



LIFE12 NAT/DK/001073

Inception Report

Covering the project activities from 01/08/2013 to 30/04/2014

30/04/2014

LIFE+ REDCOHA

Restoration of Danish Coastal Habitats

Data Project

Project location	Denmark 1 Ejstrup Klit (pSCI: DK00FX274) 2 Bulbjerg og Vejlerne (SPA: DK00FX008, DK00EY012, DK00EY013, DK00EX019, DK00EX020; pSCI: DK00EY124) 3 Hanstholmknuden (PSCI: DK00EX283) 4 Hanstholm Reservatet (SPA: DK00EX022; pSCI: DK00EX130) 5 Vangså Hede (SPA: DK00EX025; pSCI: DK00EX025) 6 Ålvand (SPA: DK00EX017; pSCI: DK00EX017) 7 Lyngby Klitheder (pSCI: DK00EX265) 8 Agger Tange (SPA: DK00EX023, DK00EY027, DK00CX028; pSCI: DK00EY133) 9 Harbøre Tange (SPA: DK00CY039) 10 Nissum Fjord (SPA: DK00CX038; pSCI: DK00CX160) 11 Husby Klit (pSCI: DK00CX278) 12 Nymindestrømmen (SPA: DK00CX043; pSCI: DK00CY163) 13 Lyngbos Hede (pSCI: DK00AX173) 14 Kallesmærsk Hede (SPA: DK00AX056, DK00AX050; pSCI: DK00AX173) 15 Fanø (SPA: DK00AX049, DK00AX051, DK00AC052, DK00AX053, DK00AC055, DK00AY057, DK009X060, DK009X065; pSCI: DK00AY176)
Project start date:	01/08/2013
Project end date:	31/07/2018 Extension date: <dd/mm/yyyy >

Total budget	€ 2,845,912
EC contribution:	€ 1,422,956
(%) of eligible costs	50

Data Beneficiary

Name Beneficiary	Danish Nature Agency (Naturstyrelsen)
Contact person	Mr Uffe Strandby
Postal address	Gl. Landevej 35, 7620 Lemvig
Telephone	+45 72543000 (+45 72543522)
Fax:	+45 97820240
E-mail	ufstr@nst.dk
Project Website	www.nst.dk/saarbarnatur

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1 List of abbreviations

NST: Danish Nature Agency.

NST-BLH: Danish Nature Agency, Regional Office, Blåvandshuk.

NST-THY: Danish Nature Agency, Regional Office, Thy.

NST-VES: Danish Nature Agency, Regional Office, Vendsyssel.

NST-VJY: Danish Nature Agency, Regional Office, Vestjylland.

THI-MUNI: The municipality of Thisted

RING-SKJERN-MUNI: The municipality of Ringkøbing-Skjern

2 Executive summary

Along the 400 km Danish west coast is situated a partly discontinued zone of coastal dune habitats. This area slowly emerges from the sea as the land still rises after the last glacial period. This pristine nutrient poor land, mainly consisting of sand covered by coastal dune habitats, is probably the most precious nature treasure in Denmark. The coastal dune habitats are a mosaic with the most abundant habitat types being 2130*, 2140* and 2190. These areas are unique as they represent the only Danish land habitats with end succession other than forest. These areas have faced and are facing a number of threats. Some of the main threats like lack of natural dynamic processes and invasion of coniferous species were addressed in the former LIFE 02 NAT/DK/008584. Among other main threats is Invasive Alien Species (IAS) including the Japanese Rose (*Rosa rugosa*), fragmentation of habitats and loss of breeding and foraging areas concerning key animals. However, the threats constantly proceed and constitute long-term potential threats and therefore need to be addressed continuously.

The present project aims to restore some of Denmark's large areas of coastal dune habitats before it's too late. An urgent and comprehensive effort is imperative in order to reverse the trend of deterioration and to achieve a good conservation status of the targeted habitat types. This will be achieved mainly through combating IAS (coniferous species and Japanese Rose) (C1 and C5), conversion of plantations in order to create new habitats (C6). On the species level, this project aims at improving hydrological conditions (C2) and establishes a number of bird islands in order to minimize predation on vulnerable populations of ground nesting birds.

Therefore, the overall objective of the project is to improve the conservation status of the coastal dune habitats: 2120, 2130*, 2140*, 2180 and 2190 and to improve the conditions for a number of species, e.g. Scotch lovage (*Ligusticum scoticum*), Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*), Sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*), Little tern (*Sterna albifrons*) and Gull-billed tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*).

2.1 General progress.

The project in general is progressing according to the plan. The early actions of the project with milestones within the reporting period have all been achieved and some actions with milestones mid-2014 have already been either achieved or initiated. The overall management structure of the project is in place. The project steering committee has held their first meeting, and the project is implemented at site level with local project-managers appointed at NST Regional Offices and the two Associated Beneficiaries. The overall accounting system has been set-up to meet the requirements of the grant agreement.

