

**Call: LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT**

(Nature & Biodiversity - Standard Action Projects (SAP))

**Topic: LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE**

**Type of Action: LIFE-PJG**

(LIFE Project Grants)

**Proposal number: 101148382**

**Proposal acronym: LIFE AWOM**

**Type of Model Grant Agreement: LIFE Action Grant Budget-Based**

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# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

## 1 - General information

Field(s) marked \* are mandatory to fill.

Topic	LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE	Type of Action	LIFE-PJG
Call	LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT	Type of Model Grant Agreement	LIFE-AG
Structured Proposal Reference	LIFE23-NAT-NL-LIFE AWOM		

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Proposal title **Aquatic Warblers on the Move**

Note that for technical reasons, the following characters are not accepted in the Proposal Title and will be removed: < > " &

Duration in months **60**

Free keywords *Enter any words you think give extra detail of the scope of your proposal (max 200 characters with spaces).*

Panel **NAT\_Panel1 - Nature/Governance**

Please select 1 descriptor(s) that best characterise(s) the subject of your proposal, in descending order of relevance. Note that descriptor(s) will be used to identify the best qualified evaluators for your proposal.

Descriptor1

### Abstract \*

The LIFE AWOM project is the first multi-country LIFE project focusing on the staging and wintering areas of the globally threatened aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* (AW) in Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal and Senegal. Together with the also proposed LIFE4AquaticWarbler project (that focuses on the breeding grounds), the two projects are the biggest coordinated initiative so far for the flyway-scale conservation of the species. The LIFE AWOM project will focus developing a comprehensive, coherent and climate resilient flyway site network for the species, which can serve as an example for the systematic site network planning for also other species. At 22 Natura 2000 staging sites in Europe and at one wintering site in Senegal, the project will demonstrate habitat management and restoration techniques for the AW but also for other marshland bird species. These techniques will be relevant not only in the context of the conservation of the AW, but also in the context of climate change mitigation, adaptation and green infrastructure development. The project aims to ensure that its impact is scaled up beyond its target areas by providing input into the development of the national nature restoration plans, the new prioritised action frameworks and new CAP programming documents, as well as working actively on sharing its scientific results with other conservation scientists and technical innovations with other site managers and businesses.

Remaining characters

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# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Has this proposal (or a very similar one) been submitted in the past 2 years in response to a call for proposals under any EU programme, including the current call?

Yes  No

Please give the proposal reference or contract number.

*Previously submitted proposals should be with either 6 or 9 digits.*

## Declarations

Field(s) marked \* are mandatory to fill.

- 1) We declare to have the explicit consent of all applicants on their participation and on the content of this proposal. \*
- 2) We confirm that the information contained in this proposal is correct and complete and that none of the project activities have started before the proposal was submitted (unless explicitly authorised in the call conditions).
- 3) We declare:
  - to be fully compliant with the eligibility criteria set out in the call
  - not to be subject to any exclusion grounds under the [EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046](#)
  - to have the financial and operational capacity to carry out the proposed project.
- 4) We acknowledge that all communication will be made through the Funding & Tenders Portal electronic exchange system and that access and use of this system is subject to the [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#).
- 5) We have read, understood and accepted the [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms & Conditions](#) and [Privacy Statement](#) that set out the conditions of use of the Portal and the scope, purposes, retention periods, etc. for the processing of personal data of all data subjects whose data we communicate for the purpose of the application, evaluation, award and subsequent management of our grant, prizes and contracts (including financial transactions and audits).

The coordinator is only responsible for the information relating to their own organisation. Each applicant remains responsible for the information declared for their organisation. If the proposal is retained for EU funding, they will all be required to sign a declaration of honour.

**False statements** or incorrect information may lead to administrative sanctions under the EU Financial Regulation.

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

## 2 - Participants

### List of participating organisations

#	Participating Organisation Legal Name	Country	Role	Action
1	WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL - EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION	Netherlands	Coordinator	
2	FUNDACION GLOBAL NATURE	ES	Partner	
3	NATUURPUNT BEHEER,VERENIGING VOOR NATUURBEHEE BE		Partner	
4	SOCIEDADE PORTUGUESA PARA O ESTUDODAS AVES	PT	Partner	
5	BRETAGNE VIVANTE - SEPNB	FR	Partner	
6	Association Connaissance et Recherche Ornithologique Lc	FR	Partner	
7	MAISON DE L'ESTUAIRE	FR	Partner	
8	Groupe Ornithologique Normand	FR	Partner	
9	Fundacion Migres	ES	Partner	
10	ASSOCIACIO INSTITUT CATALA D'ORNITOLOGIA	ES	Partner	
11	UNIVERSIDADE DE AVEIRO	PT	Partner	
12	AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIO ES		Partner	
13	ASSOCIATION ZONE HUMIDES D'AFRIQUE - WETLAND IN /SN		Partner	
14	FONDATION TOUR DU VALAT	FR	Partner	

