



LIFE Project Number
LIFE11 NAT/DK/00893

Inception Report
Covering the project activities from 01/10/2012 to 30/06/2013

Reporting Date
30/06/2013

LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym
LIFE LAESOE

Data Project

Project location	Denmark
Project start date:	01/10/2012
Project end date:	30/09/2017 Extension date: <dd/mm/yyyy >
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EC contribution:	€ 1,051,001
(%) of eligible costs	50 %

Data Beneficiary

Name Beneficiary	Danish Natura Agency
Contact person	Mr. Hans – Henrik Jørgensen
Postal address	Sct. Laurentii Vej 148, DK-9990 Skagen
Telephone	00-45-72543000 + direct n° 7254 3651
Fax:	xx-xx-xxxxxxx + direct n° (no fax at the office)
E-mail	hahjo@nst.dk

Project Website http://www.naturstyrelsen.dk/Naturbeskyttelse/Naturprojekter/Projekter/Vendsyssel/LIFE_LAESOE/

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2. List of abbreviations

- LM: Laesoe Municipality
- DNA: Danish Nature Agency
- AB: Associated beneficiary
- CB: Coordinating beneficiary

3. Executive summary (max 3 pages)

The project covers 4.469 hectare or the total terrestrial part of two N-2000 sites, both SACs and one also SPA. Since writing the application the involved pSCIs turned SACs.

The targeted species are breeding Dunlin *Calidris alpina schzini*, Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Artic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* and Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*, and the migration visitors Brant Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* and Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*.

The targeted habitats are 1330 salt meadow, 2130 grey dune, 2140 dune heath, 3110 + 3130 oligotroph lake types, 4010 wet heath, 4030 dry heath, 6410 molinia meadow, and 7230 alkaline fen.

The main threat is lack of grazing, caused by fragmented ownership - 336 landowners and 1758 cadastral units – and no coherent management. Only a few farmers with grazing livestock are present as a consequence of farming structure, change in farming and environmental subsidies and high cost related to expensive haulage to and from the island. Other important threats are overgrowth, invasive alien species, predation and inappropriate hydrology.

The main action is the establishment of a landowners association to secure coherent management of the N2000 areas both within the project period and following. Clearing of wooded areas / woody overgrowth, controlled burning of heath, establishment of enclosures, purchase of cattle and sheep, improving natural hydrology, predator control (crow, mink and fox) and controlling IAS (*Rosa rugosa* and *Spartina* spp.) with new methods.

The objectives are to establish a coherent and sustainable land management system on the island parallel to enlarging and enhancing the mentioned habitats as well as the population of targeted birds.

3.1 General progress

The project in general is progressing according to the original plan and the partners are satisfied with present progress both in terms of the public perception and regarding achievements related to the individual actions.

As mentioned below under the individual actions, changes will take place, especially regarding the initial timetable, but none of a character posing a threat to the projects and the objectives as such.

The management structure is established within the LM and DNA organizations including the secondment of relevant staff to the project.

The Partnership Agreement is negotiated and signed – see attached appendix 7.1.

Accounting – including card of accounts, payroll / timesheet etc. – is established including the necessary procedures individually within the partners as well as between the partners.

The project has been well perceived at the island – and amongst a wider audience – with substantial newspaper interest as well as misc. journals – see appendix 7.5.1.

Also the projects website has been very well visited – see appendix 7.5.1.

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

The project objectives are still valid as are the work plan, although some alterations are needed in the timetable only as described in section 5.1 following. No changes are relevant regarding the actions.

As a consequence of this the timetable and milestone plan are proposed revised.

The partners see no need for major adjustments to fulfil the project as described / agreed to.

3.3 Problems encountered.

As described following a number of actions have encountered what could be classified as problems, but the project partners perceive these as quite natural during an initial phase of a substantial project in a small community – why problems are chosen to be seen as challenges.

3.3.1 Technical

The project has experienced no serious technical problems / challenges. As mentioned later under section 5, the following actions have although been affected;

- A.1 experiences a minor delay.
- A.3 experiences a minor delay.
- C.1 according to plan, but both contractors and staff from LM and DNA are involved – the latter not initially planned.
- C.4 delayed due to personnel changes at University of Copenhagen.
- C.5 as above.
- C.6 minor changes as a number of cattle had to be transported to the project site before calving due to animal welfare issues.
- C.10 delayed due to unexpected – and very surprising – attitudes within the sporting associations at the island.
- C.11 delayed due to the delay of A.3.
- E.2 delayed and awaits A.1.
- E.3 as above.
- E.4 as above.
- E.5 as above.
- E.8 delayed due to unexpected – and very surprising – attitudes within the community as such.

These changes do not impose a risk to the project.

3.3.2 Financial

Some financial issues have arisen due to initial budgeting during the application phase being too optimistic compared to present day's market, see action C6 and C7.

Also a need to change the involvement of staff from LM and DNA in actions originally allocated for subcontracting has created a need for minor amendments, but none causing problems.

The Partnership Agreement concludes that – regardless of any present or future changes from the starting point – the financial distribution between the partners persists.

3.4 Administrative

A number of changes amongst staff have affected the initial phase and some effects are still part of daily project life at present. The replacement within DNA for the project manager did not come into employment before the spring of 2013 and in the LM organisation, the biologist – although only taking limited part in the project – left employment without being replaced. Furthermore the technical director – the project manager's closest contact within LM – retired by 31st December 2013. His replacement was employed by 1st April 2013.

These changes – plus the individual elements mentioned under the actions – have all led to a quite challenging start of the project, but the whole setup is now well described and working.

The project applies for a change to dates for activity reports as follows;

- Progress report no. 1 from 30/11/2014 to **30/09/2014**.
- Progress report no. 2 from 31/05/2016 to **30/06/2016**.

4 Administrative part

The project is assessed as being very important to the community of Læsø both because of the importance as N-2000 sites, but also because of the expected socio-economic implications for the island.

Therefore the project maintains a high political interest within LM as well as in high managerial levels in the DNA organisation.

Also a substantial interest from highest political level in Denmark is present – primarily because the whole issue regarding nature conservation as a farming enterprise is a highly debated – and demanded – issue.