The project has been very well exposed in the media – national, regional and local radio/television, national/regional/local newspapers.
In general the project is on the right track.

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

Project objectives and working plan are still viable. In the present situation we see no need to make any essential adjustments of actions or timetable for the project. However, we ask for a few modifications, which are listed in the paragraph below.

We have made a project implementation plan, based on the timetable presented in the project proposal. This plan leaves adequate room to complete the project and achieve the objectives. Furthermore all the local project-managers and their workmen have many years of experience in implementing nature conservation actions similar to the actions they will implement through this project.

2.3 Problems encountered.

Below is found a description of the problems encountered and the requests for minor adjustments.

Action A2: The AB Municipality of Thisted has realised that the external costs on A2 will be much higher, € 14,000, than budgeted, € 3,200). The reason for this is the topographical complexity of the area and the high number of private landowners who can be influenced by the hydrological changes. A more thorough investigation is therefore needed. However, the AB has budgeted with the following other external cost C2: € 13,567; C5: € 61,333 and C6: € 58.000. The increase in expenses on Action A2 is therefore believed to be counterbalanced by partly a decrease in the cost category for the AB but also by a minor reduction in the number of areas. THI-MUNI therefore suggests to cancel the implementation of hydrology actions (5 areas) within the internal site no 6 (DK00EX017) (see Annex 6.3.1, figure 7). It is argued that these areas are characterised by severe potential impact on adjacent farming areas and furthermore some of the areas are now included on the list of appointed areas where it is possible to apply for funding from the Rural development Programme to carry out hydrological actions (see <http://arealinformation.miljoportal.dk/distribution> - Tilskudsordninger og drift af landbrugsjord - N2000-arealer til hydrologi)

Part of the hydrology action in Kallesmærsk Hede (site no. 14) is moved to Lyngbo Hede (site no. 13). The reason for this change is based on field inspections by NST and a consultancy. It is recommended to move part of the action because it is assumed to result in a higher biological value especially with respect to Natterjack Toad (*Bufo calamita*). On Annex 6.3.1, figure 3 is shown the area in Kallesmærsk Hede (site no. 14) where the hydrology action is cancelled and on Annex 6.3.1, figure 4 is shown the area where this hydrology effort is moved to. In NST-VSY the action A.2 has also revealed that a change in the implementation of Action C.2 in internal site no. 1 (DK00FX274) is recommended. Three locations were originally suggested (Annex 6.3.1, figure 1). The hydrological feasibility study revealed potential excavating problems at the eastern location due to risks of ammunition in the soil. The two other locations were found to be less attractive compared to the new suggested places

in terms of impact on e.g. Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*) and Marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*). We therefore suggest moving the three locations to the places indicated on Annex 6.3.1, figure 2. In internal site no. 11 (Husby Klit; DK00CX278) 7 sub-areas were scheduled in the Grant Agreement. However, it is suggested by NST-VJY to add another sub-area (See Annex 6.3.1, figure 5 and 6). We therefore ask for an increase in the number of sub-areas from 7 to 8 in internal site no. 1. Part of the new sub-area is situated outside the Nature 2000 boundary. However, a hydrology intervention in this area cannot be isolated within the boundary.

Action C.4: The action was originally planned to be implemented in the first and second quarter of 2014. However, the area is currently forested and the cutting was initially planned for spring 2014 but the storm on December 5 2013 had a serious effect on the Danish forests. Therefore, the priorities concerning logging within the NST have been changed. We therefore ask for permission to postpone the action to 1st and 2nd quarter 2016. The reason for this action is to secure that the area converted from plantations to coastal dune habitats (Action C6) can develop into new habitat nature, probably 4010. The biological aim is not changed only the time schedule is moderately modified.

Action F3: The costs related to participation in Platform Meetings were not taken into account in the original budget. The participation has been taken into consideration when it comes to personnel but not in terms of Travel. However, the costs can be covered by the travel category in relation to Action F3

3 Administrative part

3.1 Description of project management

The project manager and the local project-managers were assigned to the project before project start. They were all involved in the process of producing the project proposal and all are committed to the project. The project-group consists of the project manager and local project-managers from each regional forest unit as well as two representatives from the municipalities. The first project-group meeting took place on 12th of June 2013. This meeting had the function of a start-up workshop. The meeting also facilitated a very useful exchange of experience regarding management of coastal dune habitat in general as well as the participants' experience with LIFE-Nature projects.

The second meeting in the project group was held October 8 2013. At this meeting the overall project implementation plan detailing the actions was talked over – the site specific as well as the general activities. The procedures for reporting and accounting of the site specific actions was outlined and agreed upon. The third meeting in the project-group was held February 4 2014. The main focus of the third meeting was to discuss the possibilities and obstacles for combating the invasive species *Rosa rugosa*.

The steering group consists of the Chief Foresters/Head of the Regional NST Offices where the project actions are implemented and the Head of the Nature Department in each of the two municipalities and the project manager- 7 persons in total. The first meeting in the steering group was held 13/12/2013.