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL - EUROPEAN ASS**

## Organisation data

PIC	Legal name
928620965	WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL - EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION

Short name: WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL - EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION

### Address

Street HORAPARK 9

Town EDE

Postcode 6717 LZ

Country Netherlands

Webpage [www.wetlands.org/europe](http://www.wetlands.org/europe)

### Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	no
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	no
Research organisation .....	no

### SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is **unknown** (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	unknown
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	unknown

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL - EUROPEAN ASS**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

Postcode *Area code.*

Country *Please select a country*

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL - EUROPEAN ASS**

## Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title Mrs

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Yurena**

Last name **Lorenzo**

E-Mail **yurena.lorenzo@wetlands.org**

Position in org. European Programme Manager

Department WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL - EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION



Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street HORAPARK 9

Town EDE Post code 6717 LZ

Country Netherlands

Website Please enter website

Phone +xxx xxxxxxxxxx Phone 2 +xxx xxxxxxxxxx

## Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Szabolcs	Nagy	szabolcs.nagy@wetlands.org	+xxx xxxxxxxxxx
Ruba	Hilal	rubahilal@wetlands.org	+xxx xxxxxxxxxx
Remco	Haex	remco.haex@wetlands.org	+xxx xxxxxxxxxx
Astrid	Hamer	astrid.hamer@rvo.nl	+xxx xxxxxxxxxx
Rogier	Vogelij	rogier.vogelij@rvo.nl	+xxx xxxxxxxxxx
Els	Walburg	els.walburg1@rvo.nl	+xxx xxxxxxxxxx

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **FUNDACION GLOBAL NATURE**

PIC	Legal name
929361851	FUNDACION GLOBAL NATURE

Short name: FUNDACION GLOBAL NATURE

## Address

Street CORRO DEL POSTIGO 1

Town FUENTES DE NAVA

Postcode 34337

Country Spain

Webpage [www.fundacionglobalnature.org](http://www.fundacionglobalnature.org)

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	no
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	no
Research organisation .....	no

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is not an SME (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	25/03/2015 - no
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	unknown



## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **FUNDACION GLOBAL NATURE**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

Postcode *Area code.*

Country *Please select a country*

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **FUNDACION GLOBAL NATURE**

### Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title Mr

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Antonio**

Last name **Guillem**

E-Mail **antonioguillem@fundacionglobalnature.org**

Position in org. Projects Coordinator

Department FUNDACION GLOBAL NATURE



Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street CORRO DEL POSTIGO 1

Town FUENTES DE NAVA

Post code 34337

Country Spain

Website www.fundacionglobalnature.org

Phone +34 91 710 44 55

Phone 2 +XXX XXXXXXXXXX

### Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Eduardo	de Miguel	edemiguel@fundacionglobalnature.org	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX
Blanca	Berzosa	bberzosa@fundacionglobalnature.org	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **NATUURPUNT BEHEER,VERENIGING VOOR NA**

PIC	Legal name
935368091	NATUURPUNT BEHEER,VERENIGING VOOR NATUURBEHEER EN LANDSCHAPSZORG IN VLAANDEREN VZW

Short name: NATUURPUNT BEHEER,VERENIGING VOOR NATUURBEHEER EN LANDSCHAPSZORG IN VLAANDEREN VZW

Street COXIESTRAAT 11

Town MECHELEN

Postcode 2800

Country Belgium

Webpage <https://www.natuurpunt.be>

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	no
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	no
Research organisation .....	no

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is not an SME (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	08/10/2014 - no
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	unknown

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **NATUURPUNT BEHEER, VERENIGING VOOR NA**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

---

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

---

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

---

Postcode *Area code.*

---

Country *Please select a country*

---

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **NATUURPUNT BEHEER,VERENIGING VOOR NA**

### Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title **Mr**

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Stefan**

Last name **Versweyeld**

E-Mail **stefan.versweyeld@natuurpunt.be**

Position in org. **Diensthoofd Planning en Projecten**

Department **NATUURPUNT BEHEER,VERENIGING VOOR NATUURBEHEER EN LANDSCHAPSZORG**  Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street **COXIESTRAAT 11**

Town **MECHELEN** Post code **2800**

Country **Belgium**

Website **https://www.natuurpunt.be/**

Phone **+3215770153** Phone 2 **+32485657874**

### Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Koen	Swinnen	koen.swinnen@natuurpunt.be	+3215770153

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **SPEA**

PIC	Legal name
941263848	SOCIEDADE PORTUGUESA PARA O ESTUDODAS AVES

Short name: SPEA

## Address

Street AVENIDA COLUMBANO BORDALO PINHEIRO, 87 3 A

Town LISBOA

Postcode 1070 062

Country Portugal

Webpage [www.spea.pt](http://www.spea.pt)

