹ Project start date

² Include the reporting date as foreseen in part C2 of Annex II of the Grant Agreement

This table comprises an essential part of the report and should be filled in before submission

Please note that the evaluation of your report may only commence if the package complies with all the elements in this receivability check. The evaluation will be stopped if any obligatory elements are missing.

Package completeness and correctness check	
Obligatory elements	✓ or N/A
Technical report	
The correct latest template for the type of project (e.g. traditional) has been followed and all sections have been filled in, in English <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓
Index of deliverables with short description annexed, in English <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓
<u>Final report</u> : Deliverables not already submitted with the MTR annexed including the Layman's report and after-LIFE plan Deliverables in language(s) other than English include a summary in English <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓
Financial report	
The reporting period in the financial report (consolidated financial statement and financial statement of each Individual Beneficiary) is the same as in the technical report with the exception of any terminated beneficiary for which the end period should be the date of the termination.	✓
Consolidated Financial Statement with all 5 forms duly filled in and signed and dated <i>On paper (signed and dated originals*) and in electronic version (pdfs of signed sheets + full Excel file)</i>	✓
Financial Statement(s) of the Coordinating Beneficiary, of each Associated Beneficiary and of each affiliate (if involved), with all forms duly filled in (signed and dated). The Financial Statement(s) of Beneficiaries with affiliate(s) include the total cost of each affiliate in 1 line per cost category. <i>In electronic version (pdfs of signed sheets + full Excel files) + in the case of the Final report the overall summary forms of each beneficiary on paper (signed and dated originals*)</i>	✓
Amounts, names and other data (e.g. bank account) are correct and consistent with the Grant Agreement / across the different forms (e.g. figures from the individual statements are the same as those reported in the consolidated statement)	✓
Mid-term report (for all projects except IPs): the threshold for the second pre-financing payment has been reached	N/A
Beneficiary's certificate for Durable Goods included (if required, i.e. beneficiaries claiming 100% cost for durable goods) <i>On paper (signed and dated originals*) and in electronic version (pdfs of signed sheets)</i>	N/A
Certificate on financial statements (if required, i.e. for beneficiaries with EU contribution ≥750,000 € in the budget) <i>On paper (signed original) and in electronic version (pdf)</i>	N/A
Other checks	
Additional information / clarifications and supporting documents requested in previous EASME letters (unless already submitted or not yet due) <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓
This table, page 2 of the Final report, is completed - each tick box is filled in <i>In electronic version only</i>	✓

**original signature by a legal or statutory representative of the beneficiary / affiliate concerned*

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2. List of key-words and abbreviations

CONTACT: Contact Advertising Agency Ltd
DE: Department of Environment
DF: Department of Forests
ES: Ecosystem Services
EC: European Commission
EDPT: Ethniko Dasiko Parko Troodous (Troodos National Forest Park)
EMT: External Monitoring Team
EU: European Union
FM: Financial Manager
FMT: Financial Management Team
FU: Frederick University
MR: Midterm Report
PC: Project Coordinator
PM: Project Manager
PMT: Project Management Team
TNFP: Troodos National Forest Park

3. Executive Summary (maximum 2 pages)

The project ‘Troodos National Forest Park: Promoting natural values and Ecosystem Services’ (Acronym: iLIFE-TROODOS; LIFE16 GIE/CY/000709) was implemented within the framework of the LIFE program of the European Union (EU). The project aimed to increase public awareness on the natural values of Ethniko Dasiko Parko Troodos (EDPT - CY5000004), namely Troodos National Forest Park, for which it was included in the Natura 2000 network and the Ecosystem Services (ES) it provides. The project started on the 2nd October 2017 and completed on the 30th September 2020.

The specific objectives of the project were to:

- Promote public awareness of the targeted audience, towards the need for the protection of Natura 2000 network.
- Increase awareness on natural values for which the Troodos National Forest Park (TNFP) was included in the Natura 2000 network.
- Change negative attitudes of Cyprus inhabitants, regarding Natura 2000 network and ES, using various means (rural workshops, awareness/ media campaign, and dissemination material).
- Spread knowledge about the natural values and ES provided by Natura 2000 network to professional target groups (policy implementers).
- Create and provide toolsets (Mobile Apps, best practises guide, documentary, etc.) regarding the Natura 2000 network, the conservation of natural values and the provision of ES in order to be forwarded to the public and be used more widely in a national and international context.

Attached to the Final Report are the replies to the comments of the European Commission (EC), following the Joint visit’s evaluation of EASME and External Monitoring Team’s (EMT) in June 2020 (Annex 10.1.1).

The project was implemented properly without substantial divergences from the initial proposal (only 2³ out of 8 local workshops were not implemented due to COVID-19 pandemic, see also #6.1.3). The Project Management Team (PMT) secured the efficient management of the project at the administrative level and monitored the progress according to the ‘Project Monitoring Protocol’ (Annex 10.2.44) and the Monitoring Protocol of Core Actions (Annex 10.2.22). In addition, the establishment of a Financial Management Team (FMT) contributed to the sound handling of the project’s economic issues.

As already mentioned, all project activities were successfully implemented during the three years of the project implementation. Specifically, a Communication Plan has been prepared under ‘preparatory actions’ (Action A1) and was fully adopted under the main core action of the project (Action B1). Within the framework of Action B1, six campaigns were implemented (two/ year). The foreseen workshops under the framework of Action B2 were successfully implemented (except of two local workshops) and all activities foreseen under Action B3 (information kiosks, mobile Apps, photo contest and photo exhibition, documentary, etc.) were also successfully implemented.

Monitoring of the project’s impact took place utilizing the ‘Monitoring Protocol of Core Actions’ (Action C1) and surveys (telephone, online, and group interviews) - (Action C2). The majority of project’s activities were implemented on schedule and in high quality. In cases of delay in some activities (e.g., the construction of information kiosk at Troodos square and the production of documentary), these have no impact on other actions. The ultimate goal was the creation of a high-quality output in each of the deliverable. Regarding Action C2, 2838 people

³ For this reason, through site visits, extra informative material was provided to the people of two neighbouring communities, namely Spilia and Kyperounda.

were participated in project's surveys (telephone surveys: 1467 people, online survey: 1175 people, group interviews: 96 people, tourists: 100 people). The outcomes of the surveys were utilized to elaborate a socio-economic impact study and to calculate the percentage of project's expected results. The project met most of its expected results (see below). Moreover, a mitigation plan to alleviate any pressures from the increased number of people to the environment of TNFP was elaborated within the framework of Action C2.

Under the framework of Action D1, two networking visits to LIFE projects abroad and two presentation in European scientific conferences were implemented. A Best Practices Guide and a Replication Plan were elaborated, aiming to be the guides in order to provide the basis for cost-efficient replication and/ or transfer of knowledge to other EU countries. Several means (newsletters, promotion material, press releases and articles, notice boards, website and Layman's Report) for promoting the project and its results were created within the framework of Action D.2.

Project management (Action E1) took place through regular meetings of the PMT and day to day contact of the Project Manager (PM) with the Project Coordinator (PC) and the leaders of the other project partners. An After-LIFE Plan was created within the same action, in order to provide details regarding what activities will be carried out after the end of the project, indicating the timeline and the responsible beneficiary for their implementation. Project Monitoring Protocol (Action E2) was used for monitoring the progress of the project and to evaluate the timely and proper implementation of the project's actions.

In general, the iLIFE-TROODOS project awareness campaign was very satisfactory achieving an increase in the level of awareness on most of the target groups. As expected, with the implementation of all the bursts of the project, even better results were achieved and a greater impact on the public, compared to the actions implemented in the three different time stages (years) of the project. Therefore, the overall impact of the project on the target groups is considered very satisfactory and the initial objectives of the project were achieved.

The project reached 93.78% of Cypriots and 27% of tourists visiting Cyprus and met the targets set by the project objectives. Specifically, the following results were achieved by the end of the project (*In order to measure the awareness increase, a part of the surveys answers was used, which included 40 questions on various topics (flora, fauna, cultural heritage, etc.). The measurement was made based on the number of correct answers provided in the last survey in comparison with the previous, for the groups 'inhabitants', 'youth' and 'visitors'. The percentage about awareness increase for 'local people', experts' judgment was used in last round of group interviews in comparison with the previous rounds. 'Children's' percentage was estimated based on teacher's judgment after the series of lessons regarding 'Dentris' and Troodos at two schools):*

- Promote public awareness of the targeted audience, towards the need for the protection of Natura 2000 network: **Increase awareness of the inhabitants of Cyprus by 57%, youth by 60% and children by 50%.**
- Increase awareness on natural values for which the TNFP was included in the Natura 2000 Network: **Increase awareness of visitors/ tourists by 60%.**
- Change negative attitudes of Cyprus inhabitants, regarding Natura 2000 network and ecosystem services, using various means: **Increase awareness of the inhabitants of Cyprus by 57% and local communities and local authorities by 70%.**
- Spread knowledge about the natural values and ecosystem services provided by Natura 2000 network to professional target groups: The increase in awareness and build capacity for policy implementers will only become apparent after a few years. However, this started to become apparent since the Natura 2000 network has been included in selected policies, e.g., the Common Agriculture Policy (the iLIFE-TROODOS might have contributed to this).

- Create and provide toolsets regarding the Natura 2000 network, the conservation of natural values and the provision of ecosystem services in order to be forwarded to the public and be used more widely in a national and international context: **Increase awareness of visitors/ tourists by 60%**. Raising awareness on the people with disabilities was not possible (their association did not respond to the call for participation in the Stakeholders meetings).

All the above contributed to increasing the number of visitors to TNFP in 2019 (visitors in 2020 were much less due to restriction measures of COVID-19 pandemic).

Referring to the financial part of the project, the project covered the 92.42% of the total budget. The total cost of the project was €1,237,771.74. The Final Report is accompanied by 49 annexes, of which 28 are deliverables of the project and 21 are additional files with information on the project's progress.

4. Introduction (maximum 2 pages)

The environmental issue targeted by the project is attributed to the fact that most Cypriots were either inefficiently informed of the existence of the Natura 2000 network, or they are unaware of the reasons (natural values) for which an area was included in this Network. Moreover, the Natura 2000 network has been, in various cases, a hot issue, not only for Cyprus but also for other EU member states, since landowners believe that the declaration of the Natura 2000 sites negatively impacts their economic interests. The main conclusions of a poll, which took place before the start of the project, targeting the public's knowledge on natural values for which the TNFP was included in the Natura 2000 network and the ES that the site provides were:

- 79% of the participants did not know that the TNFP is included in the Natura 2000 network.
- 78% of the participants did not know or had a misconception about the reasons for which the TNFP is included in the Natura 2000 network.
- 86% of the participants had limited knowledge on the number of the endemic plant species of EDPT.
- 70% of the participants had limited knowledge on the number of bird species that occur in the EDPT.
- 99% of the participants did not fully comprehend the ES that the TNFP provides.
- 58% of the participants do not know or have a misconception about the term of ES.

The above-mentioned data was the reason for the submission for funding of iLIFE-TROODOS project.

The specific objectives of the project were to:

- Promote public awareness of the targeted audience, towards the need for the protection of Natura 2000 network.
- Increase awareness on natural values for which the TNFP was included in the Natura 2000 network.
- Change negative attitudes of Cyprus inhabitants, regarding Natura 2000 network and ES, using various means.
- Spread knowledge about the natural values and ES provided by Natura 2000 network to professional target groups.
- Create and provide toolsets regarding the Natura 2000 network, the conservation of natural values and the provision of ES in order to be forwarded to the public and be used more widely in a national and international context.

Through specific information and the awareness campaign that was based on a detailed Communication Plan (prepared in Action A1), it was expected that the project would increase awareness, build capacity and change the perceptions, for:

- Inhabitants of Cyprus by 50%, through media broadcasting, TV presentations, ads in newspapers/ magazines, buses, billboards and mobile exhibition.
- Policy implementers (including representatives of the tourism industry sector) by 40%, through training workshops (Action B2), Layman's report (Action D2) and report on best practises (Action D1).
- Local people and local authorities by 80%, through rural workshops (Action B2), information points and boards (Action B3) and Layman's report (Action D2).
- Children by 40%, through short animated cartoons (Action B1).
- Youth by 50%, through social media (Action B1), website (Action D1), Mobile Apps (Action B3) and Radio live links (Action D2).
- Visitors/ Tourists by 20%, through documentary (Action B1), Mobile Apps (Action B3), billboards (Action B1), information points and boards and mobile exhibition (Action B3).

- People with Disabilities by 25%, through improvement of facilities in nature trails and provision of information suitable for these people in the boards and in the information points.

The following Stakeholders accepted the project's invitation and participated to the Stakeholders' meetings: Troodos Development Company, Troodos Tourism Development and Promotion Company, Game and Fauna Service, Cyprus Association of Professional Foresters, Cyprus Forest Association, Deputy Ministry of Tourism (former Cyprus Tourism Organisation), Limassol District Administration and Geological Survey Department. Three stakeholders (Defense Fire Risk Management Organisation of British Forces, Federation of Environmental Organisations of Cyprus, and Cyprus Confederation of Organization of the Disabled) contacted and declined to participate

Project impact monitoring on the target audiences was implemented as follows:

i) initial step, aimed to identify the existing knowledge and public awareness according to the project's goal, ii) mid-process, for assessing the effectiveness of the awareness-raising activities and iii) final-process for evaluating the effectiveness of the awareness-raising activities in reaching the expected project's goals.

The monitoring took place as follows:

- Three telephone surveys (initial, mid and final).
- Online surveys (several polls in Facebook page).
- Group interviews for different target groups, once per year during the project's implementation.