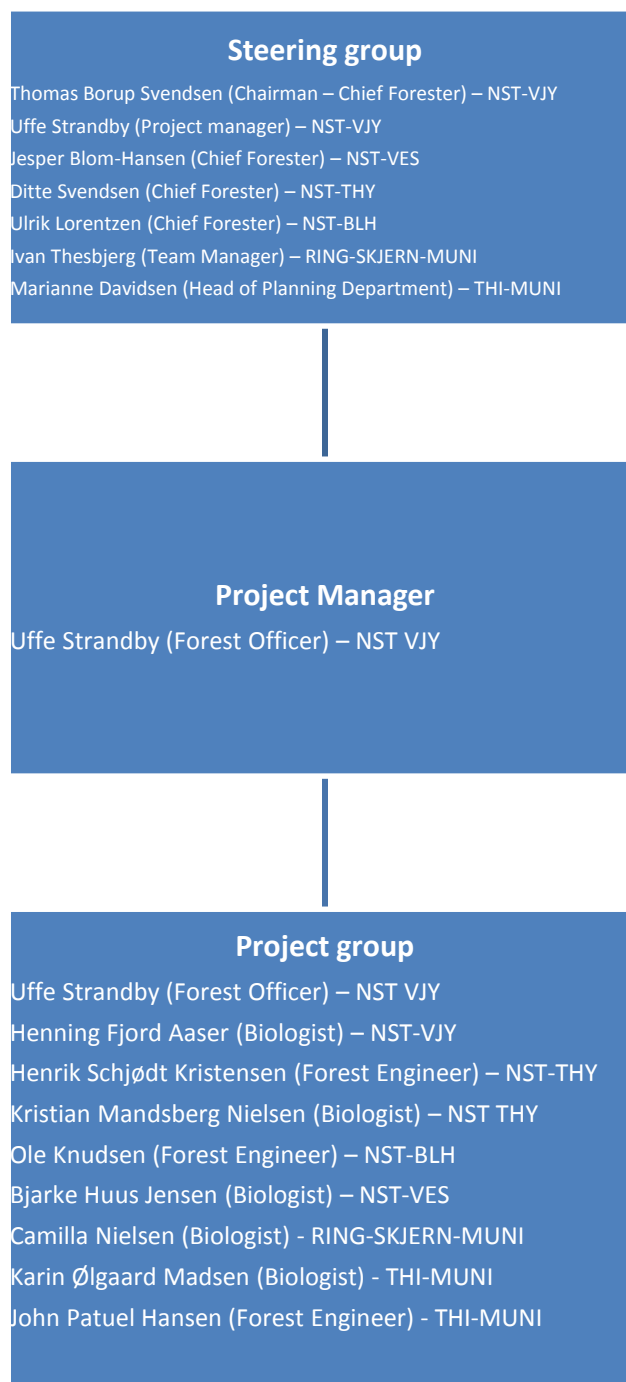


Figure 1 REDCOHA- organigramme

3.2 Partnership agreements status (incl. date of signature) and key content

Partnership agreements have been made with both AB's (Municipality of Thisted signed March 5, 2014 and Municipality of Ringkøbing-Skjern signed February 18, 2014 (see Annex 6.1.1 and 6.1.2) The agreements stipulate duration of the project, economy, role and obligations of the CB, role and obligations of the AB, common obligations for both the AB and CB, conditions for subcontractors and rules for invoices, civil liability, conflict of interest, technical activity report deadlines, communication actions,

confidentiality, rules for financial reporting, estimated eligible costs and AB's financial contribution to the project, payment terms, checks, audits and inspections, termination of partnership agreement and jurisdiction clause. The partnership agreements are in line with the template for Partnership Agreements revised March 2014.

4 Technical part

The direct targeted habitat types in this project consist of the following dune habitats:
2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes')
2130* Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')
2140* Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*
2180 Wooded dunes of the Atlantic, continental and Boreal region
2190 Humid dune slacks

The direct targeted species include among others:

Sea bindweed (*Calystegia soldanella*), Scotch lovage (*Ligusticum scoticum*), Marsch fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*), Norfolk damselfly (*Coenagrion armatum*), Digny skipper (*Erynnis tages*), Sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*), Wood-sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), Little tern (*Sterna albifrons*) and Gull-billed tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*).

The project encompasses 15 project sites and 6 conservation actions.

4.1 Actions

4.1.1 Action A.1 (Mapping of *Rosa rugosa*)

Progress in this reporting period

During August 2013, two companies were invited for tender and in the beginning of September 2013, NST made a contract with the consultancy company COWI A/S to carry out mapping of *Rosa rugosa*. The data were delivered at the end of November 2013. An area of 11,364 ha has been surveyed for the invasive species *Rosa rugosa*. The method used was mainly based on spectral analysis of aerial photos from 2013 (see Annex 6.2.2). This method was supported by field observations and drone-photos (10 % of the total area was overflowed by drones) in order to verify the *Rosa rugosa* distribution detected by means of spectral analysis. The analysis revealed an occurrence of 43,5 ha stands of *Rosa rugosa* (see Annex 6.2.3). However, it was emphasized that this estimate was a minimum level because the *Rosa rugosa* bush has to be rather dense in order to be captured in the spectral analysis. NST therefore decided to conduct a minor follow-up research in order to validate the dissemination of *Rosa rugosa*. Based on measurements of the circumference of 35 bushes of *Rosa rugosa* (bushes which were identified in the spectral analysis) it was found that the real area had to be adjusted by a factor + 2.44. So the best estimate concerning the occurrence of *Rosa rugosa* within the total mapped area is approximately 100-110 ha.