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	no
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	no
Research organisation .....	no

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is unknown (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	unknown
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	unknown

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **SPEA**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

Postcode *Area code.*

Country *Please select a country*

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **SPEA**

### Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Domingos**

Last name **Leitão**

E-Mail **domingos.leitao@spea.pt**

Position in org. Executive Director

Department SOCIEDADE PORTUGUESA PARA O ESTUDODAS AVES



Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street AVENIDA COLUMBANO BORDALO PINHEIRO, 87 3 ANDAR

Town LISBOA

Post code 1070 062

Country Portugal

Website Please enter website

Phone +XXX XXXXXXXXXX

Phone 2 +XXX XXXXXXXXXX

### Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Joaquim	Teodósio	joaquim.teodosio@spea.pt	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX



# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **BRETAGNE VIVANTE - SEPNB**

PIC	Legal name
884426019	BRETAGNE VIVANTE - SEPNB

Short name: BRETAGNE VIVANTE - SEPNB

## Address

Street 19 rue de Gouesnou

Town BREST

Postcode 29200

Country France

Webpage <https://www.bretagne-vivante.org/>

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	no
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	no
Research organisation .....	no

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is not an SME (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	07/11/2022 - no
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	unknown

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **BRETAGNE VIVANTE - SEPNB**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

Postcode *Area code.*

Country *Please select a country*

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **BRETAGNE VIVANTE - SEPNB**

## Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Gwenola**

Last name **Kervingant**

E-Mail **president@bretagne-vivante.org**

Position in org. **President**

Department **BRETAGNE VIVANTE - SEPNB**



Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street **19 rue de Gouesnou**

Town **BREST**

Post code **29200**

Country **France**

Website *Please enter website*

Phone *+XXX XXXXXXXXXX*

Phone 2 *+XXX XXXXXXXXXX*

## Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Christine	Blaize	christine.blaize@bretagne-vivante.org	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX
Marie	Capoulade	marie.capoulade@bretagne-vivante.org	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **ACROLA**

PIC	Legal name
880918790	Association Connaissance et Recherche Ornithologique Loire et Atlantique

Short name: ACROLA

## Address

Street 10 La Jannais des Douets

Town CORDEMAIS

Postcode 44360

Country France

Webpage acrola.fr

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	no
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	no
Research organisation .....	yes

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is not an SME (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	29/08/2023 - no
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	unknown

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **ACROLA**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

---

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

---

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

---

Postcode *Area code.*

---

Country *Please select a country*

---

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **ACROLA**

### Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Julien**

Last name **FOUCHER**

E-Mail **info.acrola@gmail.com**

Position in org. Researcher

Department Association Connaissance et Recherche Ornithologique Loire et Atlantique



Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street 10 La Jannais des Douets

Town CORDEMAIS

Post code 44360

Country France

Website Please enter website

Phone +XXX XXXXXXXXXX

Phone 2 +XXX XXXXXXXXXX

### Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Julien	Foucher	julienfoucher44@gmail.com	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **MAISON DE L'ESTUAIRE gestionnaire réserve**

PIC	Legal name
880891727	MAISON DE L'ESTUAIRE

Short name: MAISON DE L'ESTUAIRE gestionnaire réserve naturelle de l'estuaire de la Seine

## Address

Street 20, RUE JEAN CAURET

Town Le Havre

Postcode 76600

Country France

Webpage <https://maisondelestuaire.org/>

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	no
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	no
Research organisation .....	no

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is not an SME (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	30/08/2023 - no
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	unknown

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **MAISON DE L'ESTUAIRE gestionnaire réserve**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

Postcode *Area code.*

Country *Please select a country*

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant



## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **MAISON DE L'ESTUAIRE gestionnaire réserve**

### Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **MARTIN**

Last name **BLANPAIN**

E-Mail **martin.blanpain@maisondelestuaire.org**

Position in org. Director

Department MAISON DE L'ESTUAIRE



Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street 20, RUE JEAN CAURET

Town Le Havre

Post code 76600

Country France

Website *Please enter website*

Phone *+XXX XXXXXXXXXX*

Phone 2 *+XXX XXXXXXXXXX*

### Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
ELODIE	REMOND	elodie.remond@maisondelestuaire.org	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **Groupe Ornithologique Normand**

PIC	Legal name
880892212	<i>Groupe Ornithologique Normand</i>

Short name: Groupe Ornithologique Normand

## Address

Street 181 rue d'Auge

Town Caen

Postcode 14000

Country France

Webpage [www.gonm.org](http://www.gonm.org)

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	no
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	no
Research organisation .....	no

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is not an SME (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	30/08/2023 - no
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	unknown

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **Groupe Ornithologique Normand**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