This activity identified and analysed the information relating to social and economic aspects of the project. A socio-economic impact assessment with particular emphasis on the communities neighbouring to the TNFP was prepared based on this analysis at the end of the project (see #6.1.6). Social aspects identified were for example the opportunities provided by TNFP for recreation, a strong argument regarding the restriction of hunting and the risk of fire. Regarding economic aspects, most of the businesses recorded are under code T (Activities of Households as Employers; Undifferentiate Goods and Services Producing Activities of Households for Own Use), where this is about 29% of all NACE activities. The next categories are codes G (Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles) and I (Accommodation and Food Service Activities), where each category comprises about 13% of all activities. In 2019, the number of people choosing to stay at accommodations at these communities doubled in comparison to the previous years.

Expected longer term results (as anticipated at the start of the project)

The audience and stakeholders targeted during the implementation of the project's actions, were expected to utilize the results after the end of the project. These groups are local authorities and local people, policy implementers, environmental NGOs, representatives of the tourism industry sector, tourists and scientists. Each target group could use the information provided in its field of expertise. The inhabitants of Cyprus, including local people, local authorities and visitors, were expected to understand the approach and the importance of the natural values of the Natura 2000 network, got familiarized with the ES provided and respect the natural environment. Policy implementers were expected to utilize all information gained from the project in order to influence the policy makers, enhance the conservation of Cyprus natural environment and promote alternative forms of tourism in the island. Finally, scientists were expected to spread the knowledge on natural values and ES of the Natura 2000 network and the project's results, to youth and students.

5. Administrative part (maximum 1 page)

The Coordinating Beneficiary and Associate Beneficiaries covered all aspects of the project's managerial needs by assigning explicit roles and obligations to team members based on their available personnel, skills and experience. A balanced workload for each one was planned in order to assure optimal quality of results, time management and budget control. PMT had the overall control of the project implementation and project beneficiaries' obligations and activities. The personnel that had worked for the project at each beneficiary is presented in Annex 10.1.2 of this report:

Day-to-day management and project coordination were carried out by the PMT. The members of the PMT were:

- Mr Minas Papadopoulos - PC, Conservators of Forests A' at Troodos Division (Department of Forests - DF)
- Dr Marios Andreou - PM, Frederick University (FU)
- Mrs Maria Spyrou – Financial Manager (FM), FU
- Mrs Lia Flourentzou - Communication Coordinator (Contact Advertising Agency Ltd - CONTACT)
- Mrs Elena Erotokritou - Representative of Department of Environment (DE).

The PM and the PC in order to organise and co-ordinate the implementation of the project arranged several meetings and contacts with the project partners (**Administration Level**). Specifically:

- In order to ensure the smooth start of the project, the Coordinating Beneficiary arranged a preliminary meeting before the official start of the project.
- Fifteen official meetings of the PMT took place.
- Several unofficial meetings, tele-meetings and almost daily phone-calls have taken place between the PM and the PC, or the PM with the representatives of each partner.
- The FM has prepared the Project Financial Management Guide, as an auxiliary tool for handling economic issues of the project. A FMT was established, consisting of the FM and a representative of each project partner.

Furthermore, the PM was in continuous contact (at least once a week) either by email or by telephone with Mr. Loizos Constantinou (DF), Mrs Elena Erotokritou (DE) and Mrs Elena Tombazou (CONTACT) regarding current issues of the project implementation (**Implementation Level**).

No significant deviations from the work plan and the deliverables had been raised and no changes have been made to the Grant Agreement. However, a 'Letter Amendment No1 to Grant Agreement for project LIFE16 GIE/CY/000709' was sent by EASME in August 2018 with modification in selected articles in the Specific and/ or General Conditions of the Grant Agreement (included in the Midterm Report). Moreover, the project proposal provided conflicting information which required clarification or some mistakes that were inadvertently included (sent with MR).

The PC and PM had communication with the EMT every month, reporting the project progress. Moreover, the EMT visited the project in April 2018 and in May 2019. A Joint (virtual) Visit of EMT and EASME took place in June 2020. The replies to the comments of the EASME, following the Joint Visit, can be found in Annex 10.1.1.

Furthermore, the PC contact EASME and Mr. Angelo Salsi on 11/01/2019 about a clarification on the reporting period of iLIFE-TROODOS project (included in the MR).

6. Technical part (maximum 25 pages)

6.1 Technical progress, per Action

6.1.1 Action A.1: Elaboration of a communication plan

Status:	COMPLETED		
Foreseen start date: 02/10/2017	Actual start date: 02/10/2017	Foreseen end date: 31/01/2018	Actual end date: 31/01/2018

Action A.1 started from the beginning of the project and was completed as foreseen in the project proposal. CONTACT was in charge of this action and responsible for the elaboration of the Communication Plan (sent with MR). The other project’s partners participated in this action by providing information and feedback on the Communication Plan.

Within the framework of this action, CONTACT created and presented in a meeting of the partners the project’s logo and slogan (*Troodos, it's in our nature!*). The final draft of the Communication Plan was presented to project’s partners in December 2017 (project’s milestone) and finalized in January 2018. A revised version published in November 2018.

The Communication Plan described the strategy and creative material to be created under iLIFE-TROODOS, the budget that needs to be invested for each activity, and the time frame of the communication campaign. It was a road map of the campaign's development as well as an assessment base of the implementation of the proposed activities (mainly in Action B1). The development of the Communication Plan also focused on the messages that need to be channelled to better achieve the campaign's objectives as well as on actions that need to take place in order to reach the target audience. Successful communication of messages was achieved through the strategic design and implementation of integrated marketing communication campaign that approached different target audiences across all touch points of their daily route with 360° communication. Key element of the proposed communication strategy was that all communication channels were well coordinated and act cumulatively on the transmission of a single-minded message in order to achieve a deep and more effective understanding of communication messages by the public.

The last three pages of the Communication Plan include the timeframe of the awareness campaign in detailed and the cost for each activity. The activities included in the Communication Plan were those indicated in the core action of the project: Action B1 and which were successfully implemented, with minor changes in the timeframe.

6.1.2 Action B.1: Awareness Campaign on natural values and Ecosystem Services of Troodos National Forest Park

Status:	COMPLETED		
Foreseen start date: 02/01/2018	Actual start date: 02/01/2018	Foreseen end date: 30/09/2020	Actual end date: 29/09/2020

Action B1 started as foreseen in the project proposal and concluded by the end of the project. CONTACT was responsible for the implementation of this action. The other three partners provide CONTACT with all necessary scientific information and texts for the implementation of action's activities.

The implementation of this action was strictly based on the timeframe set in the Communication Plan. All activities foreseen were successfully implemented, during the six bursts of the campaign (2 per year)⁴. Specifically:

- Production of six TV spots and six Radio spots in Greek language (sent with MR)
- 725 (700 were foreseen in the proposal) broadcasts for the six TV spots (see Annex 10.2.1)
- 3506 (3456 were foreseen in the proposal) broadcasts for the six Radio spots (see Annex 10.2.1)
- Nine radio (action's deliverable⁴ - Annex 10.2.2) and nine TV presentations (action's deliverable⁵ - Annex 10.2.3)
- Publication of 18 full page magazine adverts (action's deliverable⁴ - Annex 10.2.4) and 42 adverts in seven newspapers (action's deliverable⁴ - Annex 10.2.5)
- Publication of 30 press releases (action's deliverables⁴ - Annex 10.2.6 and 10.2.7)
- Publication of one leaflet (sent with MR). The allocation of leaflet (10.000 copies in English and Greek) can be found in Annex 10.2.8
- Production of three animated cartoons (sent with MR)
- 5405 (2100 were foreseen in the proposal) broadcasts for animated cartoons in Cinema halls (see Annex 10.2.1). An edited version of 'Dentris' was also broadcasted on TV.
- 14 PISAS and five SUPER PISAS billboards (outdoor advertising) (sent with MR)
- 8.996.398 (1.600.000 were foreseen in the proposal) impressions in Google network (through 31 sponsored ads) and 3.170.554 (3.000.000 were foreseen in the proposal) impressions in two Cypriot websites (Annex 10.2.9)
- 36 sponsored posts/ ads on Facebook, resulting 14.272 Likes (Annex 10.2.9)
- Continuous presence on Facebook, with 186 posts in total in [iLIFE-TROODOS](#) page.
- Two Radio LIVE Links. The first LIVE Link took place during the inauguration of the information point at Platania on 27/08/2019. The second Live Link took place on 27/09/2020 at Platania, during the Final Info Day of the project, by DIESI 101.1.
- Advert on buses (outdoor advertising): 8 city buses and 2 intercity buses (Annex 10.2.10).

The Report on social media records (action's deliverable - Annex 10.2.9) and the Report on broadcasting records, including DVD with all media campaign material (action's deliverable - Annex 10.2.1) provide details and proofs of the campaign.

⁴ The 5th and 6th burst were closed to each other due to COVID19 pandemic.

⁵ The deliverables of 2018 were sent with MR.

Regarding action's milestones:

Milestone name	Foreseen Deadline	Actual Date
Start of media production	02/2018	01/2018
Creation of Facebook page	02/2018	01/2018
Completion of outdoor advertising	03/2020	06/2020

Within the framework of this action and after the suggestion of Stakeholders' and EMT, the TV spots (Annex 10.2.11) and animated cartoons (Annex 10.2.12) were created in English language, too, from savings coming from other project's activities.

Some outside LIFE activities have been carried out within the framework of this action:

- a) creation of a YouTube account and an Instagram account,
- b) publication of 13 press releases⁶, three regarding Photo Contest, eight about Mobile Apps, one about photo exhibition and one regarding project's documentary (see Annex 10.2.13),
- c) promotion of 'Troodos National Forest Park' App through Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation ([video link](#)),
- d) One more TV presentation (see Annex 10.2.14) and one more Radio presentation (see Annex 10.2.15).

⁶ These press releases were carried out by other entities and not by the project consortium, after getting in contact with the project.

6.1.3 Action B.2: Information and Awareness workshops

Status:	COMPLETED		
Foreseen start date: 01/03/2018	Actual start date: 07/04/2018	Foreseen end date: 31/07/2020	Actual end date: 17/09/2020

Action B2 started one month after the foreseen starting date and concluded by September 2020. FU was in charge of this action. DF was responsible for the organization of the rural workshops and FU was responsible for the organization of the other workshops. DF, FU and DE participated in the workshops.

Almost all foreseen workshops were successfully implemented. Specifically:

- **Eight Rural workshops:** During the first phase of rural workshops, five workshops were implemented (please refer to MR). Two out of three workshops of the second phase were cancelled given the situation and the unprecedented conditions in Europe (and the whole world) caused by COVID-19 (see also Annex 10.1.1). Only one workshop took place at the 17th of September 2020 at Louvaras village within the framework of the handover event of the park for the disabled at the "Kakomallis" picnic area in Louvaras, organized by the DF, the Louvaras Community Council and the President of Pancyprian Organization for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled. The event honored with their presence the Commissioner for the Development of Mountain Communities Mr. Costas Champiaouris, the CEO of the sponsoring company Mr. Pavlos Paradisiotis and the architect of the project Mr. Kyriakos Mavrikios. More than 75 people attended the event. It was the first time that people with disabilities (stakeholder of the Project) participated in project's event, in order to be informed about the facilities established for their convenience within the framework of iLIFE-TROODOS project. The facilities include the placement of QR code signs at selected picnic tables at "Livadi tou Pasia" picnic site. Through a smart device people with visual impairments have the opportunity to make use of the QR codes signs to listen at an audio recording regarding the location and the iLIFE-Troodos project. Moreover, the needs of people with mobility impairments were taken into account, providing parking places and picnic tables, suitable for people in wheelchairs. Similar facilities (QR code signs and wheelchair ramps) are provided at the information points at Platania and Troodos Square (see Annex 10.2.21).

In order to mediate the inability to implement two Rural Workshops (COVID-19 restrictions), extra information (Layman's Report, newsletters, leaflet and promotional material) was provided to the people of two neighbouring communities, namely Spilia and Kyperounda. The extra information material was also provided to the Troodos Development Company and to the Troodos Tourism Development and Promotion Company, for further dissemination. Furthermore, after the ending of the photo exhibition on 18 September 2020, the mobile exhibition was transferred to Platania area for exhibition beyond the end of the project period.

The general objective of all rural workshops was to inform the people about the importance of TNFP and the ES that provides. Participants were also provided with promotion material and had the opportunity to interact with the staff members of the project. More information is included in the report for the rural workshops (project's deliverable – Annex 10.2.16).

- **Policy implementer's workshop:** The report for the policy implementers workshop (project's deliverable) was provided with the MR report. During the conference 61 people from public and wider public sector departments and services, environmental organizations, universities and developments companies participated. The conference

invited talks by experts on ES from abroad, as well as thematic sessions for the mapping and evaluation of the ES of two important areas of the island: Larnaca Salt Lakes and TNFP. The key outcomes of the workshop were: a) people attending the workshop familiarized and built capacity on mapping and evaluation on ES and b) guidance documents for MAES reports were presented for the implementation of Action 5 of Target 2 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

- Tourism workshop: The workshop was held on 27 June 2019 at the Philoxenia Conference Center and was co-organized by the iLIFE-TROODOS project and the Deputy Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the British High Commission in Nicosia. Fifty-six people from departments and services, ambassadors and embassy representatives, tour guides and tourist agents were invited and participated in the conference. The workshop invited talks from Cyprus Tourism Safety Platform’s partners about the progress made regarding the safety of tourists in Cyprus. During this workshop, the members of iLIFE-TROODOS project presented the natural values and ES provided by the TNFP and also the project’s aim, goals, and progress. The two apps developed within the framework of the project were presented in extend. The main outcomes and conclusions of the workshop were: a) all partners presented their progress regarding the safety of tourist in Cyprus and b) the project iLIFE-TROODOS was stated as very important on the safety of visitors and tourists at Troodos area since knowledge is the best way of prevention and ensure safety. More information can be found in the Report for the tourism sector workshop (project’s deliverable – Annex 10.2.17).
- Stakeholders’ workshops: The description of the first stakeholders’ workshop and the relevant deliverable were provided with the MR report. The second stakeholders’ workshop was organised at Platania, at the DF Forest Station on 14 October, 2019. The main purpose of the workshop was to inform the participants about the actions of the project implemented up to that point, as well as to give their feedback about the actions taken regarding the stakeholder’s suggestions during the first meeting. During the meeting, the participants suggested to explore the possibility to produce the TV spots and animation spots in English language, through funding from Deputy Ministry of Tourism⁷. Moreover, stakeholders were expected to provide resources/ information on events at Troodos area to be included in the mobile application of the iLIFE-TROODOS project and the touch screens of the information kiosks. More details can be found in the Report for the second Stakeholders’ workshop (project’s deliverable – Annex 10.2.18).