Progress expected during the next reporting period

The action has been completed

4.1.2 Action A.2 (Hydrological feasibility study)

Progress in this reporting period

So far, NST-VES, NST-BLH and NST-VJY have conducted feasibility studies and subsequently realised a need to adjust the action C.2. The feasibility studies have increased

the knowledge of the possibilities and constraints in the local areas and thereby resulted in the proposed changes given in paragraph 3.3 and Annex 6.3.1.

Progress expected during the next reporting period

The feasibility studies from NST-THY and THI-MUNI will be delivered before the deadline June 15 2014. Depending on the outcome of these feasibility studies, they might require minor changes as well.

4.1.3 Action A.3 (Authority treatment)

Progress in this reporting period

This action is relevant for all of the concrete conservation actions and is therefore a prerequisite for the implementation of the actions. The authority treatment process related to action C.1 has been initiated. There exists an agreement between the Ministry of Environment (Miljøministeriet), Danish Regions (Danske Regioner) and Local Government Denmark (Kommunernes Landsforening) with respect to the use of pesticides.

Of course, this agreement has to be taken into consideration. Therefore, the strategy of combatting *Rosa rugosa* has to be discussed and acknowledged at a high political level in NST.

Progress expected during the next reporting period

It is expected that the NST has reached an understanding with respect to the political attitude towards the use of pesticides in relation to combating *Rosa rugosa*. When the hydrological feasibility study is terminated, the authority treatment with respect to this action will be initiated. A part of the action A.4 is to get an overview of the legal constraints and possibilities with respect to establishment of bird islands. When the project engineering report is ready June 30 2014, the process of authority treatment will be initiated. The implementation of action C.6 also requires a thorough authority treatment which will be carried out during the summer period 2014, as 1/3 of the conversion of plantations has to be carried out before December 31 2014.

4.1.4 Action A.4 (Project engineering of bird islands)

Progress in this reporting period

During February and March 2014 the steps have been taken to prepare the tender. 2-3 companies will be invited for tender during April 2014. The decision on who shall perform the project engineering will be taken in the beginning of May 2014. It is emphasized that the 2 bird islands placed at the internal site no. 15 (Fanø) are not included in this project engineering as they are assessed to be less complex when it comes to establishment and susceptibility.

Progress expected during the next reporting period

The report about project engineering shall be submitted to NST during September 2014. According to the Grant Agreement, the report was planned to be ready June 30, 2014. However, the winter storm changed the internal priorities at NST-VJY which partly explains the minor delay. In addition, this delay means that the processing period will include the holiday period, why a longer period is needed for processing the engineering report. The C-

action C3 (Establishment of bird islands) has a deadline 31/10/2017, so the minor delay in the A-action will not influence the process.

4.1.5 Action A5 (Preparation of applications to the agri-environmental scheme)

Progress in this reporting period

February and March 2014 have been used to identify the possibilities and constraints related to the use of the agri-environmental scheme- foreligger der et notat eller lign herfra?

Progress expected during the next reporting period

The deadline for application is May 1 2014. It is expected to hand in applications for 25-50 % of the estimated area of 40 ha presented in the Grant Agreement.

4.1.6 Action A6 (Landowner contact and cooperation)

Progress in this reporting period

So far, only few contacts have been initiated with respect to action A2. When THI-MUNI has conducted the hydrological feasibility study, the relevant landowners will be contacted.

This action is, with respect to the Municipalities, of utmost importance for the implementation of a number of actions like C1, C2, C5 and C6. In the Grant Agreement, this action is planned to be conducted from the beginning of the project to the end of 2014. However, this action is essential for the Municipalities' ability to implement the above mentioned actions. It is therefore suggested to prolong this action to mid- 2016. The need to prolong this action is based on recognition of the importance of this component and to some extent an initial underestimation of the extent of this action.

Progress expected during the next reporting period

THI-MUNI will establish some contacts and hopefully some participation agreements with respect to the implementation of action C2 and C6. The number of contacts and especially the number of participation agreement depends on the landowners' willingness to accept the changes and future obligations on his land.

4.1.7 Action A7 (Training of field staff)

Progress in this reporting period

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

Training was planned in the Grant Agreement to be conducted during the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2014. However, the content of this action relies on the political decision concerning the possibilities of using herbicides to combat *Rosa rugosa*. It cannot be taken for granted that we

have reached a decision on what methods to use in order to reduce the distribution of *Rosa rugosa* by mid-2014. We therefore ask to prolong the period for implementation of this action so it covers 2nd quarter of 2014 to 2nd quarter of 2015.