4.3 Description of project management

During the project's application phase “project managers” were appointed at both LM and DNA, both taking part in the project production with a number of colleagues from both organisations. Following entering into the Agreement the DNA responsible was seconded to the project as project manager, while the LM “project manager” retired shortly after.

A Project steering committee consisting of the Municipality Director from LM and the Head Forester from DNA has been established, the latter being project owner and head of committee. The project manager is acting as secretary to the committee.

Furthermore one working group has been established at the DNA office consisting of a biologist, a specialist in dissemination, a clerk and the project manager. Likewise within the LM organisation a working group consisting of the Technical director, one clerk being responsible for accounting and one being responsible for payroll /

timesheet has been established. The LM group is supported by the project manager. The setup is further described within the Partnership Agreement, see appendix 7.1.

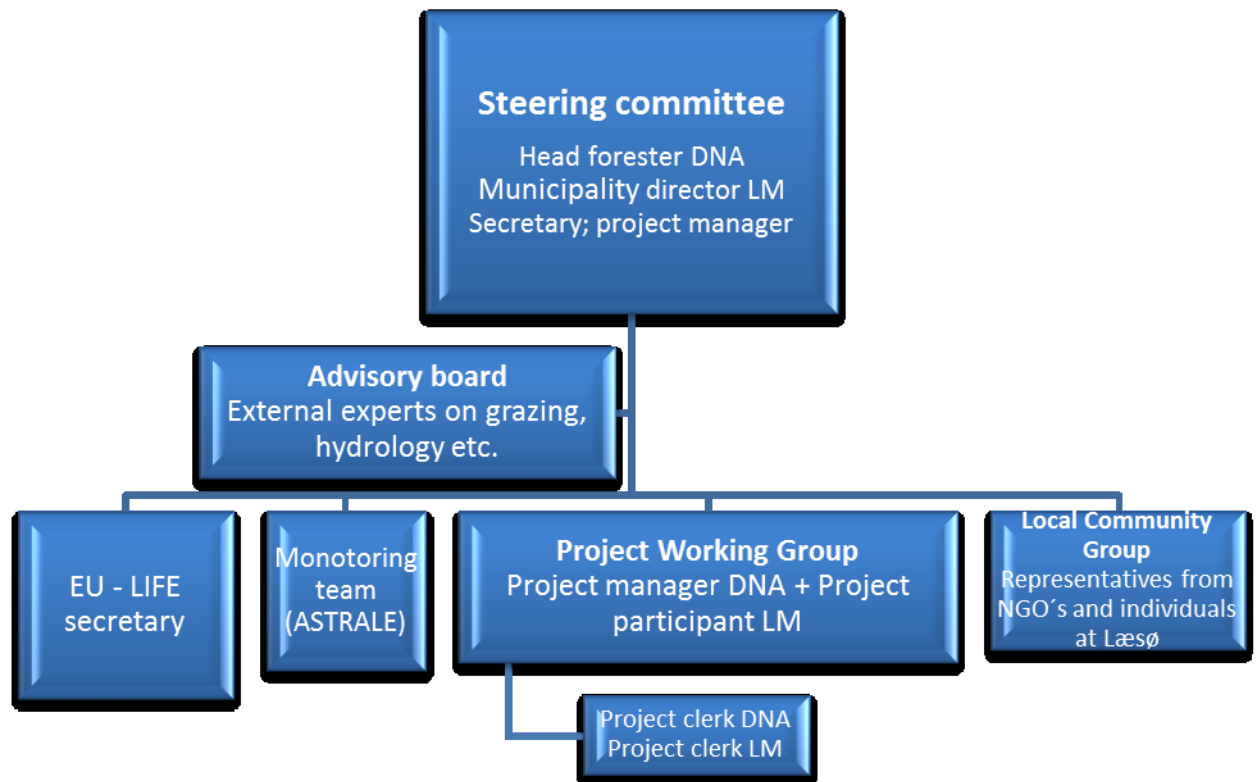
An advisory board has not been established at present, but are contacted individually as and when advice is needed. This has worked well so far, but will be replaced by a more formal Advisory Board within the next year.

Also a Local Community Group is part of the project – but as stated later under E8 – this has shown more challenging than expected to establish. When in place the group should secure the flow of perceptions from the entire community to the management and indeed exchange of experiences.

For information regarding getting the project started, meeting etc. – see description under the individual actions in section 5.1 and overview meetings in the appendix 7.3.3.

4.4 Organigramme of the project team and the project management structure

LIFE11 NAT/DK/000893 LIFE LAESOE organization.



The actual persons involved at present are;

- Head forester DNA – Jesper Blom-Hansen
- Municipality director LM – Søren Abildtrup
- Project manager DNA – Hans – Henrik Jørgensen
- Project participant LM – Jan Kjær
- Project clerk DNA – Ulla Nielsen
- Project clerk LM – Gitte Daugaard
- Biologist DNA – Bjarke Huus Jensen
- Dissemination DNA – Thomas Retsloff
- Local community group – awaiting establishment
- Advisory board – awaiting establishment
 - University of Copenhagen – Rita Merete Buttenschøn
 - National Environmental Research Institute – Thomas Bregnballe

- Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland – expected to be Jens Morten Hansen
- The Danish AgroFish Agency – expected to be Jens Ove Bisgaard

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

- The agreement was signed the 28. May 2013 and the main contents being;
- Both LM and DNA confirm their commitment to the project and objectives.
- Set the obligations and roles of the individual partners.
- Set the procedures for interacting.
 - The CB shall as a general rule pay all invoices related to implementing the project on behalf of the partners.
 - The AB will - according to their financial contribution to the project - reimburse the CB as and when requested and visa / versa.
- Underlining the conditions of the Common Provisions.

See appendix 7.1 for Partnership agreement.

5 Technical part

Laesoe – extending to approx. 12,000 hectare - is a young island situated in Kattegat between the Danish mainland (Jutland peninsula) and the Swedish west coast. The island is very flat and consists of primarily sand on a bed of clay. There is a substantial coastline with many smaller islands and an up to 3 km wide tidal zone towards south.

4,469 hectare out of the above mentioned area is covered by 2 SCIs (DK00FX010 and DK00FX118).