Regarding action’s milestones:

Milestone name	Foreseen Deadline	Actual Date
Tourism sector workshop	10/2019	06/2019
Second Stakeholder’s workshop	03/2020	10/2019
Policy implementers workshop	10/2018	12/2018
Second phase of rural workshops	06/2020	09/2020
First Stakeholder’s workshop	10/2018	10/2018
First phase of rural workshops	12/2018	10/2018

Some outside LIFE activities have been carried out within the framework of this action:

- a) The project presented at the event of KLIK FM radio station which took place on 22th July 2018 at Platania pic nic site.
- b) The project partners had a meeting with the Hellenic Hiking Club of Nicosia in May 2019.

⁷ Deputy Ministry of Tourism has denied funding this activity. The production of TV spots and animated cartoons in English language was done by project’s funding (see #6.1.2).

c) A letter to relevant NGOs and authorities was sent in September 2019 to publish (if they wish) their future activities within TNFP to the touch screen of the information kiosks and to the ‘Troodos National Forest Park’ App.

d) A letter to the Director of the Environmental Education Center Network (Cyprus Pedagogical Institute) of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth was sent in September 2019 and in June 2020 regarding the implementation of the iLIFE-TROODOS project and the establishment of two information kiosks at Troodos National Forest Park, to be integrated, if they wish, to their curriculums.

e) Within the same framework (reaching schoolchildren), project members talked about the project, the natural values and ES of TNFP either at Platania information point or at primary schools as follows:

Platania information point:

1. 20/07/18: Galaktika Educational Workshop (68 participants)
2. 24/07/18: Firefighters of the World – Department of Cyprus Delegation (9 participants)
3. 31/07/18: 30 Sistima Famagusta Scouts (19 participants)
4. 02/08/18: 91 Sistima Saint Andreas Scouts (49 participants)
5. 08/08/18: 253 Sistima Limassol Scouts (35 participants)
6. 13/08/18: 81 Sistima Polemidion and 50 Sistima Mesa Gitonias Scouts (25 participants)
7. 09/07/19: 297 Sistima Larnaca Scouts (56 participants)
8. 16/07/19: 288 Sistima Paliometochou, 75 Sistima Agiou Dometiou, 273 Sistima Aglatzias Scouts (78 participants)
9. 26/07/19: Galaktika Summer Workshop (66 participants)
10. 01/08/19: 30 Sistima Famagusta Scouts (30 participants)
11. 05/08/19: 61 Sistima Limassol Scouts (26 participants)
12. 09/08/19: 61 Sistima Limassol Scouts (9 participants)
13. 27/02/20: Kakopetria Primary School (110 participants)

Schools:

1. 03/04/19: Voroklini Primary School (25 participants)
2. 10/04/19: Voroklini Primary School (25 participants)
3. 17/05/19: Voroklini Primary School (25 participants)
4. 20/05/19: Aradippou Community Volunteering Council (35 participants)
5. 25/09/20: Aradippou Community Volunteering Council (26 participants)
6. 28/09/20: Aradippou Community Volunteering Council (35 participants).

f) The project’s activities were presented to tourist guides in Cyprus during the Annual Licensed Tourist Guides Training Seminar, held at the Filoxenia Conference Centre in Nicosia, on 29 January, 2020. Information material was provided to the participants. The conference was co-organized by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism and the Cyprus Tourist Guide Association. More than 250 tourist guides participated in the seminar. The participants had the opportunity to learn about the implementation of the iLIFE-TROODOS project, and in particular the two Apps for smart devices, created within the project, related to informing and entertaining Troodos visitors.

6.1.4 Action B.3: Attracting visitors to Troodos National Forest Park

Status:	COMPLETED		
Foreseen start date: 01/11/2017	Actual start date: 09/10/2017	Foreseen end date: 30/09/2020	Actual end date: 30/09/2020

Action B3 started one month earlier the foreseen starting date and concluded by the end of the project. DF was in charge of this action and responsible for the creation of the documentary, the establishment of information points, the preparation and the installation of information panels and information boards and the modification of the picnic site. FU was responsible for the development of the Mobile Apps and the graphical user interface of the ‘information outdoor touch screens’ and the mobile exhibition. The following activities were successfully implemented:

- Installation of four information boards at highly visited areas within the TNFP (please refer to MR).
- The ‘Livadi tou Pasia’ picnic site was modified to facilitate people on wheelchairs and people with visual impairments (please refer to MR).
- Creation of two Mobile Apps: ‘Troodos National Forest Park’ (No of downloads up to September 2020 = 3028) and ‘iLIFE-TROODOS Treasure Hunt’ (No of downloads up to September 2020 = 742) were created for both iOS and Android devices (please refer to MR).
- Creation of graphical user interface for ‘information outdoor touch screen’ (please refer to MR).
- Installation of two information points at Troodos square and at “Platania” picnic site. The information points enhance the available information provided to visitors regarding the services provides as well as the recreational facilities within the TNFP and the neighbouring communities. The information kiosks are modern constructions compatible with the natural environment and include eight information panels with eye-catching pictures and texts and an information outdoor touch screen. The touch screen provides information about the TNFP (biodiversity, ecosystem services, etc.), information about the available recreational activities and games, like puzzles and multiple-choice questions. The design and construction of the information kiosk allows 24 hours access per day throughout the year⁸. The information kiosk at “Platania” picnic site finished in May 2019 and at Troodos square in May 2020 (the construction had been interrupted, after the intervention of the project civil engineer, due to extremely low temperatures which could affect the quality and the stability of the concrete and also due to restrictions of COVID19).
- Completion of the Photo Contest with the subject ‘Troodos, it is in our nature’, with the participation of 65 amateur and professional photographers (494 photographs were submitted in total). Using their photo cameras, the participants were encouraged to “capture” the Park’s natural beauty and show the variety of habitats, flora and fauna species, geology and natural landscapes throughout the four seasons of the year. The acknowledgment of the winners of the Photo Contest took place in August 2019 during the inauguration of the information point at “Platania” picnic site. The winners were awarded a cash prize of 2.000 euros in total.
- Photo exhibition of the project iLIFE-TROODOS: Selected photos from photographers that took part at the Photo Contest were exhibited from November 25, 2019 until

⁸ Both the information points and ‘Livadi tou Pasia’ picnic site are suitable for wheelchair users and provide information to people with visual impairments (please see also Annex 10.1.1 and Annex 10.2.21).

September 18, 2020 to several areas in Cyprus. The exhibition consisted of 19 photos that were selected with the aim to highlight the biodiversity elements of TNFP and the ES it provides. The outdoor mobile exhibition “travelled” throughout Cyprus. Specifically, it was exhibited at:

- Troodos Botanic Garden “A.G. Leventis” (25/11/2019 – 20/12/2019)
- Troodos square (20/12/2019 – 27/03/2020)
- Aradippou: Apostolos Louka square (30/03/2020 – 20/04/2020)
- Larnaca: Finikoudes (04/05/2020 – 25/05/2020)
- Agia Napa: Thalassa Municipal Museum (25/05/2020 – 15/06/2020)
- Latsia: Latsia Municipality (15/06/2020 – 06/07/2020)
- Aglantzia: Kyrenia Avenue (06/07/2020 – 27/07/2020)
- Limassol: Municipal Garden (27/07/2020 – 17/08/2020)
- Athalassa Information and Education Center (17/08/2020 – 18/09/2020).

More information can be found in the Report on the mobile exhibition procedure/ outcomes (project’s deliverable – Annex 10.2.19).

- Production of a 17-minute documentary: The documentary (project’s deliverable – Annex 10.2.20) presents the beauty of TNFP through the four seasons of the year. The geology, biodiversity and ES of the area are presented to the audience in a simple and attractive way and thus provokes the intense desire to visit, explore and enjoy TNFP. A special reference is made to the villages of the area, the stone-built settlements promoting local festivals as well as aspects of the culture and religious of the area. The documentary is being screened at Troodos Visitor Centre since June 2020 (after restriction measures of COVID19) and is also available (in five languages) at the project’s website and at the YouTube channel of iLIFE-TROODOS project. The documentary was finished in March 2020 instead of April 2019. The main reason for this delay is the long time needed for filming process (one year), the long-time that was needed for the preparation of the tender document (lack of expertise) and the delayed tender evaluation process (lack of expertise).

Regarding action’s milestones:

Milestone name	Foreseen Deadline	Actual Date
Establishment of two information points	04/2019	05/2020
Modification of “Livadi tou Pasia picnic site”	10/2018	11/2018
Installation of four information boards	10/2018	01/2019
Two Mobile Apps	12/2018	03/2019
Graphical user interface for “information outdoor touch screen”	02/2019	02/2019

Some outside LIFE activities have been carried out within the framework of this action:

a) The construction of Dentri’s house at the playground of ‘Platania’ pic nic site (see Annex 10.2.21). It is the starting point of the treasure hunt game for kids. The construction of Dentri’s house cost €3000 and was paid by the national budget of the DF.

b) Forty-three points of interest, included in the ‘Troodos National Forest Park’ App, were added in Google Maps and linked with a photo (including the two information kiosks and the information boards established with the framework of iLIFE-TROODOS project).

c) The documentary was screened and the photo exhibition was exhibited during the 3rd Cyprus Archaeological, Ethnographic and Historical Film Festival that took place from 10 to 13 September 2020 at the Athalassa Information and Education Center. More than five hundred people participated at the Festival.

d) The photo exhibition was exhibited at Platania during the Final Info Day of the project.

6.1.5 Action C.1: Monitoring of project's core actions

Status:	COMPLETED		
Foreseen start date: 02/10/2017	Actual start date: 02/10/2017	Foreseen end date: 30/09/2020	Actual end date: 30/09/2020

Action C1 started from the beginning of the project and concluded by the end of the project. DF was in charge of this action and responsible for the elaboration of the Monitoring Protocol of the Core Actions (action's deliverable - sent with MR). The other project's partners participated in this action by periodically evaluating the Protocol.

The Protocol started being prepared in October 2017. The final draft of the Protocol forwarded to partners for comments in February 2018 and approved by the PMT in March 2018. The Protocol included the following:

- the indicators for monitoring the impact of the project's core actions on the awareness regarding the natural values of TNFP, ES and Natura 2000 network in general,
- the beneficiary that was responsible for the monitoring of each indicator,
- the sources of information that was used for the monitoring of each indicator,
- the assessment criteria for each indicator,
- the time-frame for the assessment of each indicator and
- the target numbers (where applicable) for each indicator and for different phases of the project.

The PMT reviewed the progress achieved towards fulfilling each of the monitoring indicators every six months and provided scientific guidance if needed. Six reviews took place during the project implementation:

- One in April 2018
- One in October 2018
- One in April 2019 for the needs of the MR
- One in October 2019
- One in April 2020
- One in October 2020 for the needs of the Final Report.

The latest review is provided in Annex 10.2.22.

Furthermore, the LIFE project performance indicators were updated in the KPI database webtool in September 2020 (see also #7).

Regarding action's milestones:

Milestone name	Foreseen Deadline	Actual Date
Approval of the Monitoring Protocol of Core Actions by the PMT	03/2018	03/2018

In general, the majority of the activities included in the Protocol were implemented on schedule (except the two local workshops) and in high quality. In cases of delay in some activities (e.g., the construction of information kiosk at Troodos square and the production of documentary – please refer to #6.1.3), these have no impact on other actions. The ultimate goal was the creation of a high-quality output in each of the deliverable.

6.1.6 Action C.2: Monitoring of the project’s impact

Status:	COMPLETED		
Foreseen start date: 02/10/2017	Actual start date: 02/10/2017	Foreseen end date: 30/09/2020	Actual end date: 30/09/2020

Action C2 started from the beginning of the project and concluded by the end of the project. FU was in charge of this action. FU was responsible for the formulation of the questions for the surveys and the interviews, for analysing the data collected, for the preparation of the socio-economic impact study and the mitigation plan and for carrying out the group interviews and the surveys. DF, DE and CONTACT reviewed the questions for the surveys. The following activities were successfully implemented:

- Three telephone surveys: The first telephone survey was completed in January 2018, the second in June 2019 and the third in August 2020, following the bursts of the media campaign.
- Group interviews: The first group interviews were carried out in September 2018, the second in September 2019 and the third in July 2020. The group interviews focused in different groups of people. Specifically: one group (5 persons) at civil level, four groups (2-3 persons each group) at rural level with Troodos local residents, one group (2 persons) with SMEs owners, one group (5 persons) with people working in NGOs, one group (3 persons) with presidents of local communities at Troodos area, one group (3 persons) with travel agents, one group (4 persons) with tourists visiting Troodos.