4.1.8 Action C1 (Reduce the distribution of *Rosa rugosa* in vulnerable habitat types)

Progress in this reporting period

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

In the Grant Agreement, this action was planned to be conducted from the 2nd quarter of 2014 to the end of 2017. However, this action relies on the political decision concerning the possibilities of using herbicides to combat *Rosa rugosa*. It cannot be taken for granted that we have reached a decision on what methods to use in order to reduce the distribution of *Rosa rugosa*. We therefore ask to prolong the period for implementation of this action so it covers 2nd quarter of 2014 to 2nd quarter of 2018. If it turns out to be unachievable to initiate the action during 2014, the possibility to prolong this action gives the opportunity to apply the different treatments/methods for a minimum of 4 seasons. It should also be mentioned that alternative methods have been taken into consideration in the Grant Agreement. If the use of herbicides turns out to be an unfeasible strategy, the *Rosa rugosa* stands can be removed by digging away the plants. However, this strategy is more expensive and this project is expected to combat only 10 % of the area removed by herbicide treatment.

4.1.9 Action C2 (Improvement of hydrological conditions)

Progress in this reporting period

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

This action relies on the completion of action A2, which has a deadline on June 30 2014. This action is planned to be conducted from 3rd quarter 2014 to the end of 2017. There is an interim with 50 % of sites for improvement of hydrology conducted by December 31 2015. The first steps for implementation of this action will be taken from the 3rd quarter of 2014. This action will mainly be completed by use of external work force, so the initial steps in 2014 will include description of the hydrology projects and inviting tenders for implementing the projects.

4.1.10 Action C3 (Establishment of bird islands)

Progress in this reporting period

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

In the Grant Agreement, the action is described to be initiated in the 3rd quarter of 2014 to 4th quarter 2017. However, as described in action A4 the project engineering report is expected to be submitted to NST in September 2014. It is therefore more likely that this action will be

initiated from 1st quarter 2015. The deadline for this action is 31/10/2017, so the minor delay in the A-action will not influence the process.

4.1.11 Action C4 (Establishment of grazing)

Progress in this reporting period

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

In the Grant Agreement, this action is planned to be conducted during 1st and 2nd quarter 2014. However, the area is currently forested and the cutting was initially planned for spring 2014 but the storm on December 5 2013 had a serious effect on the Danish forests. Therefore, the priorities concerning logging within the NST have been changed. We therefore ask for permission to postpone this action to 1st and 2nd quarter 2016.

4.1.12 Action C5 (Reduce the occurrence of IAS in 2140 and 2180)

Progress in this reporting period

This action was originally planned to be conducted from 3rd quarter 2016 to 4th quarter 2017. However, the action has been initiated at NST-THY with the following results:

Site no.	Action C5	Proposed (ha)	Area cleared (ha)
2	Bulbjerg	10,1	8,0
4	Hanstholm Vildtreservat	4,4	4,4
7	Lyngby Klitheder	0,0	0,0
8	Agger Tange	0,0	0,0
	Total NST THY	14,5	12,4

The IAS species removed in site no. 2 and 4 consist of mainly Mugo Pine (*Pinus mugo*) and some Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*),

Progress expected during the next reporting period

It is expected that the remaining area at NST-THY will be cleared.

4.1.13 Action C6 (Conversion of plantations to coastal dune habitats)

Progress in this reporting period

The action has been initiated at NST-THY with the following results:

Site no.	Action C6	Proposed (ha)	Area cleared (ha)
2	Bulbjerg	11,7	5,0
4	Hanstholm Vildtreservat	4,2	2,0
7	Lyngby Klitheder	44,4	3,2
8	Agger Tange	0,0	0,0
	Total NST-THY	60,3	10,2

The area cleared has taken place in Bulbjerg and Stenbjerg Plantage and the species in question are Mugo Pine (*Pinus mugo*) and Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*). The clearing has been done by use of internal labor at NST-THY.

Progress expected during the next reporting period

In the Grant Agreement, this action is planned to be initiated from 1st quarter 2014 and with three deadlines: 1st interim with 33 % of plantations converted into coastal dune habitats by 31/12/2014, and 2nd interim with 67 % by 31/12/2015 and a final with 100 % by 31/10/2017. However, as described above the storm on December 5 2013 had a serious effect on the Danish forests. Therefore, the priorities concerning logging within the NST have been changed. We therefore ask for changing the three interims into: 1st interim with 33 % of plantations converted into coastal dune habitats by 31/12/2015, and 2nd interim with 67 % by 31/12/2016 and a final with 100 % by 31/10/2017.

4.1.14 Action D1 (Monitoring of project impact on habitat types targeted by the project)

Progress in this reporting period

No activities during the inception period. However, the mapping of *Rosa rugosa* (Action A1) has been terminated.