Salt meadow, heathland, dunes and other light demanding habitats characterizes large parts on the island. The habitats are under threat of being overgrown with woody species – some being non-native. This overgrowth is a threat not only to the habitats in question, but also a long list of associated birds, of which the project focus on breeding Dunlin, Avocet, Wood Sandpiper, Artic Tern, Little Tern and migrating visitors being Brant Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin.

The overgrowth – and loss of light demanding habitats – is primarily due to lack of appropriate grazing by livestock where change in farming structure and farming subsidies are the direct cause for livestock decline.

This unfortunate situation is further affected by the fact that the N2000 area in question is owned by 335 individuals owning 1758 individual cadastral units, making coherent management very challenging.

As 41 % of the N2000 area is owned by DNA and the remaining 59 % being the responsibility of LM, a partnership was obvious as was applying for LIFE funding for a coherent project, both addressing a number of present problems, but very importantly also trying to establish a sustainable future management regime (after LIFE).

5.3 Actions.

5.3.1 Action A1 - Formation of a Landowners Association

Activities regarding this action started with an initial meeting 17th October 2012 between the project partner and Læsø Landbrug (farming society) followed by a meeting presenting the LIFE project - with specific attention towards the establishment of the Landowners Association - at an invited meeting 5th November

2012. At this meeting also a working group was elected amongst the participant. All landowners within the N2000 area were invited – of which 82 participated (24 %). The evening was characterized by a positive and inquisitive atmosphere.

The working group had its first meeting 21st November and this has been followed by a substantial number of meetings, the latest also with representation of a solicitor as to secure the legal part of setting up the organization.

At 7th June 2013 a meeting with Solicitor and Chartered Accountant was held following which the final Articles of Association, budgets, draft leases etc. are to be finalized for the founding General Meeting, which will take place 6st August 2013.

It is clear that this action have shown difficult to deliver within the initial timetable, but the partners are extremely satisfied about progress especially as this action in reality can be regarded as a test of the entire project amongst the inhabitants of Laesø – which is why any attempt to push the process too hard has been avoided.

It is still the perception that the Landowners Association will be establish within the third quarter of 2013 – but likely with less that the estimated participant than mentioned under “Expected result” initially (75 % of the area I June 2013). This is mainly due to the fact that subsidies – farming as well as environmental – are going to change in 2014/15, why many landowners find it difficult to assess the exacts effects of joining the Association. It is although the partners strong believe that all the objectives are to be achieved within the project period.

5.3.2 Action A2 – Permission to carry out conservation actions

This action is performing according to plan and needed permissions relevant to activated actions are in place.

According to the Nature Conservation Act the conservations actions will in some cases also require a notification or permission from the Municipality as the competent authority, in this case being Frederikshavn Municipality - of behalf of Læsø Municipality. This is also the situation regarding expanding the livestock number at the island. In all relevant actions these notifications / permissions has been executed and/or delivered.

Regarding permission from the Danish Agency for Culture, being responsible for listed building, sites and monument, a number of meetings have been executed, both at the Agency in Copenhagen and at Laesø. The project is in need of permissions regarding implementing action C1, C2 and C8 in specific areas at the southern part of Laesø. As a consequence of the size of the project and the number of listed building and sites a framework Agreement is under establishment and expected to come in force by late summer 2013. The Agreement will set specific conditions regarding the precise implementation of the actions in question and is the first ever framework Agreement entered into by the Danish Agency for Culture. Normally they work with injunctions only.

The project was granted the needed permissions from the Danish Agency for Culture at 21st June 2013.

5.3.3 Action A3 – Hydrological investigation

This action was initially planned to be executed during the latter part of 2012 and first half year of 2013 by subcontracting the survey work to Frederikshavn Municipality. Due to high workload of the actual employee the work has been delayed but will commence during June 2013.

The objectives of the actions are still achievable and although slightly delayed poses no threat to the action / project.

5.3.4 Action C1 – Clearing of trees and scrub

This action is seen by the majority of landowners as the most problematic because of the substantial sporting interest normally linked to wooded areas, but also because Laesoe was a treeless island for centuries and therefore quite infertile from a farming perspective – which quite naturally is undesirable. From former LIFE projects (e.g. LIFE ASPEA LIFE05 NAT/DK/000151) with similar actions this attitude is well known as is the fact that as soon as clearing of wooded areas gain pace a positive position can be expected.

Because of this the partners started clearing wooded areas within the ownership of the DNA and areas neighbouring DNA. The majority of inhabitants at the island have commented very positive regarding the clearings and quite a few have started clearing areas within the N2000 area, but separated from the project.

The area cleared this winter / spring – but not yet chip harvested – totals approx. 57 hectare and it is estimated that approx. 10 hectare is cleared separated from the project. This can be regarded as added value to the project both from a financial perspective, but – perhaps – more important because it shows that a number of landowners are very positive regarding the project and are willing to pursue the values of individual actions at their own pace – but in line with the project.

This total acreage cleared amounts to approx. 18 % of the expected final result and is seen as very satisfactory during the projects initial phase and corresponds to the available livestock needed to graze the areas in question.

The action is initially planned to be carried out by contractors only, but due to shortage of contractors at the island, also employee of LM and DNA has been involved in the actual felling, see also 3.2.2.

The chip harvesting – expected to be carried out in August / September – will be done using contractors and will produce income to the project.

At present the partners see no problems regarding achieving the expected results.

Map showing the extent of work carried out enclosed in appendix 7.3.1.

5.3.5 Action C2 – Clearing of reeds and emerging trees and scrub

Work related to this action has been carried out from mid-February to end April taking advantage of the extremely frosty weather conditions. The action divided clearing of scrubs and emerging trees into 3 categories, but mainly mowing with a tractor mounted mower (cat. 3) has taken place. Due to the frosty conditions substantial areas not normally accessible has shown manageable and has been covered by the action – also including areas not initially included – but now in need of treatment. In total approx. 157 hectare has been covered by the action to date.

Work in category 2 has been held back because of the above mentioned discussions with the Danish Agency for Culture regarding obtaining permission to work in the areas with high number of historic remains. As mentioned the permission is expected shortly and work will be able to commence following the summer 2013.