The outcomes of each of the telephone survey and group interviews were included in the ‘First report on findings from the annual research survey and interviews’ (action’s deliverable - sent with MR), the ‘Second report on findings from the annual research survey and interviews’ (action’s deliverable – Annex 10.2.23) and in the ‘Final report on findings from the annual research surveys and interviews’ (action’s deliverable – Annex 10.2.24, see below).

- Online surveys. Online surveys were foreseen (in the project proposal) to be posted on online sites once per year during the project’s implementation. The PMT decided to periodically (1-2 per month) post on Facebook page of the project a multiple-choice question (poll) during the project implementation, starting from November 2018. In total, 15 polls were carried out. These questions can be found as appendix in the ‘Final report on findings from the annual research surveys and interviews’ (see below). Online polls showed that participants were aware of TNFP ecosystem services. The polls were also successful in creating “buzz” around the iLIFE-TROODOS project with reach being between 929 and 3245 per post and engagement of up to 250.
- Final report on findings from the annual research surveys and interviews: This report (Annex 10.2.24) includes the findings came from telephone surveys, group interviews and online surveys. Specifically, the iLIFE-TROODOS project awareness campaign is considered very satisfactory achieving an increase in the level of awareness on most of the target groups. As expected, with the implementation of all the bursts of the project, even better results were achieved and a greater impact on the public, compared to the actions implemented in the three different time stages (years) of the project. Therefore, the overall impact of the project on the target groups is considered very satisfactory and the initial objectives of the project were achieved. Specifically:

S/N	Objective	Expected results (according to project proposal)	Final Evaluation⁹
1.	Promote public awareness of the targeted audience, towards the need for the protection of Natura 2000 network.	Increase awareness of the inhabitants of Cyprus by 50%, children by 40% and youth by 50%.	Increase awareness of the inhabitants of Cyprus by 57%, the youth by 60% and of the children by 50%.
2.	Increase awareness on natural values for which the Troodos National Forest Park was included in the Natura 2000 Network.	Increase awareness of visitors/ tourists by 20%.	Increase awareness of visitors/ tourists by 60%.
3.	Change negative attitudes of Cyprus inhabitants, regarding Natura 2000 network and ecosystem services, using various means	Increase awareness and change perception of the inhabitants of Cyprus by 50%, local people and local authorities by 80%.	Increase awareness of the inhabitants of Cyprus by 57% and the local communities and local authorities by 70%.
4.	Spread knowledge about the natural values and ecosystem services provided by Natura 2000 network to professional target groups	Awareness raising and capacity building of policy makers by 40%.	The increase in awareness and build capacity for policy implementers will only become apparent after a few years.
5.	Create and provide toolsets regarding the Natura 2000 network, the conservation of natural values and the provision of ecosystem services in order to be forwarded to the public and be used more widely in a national and international context	Increase awareness of visitors/ tourists by 20% and people with disabilities by 25%.	Increase awareness of visitors/ tourists by 60%. Raising awareness on the people with disabilities was not possible (Their association did not respond to the call for participation in the Stakeholders meetings).

⁹ In order to measure the awareness increase, a part of the surveys answers was used, which included 40 questions on various topics (flora, fauna, cultural heritage, etc.). The measurement was made based on the number of correct answers provided in the last survey in comparison with the previous, for the groups 'inhabitants', 'youth' and 'visitors'. The percentage about awareness increase for 'local people', experts' judgment was used in last round of group interviews in comparison with the previous rounds. 'Children's' percentage was estimated based on teacher's judgment after the series of lessons regarding 'Dentris' and Troodos at two schools.

- Mitigation plan: The Plan (action’s deliverable) was sent with the MR. However, it was updated taking into consideration the comments of EASME after the submission of MR and the comments received after the Joint Visit of EASME with the EMT in 2020. The latest version of Mitigation Plan can be found in Annex 10.2.25 (please see also Annex 10.1.1). In general, no impacts recorded from the increase of visitors at the TNFP, which it might closely related with the implementation of iLIFE-TROODOS campaign. According to the mitigation plan: a) the first year’s recordings of the number of visitors were the baseline for any future increase in the number of visitors at the TNFP, b) the collection and analysis of annual surveys data (telephone surveys and interviews) has not shown any concern or need for action, c) there is no need for any measures/ actions to be undertaken at this point and d) places for recreational activities, like picnic sites, playgrounds, nature trails and camping sites are very useful in order to attract people and thus mitigate possible negative impacts from visiting/ use of other ‘sensitive’ areas. The number of visitors recorded at the selected locations, indicated in the Plan, were 27239 in 2018, 45287 in 2019 and 33142¹⁰ in 2020.
- Socio-economic impact assessment: The elaboration of this study (action’s deliverable – Annex 10.2.26) took place with the contribution of experts of FU. The report includes the results derived from the methods used in sub-action C.2.1 (see also Annex 10.2.24) along with an evaluation of the economic benefits that the area could obtain. Social aspects identified were for example the opportunities provided by TNFP for recreation, a strong argument regarding the restriction of hunting and the risk of fire. Regarding economic aspects, most of the businesses recorded are under code T (Activities of Households as Employers; Undifferentiated Goods and Services Producing Activities of Households for Own Use), where this is about 29% of all NACE activities. The next categories are codes G (Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles) and I (Accommodation and Food Service Activities), where each category comprises about 13% of all activities. 25% of the people of the neighbouring communities are employed in NACE I (Accommodation and Food Service Activities), 16% in NACE O (Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security) and 12% in NACE G (Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles). In 2019, the number of people choosing to stay at accommodations at these communities doubled in comparison to the previous years. Moreover, the area is highly appreciated amongst its visitors, for the natural and cultural environment and this is documented by a hypothetical scenario of Willingness to Pay. During the evaluation of the economic aspect three scenarios of visitors/ ticket prices were used; for its intermediary scenario of €3/ ticket, the estimated income could be approximately €6.5 to 11.5 million (the visitors to the area could be even higher, thus altering the resulting cost). More information can be found in Annex 10.2.26.

Regarding action’s milestones:

Milestone name	Foreseen Deadline	Actual Date
Preparation of questionnaire	12/2017	11/2017

¹⁰ The increase to the number of visitors in 2020 cannot be considered representative due to COVID19 restrictions for a long time and to the absence of data on a specific nature trail.

6.1.7 Action D.1: Technical publications and dissemination of results

Status:	COMPLETED		
Foreseen start date: 02/10/2017	Actual start date: 02/10/2017	Foreseen end date: 30/09/2020	Actual end date: 30/09/2020

Action D.1 started as foreseen in the project proposal and concluded by the end of the project. FU was responsible for the implementation of this action. The other project's partners participated in different sub-actions, as follows:

- Networking visits: DF and CONTACT
- Best practises guide: DF, DE and CONTACT
- Final info-day: DF, DE and CONTACT
- Replication plan: DF, DE and CONTACT

The following activities had successfully implemented:

- Two networking visits in two LIFE projects abroad (action's deliverable – please refer to MR). Moreover, the iLIFE-TROODOS project participated in other LIFE events, within the framework of networking with other projects, i.e.:
 - the experts' workshop of the LIFE-FORBIRDS project,
 - the final info day of the LIFE-FORBIRDS project,
 - the CARE MEDIFLORA scientific workshop,
 - the LIFE Networking Event of Cyclamen project,
 - the Open Fair Day of LIFE Cyclamen project,
 - a networking meeting with Spanish project ARCOSLIFE,
 - a networking meeting with the project LIFE Bonelli eastMed (LIFE17 NAT/GR/000514) and
 - the European Conference 'Mountain areas of large Mediterranean islands: European issues, National and Regional policies and local mechanisms' at Platres village.

Furthermore, within the same framework, the project came into contact with the projects:

- 'Integrated conservation management of priority habitat type 9590* in the Natura 2000 site Koilada Kedron-Kampos' (Acronym: LIFE-KEDROS; LIFE15 NAT/CY/000850),
- 'Improving the conservation status of the priority habitat types *1520 and *5220 at the Rizoelia National Forest Park' (Acronym: LIFE-RIZOELIA; LIFE12 NAT/CY/000758),
- 'Establishment of a Plant Micro-Reserve Network in Cyprus for the Conservation of Priority Species and Habitats' (Acronym: PLANT-NET CY; LIFE08 NAT/CY/000453),
- 'Improving the conservation status of the priority habitat type 9560 in Cyprus' (Acronym: JUNIPERCY; LIFE10 NAT/CY/717) and
- 'Integrated actions for the conservation and management of Natura 2000 sites, species, habitats and ecosystems in Greece' (Acronym: Natura 2000 - Edo Zoume; LIFE-IP4NATURA). Regarding this networking, the logo of the project 'Natura 2000 - Edo Zoume' was included to the iLIFE-TROODOS website and vice versa. Moreover, the two projects share their material regarding the celebration of the Natura 2000 day in 2020.
- Participation in two conferences in Europe. The first participation took place in December 2018 (action's deliverable – sent with MR) at the British Ecological Society 2018 Annual Meeting, held in Birmingham, United Kingdom. During this workshop, the mapping of ES provided by TNFP was presented in a poster session. The second participation took place in October 2019 (action's deliverable – Annex 10.2.27) at the ESP 10 World Conference, hosted in Hannover, Germany. In this poster presentation,

the ES mapped through CICES were graphically presented. A more detailed presentation of the water related services of the area took place, while their economic importance has also been evaluated. In both conferences, it was clearly indicated that the mapping of ES utilised during the awareness campaign of iLIFE-TROODOS project.

- Best practices guide: This guide (action’s deliverable – Annex 10.2.28) provides the basis for cost-efficient replication and/ or transfer for raising awareness to other EU countries, on topics regarding the natural values for which specific areas have been included in the Natura 2000 network and the ES provided from these sites. The guide summarizes the outcomes and best practises on raising awareness, as these resulted by the project’s implementation (Actions B-D). The Plan was sent to 251 people, belonging to 189 Policy makers & Environmental bodies, 37 LIFE - National contact points and 25 Natura 2000 managers (details in the respective deliverable).
- Replication Plan: The Plan (action’s deliverable – Annex 10.2.29) includes the main techniques employed and the timeframe for the dissemination of the project’s results in such a way, to ensure the replicability and transferability to other Natura 2000 sites of Cyprus and EU countries/ regions, respectively. It also defines the targeted stakeholders (at international and national level) and the targeted audiences (at national level) in which the project needs to focus in each case. The Plan was sent to 139 people belonging to 39 stakeholders, 15 LIFE projects’ coordinators, 37 LIFE - National contact points, 25 Natura 2000 managers, 4 Interreg projects’ coordinators, 12 European and international Networks, 6 Environmental Education and Information Centers and to Natura 2000 Communication Platform (details in the respective deliverable).
- Final Info Day: The event took place on Sunday, 27th of September 2020, at 11:00 – 13:00 at Platania. Within the framework of a radio live link with DIESI 101.1, the radio producers and the project members informed the audience about the results of the Project and the forest recreational infrastructures created at TNFP. The photo exhibition entitled “Troodos, It’s in Our Nature!” was exhibited in the event. Our little friends had the opportunity to play a treasure hunt game at Platania and received a small gift from Dentriss (pencils). The event followed by a small reception.

Regarding action’s milestones:

Milestone name	Foreseen Deadline	Actual Date
Participation in Conference 1	07/2019	12/2018
Participation in Conference 2	07/2020	10/2019
Final info-day	09/2020	09/2020

Some outside LIFE activities have been carried out within the framework of this action:

a) The iLIFE-TROODOS project co-organised two events to celebrate the Natura 2000 Day in 2018 and 2019. In 2018, the event took place in the Special Protection Area ‘Atsas - Agios Theodoros’ and included information on the restoration activities implemented in the burnt area, information on the iLIFE-TROODOS project, voluntary work for afforestation and visit to the settlement ‘Karterouni’. In 2019, the project attended an event at the Center for Environmental Information and Education at Cape Greco. During the event, the pioneers of the creation of the Natura 2000 Network in Cyprus were honored. In 2020, due to COVID19 restriction measures, no events took place in natural areas like the previous years. For this reason, all LIFE projects in Cyprus dealing with environmental issues, prepared a short video about the Natura 2000 Network in Cyprus.

- b) An oral presentation was made at the 2nd International Conference of UNESCO Global Geoparks of Greece and Cyprus for the promotion of geological and mining heritage, geo-education and geo-tourism development, hosted in Nicosia on 16-18 May, 2019.
- c) An oral presentation took place about ecosystem services of Troodos National Forest Park at the 2nd Forestry Workshop: Research as a Forest Management Tool on 23 November 2019.