Progress expected during the next reporting period

The baseline monitoring will be initiated during the 2nd and 3rd quarter 2014. In this baseline monitoring there will be focus on gathering data from aerial photos (e.g. action A1 provide baseline data on the distribution of *Rosa rugosa*) and key indicator species affected by *Rosa rugosa* (plant species like *Ligusticum scoticum* and *Calystegia soldanella* and animal species like *Lacerta agilis* will be registered in areas threatened by overgrowing). In terms of Action C5 and C6 the monitoring will mainly consist of registration of changes in area and if possible changes in the ecological status (species index and structure index).

4.1.15 Action D2 (Monitoring of impact on species targeted by the project)

Progress in this reporting period

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

The Danish monitoring programme (NOVANA) will be used for the species in question. The 2nd and 3rd quarter of both 2014 and 2015 have been reserved for baseline monitoring because weather condition during one year can turn out to be unfavourable.

4.1.16 Action D3 (Assessing socio-economic impact of the project actions)

Progress in this reporting period

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

Collection of baseline data was planned to be conducted during 1st and 2nd quarter 2014. However, we suggest that the commencement of this action is postponed to the 3rd and 4th quarter 2014, as the exact indicators have to be discussed and agreed upon. Moreover, an agreement with an external consultant regarding impact on ground water resources has to be reached. The C-actions which potentially can have an impact on the socio-economic parameters mentioned in the Grant Agreement will not be implemented before end 2015.

4.1.17 Action E1 (Smartphone and tablet communication platforms)

Progress in this reporting period

Ad. Mobile site: The first steps have been taken together with a consultant (NATECO v/ Christian Nikolajsen) in order to identify the vision and goal of the projects and to describe user-stories. The user-stories are planned to be used in order to identify user-groups and especially their needs and requirements. This analysis is important in order to establish a link between e.g. the functionality of the mobile site and the characteristic of the different user-groups. A report concerning project vision and user-stories was handed in 23/09/2013. Furthermore, in cooperation with a consultant the process of developing and implementing the mobile site has been started. Originally, the mobile site was thought to be an independent site. However, internal standards and politics in NST concerning communication platforms have to be taken into consideration. At this moment we are discussing how to balance the internal NST communication and design policy and the needs and functionality of the project mobile site.

Ad. App: The first steps have been taken together with the consultant in order to make an offer and prepare a contract based on the wishes we got for the output of this action. It's expected that this will be done by the end of May 2014.

Progress expected during the next reporting period

Ad. Mobile site: The deadline for full functionality is 31/12/2015. It is therefore expected to continue the process of discussion and clarification with respect to functionality, content, technical solution, etc.

Ad. App.: The deadline for full functionality is 31/12/2014. The consultant expects to be ready with version 1.0 around September 2014. Then, data regarding the specific areas is to be implemented to the app. It is expected to continue the process of discussion and clarification with respect to functionality, content, technical solution, etc.

4.1.18 Action E2a (Information boards)

Progress in this reporting period

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

According to the Grant Agreement, the information boards will be elaborated 3rd and 4th quarter 2014. However, due to possible minor delays with respect to Action C1 and C6, we ask for a minor postponement, so that this action will be conducted during 1st and 2nd quarter 2015. Nevertheless, it might be relevant to put up information boards during 2014 in the proximity of the plantations in Thy, where the actions C5 and C6 have been initiated.

4.1.19 Action E2b (leaflets and posting leaflets)

Progress in this reporting period

The leaflet has been produced (Annex 6.2.1) and will be used for an exhibition during Easter Holiday. The title of the exhibition is “Fritidshus- og energimesse i Hurup Hallerne“. There has been published a magazine for this exhibition, where the effort to combat *Rosa rugosa* has been mentioned (see pp. 23 and 29 in: [http://www.e- pages.dk/nordad/2941/](http://www.e-pages.dk/nordad/2941/)).

Progress expected during the next reporting period

The leaflet will pass through a few modifications before it is ready to be snail mailed to private landowners and community organisations living in the proximity of the project areas. The distribution of leaflets will take place during 3rd and 4th quarter 2014.

4.1.20 Action E3 (Public tours)

Progress in this reporting period

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

The planning of tours will be initiated. This action has a 1st interim with 25 % (4 tours) of public tours held by 30/09/2015.

4.1.21 Action E4 (Project website)

Progress in this reporting period

The website was launched 7/03/2014 and can be accessed through the link below: www.nst.dk/saarbarnatur

Progress expected during the next reporting period

The website will be updated at least quarterly.

4.1.22 Action E5 (Layman’s report)

Progress in this reporting period

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

No activities during the next reporting period

4.1.23 Action E6 (Final seminar)**Progress in this reporting period**

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

No activities during the next reporting period

4.1.24 Action F1 (Project management)**Progress in this reporting period:**

This action includes the overall management of the project as well as the day-to-day supervision of the operations in the project areas as well as the work of reporting and accounting of the site specific activities and for the project as a whole. The project has been organized according to organigramme shown in paragraph 4.1. The constellation of the steering committee is done in such a way that resources to complete the project are assured, both locally at site-level to implement actions and centrally to maintain a competent project management.