Postcode *Area code.*

Country *Please select a country*

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **Groupe Ornithologique Normand**

## Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title Mr

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Guillaume**

Last name **BÉNARD**

E-Mail **direction@gonm.org**

Position in org. Director

Department Groupe Ornithologique Normand  Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street 181 rue d'Auge

Town Caen Post code 14000

Country France

Website Please enter website

Phone +XXX XXXXXXXXXX Phone 2 +XXX XXXXXXXXXX

## Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Jean-Marc	Savigny	jm.savigny@gonm.org	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **Fundacion Migres**

PIC	Legal name
896746862	Fundacion Migres

Short name: Fundacion Migres

## Address

Street International Bird Migration Center (CIMA). Ctra. N3  
Town Tarifa  
Postcode 11390  
Country Spain  
Webpage <https://www.fundacionmigres.org>

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	no
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	unknown
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	unknown
Research organisation .....	unknown

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is unknown (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	unknown
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	unknown

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **Fundacion Migres**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

Postcode *Area code.*

Country *Please select a country*

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **Fundacion Migres**

### Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Miguel**

Last name **Ferrer**

E-Mail **mferer@ebd.csic.es**

Position in org. Researcher

Department Fundacion Migres



Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street International Bird Migration Center (CIMA). Ctra. N340 Km 85

Town Tarifa Post code 11390

Country Spain

Website Please enter website

Phone +XXX XXXXXXXXX Phone 2 +XXX XXXXXXXXX

### Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Alejandro	Onrubia	aonrubia@fundacionmigres.org	+XXX XXXXXXXXX

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **ASSOCIACIO INSTITUT CATALA D'ORNITOLOG**

PIC	Legal name
904453124	ASSOCIACIO INSTITUT CATALA D'ORNITOLOGIA

Short name: ASSOCIACIO INSTITUT CATALA D'ORNITOLOGIA

## Address

Street PLACA LEONARDO DE VINCI 4-5  
NAT MUSEU DE CIENCES NATURALS DE BARCELON

Town BARCELONA

Postcode 08003

Country Spain

Webpage [www.ornitologia.org](http://www.ornitologia.org)

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	no
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	no
Research organisation .....	no

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is unknown (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	unknown
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	unknown



## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **ASSOCIACIO INSTITUT CATALA D'ORNITOLOG**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

Postcode *Area code.*

Country *Please select a country*

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **ASSOCIACIO INSTITUT CATALA D'ORNITOLOG**

## Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Gabriel**

Last name **Gargallo**

E-Mail **anella.ico@gmail.com**

Position in org. General coordinator

Department ASSOCIACIO INSTITUT CATALA D'ORNITOLOGIA



Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street PLACA LEONARDO DE VINCI 4-5  
NAT MUSEU DE CIENCES NATURALS DE BARC

Town BARCELONA

Post code 08003

Country Spain

Website Please enter website

Phone +XXX XXXXXXXXXX

Phone 2 +XXX XXXXXXXXXX

## Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Marc	Illa	marc.illa.llobet@gmail.com	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **UAveiro**

PIC	Legal name
999865331	UNIVERSIDADE DE AVEIRO

Short name: UAveiro

## Address

Street CAMPUS UNIVERSITÁRIO DE SANTIAGO  
Town AVEIRO  
Postcode 3810-193  
Country Portugal  
Webpage www.ua.pt

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	yes
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	yes
Research organisation .....	yes

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is not an SME (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	22/01/2022 - no
SME self-assessment .....	01/01/1900 - no
SME validation sme .....	unknown

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **UAveiro**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

---

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

---

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

---

Postcode *Area code.*

---

Country *Please select a country*

---

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **UAveiro**

### Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Jose**

Last name **Alves**

E-Mail **jose.alves@ua.pt**

Position in org. **Principal Reseracher**

Department **UNIVERSIDADE DE AVEIRO**



Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street **CAMPUS UNIVERSITÁRIO DE SANTIAGO**

Town **AVEIRO**

Post code **3810-193**

Country **Portugal**

Website *Please enter website*

Phone *+xxx xxxxxxxxxx*

Phone 2 *+xxx xxxxxxxxxx*

### Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Jacinta	Oliveira	jacintaoliveira@ua.pt	+xxx xxxxxxxxxx

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **CSIC**

PIC	Legal name
999991722	AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS

Short name: CSIC

## Address

Street CALLE SERRANO 117

Town MADRID

Postcode 28006

Country Spain

Webpage <http://www.csic.es>

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	yes
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	no
Research organisation .....	yes

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is not an SME (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	14/01/2022 - no
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	21/12/2007 - no

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **CSIC**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