6.1.8 Action D.2: Project's promotion campaign

Status:	COMPLETED		
Foreseen start date: 02/10/2017	Actual start date: 02/10/2017	Foreseen end date: 30/09/2020	Actual end date: 30/09/2020

Action D.2 started as foreseen in the project proposal and concluded by the end of the project. CONTACT was the main responsible for the implementation of this action. FU and DF contributed with the writing of the newsletters. DF and DE gave scientific guidance to CONTACT for the preparation of press releases and articles. The following activities were successfully implemented:

- Creation of eight notice boards (action's deliverable): please refer to MR.
- Development of the project's website (action's deliverable - please refer to MR): Total number of visitors during the project implementation was 36.203; much higher than the expected visits (36 months x 100 visits=3.600). The website traffic (unique visitors) can be found in Annex 10.2.30.
- Publication of four newsletters: Three newsletters were foreseen in the project proposal in Greek language (action's deliverables). The first two newsletters were sent with MR. The third newsletter can be found in Annex 10.2.31. Moreover, a newsletter in English language (see Annex 10.2.32) was created after getting in contact with EMT, to reach foreign language people. The allocation of all newsletters can be found in Annex 10.2.33.
- Creation of promotion material (action's deliverable): please refer to MR. Moreover, after getting in contact with EMT, luggage tags and pencils with Dentris were created, in order to reach foreign people and kids, respectively (see Annex 10.2.34). The allocation of promotion material can be found in Annex 10.2.35.
- Publication of three press releases per year (action's deliverables). The press releases of 2018 were sent with MR. Press releases of 2019 and 2020 can be found in Annex 10.2.36 and Annex 10.2.37, respectively.
- Publication of 18 articles (12 were foreseen, 4/year) in magazines (action's deliverables). The first year's articles were sent with MR. The articles of 2019 and 2020 can be found in Annex 10.2.38 and Annex 10.2.39, respectively.
- Layman's report (action's deliverables): The report was printed in September 2020 in Greek (Annex 10.2.40) and English (Annex 10.2.41) language (500 copies/ language) and is available also in the project's website. The report was disseminated during final info day (75 copies) and to the local communities (250 copies). The remaining copies were sent to Troodos Botanic Garden "A.G. Leventis" (325 copies) and to Troodos Visitor Centre (350 copies) to be disseminated to their visitors.

Regarding action's milestones:

Milestone name	Foreseen Deadline	Actual Date
Development and upload of the project's website	03/2018	03/2018
Creation of promotional material	03/2018	04/2018
Installation of notice boards	11/2017	12/2017
Layman's report	09/2020	09/2020

Some outside LIFE activities have been carried out within the framework of this action:

- a) 4000 bookmarks and 300 paper folders were created in October 2018 for the wider and better promotion of the project (sent with MR),

- b) an article prepared and published to ANLIEGEN NATUR, the Journal of Nature Conservation and Applied Landscape Ecology of the Bavarian Academy (sent with MR),
- c) an article published to 'Agrotis', the official magazine of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (sent with MR),
- d) an article published in 'Dasoponos, the official magazine of the Cyprus Forester's Association in March 2020 (see Annex 10.2.42),
- e) the project's activities were promoted to students of Architecture and to Foresters attending a training program at Frederick University (information and promotion material was provided) in November 2018.
- f) the project's activities were promoted to students and the general public during the European Researchers' Night organised by Research Promotion Foundation on 26-27 Sept 2019.
- g) the project was promoted to 100 students of Kakopetria primary school, during their visit to the information kiosk at "Platania" pic nic site in February 2020.

6.1.9 Action E.1: Overall project management

Status:	COMPLETED		
Foreseen start date: 02/10/2017	Actual start date: 02/10/2017	Foreseen end date: 30/09/2020	Actual end date: 30/09/2020

Action E.1 started from the beginning of the project and concluded by the end of it. DF was in charge of this action and responsible for the elaboration of the After-LIFE plan. The other project's partners participated in the PMT.

The PMT nominated in October 2017. However, in order to ensure the smooth start of the project, the Coordinating Beneficiary arranged a preliminary meeting with the Associated Beneficiaries before the official start of the project on 25/09/2017. Fifteen more official meetings of the partners took place within the project implementation. Two project representatives (from CONTACT and FU) participated at the kick-off meeting of LIFE projects, held in October 2017 in Brussels.

The PMT was responsible for the overall management of the project and the preparation of the reports that were submitted to the EU. Here, it is noted that, according to the 'Letter Amendment No1 to Grant Agreement for project LIFE16 GIE/CY/000709' sent by EASME in August 2018, no Certificate on the financial statements is needed (an Audit Report was a deliverable of the project proposal).

A FMT was established for proper financial management of the project. The FM has prepared the Project Financial Management Guide (sent with MR), as an auxiliary tool for handling economic issues of the project (outside LIFE activity).

In general, the cooperation between the project partners through the PMT and the daily cooperation of the PM with all project partners was perfect. More information about project management can be found at #5.

- After-LIFE plan: The Plan (action's deliverable – Annex 10.2.43) is a separate chapter of the Final Report, presented in Greek language. It sets out how dissemination and communication of project's objectives and results will continue after the end of the project for at least five years (sustainability), gives details regarding what actions will be carried out after the end of the project, indicating the timeline, the responsible beneficiary for their implementation and the source of finance which will be used (continuity).

Regarding action's milestones:

Milestone name	Foreseen Deadline	Actual Date
Nomination of Project Management Team	10/2017	10/2017

6.1.10 Action E.2: Monitoring of the project's progress

Status:	COMPLETED		
Foreseen start date: 02/10/2017	Actual start date: 02/10/2017	Foreseen end date: 30/09/2020	Actual end date: 30/09/2020

Action E.2 started from the beginning of the project and concluded by the end of the project. FU was in charge of this action and responsible for the elaboration of the Project Monitoring Protocol (action's deliverable – please refer to MR). The other project's partners participated in this action by periodically evaluating the Protocol, as members of the PMT.

The Protocol started being prepared in October 2017. The draft Protocol forwarded to partners for comments in November 2017 and finalized in December 2017. The Protocol included the methodology for monitoring the project's actions and presented:

- The monitoring indicators of the project, as these have been defined in the project proposal
- The project Action, which was related to each Indicator
- The deliverable/s that is/ were relevant to each Indicator
- The responsible beneficiary for monitoring each Indicator
- The sources of information used for monitoring each Indicator
- The target numbers (where applicable) for the required values of each Indicator
- The deadline for achieving the necessary values for each Indicator
- The evaluation date of each Indicator by the PMT
- Divergences from the required values, as these had been initially set; justification for these divergences and proposed changes.

The PMT reviewed the progress achieved towards fulfilling each of the monitoring indicators every six months. Six reviews took place during the project implementation:

- One in April 2018
- One in October 2018
- One in April 2019 for the needs of the MR
- One in October 2019
- One in April 2020
- One in October 2020 for the needs of the Final Report.

The latest review is provided in Annex 10.2.44.

Regarding action's milestones:

Milestone name	Foreseen Deadline	Actual Date
Project Monitoring Protocol approved by the PMT	01/2018	12/2017

In general, the majority of the activities included in the Protocol were implemented on schedule and in high quality. Some cases of delay in few activities (i.e., group interviews), these had no impact on other actions. The ultimate goal was the creation of a high-quality output in each of the deliverable.

6.2 Main deviations, problems and corrective actions implemented

No major deviations or problems encountered during the project implementation. Almost all project activities were implemented on schedule. Only the creation of documentary and the one out of two information kiosks (at Troodos square) took longer than anticipated.

The documentary delivered in March 2020, due to delay on Tender Procedure which was the result of difficulties on the tender specifications for the documentary (the proposal did not actually recognize the need for such time). Additionally, the awarded company (Tetraktys Films Ltd) requested one-year film work, to cover scenes from all the seasons of the year.

The delay on the construction of information kiosk at Troodos square came from two reasons. The first reason was the harsh winter (heavy snowfall), which did not allow to the contractor to finish the information kiosk on time and for this reason he requested (and took) extra time from the DF. The second reason was the restrictions set by COVID-19 Decrees, which delay electricity and internet provisions.

All project deliverables and milestones were carried out successfully, except 'local workshops' (Action B2). Specifically, six out of eight local workshops have been implemented. Two workshops of the second phase were cancelled given the situation and the unprecedented conditions caused by COVID-19 (see also #6.1.3).

Regarding Stakeholders' participation in meetings, three stakeholders (Defense Fire Risk Management Organisation of British Forces, Federation of Environmental Organisations of Cyprus, and Cyprus Confederation of Organization of the Disabled) contacted and declined to participate. In general, in order to ensure high participation in workshops (tourism workshop, policy implementers workshop and even local workshops), synergies with other bodies or events were explored.

Furthermore, part of the Socio-economic impact study would initially engage the services of an ecosystem services expert. Even though some initial work was carried out, the expert could not complete the report due to personal/ family issues. The remaining work was carried out by personnel of FU (Academic), who completed the said part.

Regarding financial issues, the costs of two activities (equipment cost and construction of infrastructure) did not correspond with the budgeted amounts in the project proposal. Specifically, there was an incorrect budgeting of 'Touch Screens' in the project proposal and a higher than expected cost of information kiosks. The total costs for the two touch screens and for the two information kiosks included in the Proposal were €4.000 and €45.000, respectively. The final (total) cost of the touch screens was €13.104, while the final cost of the construction of the two information kiosks was €63.343. The extra budget needed, was covered by the savings from other cost categories; this change is within the 20% threshold indicated in article II.22 of the General Conditions, therefore no need for an amendment of the budget was needed (see also #8).

6.3.Evaluation of Project Implementation

The project was successfully implemented according to the project proposal. No significant problems or deviations encountered, only a delay of the documentary and the installation of one of the two information kiosks (at Troodos square), as well as the costs of two activities (equipment cost and construction of infrastructure) that did not correspond with the budgeted amounts in the project proposal. However, the project followed the suggested methodology as was foreseen in the project proposal.

The table that follows presents the objectives and the expected results of the project, as indicated at the proposal. All Actions were implemented as foreseen (except the two local workshops) and most of the qualitative information regarding the actions has already been described in Chapter 6.1. ‘Technical progress per Action’.

Action	Foreseen in the revised proposal	Achieved through	Evaluation
B.1 B.3 D.2	<p>Objective: Promote public awareness of the targeted audience, towards the need for the protection of Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>Expected results: The project will increase awareness for inhabitants of Cyprus by 50%, children by 40%, youth by 50%.</p>	<p>B.1: Awareness campaign</p> <p>B.3: Mobile Apps, Information kiosks, Documentary</p> <p>D.2: Website</p>	<p>Increase awareness of the inhabitants of Cyprus by 57%, the youth by 60% and of the children by 50%.</p>
B.1 B.3	<p>Objective: Increase awareness on natural values for which the Troodos National Forest Park was included in the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>Expected results: The project will increase awareness for visitors/ tourists by 20%.</p>	<p>B.1: Awareness campaign</p> <p>B.3: Mobile Apps, Information kiosks, Mobile exhibition, Information boards, Documentary</p>	<p>Increase awareness of visitors/ tourists by 60%.</p>
B.1 B.2 B.3 D.2	<p>Objective: Change negative attitudes of Cyprus inhabitants, regarding Natura 2000 network and ES, using various means.</p> <p>Expected results: The project will increase awareness and change perceptions for inhabitants of Cyprus by 50%, local people and local authorities by 80%.</p>	<p>B.1: Awareness campaign</p> <p>B.2: Local workshops</p> <p>B.3: Information boards, Documentary</p> <p>D.2: Layman’s report</p>	<p>Increase awareness of the inhabitants of Cyprus by 57% and the local communities and local authorities by 70%.</p>
B.2 D.1 D.2	<p>Objective: Spread knowledge about the natural values and ES provided by Natura 2000 network to professional target groups.</p> <p>Expected results: The project will increase</p>	<p>B.2: Policy implementers workshop, Tourism sector workshop</p> <p>D.1: Best practises guide, Replication plan</p>	<p>The increase in awareness and build capacity for policy implementers will only become apparent after a few years.</p>

	awareness and build capacity for policy implementers (including representatives of the tourism industry sector) by 40%.	D.2: Layman's report	
B.1 B.3	Objective: Create and provide toolsets regarding the Natura 2000 network, the conservation of natural values and the provision of ES in order to be forwarded to the public and be used more widely in a national and international context. Expected results: The project will increase awareness for visitors/ tourists by 20% and for people with disabilities by 25%.	B.3: Mobile Apps, Information kiosks, Modification of 'Livadi tou Pasia' picnic, Mobile exhibition, Documentary	Increase awareness of visitors/ tourists by 60%. Raising awareness on the people with disabilities was not possible (their association did not respond to the call for participation in the Stakeholders meetings).

The evaluation of all surveys (group interviews, online survey and telephone surveys) showed that the overall impact of the project on the target groups was very satisfactory and the initial objectives of the iLIFE-TRODOOS project were achieved (as presented in the Table above). The project reached a large proportion of the island's population and make this audience aware of the project implementation. According to AGB measurements (for television) the iLIFE-TROODOS campaign achieved 93.78% reach of a target group aged 19-65 (558,442 people). Moreover, according to Rai Consultants, Radio Listenership among people more than 13 years old corresponds to 666,381 people. Thus, it is estimated that by using 10 radio channels and broadcast 3506 spots, more than 90% of people were reached. In addition, the project had 2,389,204 reach on social media among 870,000 Facebook users in Cyprus (Hootsuite). Reach on tourists visiting Cyprus was 27% and was estimated based on a survey carried out at Larnaca Airport in August 2020. To conclude, it is estimated that the set objective of reaching 90% of the population of Cyprus (750,000 people) and 25% of tourists visiting Cyprus has been achieved.

One of the project's deliverables was the 'Best practices guide' which provides the basis for cost-efficient replication and/ or transfer for raising awareness to other EU countries, on topics regarding the natural values for which specific areas have been included in the Natura 2000 network and the ES. The guide summarizes the outcomes and best practises on raising awareness, as these resulted by the project's implementation (Actions B-D). Furthermore, the guide includes an analysis of how the proposed awareness raising activities might be applied in other geographical areas and proposes methods for transferring the accumulated knowledge to various stakeholders and other entities. Another project's deliverable is the 'Replication Plan' which seeks to maximise the effort on the replicability and transferability of the project's results to a wider audience within and outside Cyprus, as well as beyond the project's lifetime. For this purpose, the Plan includes the main techniques employed and the timeframe (after the end of the project) for the dissemination of the project's results in such

a way, to ensure the replicability and transferability to other EU countries/ regions. Furthermore, it defines the targeted stakeholders (at international and national level) and the targeted audiences (at national level) in which the project needs to focus in each case.