Work related to this action is ahead of schedule and has been very important as to prepare a number of areas for fencing and grazing with livestock – see action C6 and C7.

All objectives and expected result will be achieved.

Map showing the extent of work carried out enclosed in appendix 7.3.1.

5.3.6 Action C3 – Clearing of non-native woody species

This action – only located at the island of Hornfiskrøn – has not been started during the initial phase of the project, simply because it from a managerial point of view is better planned in tandem with executing both action C1 and C2. The action will be started a.s.a.p. following obtaining final agreement with all landowners at the island and suitable weather conditions.

It is also important to secure proper access to the island – action C9 – which will be carried out in connection with executing action C1 and C2 throughout the substantial area of coastal meadows to the north of the island of Hornfiskrøn.

All objectives and expected result will be achieved.

5.3.7 Action C4 – Clearing of Japanese rose

This action was set to be started in 2nd quarter 2013 as it was estimated that resources would be available to combat a number of mature stand of Japanese rose prior to the wildlife breeding season. This showed out not to be the case, why the action is planned to start in the back end of June, beginning July and in accordance with the original described methodology – being partly mowing and partly using thermal methods.

Where enclosures have been established or realigned – C7 – this has been done also including stands of Japanese rose, if any.

However the project experienced a potential setback as the senior advisor from University of Copenhagen, Forest & Landscape, left the University and took up employment elsewhere. This is very unfortunate as the person in question is the very key person regarding the use of thermal methods in Denmark. The project is presently investigating whether the new employer will allow the advisor to join the project – and expect this to the case.

It is although clear to the project that the initial idea of using burning (gas) as the main thermal method, should be replaced with steam as this seems to show better effect on the vegetation and have no negative side effect on vegetation not combated.

It is agreed with the Danish manufacturer that a thermal (steam) unit will be available for testing by the project in July and August.

In spite of the above problems the project still expects all objectives and expected result to be achieved.

5.3.8 Action C5 – Clearing of Cord grass

Comments mentioned under C4 are very much relevant to action C5 as problems and methodology is very much the same.

Also as mentioned above under C4 new enclosures – and realignment of existing – has been carried out as to include the “blue ribbon” by placing the actual fence line in water and of the coastline.

The project management main aim at this initial phase of the project is to prevent cord grass in setting seed – either by grazing with livestock or by mowing – simply as this avoid the specie spreading to other areas of the island. The vegetative proliferation of the individual clones is easier dealt with as we know the position and extent and are able to apply a number of different methods.

As above under C4 the action can start in late June, beginning July, but must take into account that the areas where cord grass is present is mixed with the prime feeding habitat for the majority of meadow birds – chicks and adults.

In spite of the above problems the project still expects all objectives and expected result to be achieved.

5.3.9 Action C6 – Establishment of cattle and sheep herds

This action has – more or less in tandem with A1 – been the main time consumer during the projects initial phase.

As stated in the application / agreement the project wanted to purchase hardy cattle of the Galloway breed because of their known qualities regarding grazing the habitats in question.

When the project became known in “the cattle society” quite a number of cattle dealers contacted the project and it became clear to the partners that going out to a wider audience in an open tendering process would probably turn out contra-productive, as it would be more or less impossible to control the quality of livestock offered and indeed provided.

It was therefore decided that the project would ask the Galloway Association in Denmark to source livestock of sufficient quality and suggest a pricing structure taking into account the demanded quality as well the size of the total trade.

As a consequence the project bought cattle from 4 individual breeders - plus from the existing DNA flock at Læsø - all sensible prices.

A substantial problem existed as the projects initial budgets for the purchase of livestock showed no comparison to today’s market, why there was lack of funds to secure the wanted number of mature cows and a number of cows had to be replaced by heifers.

Another issue was that the calving cows purchased had to be transported to Læsø well in advance of the expected calving date due to animal welfare issues. This again meant that the cows had to be feed and looked after during the calving period, which again wasn’t budgeted for initially.

In spite of these challenges, the project have managed to purchase 83 cows with expected 70 calves (2013), 82 heifers, 11 steers and 3 bulls why this action is well under way.

This initial flock of cattle will develop as the project gain pace and the project partners are delighted with progress so far.

Also this action awaits the establishment of the landowners association and the setup regarding wintering etc.

Regarding sheep the project purchased a smaller flock around the turn of the year and these have since late April been at work within areas of rough grazing.

Again the establishment of the landowners association is awaited as to secure the future management of the flock.

Presently the project experiences quite some interest for the cattle element of the project from local farmers, this is unfortunately not quite the situation regarding sheep, why the project will keep away from investing further at present.

The herding of the cattle and sheep during the period from approx. 1st June to late October / beginning November has been agreed with a number of retired farmers, who will herd from horseback.

Regarding taking the island numerous horses into the project all initial negotiations has gone very well and during the earlier mentioned meetings between owners of cattle and horses the individual enclosures has been distributed in an orderly and cooperative manner. This has also been the case regarding the actual date for setting the individual horses / cattle onto the summer pasture – which must reflect the arrival

and start of breeding season for the targeted birds, simply to avoid trampling of nests / eggs.

All objectives and expected result are foreseen to be achieved.

5.3.10 Action C7 – Creating enclosures by fencing

Because of the severe frost during the winter this action has been delayed, but works are presently coming to an end. In general the majority of enclosures has shown more expensive than expected as has maintenance – or realignment – work to existing enclosures, but this is considered a minor problem compared to the positive elements – amongst others a broad cooperation – executing the initial phase of the action and bodes well for the coming work.

The majority of enclosures – and the specific lay out – has been discuss and agreed in detail with both livestock owners and the community. As livestock has been placed in the individual enclosures signs with information about the LIFE project, the livestock, access and other relevant information has been erected.

Also ponds have been established in new enclosures – if not already present in the area.

I action C7 it was estimated that all work would be subcontracted, but due to the very short available period following the frosty and wintery conditions “all” available skilled manpower at the island was seconded to the work. This means that subcontractors as well as staff from both LM and DNA have been involved.