Postcode *Area code.*

Country *Please select a country*

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **CSIC**

### Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Francisco Javier**

Last name **Moreno Fuentes**

E-Mail **vri@csic.es**

Position in org. Researcher

Department AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS



Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street CALLE SERRANO 117

Town MADRID

Post code 28006

Country Spain

Website Please enter website

Phone +XXX XXXXXXXXXX

Phone 2 +XXX XXXXXXXXXX

### Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Carlos	Camacho	ccamacho@ebd.csic.es	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX
Gerente	EBD	gerencia.ebd@csic.es	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX



# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **Wetlands International Afrique - Côte Occiden**

PIC	Legal name
891293134	ASSOCIATION ZONE HUMIDES D'AFRIQUE - WETLAND IN AFRICA ASSOCIATION

Short name: Wetlands International Afrique - Côte Occidentale et Golfe de Guinée (WIACO)

## Address

Street RUE 111, N°39B, ZONE B, DAKAR-SENEGAL

Town DAKAR

Postcode

Country Senegal

Webpage <https://africa.wetlands.org/>

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	no
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	unknown
Research organisation .....	unknown

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is **unknown** (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	unknown
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	unknown

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **Wetlands International Afrique - Côte Occiden**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

Postcode *Area code.*

Country *Please select a country*

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **Wetlands International Afrique - Côte Occiden**

## Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Ibrahima**

Last name **THIAM**

E-Mail **ithiam@wetlands-africa.org**

Position in org. C.E.O \_\_\_\_\_

Department ASSOCIATION ZONE HUMIDES D'AFRIQUE - WETLAND IN AFRICA ASSOCIATION \_\_\_\_\_



Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street RUE 111, N°39B, ZONE B, DAKAR-SENEGAL \_\_\_\_\_

Town DAKAR \_\_\_\_\_ Post code \_\_\_\_\_

Country Senegal \_\_\_\_\_

Website *Please enter website* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone *+XXX XXXXXXXXXX* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2 *+XXX XXXXXXXXXX* \_\_\_\_\_

## Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Khady	GUEYE	kgueye@wetlands-africa.org	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **TDV**

PIC	Legal name
997624049	FONDATION TOUR DU VALAT

Short name: TDV

## Address

Street LA TOUR DU VALAT LE SAMBUC  
Town ARLES  
Postcode 13200  
Country France  
Webpage [www.tourduvalat.org](http://www.tourduvalat.org)

## Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....	yes
Public body .....	no
Non-profit .....	yes
International organisation .....	no
Secondary or Higher education establishment .....	no
Research organisation .....	yes

## SME Data

Based on the below details from the Participant Registry the organisation is unknown (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....	unknown
SME self-assessment .....	unknown
SME validation sme .....	unknown

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **TDV**

### Departments carrying out the proposed work

#### No department involved

Department name *Name of the department/institute carrying out the work.*

not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street *Please enter street name and number.*

Town *Please enter the name of the town.*

Postcode *Area code.*

Country *Please select a country*

### Links with other participants

Type of link	Participant

## Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

Short name **TDV**

### Main contact person

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to step - Manage your related parties of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Woman  Man  Non Binary

First name **Jean-Jacques**

Last name **Bravais**

E-Mail **bravais@tourduvalat.org**

Position in org. Administrative and Financial Director

Department FONDATION TOUR DU VALAT



Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street LA TOUR DU VALAT LE SAMBUC

Town ARLES

Post code 13200

Country France

Website Please enter website

Phone +XXX XXXXXXXXXX

Phone 2 +XXX XXXXXXXXXX

### Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Jocelyn	Champagnon	champagnon@tourduvalat.org	+XXX XXXXXXXXXX