Actions D1 and D2, which focused on the dissemination of the project's objectives, actions and results, carried out without any problems or deviations. The project's effort was to approach several target groups (e.g. general public, local communities, scientists, youth, public services, tourists and visitors to the targeted site etc.) through different ways of dissemination such as the operation of a website and printed material (e.g. newsletters, press releases and articles), promotional material (e.g. stickers, flash drives, notepads, luggage tags, pencils), other means like information boards as well as participation in conferences, publication of 'Best practices guide', 'Replication Plan' and 'Layman's report' and organization of a Final info-day.

The project's implementation has indirect policy impact, through capacity building of policy implementers. The project did not focus on policy development but, through the capacity building of the relevant policy implementers and the familiarization with the Natura 2000 network management status (legislation, development restrictions, development zones, etc.), it is expected a better understanding and adoption of these issues to their day time activities. To this end, a policy implementers workshop held in December 2018. However, the increase in awareness and build capacity for policy implementers will only become apparent after a few years through their work.

The project infrastructures and specifically the two information kiosks, will be operated by the DF for the next 15-20 years at least. The project has already created synergies with other initiatives running by Troodos Development Company and by Troodos Tourism Development and Promotion Company. In addition, it should be mentioned, that most of the project actions are included in the 3rd and 5th axis of the National Strategy to rejuvenate Troodos communities.

In conclusion, the project's embedded participatory approach and multi-stakeholders target audience communication strategy illustrate the commitment to the Aarhus Convention and implements LIFE+ Regulation (EC) No 1293/2013 (LIFE 2014-2020 Regulation). The project also aided and supported the key EU action to the 7th Environment Action Programme and the major scopes of Natura 2000 (Council Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC) since it aimed to increase the awareness regarding the Natura 2000 network and the ES it provides. Additionally, the project provided EU added value contributing to the implementation of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) and the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, since the protection of the Natura 2000 network will inevitably lead to the conservation and protection of the species/ habitats found therein (and will increase awareness on the importance of maintaining diverse ecosystems). Also, the project contributed to the implementation of the DG Environment's Communication strategy 2014 (the project supported the development and implementation of EU environment policy, raising awareness on the importance of the European Natura 2000 network and worked to address environmental challenges through informing and engaging various target audiences in its activities).

Last, but not least the project supported the Commission Communication COM(2010) 352 of 30/6/2010 "Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination - a new political framework for tourism in Europe", by addressing one of its objectives, i.e. "Stimulate competitiveness in the European tourism sector" through "Promoting diversification of the supply of tourist services". This support is evident through various actions targeting visitors/ tourists, e.g. billboard advertising, notice boards, newsletters, Mobile App, information points, mobile exhibition, etc.

6.4. Analysis of benefits

1. Environmental benefits

a. Direct/ quantitative environmental benefits:

The project did not have any anticipated significant deviation from the targets set. It was a LIFE Environmental Governance and Information project and did not include any specific conservation measures. The project iLIFE-TROODOS focused on the direct increase in awareness and information of targeted audience (e.g. local people, tourist, youth, children, etc.) and stakeholders about the natural values and ES provided by the TNFP and the Natura 2000 network in general. The project's actions focused on a range of carefully planned actions that increase awareness, built capacity and change perceptions. The implementation of the project's core actions demonstrated and explained how humans benefit from, and depend upon, natural systems, via the services these systems provide, and how these systems effectively add value to traditional nature conservation practices.

The increase in awareness and change in perception measured through Action C2. The baseline was recorded through the first round of telephone surveys and interviews and compared with the third (last one) round of telephone surveys, interviews and online surveys. Comparing the results between the 1st and 2nd survey and then the 1st and 3rd survey, it is observed that in the first case the percentage of correct answers increased by 22%, while in the second case, the increase was 50%. These findings show that the knowledge about the area (TNFP) has increased, where the main source of information came from the activities carried out by iLIFE-TROODOS project (see also Annex 10.2.24). Comparing the change in people awareness about TNFP and ES, as these were recorded before the start of iLIFE-TROODOS project (during the preparation of project proposal), it is obvious that there is a tremendous change in knowledge. Specifically:

- Regarding the knowledge that the TNFP is included in the Natura 2000 Network: The initial percentage was 21% and the final 31% (change 10%). In the online surveys the correct answers were 19/20.
- Regarding the knowledge for the correct definition of ES: The initial percentage was 42% and the final 70% (change 28%).
- Regarding the knowledge about the number of endemic plant species of the TNFP: The initial percentage was 14% and the final 56% (change 32%).
- Regarding the ES provided by TNFP. The initial percentage was 1%. The final percentages range from 17% (cultural services) to 84% (flora, medicinal plants).

In order to measure the values above, a part of the survey answers was used, which included 40 questions on various topics (flora, fauna, cultural heritage, etc.). The percentage of correct answers provided in the last survey is used in comparison with the information provided during the preparation of the project proposal. For some of these numbers (e.g. "Regarding the ES provided by TNFP" the information derived from various questions, hence no percentage change is provided).

b. Qualitative environmental benefits

The project's outcomes and best practices can be replicated and transferred to other EU countries, or even be applied for other environmental issues/ concerns (either to Cyprus or EU in general). The utilization of the Natura 2000 Communication Platform will assist to the replicability and transferability of the project's outcomes to abroad, European and non, audience. The project's awareness campaign and activities aimed to raise awareness regarding the natural values for which the TNFP has been set up as a Natura 2000 site and the ES provided by the site. Thus, the project envisaged to inform the target audiences that

the designation of a Natura 2000 site is based on the conservation of specific natural values and lead to positive behavioural changes in a large part of the target audiences. In addition, the project improved the capacity-building of multi-stakeholder target groups regarding the Natura 2000 network and its ES, through specific workshops. The elaboration of ‘Best Practices Guide’ and ‘Replication Plan’ is expected to contribute towards the transfer of the methodology implemented to other countries or policy areas (see also #6.3). Moreover, the After-LIFE Plan secures the continuity and sustainability of project’s actions in Cyprus for at least five years beyond its end.

It is worth mentioning that the project contributed to the implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation and specifically to the thematic priority for LIFE Environmental Governance and Information of: “information, communication and awareness raising campaigns, in line with the priorities of the 7th Environment Action Programme”. It took into consideration the priority objectives set in the 7th Environment Action Programme and implemented them through the project topic of “Nature and Biodiversity” as defined in the LIFE multiannual work programme for 2014-2017. It therefore contributed to the efforts of EU to protect Europe’s natural capital and achieve its priority objectives till 2020. The project (i) increased the knowledge on the environment focusing on EU’s natural capital, (ii) widen the base for national policy, (iii) protected, conserved and enhanced EU’s natural capital by raising awareness on the benefits and need of the natural capital for human health and wellbeing, (iv) promoted public access to information on the Natura 2000 network and (v) promoted public understanding of the Network’s services and benefits.

2. Economic benefits

The project focused on increasing public awareness on the natural values of TNFP for which it was included in the Natura 2000 network and the ES it provides, and, hence, it does not focus on direct economic benefits on the beneficiaries or other bodies. This is actually outside from the direct scope of LIFE Environmental Governance and Information projects. However, the project indirectly contributed to the economic benefits (no data available) of local communities (communities within or nearby the boundaries of TNFP), since through the project’s media campaign, TNFP was promoted as a tourism destination (both local tourists and tourists from abroad); the number of visitors recorded for the needs of ‘Mitigation Plan’ has been increased from 2018 to 2019¹¹ (see also #6.1.6). The media campaign, the construction of the two information points and the development of two Mobile Apps contributed to this approach.

Furthermore, the project’s beneficiaries had assigned specific project activities to be carried out by local contractors/ people, using either oral agreements (under €2.000) or simplified procedures (under €15.000), according to the relevant legislation. These works refer to small-scale activities with a budget below the thresholds set by the Law of Public Procurement, e.g., catering services and construction of information boards. Moreover, the local contractors could be benefited through the open tender procedure, as this was happened through the construction of the two information kiosks. This procedure helped the economy of local people.

The implementation of the project iLIFE-TROODOS created new jobs (full-time or part-time). Particularly during the project’s implementation, 1,84 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs

¹¹ Despite the increase in visitors recorded in 2020, the total number of visitors cannot be considered representative, since it was affected by COVID 19 pandemic and the availability of data in one out of two nature trails.

were created. The total employed personnel (30 staff members from all beneficiaries) amounts to 6,47 FTE, of which 28 people are qualified staff and 2 people are non-qualified staff.

3. Social benefits

The social benefits from this project can be drawn from all the above benefits (#6.1 and 6.2). First of all, there was a positive effect on employment, since new jobs have been created, either of people working for the iLIFE-TROODOS project (beneficiaries' employees), or of local people working as external assistance for the project's activities. The later has a high impact on supporting rural communities (socially and financially). In addition, the promotion of TNFP through the project's media campaign (as an interesting and unique tourism destination), increased the number of visitors to these remoted areas, boosting the local economy suffering from rural exodus and abandonment.

The Rural Workshops (carried out in small communities suffering from urbanization and abandonment) was a distinctive social event for each community, giving the opportunity to the villagers to come in contact with their expatriates, to speak to each other and exchange ideas on how they can protect their environment and how to draw economic benefits for their village.

The awareness campaign of iLIFE-TROODOS project indirectly promoted health and wellbeing by inviting people to visit TNFP and spend some time for recreation within nature. The project provided user friendly toolsets (e.g., "Troodos National Forest Park" App, "iLIFE-TROODOS Treasure Hunt" App, information boards, information points, etc.) to the visitors of TNFP to explore and enjoy all available services provided by the site. Unexpected large number of people visit the area to play the Treasure Hunt. This is an opportunity for families and friends to come even more closer, through learning to protect their environment and their nature. Special attention was given at the design of the graphical user interface of the touch screens in the information points, so as to provide the opportunity for the local communities to announce or advertise their local events. Through the touch screens and the Apps for smart devices, a strong promotion to local enterprises is succeeded, supporting the local economy in the remoted areas neighboring TNFP.

The two information points and the modification of 'Livadi tou Pasia' picnic site take into account the needs of people with mobility and visual impairments and give them the opportunity to gain the most of their visit, adopting the principle that everyone has equal rights in terms of access to services and information.

A socio-economic impact study (Action C2.2) elaborated at the final stages of the project and investigated the positive socio-economic impacts on local communities that live in the areas within or near the TNFP site. Social aspects identified were for example the opportunities provided by TNFP for recreation, a strong argument regarding the restriction of hunting and the risk of fire. Regarding economic aspects, most of the businesses recorded are under code T (Activities of Households as Employers; Undifferentiated Goods and Services Producing Activities of Households for Own Use), where this is about 29% of all NACE activities. The next categories are codes G (Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles) and I (Accommodation and Food Service Activities), where each category comprises about 13% of all activities. 25% of the people of the neighbouring communities are employed in NACE I (Accommodation and Food Service Activities), 16% in NACE O (Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security) and 12% in NACE G (Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and

Motorcycles). In 2019, the number of people choosing to stay at accommodations at these communities doubled in comparison to the previous years. Moreover, the area is highly appreciated amongst its visitors, for the natural and cultural environment and this is documented by a hypothetical scenario of Willingness to Pay. During the evaluation of the economic aspect three scenarios of visitors/ ticket prices were used; for its intermediary scenario of €3/ ticket, the estimated income could be approximately €6.5 to 11.5 million (the visitors to the area could be even higher, thus altering the resulting cost). More information can be found in Annex 10.2.26.

4. Replicability, transferability, cooperation:

The replicability and transferability of the project's outcomes will be reached through the participation in two conferences in Europe (Action D1), the publication of a Best Practices Guide (Action D1) and the publication of the Replication Plan (Action D1). The project and its outcomes (poster presentations) were presented at the British Ecological Society 2018 Annual Meeting, held in Birmingham, United Kingdom and at the Ecosystem Service Partnership 10 World Conference, hosted in 2019 in Hannover, Germany. Furthermore, oral presentations (outside LIFE activities) took place at the 2nd International Conference of UNESCO Global Geoparks of Greece and Cyprus for the promotion of geological and mining heritage, geo-education and geo-tourism development and at the 2nd Forestry Workshop: Research as a Forest Management Tool, both held in Cyprus in 2019.

The 'Best Practices Guide' provides the basis for cost-efficient replication and/ or transfer for raising awareness to other EU countries, on topics regarding the natural values for which specific areas have been included in the Natura 2000 network and the ES. The guide summarizes the outcomes and best practises on raising awareness, as these resulted by the project's implementation (Actions B-D). The Plan was distributed to Policy makers & Environmental bodies, LIFE - National contact points and Natura 2000 managers (please refer to the list included in the Best Practices Guide – Annex 10.2.28).

Moreover, a Replication Plan was elaborated at the end of the project and includes the main techniques employed and the timeframe for the dissemination of the project's results in such a way, to ensure the replicability and transferability to other Natura 2000 sites of Cyprus and EU countries/ regions, respectively. This plan also defines the targeted stakeholders (at international and national level) and the targeted audiences (at national level) in which the project needs to focus in each case.

The Replication Plan is expected to be utilized by all national authorities of Cyprus responsible for the management of Natura 2000 sites in Cyprus (DE, DF and Game & Fauna Service) in order to promote the natural values of other sites of the Network (replicability) and the ES they provide. The ultimate goal is of course the promotion of the protection and conservation of the important biodiversity elements of each site. Moreover, the Replication Plan was distributed (please refer to the list included in the Replication Plan – Annex 10.2.29) to other countries/ regions (e.g. through LIFE Capacity Building projects of EU countries, Natura 2000 platform, etc.) in order to provide them with methods/ knowledge/ tools that can use/ adopt to develop similar awareness and information campaign (transferability). The Plan indicates possible funding sources for the replication activities to be implemented, e.g. EU-funded projects, Bilateral collaboration projects, National funding, Media organizations, etc.