As the same situation where present also on the mainland only one fencing contractor showed out to be available for work at the island. The work carried out by this contracted was partly tendered and partly done at an hourly rate following negotiations regarding price and conditions with project management.

It is the managements strong believe that the work delivered carry a very high quality and for a very reasonable price.

Out of 1,559.55 hectare of existing enclosures in the project area, enclosures amounting to 1,532.56 hectare have been checked / repaired / enhanced including dividing 2 substantial enclosures into 4. Also further 194.81 hectare of new enclosures has been erected. In total approx. 14,000 meter of net fence lines has been erected.

The new enclosures established equals 11% of the targeted figure for the project.

All objectives and expected result will be achieved.

Map showing the extent of work carried out enclosed in appendix 7.3.1.

5.3.11 Action C8 – Controlled burning

The winter of 2012/13 has been extremely well suited for controlled burning and the project started this action in late February by burning only DNA owned land only. An area of approx. 15.66 hectare where burned in a mosaic and this in accordance with the objectives for the specific areas covered.

Due to the discussion with the Danish Agency for Culture regarding burning in areas with high number of historic remains no burning could take place on the southern part of the island.

This is not of any concern as the cooperation with the Danish Agency for Culture is now known to lead to a permission being granted and furthermore the fact that the areas in question are large, without any obstacles and being surrounded by sea on three sites, why the only important factor is direction of wind.

Import is also the establishment of a voluntary group primarily amongst the island beekeepers. They will from the coming season be able to join forces with staff from LM and DNA - or work separately – regarding this action.

All objectives and expected result will be achieved.
Map showing the extent of work carried out enclosed in appendix 7.3.1.

5.3.12 Action C9 – Infra-structure

This action is planned to be carried out throughout the whole project period and will be started during the autumn of 2013 to secure haulage of timber and chip wood related to action C1 and access in general for other project purposes.

This action also contains the need to negotiate and secure future access within the N2000 area as to avoid negative effects on habitats, targeted bird species and historic remains. This is partly an issue regarding management related traffic carried out by the numerous owners, but must also be addressed regarding leisure-orientated use of some of the areas.

This issue is already addressed by the project in general terms and especially during discussion regarding action C7 – creating enclosures. As mentioned under C7 these discussions have been held in a positive atmosphere and striking a healthy balance between use and protection of the areas in question.

All objectives and expected result will be achieved.

5.3.13 Action C10 – Control of foxes, mink and hooded crow

At the very early stage of the project contact was taken to the island sporting associations – “Dansk Jagtforening” and “Læsø Strandjagtforening” – asking them to suggest areas for establishment of artificial fox dens as well as a group of members, who would be willing to take responsibility for carrying out the predator control, both related to fox, hooded crow and mink.

Quite surprisingly – and in spite of a very positive attitude in favour of the action – this cooperation has shown difficult to establish.

The present situation is that “Dansk Jagtforening” is given until the end of June to suggest locations for fox dens on private land amongst their members. Following this, the project - in cooperation with “Dansk Jagtforening” – will find suitable locations on DNA owned land as to secure a reasonable coverage with artificial dens close to the main breeding and feeding areas. Also a group of members will be suggested for the actual predator control.

As for the control of mink two named persons are allocated to this task and “Dansk Jagtforening” will suggest one further by end June. These 3 persons will be given a course in working with the traps a.s.a.p.

“Læsø Strandjagtforening” might be included in the cooperation at some point during the project phase, as and when they are ready.

This means that a number of artificial fox dens will be establish during July – September being ready for the coming winters sporting season as will the mink predation team.

Regarding hooded crow the team allocated to work with the fox dens will also be responsible here. During the implementation of action C1 and C2 all solitary trees has been felled in the area covered, which have made a significant reduction an predation pressure from hooded crow.

During monitoring work on the targeted breeding birds in June is has become clear that fox probably is the main predator of the 3 predators targeted by the project, but also crane play a very important role – perhaps even in line with fox.

In spite of the initial problems all objectives and expected result will be achieved.

5.3.14 Action C11 – Restore natural hydrology

This action will commence when the survey under action A3 has concluded and a specific plan of action is decided on.

A number of drains and ditches to be filled in, blocked or stopped maintained must await action C1 and C2 as to avoid loss of carrying capacity for heavy traffic.

All objectives and expected result will be achieved.

5.3.15 Action C12 – Landowners Association

As mentioned under C1 the association is expected to be established 6th august 2013.

Following this the project partner's main task related to this action will be to act as initiator and support along with promoting the association – and the entire projects as such – amongst landowners in the N2000 area.

Excursions will be held following the establishment.

It is expected that all objectives and expected result will be achieved.

5.3.16 Action D1 – Monitoring of impact on targeted habitats and species

All monitoring in this action proceed as planned. The project will use both own monitoring and data of the Danish national programme (NOVANA).

Monitoring of targeted habitats.

The application was based on mapping data from 2005 collected by NOVANA, but now mapping data from 2011 is quality assured and available. Some of the targeted habitats have changed significantly in area, this is assumable more likely caused be a better understanding or determination of the habitats rather than a changes at the sites.

SAC	DK00FX010		DK00FX118		Total hectares		
	Habitat	App.	2011	App.	2011	App.	2011
	1330	1507	1511	2,2	3,6	1509	1515
	2130*	190	178	115	170	305	348
	2140*	273	215	263	221	536	436
	3110	2	?	1,3	?	3	?
	3130	0,2	?	1,7	?	2	?
	4010	275	250	24	18,4	299	268
	4030	378	373	4,2	7,4	382	380
	6230*	61	34	3,8	2,5	64	38
	6410	21	134	0,2	0	21	134
	7230	4,5	2,8	1,2	1,7	5,7	4,5

Table. Areas (in hectares) of the targeted habitats in the two SACs used for the application (app.) and of the latest mapping (2011).

To measure the results of the enlarged habitats at the end of the project all managed areas will be valued, so there will be both a total areas of the habitats (the national mapping of 2017, and increased areas of each habitat enlarged by the project.

The monitoring results of action C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C7, C8 and C11 aerial photos from 2012 will be used as base line.

Monitoring of targeted species.