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

## 3 - Budget



No.	Name of beneficiary	Country	Role	Personnel costs - without volunteers/ EUR	Personnel costs - volunteers/ EUR	Subcontracting costs/ EUR	Purchase costs - Travel and subsistence/ EUR	Purchase costs - Equipment/ EUR	Purchase costs - Other goods, works and services/ EUR	Financial support to third parties/ EUR	Land Purchase/ EUR	Indirect costs/ EUR	Total eligible costs/ EUR	Ineligible costs/ EUR	Total estimated project costs and contributions/ EUR	Funding rate	Maximum EU contribution to eligible costs/ EUR	Requested EU contribution to eligible costs/ EUR	Max grant amount/ EUR	Income generated by the project/ EUR	In kind contributions/ EUR	Financial contributions/ EUR	Own resources/ EUR	Total estimated project income/ EUR
1	Wetlands International - European Association	NL	Coordinator	796 796	0	5 000	154 760	5 100	225 630	60 000	0	87 310.02	1 334 596.02	0	1 334 596.02	75	1 000 947.02	1 000 947.02	1 000 947.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	333 648.73	1 334 595.75
2	Fundacion Global Nature	ES	Partner	1 214 970	0	924 064	81 636	159 586	245 873	0	32 400	183 829.03	2 842 358.03	0	2 842 358.03	75	2 131 768.52	2 131 768.52	2 131 768.52	0.00	0.00	310 536.00	400 053.79	2 842 358.31
3	Natuurpunt Beheer vereniging Voor Natuurbeheer En Landschapszorg In Vlaanderen Vzw	BE	Partner	442 300	0	733 730	19 995	0	95 500	0	0	90 406.75	1 381 931.75	0	1 381 931.75	75	1 036 448.81	1 036 448.81	1 036 448.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	345 482.94	1 381 931.75
4	Sociedade Portuguesa Para O Estudo das Aves	PT	Partner	88 971	11 440	40 000	76 480	15 287	7 400	0	0	15 969.66	255 547.66	0	255 547.66	75	191 660.75	191 660.75	191 660.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	63 886.91	255 547.66
5	Bretagne Vivante - Sepnb	FR	Partner	443 070	82 268	20 000	43 600	44 500	340 200	0	0	62 395.90	1 036 033.90	0	1 036 033.90	75	777 025.43	777 025.43	777 025.43	0.00	0.00	145 000.00	114 008.47	1 036 033.90
6	Association Connaissance Et Recherche Ornithologique Loire Et Atlantique	FR	Partner	120 000	0	165 000	11 060	3 000	14 800	0	0	21 970.20	335 830.20	0	335 830.20	75	251 872.65	251 872.65	251 872.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	83 957.55	335 830.20
7	Maison De L'estuaire	FR	Partner	21 986	0	88 800	0	0	1 000	0	0	7 825.02	119 611.02	0	119 611.02	75	89 708.27	89 708.27	89 708.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	29 902.85	119 611.12
8	Groupe Ornithologique Normand	FR	Partner	51 680	30 000	163 000	4 988	14 524	12 000	0	0	17 233.44	293 425.44	0	293 425.44	75	220 069.08	220 069.08	220 069.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	73 356.36	293 425.44
9	Fundacion Migres	ES	Partner	63 720	0	0	260 187	116 217	0	0	0	30 808.68	470 932.68	0	470 932.68	75	353 199.51	353 199.51	353 199.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	117 733.17	470 932.68
10	Associacio Institut Catala D'ornitologia	ES	Partner	284 140	0	5 000	3 848	13 500	22 770	0	0	23 048.06	352 306.06	0	352 306.06	75	264 229.54	264 229.54	264 229.54	0.00	0.00	25 000.00	63 076.22	352 305.76
11	Universidade De Aveiro	PT	Partner	173 110	0	0	28 000	2 000	13 000	0	0	15 127.70	231 237.70	0	231 237.70	75	173 428.28	173 428.28	173 428.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	57 809.02	231 237.30
12	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior De Investigaciones Cientificas	ES	Partner	459 828	0	10 000	10 000	20 000	10 000	0	0	35 687.96	545 515.96	0	545 515.96	75	409 136.97	409 136.97	409 136.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	136 378.68	545 515.65

# Application forms

Proposal ID **101148382**

Acronym **LIFE AWOM**

13	Association Zone Humides D'Afrique - Wetland In Africa Association	SN	Partner	194 457	0	136 525	75 390	75 960	110 901	40 000	0	44 326.31	677 559.31	0	677 559.31	75	508 169.48	508 169.48	508 169.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	169 389.83	677 559.31
14	Fondation Tour Du Valat	FR	Partner	227 863	0	30 000	15 277	2 485	4 800	0	0	19 629.75	300 054.75	0	300 054.75	75	225 041.06	225 041.06	225 041.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	75 013.51	300 054.57
	<b>Total</b>			<b>4 582 891</b>	<b>123 708</b>	<b>2 321 119</b>	<b>785 221</b>	<b>472 159</b>	<b>1 103 874</b>	<b>100 000</b>	<b>32 400</b>	<b>655 568.48</b>	<b>10 176 940.48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10 176 940.48</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>7 632 705.37</b>	<b>7 632 705.37</b>	<b>7 632 705.37</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>480 536.00</b>	<b>2 063 698.03</b>	<b>10 176 939.40</b>



## TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (PART B)

### COVER PAGE

Part B of the Application Form must be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as PDF in the system. Page 1 with the grey IMPORTANT NOTICE box should be deleted before uploading.

**Note:** Please read carefully the conditions set out in the Call document (for open calls: published on the Portal). Pay particular attention to the award criteria; they explain how the application will be evaluated.

PROJECT	
Project name:	Aquatic Warblers on the Move
Project acronym:	LIFE AWOM
Coordinator contact:	Szabolcs NAGY, Wetlands International Europe

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#@APP-FORM-LIFESAPOAG@#

#@PRJ-SUM-PS@# [This document is tagged. Do not delete the tags; they are needed for the processing.]

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>Project summary</b>
See Abstract (Application Form Part A).