The iLIFE-TROODOS project showed when you dedicate great efforts for the information and awareness campaign is beneficial for the promotion of environmental awareness. The LIFE-IP Physis (integrated project with the participation of all Natura 2000

network competent authorities in Cyprus) utilised this approach and dedicated approximately 14% of its budget in information and awareness raising activities.

5. Best Practice lessons:

A multi-media approach was adopted by the iLIFE-TROODOS project. Specifically, awareness campaign promoted the natural values and ES of TNFP (through the core action B1), by using easily understood concepts and through a thorough explanation of the Network purposes and benefits. Furthermore, the project raised the awareness of the target audiences with regards to the importance of protecting and preserving the Network, the coherence and the legal status of the Network, as well as the related benefits (provision of ES). Although this Campaign was developed for Cyprus, it reflects the thinking of the ‘Scoping study for an EU wide communications campaign on biodiversity and nature’ and the ‘Communicating with stakeholders and the general public - Best practices examples for Natura 2000’, developing public awareness to assist policy makers gain support for their work. Depending on the type of media used, messages developed were "catchy", informative, life-style oriented and Cyprus-related. For instance, a ‘character’ was created, ‘Dentris’ (something like a forest elf), in order to reach kids and wishing to be the mascot of TNFP for many years.

Taking into account the results at the end of the project, the campaign is considered more than successful.

6. Innovation and demonstration value:

This is the first project in Cyprus directly aimed to the promotion of the natural values and ES of a Natura 2000 site. Other funded projects related to the Natura 2000 network focused on the conservation of species or habitat types where their dissemination and awareness raising activities (on the Natura 2000 network) were limited. The current project relied on a series of actions, through a targeted media campaign, involving: TV/Radio broadcastings, press media, billboard advertisements, social media etc. (Action B1), information and awareness workshops (Action B2), information points and boards, Mobile Apps, documentary etc. (Action B3). Moreover, replicability and transferability of the project’s outcomes were reached through the participation in two conferences in Europe and the publication of a technical guide (Action D1). These actions have informed and educated the wider public on the natural values for which a Natura 2000 site in Cyprus has been set up and the lessons/ outcomes from this interaction transferred to other EU countries facing similar issues.

The awareness campaign, based on a well-developed Communication Plan, the development of an informative App (‘Troodos National Forest Park’ App) and a treasure hunt App (‘iLIFE-TROODOS Treasure Hunt’ App) for smart devices, the creation of information points (including touch screens with all available services within TNFP) and the provision of information suitable for people with visual and mobility impairments are considered pioneering in Cyprus regarding the management of the Natura 2000 network, through the increase in awareness of people about the importance of the Network and the biodiversity within the sites. This approach could be utilized and adopted by other EU countries, who want to promote their Natura 2000 sites and increase public awareness.

7. Policy implications:

The project contributed to the development and implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation and specifically the thematic priority for LIFE Environmental

Governance and Information of: “information, communication and awareness raising campaigns, in line with the priorities of the 7th Environment Action Programme”. It took into consideration the priority objectives set in the 7th Environment Action Programme and implemented them through the project topic of “Nature and Biodiversity” as defined in the LIFE multiannual work programme for 2014-2017. It therefore contributed to the efforts of EU to protect Europe’s natural capital and achieve its priority objectives till 2020, i.e. (i) to increase the knowledge on the environment focusing on EU’s natural capital, (ii) widen the base for national policy, (iii) to protect, conserve and enhance EU’s natural capital by raising awareness on the benefits and need of the natural capital for human health and wellbeing, (iv) to promote public access to information on the Natura 2000 network and (v) promote public understanding of the Network’s services and benefits.

The project enhanced the comprehension of the implementation of the Council Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC, which constitute the cornerstone of Europe’s nature conservation policy and the base for the sound management of the Natura 2000 network in the member states. The identification and demonstration of the socio-economic benefits of the Natura 2000 network can alter the attitude of the targeted audiences, and influence the stakeholders and policy implementers towards the support and sustainable management of the Network.

Furthermore, the identification and valuation of the Natura 2000 sites' ecological and economic benefits adds socio-economic importance to the site, leading to increased support of Natura 2000 network from policy implementers and stakeholders in Cyprus. The promotion of TNFP as an interesting and unique tourism destination with high natural and cultural heritage, also has a positive impact on local economy and supports the Commission Communication COM(2010) 352 of 30/6/2010 "Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination - a new political framework for tourism in Europe". The improvement of the people knowledge, about TNFP and Natura 2000, constitutes a fundamental element towards the legal protection of the Natura 2000 areas, contributing to a more integrated management and protection.

7. Key Project-level Indicators

The Key Project-level Indicators (KPI) have been updated in the KPI database web-tool. All targets set have been met or, in some cases, exceeded the expectations. These targets were revised upwards, since the number of visitors for example were much higher than the number set, e.g., website visits, number of stakeholders, numbers of people surveyed, etc.

	Indicator No	Indicator Name	Midterm report values	Final report values
1	1.6	Persons who may have been influenced via dissemination or awareness raising project-actions	975000	2046381
2	10.2	Number of stakeholders involved due to the project	7	8
3	11.1	Website - No. of unique visits	3000	27135
4	11.2	Displayed information (poster, information boards)	200000	200000
		Hotline/information centre	250000	100000
		Publications/reports	600000 ¹²	1390
		Other media (video/broadcast)	500000	600000
		Print media	200000	465000
		Events/exhibitions	150000	64000
5	11.3	Number of individuals surveyed	1500	2838
6	12.1	Networking (individuals)	270	759

¹² The number here included the impressions of web banners in 2 main portals in Cyprus. The External Monitoring Team suggested to be removed from the final evaluation.

8. Comments on the financial report

The costs incurred during the reporting period (Oct 2017 – Sept 2020) covered by the final report of the iLIFE-TROODOS project, reached a percentage of **92.42%** of the total project budget at its completion, as presented in the table below. Overall, the most significant deviations as already mentioned in the MR arose because of the higher total cost of the two touch screens and the two information kiosks (*Part 8.1, Durable goods* below), while other minor deviations are justified below.

Additionally, Value Added Tax (VAT) is considered an eligible project expense for all beneficiaries except DE. Relevant certificates from the VAT authorities were sent with MR.

All required financial statements can be found as Annexes:

- *Annex 10.3.1*: Consolidated Financial Statement (in excel & pdf files)
- *Annex 10.3.2.1*: DF Financial Statements (in excel & pdf files)
- *Annex 10.3.2.2*: CONTACT Financial Statements (in excel & pdf files)
- *Annex 10.3.2.3*: DE Financial Statements (in excel & pdf files)
- *Annex 10.3.2.4*: FU Financial Statements (in excel & pdf files)

8.1 Summary of Costs Incurred

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED			
Cost category	Budget according to the grant agreement in €	Costs incurred within the reporting period in €	%
1. Personnel	748,634	695,066.84	92.84%
2. Travel and subsistence	17,669	8,864.27	50.17%
3. External assistance	372,471	359,128.78	96.42%
4. Durables goods: total <u>non-depreciated</u> cost			
- <i>Infrastructure sub-tot.</i>	11,250	15,835.91	140.76%
- <i>Equipment sub-tot.</i>	3,200	6,909.19	215.91%
- <i>Prototype sub-tot.</i>	-	-	-
5. Consumables	1,000	540.86	54.09%
6. Other costs	39,120	16,550.52	42.31%
7. Overheads	83,532	77,201,36	92.42%
TOTAL	1,276,876	1,180,097.73	92.42%

Costs Incurred

The total costs incurred during the reporting period of the project covered a percentage of 92.42% of the total project budget, as shown in the table above. It is important to note that all actions were completed (except two local workshops) on time regardless of the fact that during the reporting period COVID-19 outbreak affected marginally the project's expenses.

Personnel

Overall, the necessary resources in terms of **personnel** for the implementation of the project have been mobilised. The overall budget utilisation in the cost category stands at 93%, of the budgeted amount. This is justified by the fact that even though the total days charged are at 102% of the initial budget (table in section 8.5 below), the average cost of staff used is a bit lower than the budgeted one.

In addition, there is a deviation of the cost for preparatory Action A1, where the personnel cost is lower than initially planned; this is due to lower average cost of staff used for its elaboration.

Moreover, there are some cases where the rates are higher than initially foreseen (>20%). This is either due to employee's promotion resulting in basic salary increase or due to the increase in employer's cost contribution, since as from 1st of January 2019 and onwards the Social Insurance percentage contribution rate increased, while from 1st of March 2019 contributions are made to the General Health System (for the first time).

The main cases refer to:

From DF, Takis Papachristoforou, Charalambos Christodoulou and Panikkos Panayiotou. In the first two cases (Takis Papachristoforou, Charalambos Christodoulou), during the preparation of the project's proposal, their salary was the one foreseen; however, they were promoted (the first in November 2017 and the latter in June 2018), hence the increase in their daily rate. In the case of Mr P. Panayiotou, another person has been included to assist (Mr Kyriacos Gregoriou) with lower rate, so that the overall total cost for the post is reduced. Furthermore, in the case of the two workers (Dimitris Dimitriou and Savvas Michail), it was considered necessary that two more experienced labour employees should be used for the modifications to be carried out at Pasia Livadi picnic site (resulting in people with higher rate, but requiring fewer days to carry out the work).

From FU, the person originally intended for the position of Financial Manager could not participate in the project, due to other obligations; therefore, he was replaced by Ms. Maria Spyrou, Head of Accounts of FU, who fits the requirements for the position; her cost is about 20% higher than in the proposal.

Additionally, between March and June 2020, due to Covid-19 (as published in the Cyprus Government Gazette), the Government announced support schemes by paying part of employees' salaries for companies whose turnover /operations was reduced by at least 25%. In particular, the beneficiary CONTACT had joined such scheme.

Finally, the rule that Contribution from Cyprus Government (permanent public) employees must exceed by at least 2% their salaries, was followed.

Travel

The budget utilization for **travel** expenses is at 50.17%. Most of the budget under this category was planned for Actions B and D (i.e., for field visits and networking and participation in conferences abroad, respectively). The cost for travelling for networking meetings and field visits was lower. For networking meetings, the main cost was airfare; cheaper options were found. Lower cost for field visits was mainly because the PC was transferred from Nicosia Headquarters of DF to Platania Forest station which is located within TNFP.

External Assistance

The budget utilization for **external assistance** is at 96.42%, where due to the tendering/ procurement procedures, the subcontractors were paid fully with the completion of their work. Part of the Socio-economic impact study would initially engage the services of an ecosystem services expert. Even though some initial work was carried out, the expert could not complete the report due to personal/ family issues. The remaining work was carried out by personnel of Frederick University (Academic), who completed the said part.

Durable Goods

The **Infrastructure expenses** claimed are 40.76% above the initial budget, while the **Equipment** is 115.91% above. The eligible costs were, €15,835.91 (€11,250 budgeted) and €6,909.19 (€3,200 budgeted), respectively.

During the creation of the Apps for Action B.3, it became apparent that the use of better equipment for testing the Apps was necessary, therefore the respective equipment (Apple MacBook) was acquired. Furthermore, due to the different visualisation on tablets and smartphones (fragmentation issue) a smartphone (OnePlus 6T Midnight Black) was acquired to test on this screen size. The cost for these purchases (€2,393.48) did not alter the overall budget of the project, since their cost has been covered by the cost of hosting the applications' back-end on cloud; back-end is being hosted at FU's servers, for easier and longer-term management and maintenance.

As mentioned before in Executive Summary and Part 8.2 below the budget for the 'Touch Screens' and for the construction of the information kiosks was incorrect. The total costs for the two touch screens and for the two information kiosks included in the Proposal were €4,000 and €45,000, respectively. The final (total) cost of the touch screens is €13,104, while the final cost of the construction of the two information kiosks is €63,343. The extra budget needed, was covered by the savings from other cost categories; this change is within the 20% threshold indicated in article II.22 of the General Conditions, therefore no need for an amendment of the budget was needed.

The depreciation (of Infrastructure and Equipment) has been calculated in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the Cyprus Companies Law; this was adopted by the Department of Forest and Frederick University. The eligible costs followed the LIFE programme's rules (maximum 25% of total project costs for Infrastructure and 50% for Equipment).

Consumables and Other Costs

The budget utilization for **Consumables** is at 54.09% while the budget utilization rate for **Other Costs** is 42.31%. The lower utilisation is due to the reduced costs (after the tendering procedure) of the dissemination materials, the high amount budgeted for activities implemented

for Actions B.3 and D.2, and the removal of the cost for External Audit (no auditing is required for any of the project beneficiaries, this cost was 20% of the initial budget of the *Other Costs* category).

8.2 Accounting system

As outlined in the Financial Management Guide, each beneficiary records all expenses related to the project in their accounting systems in a manner that a sufficient and clear audit trail can be ensured. For all expenses, original supporting documents (including timesheets) are properly filed and kept with the accounting office of each beneficiary, whereas copies of them are filed in a separate Financial Folder that is kept for each beneficiary. These financial folders, which belong to the Coordinating Beneficiary, follow a standardized filing content to facilitate the review and correspondence with the financial reports. As indicated in the Financial Checklist form of each beneficiary, project expenses are recorded in the following accounting codes used by each beneficiary:

1. **DF:** The costs of the project are included in the separate accounting number #0505371859.
2. **CONTACT:** The cost accounting number is #302LIFE01.
3. **DE:** The cost accounting number used is #05-13371859.
4. **FU:** Keeps separate accounting ledgers for each project. For iLIFE-TROODOS, the cost accounting number in the system was #73417. Since 01 September 2020 a new accounting system was implemented, where the new cost code category is 85.10.