The following project management meetings have been held:

Type of meeting	Date	Purpose
Project group	12/06/2013	Start-up workshop. Introduction to the structure and purpose of the project.
Project group	08/10/2013	Introduction to accounting and time registration system
Project group	04/02/2014	Discussion and planning of activities related to action A2,A5 and E2b and strategic discussion of action C1
Steering group	13/12/2013	Status at action level.
Internal NST project manager meeting	20/11/2013	Exchange experiences with respect to projects setup, accounting systems, reporting etc
Internal NST project manager meeting	04/04/2014	Exchange experiences with respect to projects setup, accounting systems, reporting etc

Progress expected during the next reporting period:

The project group will meet once or twice

The Steering Committee will meet in the autumn 2014.

The project manager will visit all project sites and regional offices concerning both NST and the municipalities.

4.1.25 Action F2 (Audit)**Progress in this reporting period**

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

No activities during the next reporting period

4.1.26 Action F3 (Networking)**Progress in this reporting period**

The project manager took place in the LIFE Platform Meeting in Sweden in Östersund in September 2013 and in the Kick-off Meeting in Copenhagen in October 2013.

Progress expected during the next reporting period

We have made an appointment with 3-5 persons from the LIFE11NAT/LV/371. The project has asked to visit some of our locations in Denmark where we have conducted some management of *Rosa rugosa*. The project manager Uffe Strandby and project officers Henrik Schjødt Kristensen (NST-THY) and Bjarke Huus Jensen (NST-VES) will welcome the people from Latvia from June 9-12, 2014. Our project will also participate in the LIFE Platform Meeting in Finland in June 2014. Furthermore, we plan to carry out a networking trip to Netherland/Germany in either autumn 2014 or spring 2015.

4.1.27 Action F4 (After LIFE conservation plan)**Progress in this reporting period**

No activities during the inception period

Progress expected during the next reporting period

No activities during the next reporting period

Table 1 Gant Chart – proposed and actual project progress

Tasks/ Activities		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018				
		1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	
Legends used for proposed schedule and actual schedule	Proposed	█	█	█	█	█	█																			
	Actual	█	█	█	█	█	█																			
A1	Proposed			█	█	█	█																			
	Actual			█	█	█																				
A2	Proposed				█	█																				
	Actual				█	█	█																			
A3	Proposed				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█														
	Actual				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█														
A4	Proposed			█	█	█	█																			
	Actual			█	█	█	█																			
A5	Proposed			█	█	█	█	█	█																	
	Actual			█	█	█	█	█	█																	
A6	Proposed			█	█	█	█	█	█																	
	Actual			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█													
A7	Proposed					█	█																			
	Actual					█	█	█	█																	
C1	Proposed							█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█									
	Actual							█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█							
C2	Proposed							█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█										
	Actual							█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█										
C3	Proposed							█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█										
	Actual									█	█	█	█	█	█	█										
C4	Proposed				█	█																				
	Actual												█	█												
C5	Proposed														█	█	█	█								
	Actual														█	█	█	█								
C6	Proposed				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█										
	Actual				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█										
D1	Proposed				█	█																				
	Actual				█	█																				
D2	Proposed				█	█			█	█					█	█					█	█				
	Actual				█	█			█	█					█	█					█	█				
D3	Proposed				█	█															█	█				
	Actual								█	█													█	█		

Tasks/ Activities		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018			
		1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T	1T	2T	3T	4T
E1	Proposed			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
	Actual			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
E2a	Proposed						■	■																	
	Actual								■	■															
E2b	Proposed			■	■																				
	Actual			■	■		■	■																	
E3	Proposed					■				■				■				■							
	Actual					■				■				■				■							
E4	Proposed			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
	Actual			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
E5	Proposed																				■				
	Actual																				■	■			
E6	Proposed																				■	■			
	Actual																				■	■			
F1	Proposed			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
	Actual			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
F2	Proposed																				■	■	■		
	Actual																				■	■	■		
F3	Proposed			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
	Actual			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
F4	Proposed																				■	■			
	Actual																				■	■			

5 Financial part

5.1 Putting in place of the accounting system.

The accountancy:

The Nature Agency has a coherent accountancy. All appropriations, budgets and accounts are kept in one system. This system also holds information about each employee's time registration. This means that all financial reporting materials are stored in one system, with easy access to extract the information again. The NST account number system is given in Annex 6.3.2.

Project accounts:

In NST, each LIFE-Nature project has one or more accounts, depending on the complexity of the project, to hold the financial information. Each local-unit participating in a LIFE-Nature project has a specific account-number, to hold appropriations, budgets and accounts, relevant for the actions this local-unit is involved in. The local-unit participating in a LIFE-Nature-project will get an appropriation in the beginning of the project, based on a budget regarding the actions the local-unit must complete. These project accounts are balanced each year. The sum of these local-unit accounts makes up the total project account.