Breeding birds

The survey of breeding targeted birds within the SPA DK00FX345 took place in May and June 2013 as planned and the weather allowed a reliable and total count. We used external assistance, a keen and very experienced birdwatcher well known with the project site.

Targeted breeding species	Population (in pairs), survey May-June 2013	Expected result of project
<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>	16 - 18	25 pairs
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	0	Two suitable areas
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	59	250 pairs
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	454	800 pairs
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	24	30 pairs

Table. Result of the first survey of the breeding targeted bird species with in the SPA DK00FX345.

Data of numbers of colonies, risk of flooding, predation risk have also been collected by the external assistant but not delivered in written form at present (end June 2013). Data of suitable habitat is collected by the NOVANA programme but is not yet available. Data on breeding success will be collected close to 1st July.

All data on population size and location will be digitalized in to a GIS system. We have also digitalizes and collected data from former surveys.

Migrating birds.

As mentioned in the application a spring survey of 2011 (at no cost to the project) is being used as baseline for the two relevant migrating targeted species. At the same date of the spring survey 622 individuals of Bar-tailed Godwit were recorded at the island but outside the SPA, making the potential numbers for feeding inside the SPA 3442 individuals.

Targeted species with spring survey	Total count April, 2011	Expected result of project
<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>	970 individuals	1500 individuals
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	2750 individuals	4000 individuals

Table. Result of the first survey of staging targeted bird species with in the SPA DK00FX345.

The number of migrating birds is monitored in 8 subareas.

The autumn survey is planned to take place in August, October and November. Due to project start of October 2012 the first autumn survey will take place in 2013.

5.3.17 Action D2 – Assessment of the socio-economic impact

The project is only recently started why the effects are difficult to identify at present. Therefore, the expectation mentioned in the Agreement, is taken as a starting point. LM presently would like to comment as follows;

- **Municipality of Læsø.**

The population is currently 1,839 people on Læsø. Læsø Municipality and other rural areas continue to suffer from population decline. Læsø is working on business development and planning as to create the best environment for enterprises at the island. LM fights to retain, develop and create the basis for new businesses. Læsø Municipality cooperates with Trade and Industry Council Nord in Frederikshavn, which ensures professional business advice at the island.

- **Direct jobs.**

Three Employees from LM have since the end of February 2013 been assigned to work in the Life project. This meant these three employees being engaged in the nature conservation works came into employment approx. 1 month before LM usually rehire employees. LM hopes that the project can contribute to the creation of permanent (full-year employment) jobs.

Furthermore 5 employees from DNA – all local taxpayers – have been partly seconded to the project as from beginning of 2013.

- In addition approx. 250 cattle plus 50 sheep has been added to the island livestock numbers which has meant extra work for local farmers as well as DNA employees involved in caring for animals pending establishment of a Landowners Association.

- Also local contractors have been taken on by the project, primarily regarding the establishment of enclosures and felling of trees. This has partly meant that people presently unemployed came into work, although only temporary.

- **Indirect jobs**

Already great interest in the project is shown from the many guests visiting the island. LM estimates that tourism already from season 2013 will experience a positive effect from the project. Nature conservation and the large number of livestock on Læsø are attractive to many of the island's guests, and is a further possibility to get better experiences at the island - experiences which directly supports tourism. Presently the possibility for establishing a model that can provide nature related dissemination on the island is worked at.

The increasing number of animals allows for the production of quality food on Læsø. The potential is recognized and the Trade and Industry Council North is aware of the opportunities in their dialogue with companies and individuals at Læsø. Also the production of honey is an important industry at Læsø and the project will directly support the industry in years to come.

The haulage of animals to Læsø has meant more goods on the Læsø ferry and furthermore the project has meant more visitors to Læsø, visitors who in one way or another is working for / taking part in the project.

The animals have also led to greater cooperation between the LM / DNA and the local farmers. Miscellaneous agreements have been entered into and it is expected that contracts for winter lodging, production of feed etc. will follow.

- **Other issues**

Work to establish a landowner association is coming to an end. It is planned for the founding meeting in early August 2013. A working group - which has had the job of drafting statutes, business plan and budgets - have done a great job. It is expected that the landowners association will be the one that really boosts the synergies.

Læsø has no veterinarian presently. But there is continued dialogue with interested veterinarians from the mainland regarding the possibility of setting up business at Læsø. The projects many animals support this work and many at the island hope that the project can ensure that once again a veterinarian is to be found at Læsø.

Læsø Council and the Trade and Industry Council North have since the beginning of the project regularly discussed the possibilities of providing the necessary slaughter capacity for local livestock at the island. This debate is also present amongst companies at Læsø and therefore strongly supported by LM.

The Municipality of Læsø will 3rd September 2013 receive a visit by the Danish Royal Couple. A part of the visit will focus on Icelandic horses and their role in the LIFE project. The Prince Consort will, as part of this introduction, be introduced to the LIFE project, its background, the objectives and current status. LM expects that this very important visit will help to further expand the interest in the project.

5.3.18 Action E1 – Establish website

Due to changes amongst LM personnel the responsibility of establishing the website was decided to be moved from LM to DNA and the site works of the DNA main site – sub site “Naturbeskyttelse - naturprojekter” – as well as LM main site. It is also DNA who is responsible for the maintenance of the site.

http://www.naturstyrelsen.dk/Naturbeskyttelse/Naturprojekter/Projekter/Vendssyssel/LIFE_LAESOE/

<http://www.laesoe.dk/default.asp?PageID=81>

From the LM website front page the tab “LIFE Læsø” at the top border should be used – this will link directly to the site.

The project partners are very pleased with the site and it has shown very popular at the islands. Especially the interactive map has shown popular and very useful.

Only outstanding issue is to create an English version – until then information in English must be obtained via the link to the actual contract.

All expected result will be achieved.

See also appendix 7.5.1 – datasheet related to visits to the website.

5.3.19 Action E2 – Newsletter

Although the newsletter was set to be started late 2012 and run quarterly is had been decided to delay its launch and of two reasons.

Firstly the press coverage has been quite substantial locally and secondly because it was felt that action A1, establishment of the landowners association – considered as the very key component of the project – should be in place prior.

Meantime the website and press releases must function as sources of information.

The newsletter will be started following the 6th August 2013.