#\$PRJ-SUM-PS\$# #@REL-EVA-RE@# #@PRJ-OBJ-PO@#

**1. RELEVANCE**

Fill in only sections 1.1-1.4 at stage 1 (concept note). Fill in all sections at stage 2 (full proposal).

**1.1 Background and general project objectives**

<p><b>Background and general project objectives</b></p> <p><i>Explain the problem and the needs to be addressed in the project. Describe the background, starting point / quantified baseline of the project.</i></p> <p><i>Please explain in which location and/or sector the main activities of the project will take place and justify that choice.</i></p> <p><i>For Nature and Biodiversity:</i></p> <p><i>Provide a clear and quantified description of the conservation issue and threats targeted, as well as relevant background information and quantified figures defining the baseline to justify the proposed Interventions by</i></p> <p><i>At stage 1 (concept note) when relevant, describe the main species/habitats directly targeted by the project: scientific name; refer to the Annex(es) of the EU Birds or Habitats Directive where they are listed; population size within each project area; conservation status; habitat name and Natura 2000 code; % of the cover within each project area; conservation status.</i></p> <p><i>At stage 2 (full proposals), when relevant, provide a brief description of the areas where conservation actions will be implemented and main species and / or main habitats directly targeted by the project, and submit the following annexes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— maps</li> <li>— description of sites</li> <li>— description of species and habitats</li> </ul> <p><i>Describe the previous conservation efforts in the project area or for the habitats/species targeted.</i></p> <p><i>For Circular Economy and Quality of Life (n/a to Environmental governance topics):</i></p> <p><i>Describe the previous technical preparatory work and results of previous research and development activities, showing the status of technical development achieved for the proposed solution, including the technical readiness level (TRL) where relevant and proving its technical feasibility.</i></p> <p><i>Explain the scale at which such results have been obtained and if prototypes have been already developed and tested. Their scale/dimension and relevant results and conclusions have to be clearly presented. Illustrate available best practices in the relevant sector (state of the art) and clearly and concisely explain the environmental, technical and</i></p>
---

*economical improved performances/ advantages introduced by the proposed solution in case this is claimed to be innovative/ demonstrative.*

The **aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*** (AW) is a globally threatened bird species, listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive (Directive 79/409/EEC), and identified as a priority for LIFE funding by the ORNIS Committee. The species is also subject of several international treaties (for further details see the annexed **Description of species and habitats** template).

The **Aquatic Warblers on the Move (LIFE AWOM)** project is developed to support the implementation of the international species action plan (ISAP) for the species (Flade & Lachmann 2008) endorsed by the EU ORNIS Committee and adopted by the signatories of the CMS Aquatic Warbler MoU (AW MoU) which includes the majority of the EU range states except the Netherlands, Portugal and Slovakia. The LIFE AWOM project focuses on the staging and wintering countries of the species. Thus, it complements the actions of the proposed LIFE4AquaticWarbler project that focuses on the breeding countries. The two proposed projects will work together to ensure the flyway-scale conservation of the species.

A project focusing on the staging and wintering areas of the AW is important because the species is a long-distant migrant covering more than 12,000 km during its annual migrations between its Eastern European breeding and West African wintering grounds. On postnuptial migration in the autumn, almost the entire global population migrates along the Atlantic coast of Europe and Africa, while the prenuptial spring migration partly follows a more easterly route through the Mediterranean. The survival rate of the species strongly depends on the availability and quality of suitable stopover and wintering habitats (Tanneberger *et al.* 2018). Like the breeding habitats, these are mainly various low sedge marshes.

Under natural conditions, wetland habitats constantly change: existing wetlands go through a relatively rapid succession process while natural processes create new early stage habitats. In the human influenced landscapes of Europe and West Africa, the AW suffers from **habitat loss and degradation** due to drainage, conversion to arable land and forest and other plantations or to urbanised areas (P1), succession (P2), abandonment of traditional agricultural management (P3), pollution (P4), effects of invasive alien species (P5). **Climate change** affects coastal sites through sea-level rise that leads to shore retreat (Le Neve *et al.* 2018). In addition, the whole Mediterranean region, which is an important refuelling area during both the autumn and the spring migration, is increasingly affected by water shortages and the subsequent loss of wetlands. The African wintering grounds are threatened by conversion of floodplains to reservoirs and wetlands to irrigated agriculture. The extension of irrigated agriculture on the former floodplains of the Senegal and Niger rivers and tributaries also reduces the availability of grazing land, which in turn leads to overgrazing of the remaining sedge marsh habitats on the remaining areas (Tegetmeyer *et al.* 2018). We intend to demonstrate with the LIFE AWOM project that wetland restoration for climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, green infrastructure, recycling water and recreation can benefit a threatened species while delivering wider benefits for the society. Integrating the requirements of a threatened species into projects and initiatives addressing broader societal challenges may help upscaling the conservation efforts of threatened species.