Invoices:

All project-relevant invoices are provided with a specific “LIFE-Nature” stamp, together with all appropriate accounting information as follows: Project-number, Project account, Action-number, Habitat-site (sub-area), and Descriptions of item or service, period the service was provided. Copies of all project-invoices are sent to the project manager to certify the approval of the cost.

Time sheets:

All salaried employees in NST make time registration into an electronic system on a daily basis. All project-relevant activities are marked with project- and action-specific numbers. Each month the employee accepts and locks the time registration, after which the registration is approved by the head of the Unit. This information is then accessible in the accountancy.

All hourly-paid employees in NST make time registration on “paper-time-sheet” also on a daily basis. As was the case for salaried employees project-relevant activities are marked with project- and action-specific numbers. Each month the employee signs the time-sheet and forwards it to the manager, who approves and enters the information into the timesheet database, after that the information is accessible in the accountancy.

In THI-MUNI they implemented an electronic time registration system from August 2013. In RING-SKJERN-MUNI they use a time-registration sheet which meets the minimum requirements.

Financial reporting:

Paper copies of all invoices and time-sheets for all employees are collected and kept by the financial project manager. This information is on a regular basis entered into the LIFE+ financial reporting tool. The project manager asks once a quarter (4 times a year) each entity (NST units and municipalities) to collect all invoices and time-registration sheets and submit the material to the project manager.

5.2 Continued availability of co financing.

Co-financing is not relevant for this project

5.3 Costs incurred (summary by cost category and relevant comments).

Tabel 2 Costs per budget kategori

Budget breakdown categories	Total cost in €	Costs incurred from the start date to 10/04-2014 in €	% of total costs
1. Personnel	1,241,718	90,043.81	7.25
2. Travel and subsistence	98,253	3403.38	3.46
3. External assistance	1,188,686	51,221.45	4.3
4. Durable goods	0.0	0.0	
Infrastructure	0.0	0.0	
Equipment	16,466	6883.24	41.8
Prototype	0.0	0.0	
5. Land purchase / long-term lease	0.0	0.0	
6. Consumables	104,600	2126.14	2.03
7. Other Costs	21,494	827.87	3.85
8. Overheads	174,695	10,815.41	6.19
TOTAL	2,845,912	165,321.3	5.8

The expenditure percentage on equipment is relatively high which is caused by the need to purchase laptops, iPhones, cameras, etc. as early as possible.

Tabel 3 Costs per action

Action number and name	Foreseen costs	Spent so far	Remaining	Projected final cost
A1 Mapping of Rosa rugosa	46598	37910	8688	46598
A2 Hydrological feasibility study	15990	3646	12344	15990
A3 Authority treatment	22339	0	22339	22339
A4 Project engineering of bird islands	45227	94	45133	45227
A5 Preparation of applications to the agri-environmental scheme	20095	0	20095	20095
A6 Landowner contact and cooperation	17153	0	17153	17153
A7 Training of field staff	13517	235	13282	13517
C1 Reduce the distribution of Rosa rugosa	340479	4983	335496	340479
C2 Improvement of hydrological conditions	153238	3360	149878	153238
C3 Establishment of bird islands	154930	0	154930	154930
C4 Establishment of grazing	14922	0	14922	14922
C5 Reduce the occurrence of IAS in 2140 and 2180	401061	19559	381502	401061
C6 Conversion of plantations to coastal dune habitats	553048	19905	533143	553048
D1 Monitoring of project impacts on habitat types	25263	124	25139	25263
D2 Monitoring of projects impact on species	55676	0	55676	55676
D3 Assessing socio-economic impact	21500	0	21500	21500
E1 Smartphone and tablet communication platforms	103745	17037	86708	103745
E2 E2a: Information boards and E2b Leaflets and posting leaflets	55329	1305	54024	55329
E3 Public tours	36453	0	36453	36453
E4 Projects website	30496	0	30496	30496
E5 Layman's report	15132	0	15132	15132
E6 Final seminar	34368	0	34368	34368
F1 Project management	365586	42009	323577	365586
F2 Audit	30913	0	30913	30913
F3 Networking	98159	4340	93819	98159
F4 After LIFE conservation Plan	0	0	0	0
Overhead	174695	10815	163880	174695
TOTAL	2845912	165321	2680591	2845912

6 Annexes

6.1 Partnership agreements

6.1.1 Municipality of Thisted

6.1.2 Municipality of Ringkøbing-Skjern

6.2 Deliverables

6.2.1 Leaflet about *Rosa rugosa* (Action E2b)

6.2.2 Report on mapping of *Rosa rugosa*

6.2.3 Data on mapping of *Rosa rugosa*

6.3 Maps, drawings, technical designs, technical memos etc. as appropriate.

6.3.1 Suggested changes with respect to the hydrology action (see also paragraph 3.3 and 5.1.2)

6.3.2 Accounting system for NST

6.4 Output indicators.