All expected result will be achieved.

5.3.20 Action E3 – Provision of information tables

Partly the same consideration as mentioned above under E2 is relevant regarding E3.

Another consideration has been that all information tables at DNA sites at Læsø are in progress of being change and with effect from spring 2014.

The action was therefore combined and will be executed at latest by April 2014.

All expected result will be achieved.

5.3.21 Action E4 – A leaflet explaining the project

Again the same considerations as for E2 but also the situation regarding DNA general information tables – and the precise layout – as mentioned under E3 has postponed the leaflet.

A temporary leaflet will be produced following the 6th August 2013 and will be available from the website, the tourist office and other points of access and will be handed out to participant during public tours.

All expected result will be achieved.

5.3.22 Action E5 – Visitor facilities

This action is not calculated in the project as all facilities are in place, as well as maintained and serviced in existing budgets of the project partners. Information tables – E3 – will be erected at these points of access.

All expected results will be achieved.

5.3.23 Action E6 – Public tours

Public tours will be conducted - and announced in local newspapers – in the main holiday season.

Also related to this action changes amongst LM personnel has led to, that presently only DNA staff will conduct these tours, of which the first was held at 9th June 2013 - 27 persons participated.

Further tours will be held in July / August and during the holidays in October (Tatty-holidays).

All expected results will be achieved.

5.3.24 Action E7 – Layman´s report

N/A

5.3.25 Action E8 – Local Community Group

At the first invited meeting 5th November a call for participant / members to the Local Community Group was made, only leading to one group (the Beekeepers Association) announcing an interest. Following the meetings several direct contacts have been made to a number of NGO´s and organisations which only have led to one further group (“Dansk Jagtforening” – a sporting association) showing interest.

It is therefore clear to the project manager that the only way forward is a very specific and direct contact to all parties envisaged to have an interest in the project – and would like to take active part in it – and simply persuade these groups.

It has been a surprise to experience the local attitude towards this action - as well as other actions – and the obvious contradiction in the demand for information and involvement amongst the islanders, but when invited, none are coming forward.

Again it must be realized that especially actions involving the “taking of ownership” and spending time on behalf on a community are challenging and will take time to get working.

In spite of the encountered starting problems / challenges the expected results are still considered achievable.

5.3.26 Action E9 – Report on control of invasive species

N/A

5.3.27 Action E10 – Final seminar

N/A

5.3.28 Action F1 – Project management

Project management is – with minor alterations – established as laid down in the application / Grant Agreement.

Hans – Henrik Jørgensen (project manager) has been seconded in full to the projects as from 1st October 2012.

A number of changes amongst staff have affected the initial phase and some effects are still part of daily project life at present. The replacement within DNA for the project manager did not come into employment before the spring of 2013 and in the LM organisation, the biologist – although only taking limited part in the project – left employment without being replaced. Furthermore the technical director – the project managers closest contact within the LM organisation – retired by 31st December 2013. His replacement was employed by 1st April 2013.

These changes – plus the individual elements mentioned under the actions – have all lead to a quite challenging start of the project, but the whole setup is now well described and working.

As stated earlier the Partnership Agreement was signed 28th May 2013 and 2 steering committee meetings have been executed.

The project manager participated in a meeting with the National Audit Office, partly to present the project and in specific detail to explain how the project will be managed from an accounting point of view. The meeting was held at DNA head office in Copenhagen 7th May 2013.

The practical day to day work is managed – including instruction, supervision and control – by the project manager and includes contractors as well as the workforce of LM and DNA.

Regarding office related task – accounting, timesheet, payroll, etc. – a working group is established both at LM and at DNA including relevant staff and the project manager is furthermore able to obtain needed help, advice and assistance from colleagues within DNA with former and present knowledge regarding LIFE projects.

The project manager is in close contact with the LM organisation.

Regarding the Project Advisory Board this has not been established as a concrete board at present, but are contacted individually as and when advice are needed. This has worked well so far, but will be replaced by a more formal Advisory Board within the next year.

The partners see no problems in delivering the expected result regarding project management.

5.3.29 Action F2 – Overall project monitoring

5.3.30 Action F3 – Networking

Bjarke Huus Jensen, DNA biologist and Hans – Henrik Jørgensen, project manager participated in the following networking activities during this initial period of the project:

- LIFE BaltCoast final seminar 28-29th August 2012 (prior to project start and at no cost to LIFE11 NAT/DK/00893).
 - During this visit also project sites of LIFE AURINIA was visited and experiences shared with the project staff due to our experiences with LIFE ASPEA.
- Kick-off meeting in London 19th November 2012.

Hans- Henrik Jørgensen, project manager, participated on his own in the following:

- World Galloway Conference, Toronto 2-7th October 2012 (at no cost to LIFE11 NAT/DK/00893).

All networking activities have been most interesting and fruitful.

5.3.31 Action F4 – After LIFE conservation plan

N/A

5.4 Availability of appropriate licences and authorisations

As mentioned the needed permissions to carry out the individual action are in place regarding active actions. Further applications will be forwarded following the hydrological survey as to secure the recommended activities.

Also as mentioned the projects awaits the Framework Agreement to be established between the Danish Agency for Culture and the project regarding actions covering areas with historic remains.

The project was granted the needed permissions from the Danish Agency for Culture at 21st June 2013 – but still awaits the Framework Agreement.

Recently new recommendation regarding the physical environment when keeping livestock has been launched. The recommendations are appealed by a number of farming and breeder associations as well as professionals within nature conservation. If the recommendations - as presented - are going to be complied to, this might pose a problem to the way action C6 and C12 is taken forward.

5.5 Envisaged progress until next report.

Until the next report – September 2014 – the project management will make any effort to deliver according to the agreement, its milestones and deadlines.

As there are no changes to any actions these will be followed at a pace indicated by the timetable and pending agreements with all involved landowners.

At present the main focus is related to action A.1 and the establishment of the association on 6th August 2013, following which all others actions can be deployed in full.

For revised timetable – see below and appendix 7.2. All proposed changes are marked in red.