Even though each beneficiary may follow a slightly different procedure for approving costs, depending on the value of the expenditure and normal policies and procedures, in principle, once expenses are requested by personnel assigned to the project; they are reviewed and approved by the beneficiary coordinators as per their necessity for the project's implementation. Finally, they are authorised and executed as per budget's availability by the finance/ accounting director of each beneficiary. Where restricted or open tender procedures need to be followed, a tender evaluation committee reviews the offers received and decides on the best value or most economic option.

From the beginning of the project, each beneficiary received from the FM a template excel file that was created based on the template LIFE timesheet with calendar months until the end of the project. Instructions for completing the timesheets were provided both in writing and at the 1st meeting of the FMT. In particular, person-hours were recorded for the present project and other LIFE/EU projects, as well as the balance hours for the remaining activities of each personnel member, so that all hours worked for the organisation are accounted for. After the end of each month, the timesheets were printed, signed by the corresponding personnel member and approved/signed by the corresponding beneficiary coordinator or supervisor.

For the calculation of the personnel cost rates, the annual employer cost was used, divided by the total productive hours of the year as per the timesheets for each person. However, for staff engaged in the project only for a limited time, mainly workers, only the productive hours for the months that were involved in the project and the corresponding salaries cost for those months were used to calculate their rates.

Regarding travel expenses, the Cyprus government rules and internal regulations of beneficiaries were followed (as also communicated to the external monitoring team through the Financial Checklist files). Especially for traveling within Cyprus the following were followed: *Use of Public beneficiaries Cars of DF:* The procedure implemented was: For public vehicles, the fuel rates (€/litre) are being announced monthly through the e-Procurement System (e-PS). The rates that are announced do not include VAT (currently 19%), so a calculation is made in

order to find the actual fuel rate. Each month the logbooks of the vehicles to be involved in project activities were copied and filed. They include data regarding the date the vehicle was used, the starting point and the destination, the vehicles mean consumption (litres/100 km), the distance travelled (Km) for project's purposes, and the driver's name. These data along with the fuel rate were used in order to calculate the total fuel cost per trip (Distance x Mean Consumption x Monthly Fuel Rate).

Use of Private Cars for FU: The policy which is used in the public sector (Cyprus Government) is adopted, which allows for compensation with a fixed amount/km travelled, which is set by circulars of the Ministry of Finance for trips away from the headquarters. Details of the above policies are included in the project Financial Folder of each beneficiary.

As per the applicable LIFE General Conditions and the guidelines incorporated in the Financial Management Guide, all invoices produced by suppliers for the project have the project acronym and code (iLIFE-TROODOS, LIFE16 GIE/CY/000709) printed on them. In the case this does not happen at the initial production of the invoice by the supplier (e.g., for small amounts for cash purchases), the original invoice was stamped with the project credentials before they are submitted to the accounting office of the corresponding beneficiary for payment.

8.3 Partnership arrangements (if relevant)

The signed Partnership Agreement between the beneficiaries (*sent with MR*) provided for a specific schedule for financial transactions between the coordinating beneficiary and the associated beneficiaries, which takes into account the financial requirements of the beneficiaries that stem from the implementation of the project. The agreement also incorporated clauses to allow for changes in the aforementioned payments schedule, based on the actual project progress and the eligibility of expenses of the beneficiaries.

A Financial Management Team was formed, headed by the FM (Maria Spyrou – FU) and with representatives of each beneficiary (Kyriacos Gregoriou – DF, Elena Tombazou – CONTACT, Elena Erotokritou - DE, Constantinos Kounnamas – FU) with duties on monitoring, collecting, proper filing and reporting information to the FM, who reviewed them in terms of validity and consolidated them into the required reports. A meeting of the FMT with other staff from the partners took place at the beginning of the project for explaining in detail the procedures and tools to be used, whereas active communication of the team members with the FM was encouraged and practiced. In practice, each beneficiary recorded their own information in the financial reports and every three or four months these were provided to the FM as interim *internal* financial reports. It should be noted here that the financial reports were based on the LIFE template “Financial Statement of the Individual Beneficiary” with a slight modification to record the relevant Action for each expense item and better monitor the budget implementation. The Financial Statements provided with this report are clear of any changes. The FM reviewed them against the supporting documents provided (financial folders). The review included the following:

- Ensuring that declared costs were sufficiently verified with appropriate documentation.
- Ensuring that costs were relevant to the project.
- Communicating with the PM to ensure that the beneficiaries conformed to their work and deliverable requirements and that declared costs correspond to the work undertaken.
- Integration of individual cost statements into the necessary Consolidated statements and checks to ensure that total costs do not significantly exceed the foreseen budget and that the LIFE funding rules are observed.

8.4 Certificate on the financial statement

None of the beneficiaries of the project reimbursement exceeds the €750.000; therefore, there is no need for external auditor.

8.5 Estimation of person-days used per action

The table below indicates the estimated % of time used compared to the budgeted person-days. Overall, the time utilization percentage is very close to the budgeted person-days, i.e., 4324 days were worked compared to 4230 included in the initial budget.

Action type	Budgeted person-days	Estimated % of person-days spent
All projects when applicable Action A: Preparatory actions	110	98
NAT and CLIMA projects Action B: Purchase/lease of land and/or compensation payment for payment rights	N/A	N/A
ENV projects Action B: Implementation actions	N/A	N/A
GIE projects Action B: Core actions	2159	107
NAT projects Action C – Concrete conservation actions	N/A	N/A
CLIMA projects Action C: Implementation actions	N/A	N/A
ENV and GIE projects Action C: Monitoring of the impact of the project action	366	91
NAT and CLIMA projects Action D: Monitoring and impact assessment	N/A	N/A
ENV and GIE projects Action D: Public awareness/communication and dissemination of results	595	100
NAT and CLIMA projects Action E: Communication and Dissemination of results	N/A	N/A
ENV and GIE projects Action E: Project management	1000	97
NAT and CLIMA projects Action F: Project management (and progress)	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	4230	102

9. Index of Project's Deliverables

- 9.1 Report on broadcasting records, including DVD with all media campaign material (Annex 10.2.1): The report includes details on the communication strategy, total numbers of all media used and project's reach.
- 9.2 Radio presentations in 2019 and 2020 (Annex 10.2.2): The folder contains the presentations of iLIFE-TROODOS personnel to Radio Channels in 2019 and 2020.
- 9.3 TV presentations in 2019 and 2020 (Annex 10.2.3): The folder contains the presentations of iLIFE-TROODOS personnel to TV Channels in 2019 and 2020.
- 9.4 Colour magazine adverts in 2019 and 2020 (Annex 10.2.4): The deliverables include 14 magazine adverts published in 2019 and 2020.
- 9.5 Colour press adverts in 2019 and 2020 (Annex 10.2.5): The deliverables include 35 newspaper adverts published in 2019 and 2020.
- 9.6 Press Releases 2019 – Action B1 (Annex 10.2.6): The deliverable includes 10 press releases published in 2019.
- 9.7 Press Releases 2020 – Action B1 (Annex 10.2.7): The deliverable includes 10 press releases published in 2020.
- 9.8 Report on social media records (Annex 10.2.9): The report presents details about the campaigns ran on Facebook, Google display network και YouTube, total number of impressions on Google display network και YouTube and views, reach and likes on Facebook.
- 9.9 Report for the rural workshops (Annex 10.2.16): The report includes the aim and outcomes of six local workshops carried out in 2018 (five workshops) and 2020 (one workshop).
- 9.10 Report for the tourism sector workshop (Annex 10.2.17): The report describes the workshop held on 2019 at the Philoxenia Conference Center and which was co-organized by the iLIFE-TROODOS project and the Deputy Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the British High Commission in Nicosia.
- 9.11 Report for the second Stakeholder's workshop (Annex 10.2.18): The report states the feedback received from Stakeholders during their second meeting and describes the key outcomes of the meeting.
- 9.12 Report on the mobile exhibition procedure/ outcomes (Annex 10.2.19): The report describes the procedure followed to implement the photo exhibition of the project.
- 9.13 Documentary (Annex 10.2.20): The folder contains five (five different languages) video files of the project's documentary.
- 9.14 Second report on findings from the annual research survey and interviews (Annex 10.2.23): The report describes the results of the second phase of surveys in order to assess the effectiveness of awareness campaign.
- 9.15 Final report on findings from the annual research surveys and interviews (Annex 10.2.24): The report describes the final results and evaluates the effectiveness of iLIFE-TROODOS awareness campaign.
- 9.16 Mitigation Plan (Annex 10.2.25): The plan aims to alleviate any pressures form the possiblele increased number of people to the environment of Troodos National Forest Park.

- 9.17 Socio-economic impact assessment (Annex 10.2.26): The report includes the results derived from surveys, along with an evaluation of the economic benefits that the area could obtain.
- 9.18 Abstract in conference (Annex 10.2.27): The deliverable includes the submitted abstract and the poster presented to the ESP10 World Conference.
- 9.19 Best practises guide (Annex 10.2.28): The guide summarizes the outcomes and best practices on raising awareness, as these resulted by the project's implementation.
- 9.20 Replication Plan (Annex 10.2.29): The plan includes the main techniques employed and the timeframe (after the end of the project) for the dissemination of the project's results in such a way, to ensure the replicability and transferability to other EU countries/ regions.
- 9.21 Third newsletter (Annex 10.2.31): This deliverable in the 3rd newsletter of the project prepared in 2020.
- 9.22 Press Releases 2019 – Action D2 (Annex 10.2.36): The deliverable includes 3 press releases published in 2019.
- 9.23 Press Releases 2020 – Action D2 (Annex 10.2.37): The deliverable includes 3 press releases published in 2020.
- 9.24 Articles in magazines 2019 (Annex 10.2.38): The deliverable includes the articles published in magazines in 2019.
- 9.25 Articles in magazines 2020 (Annex 10.2.39): The deliverable includes the articles published in magazines in 2020.
- 9.26 Layman's Report in Greek language (Annex 10.2.40): This deliverable is the Layman's report of the project prepared in Greek language.
- 9.27 Layman's Report in English language (Annex 10.2.41): This deliverable is the Layman's report of the project prepared in English language.
- 9.28 After-LIFE plan (Annex 10.2.43): The plan gives details regarding what actions will be carried out after the end of the project, indicating the timeline, the responsible beneficiary for their implementation and the source of finance which will be used.

10. Annexes

10.1 Administrative annexes

- 10.1.1 3rd Project visit – Replies to technical and financial issues
- 10.1.2 List of personnel involved in the project

10.2 Technical annexes

- 10.2.1 Report on broadcasting records, including DVD with all media campaign material (Deliverable)
- 10.2.2 Radio presentations in 2019 and 2020 (Deliverables)
- 10.2.3 TV presentations in 2019 and 2020 (Deliverables)
- 10.2.4 Colour magazine adverts in 2019 and 2020 (Deliverables)
- 10.2.5 Colour press adverts in 2019 and 2020 (Deliverables)
- 10.2.6 Press Releases 2019 – Action B1 (Deliverable)
- 10.2.7 Press Releases 2020 – Action B1 (Deliverable)
- 10.2.8 Allocation of project leaflet
- 10.2.9 Report on social media records (Deliverable)
- 10.2.10 Advert on buses
- 10.2.11 TV spots in English language
- 10.2.12 Animated cartoons in English language
- 10.2.13 Press releases - outside LIFE activity
- 10.2.14 TV presentation - outside LIFE activity
- 10.2.15 Radio presentation - outside LIFE activity
- 10.2.16 Report for the rural workshops (Deliverable)
- 10.2.17 Report for the tourism sector workshop (Deliverable)
- 10.2.18 Report for the second Stakeholder’s workshop (Deliverable)
- 10.2.19 Report on the mobile exhibition procedure/ outcomes (Deliverable)
- 10.2.20 Documentary (Deliverable)
- 10.2.21 Supplementary photos
- 10.2.22 Evaluation of the Monitoring Protocol of Core Actions
- 10.2.23 Second report on findings from the annual research survey and interviews (Deliverable)
- 10.2.24 Final report on findings from the annual research surveys and interviews (Deliverable)
- 10.2.25 Mitigation Plan (Deliverable)
- 10.2.26 Socio-economic impact assessment (Deliverable)
- 10.2.27 Abstract in conference (Deliverable)
- 10.2.28 Best practices guide (Deliverable)
- 10.2.29 Replication Plan (Deliverable)
- 10.2.30 Website traffic
- 10.2.31 Third newsletter (Deliverable)
- 10.2.32 Newsletter in English language
- 10.2.33 Allocation of newsletters
- 10.2.34 Promotion material
- 10.2.35 Allocation of promotion material
- 10.2.36 Press Releases 2019 – Action D2 (Deliverable)
- 10.2.37 Press Releases 2020 – Action D2 (Deliverable)
- 10.2.38 Articles in magazines 2019 (Deliverable)
- 10.2.39 Articles in magazines 2020 (Deliverable)

- 10.2.40 Layman's Report in Greek language (Deliverable)
- 10.2.41 Layman's Report in English language (Deliverable)
- 10.2.42 Publication in Dasoponos - outside LIFE activity
- 10.2.43 After-LIFE plan (Deliverable)
- 10.2.44 Evaluation of the Project Monitoring Protocol

10.3 Financial annexes

- 10.3.1 Consolidated Cost Statement for the Project
- 10.3.2 Financial Statement of the Beneficiaries
- 10.3.3 Standard Payment Request