Action		12	2013				2014				2015				2016				2017					
Action	Name of the action	Actual/proposed	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or action plan																								
A.1	Formation of a Landowners Association	Actual	x	x	x	x	x																	
		Proposed	x	x	x	x	x																	
A.2	Permission to carry out conservation actions	Actual	x	x	x			x																
		Proposed	x	x	x	x		x																
A.3	Hydrological investigation	Actual	x	x	x																			
		Proposed						x	x															
B. Purchase / lease of land and / or rights:																								
C. Concrete conservation actions:																								
C.1	Clearing of trees and scrub	Actual		x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x			
C.2	Clearing of reeds and emerging trees and scrub	Actual		x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x								
C.3	Clearing of non native woody species	Actual		x	x						x	x												
		Proposed									x	x												
C.4	Clearing of Japanese rose (Rosa rugosa)	Actual					x	x			x	x			x	x								
		Proposed									x	x			x	x								
C.5	Clearing cord grass (Spartina spp.)	Actual					x	x			x	x			x	x								
		Proposed									x	x			x	x								
C.6	Establishment of cattle and sheep herds	Actual	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
C.7	Creating enclosures by fencing	Actual	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
C.8	Controlled burning	Actual		x	x						x	x												
C.9	Infra-structure	Actual	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		Proposed																						
C.10	Control of foxes, mink and hooded crow	Actual		x	x						x	x			x	x								
		Proposed													x	x								
C.11	Restore natural hydrology	Actual		x	x						x	x			x	x								
		Proposed													x	x								
C.12	"Landowners Association"	Actual					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		Proposed													x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
D. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions:																								
D.1	Monitoring of impact of targeted habitats and birds species	Actual	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
D.2	Assessment of the socioeconomic impact and ecosystem restoration	Actual					x																	
E. Public awareness and dissemination of results:																								
E.1	Establishment of website on the internet	Actual	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
E.2	Newsletter	Actual	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		Proposed																						
E.3	Provision of information tables	Actual					x	x	x															
		Proposed																						
E.4	A leaflet explaining the project	Actual					x	x	x															
		Proposed																						
E.5	Visitor facilities	Actual					x	x	x															
		Proposed																						
E.6	Public tours	Actual		x																				
		Proposed																						
E.7	Layman's report	Actual																						
E.8	Local Community Group	Actual		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		Proposed																						
E.9	Report on control of invasive species	Actual																						
E.10	Final seminar	Actual																						
F. Overall project operation and monitoring of the project progress:																								
F.1	Project management	Actual	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
F.2	Overall project monitoring and monitoring of project progress	Actual	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
F.3	Networking with other projects	Actual	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
F.4	After-LIFE Conservation plan	Actual																						

6 Financial part

6.3 Putting in place of the accounting system.

The managerial part and the setup behind reimbursement are as stated in the Partnership Agreement – see appendix 7.1.

Time sheets

- All employees will fill in timesheet on a daily basis.
DNA uses an electronic system while LM will adopt a timesheet similar to the one provided via the LIFE toolkit. In both cases the timesheet will be approved by a superior member of staff and by the project manager. Following this the information is transferred into the accounting system. All timesheet will be printed for filing, and if not electronically approved, be dated and signed.
All timesheet will be filled in by using specific “accounts” numbers related to the individual actions.
All hours will also be transferred into the EU spread-sheet provided via the LIFE toolkit.

Invoices

- All invoice related to the project should carry a clear link to the project and will be individually stamped for identification with project number, account number, action number, description of deliveries, period and habitat site. Following payment in the electronic payment system also the front page from this system – including the card of account numbers – will be printed and filed together with the actual invoice plus the proof of payment. The invoice will also be transferred into the EU spread-sheet mentioned above.

Card of accounts

- A complete set of card of accounts has been created – securing a clear link to the relevant part of the project. See appendix 7.3.5.

Accountancy

- The DNA maintains a coherent accounting system also including information regarding all employee’s time registration and will support this by using the EU provided spread-sheet.
- LM maintains a similar system, BUT without keeping record of time spent by the individual employees. As mentioned above LM will therefore use a timesheet similar to the one from the EU toolkit.

Reporting

- As stated above paper copies of all invoices, payroll, timesheet etc. are filed by the partners (the project manager receiving copies).
Both partners will use the EU spread-sheet provided and the project manager will on a quarterly basis secure the merger of individual reports into one financial report.

6.4 Continued availability of co-financing.

N/A

6.5 Costs incurred 1st October 2012 to 31st May 2013 (summary by cost category and relevant comments).

Budget breakdown categories	Total cost in €	Costs incurred from the start date to 31-05-2013 in €	% of total costs
1. Personnel	698.868	85.384,14	12,22 %
2. Travel and subsistence	29.060	7.266,79	25,01 %
3. External assistance	740.413	58.164,60	7,86 %
4. Durable goods			
Infrastructure	43.755		
Equipment	334.398	131.269,80	39,26 %
Prototype			
5. Land purchase / long-term lease			
6. Consumables	106.585	4.605,73	4,32 %
7. Other Costs	11.409	186,17	1,63 %
8. Overheads	137.514		
TOTAL	2.102.002	286.877,24	13,65 %

- As mentioned under C.1 and C.7 staff from LM and DNA have been involved although the actions were expected to be carried out by contractors only, why further expenditure than originally expected is spend under section 1 – personnel. A substantial part of the expenditure is related to C.1 – clearing of trees – and all related income from chipping will be offset against costs during the autumn of 2013.
- Travel costs – primarily the project managers – have been high initially due to starting up the project.
- The high proportion spend at equipment during the initial phase of the project is caused by the purchase of livestock and is according to plan.

7 Annexes

7.3 Partnership agreements

- An agreement is established and signed

7.4 Deliverables (if relevant, e.g. management plans)

- Revised timetable

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

7.5.1

- Map showing present status C.1
- Map showing present status C.2
- Map showing present status C.7
- Map showing present status C.8

7.3.2

- Example of signs used at enclosures for livestock.

7.3.3

- Overview – meetings

7.3.4

- Agenda and minutes – Steering committee
- Agenda – Public meetings

7.3.5

- Card of accounts

7.6 Output indicators.

- Enclosed

7.7 Other

7.7.1

- Press coverage – newspapers and journals
- Data related to website visits