Addressing the above threats and restoring habitats at flyway-scale would require conserving the remaining critical sites of the AW and restoring suitable habitats in the wider countryside. However, the systematic conservation of the species is still hampered by serious **knowledge gaps** as the species is difficult to observe due to its unobtrusive behaviour during passage and winter, its small size and its similarity to the sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Therefore, many of the important sites for the AW may still be unknown and unprotected in the EU and even more so in Africa. For example, despite the identification of several important sites in Belgium, no Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been designated for the species yet. In Portugal, Spain and France, the AW is recorded on the Natura 2000 Standard Data Form (SDF) of 85 SPAs. However, the population size has been numerically assessed only for 40 SPAs, qualitatively for 33 and no population information was available for the remaining 12. In Portugal, five out of six sites have no population estimates. Even where numerical estimates are available, they are difficult to compare in the absence of a standardised methodology. In Africa, the knowledge of key sites and their functions is even

more limited. This makes it difficult to establish a comprehensive and coherent flyway site network for the AW. Restoring and managing the key sites and suitable habitats across the staging and wintering areas is further hampered by poor dissemination and replication of successful approaches to wetland restoration and nature-based solutions, especially amongst the organisations focusing on the recovery of threatened species.

As an unobtrusive migratory species, the AW does not always feature in national conservation policies of the passage countries as prominently as its globally threatened status requires. In Europe, almost all countries participating in the LIFE AWOM project (except Portugal) have national action plans or equivalent strategic documents addressing the conservation of the species but the species rarely features in prioritised action frameworks (PAFs). In Africa, there are no national action plans for the species or coordinated efforts to address the knowledge gaps and to protect key staging and wintering sites even though many African countries are signatories to the AW MoU. In 2016, several African signatory countries reported that they lack the technical capacity for the conservation of the species.

In Europe, **LIFE Nature projects** have played an important role in the partial recovery of the EU population. So far, five LIFE projects have been implemented in the breeding range of the AW: Aquatic Warbler project (LIFE05 NAT/PL/000101), Biomass use for Aquatic Warbler (LIFE09 NAT/PL/000260), Baltic Aquatic Warbler (LIFE09 NAT/LT/000233), Schreiadler Schorfheide (LIFE10 NAT/DE/000012) and the LIFE MagniDucatusAcrola (LIFE15 NAT/LT/001024). Three other LIFE projects have addressed the conservation of staging sites: Carricerín Nava-Campos (LIFE02 NAT/ES/008616), Acrocephalus Bretagne (LIFE04 NAT/FR/000086) and the LIFE PALUDICOLA (LIFE16 NAT/ES/000168). See more details in Section 1.5 below.

The LIFE AWOM project intends to elevate the conservation of AW to a new level by building on the scientific results and management experiences of the previous LIFE projects and bringing together NGOs and other stakeholders from the most important passage and wintering countries. It also intends to complement the efforts to be taken in the framework of another proposed LIFE Nature SAP project (the LIFE4AquaticWarbler) for the breeding countries (Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Ukraine).

The development of the LIFE AWOM project started with a workshop of AW experts from Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Czechia, Hungary, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Mali and Senegal on 15 December 2015. It was decided to develop two parallel applications for the breeding and non-breeding areas because of the large number of countries and participants. Further consultation with national stakeholders has taken place in 2023 in Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal and Senegal, including national, regional and local authorities, farmers and local communities and the CMS Secretariat.

### **Situation of AW conservation in the participating range states**

#### **Belgium**

Annually up to 230 AWs are ringed in Belgium. Together with the Netherlands, it is the point where the post-nuptial migration reaches the Atlantic coast. Belgium signed the AW MoU in 2005. A detailed AW Action Plan has been prepared for the Flemish Community in 2007. As the vast majority of records originate from this region, this plan can be considered to be the national species action plan (SAP) for Belgium. The plan foresees the creation of additional suitable habitat, especially within protected areas to compensate for the loss of some unprotected sites. The species has been added to a group of species of community interest that occur in Flanders, and for which so called “conservation objectives” were set. Every year, dozens of AWs are caught in the Blankaart area (part of the BE2500831 Ijzervallei SPA), which is considered essential for the implementation of the European nature conservation objectives in Flanders for this species. Thanks to targeted restoration measures, Natuurpunt and the Flemish government have already doubled the extent of high-quality marshes and reedbeds in the nature reserve. The hydrological conditions in the reserve have been restored a few years ago thanks to the efforts of Natuurpunt and the Flemish government, which created a perfect initial situation for further restoration.

**France**

The marshes along the Atlantic coast of France are essential for the fattening of AW on the postnuptial migration and almost the whole global population of the species migrates through the country. Since 2000, AWs have been recorded at over 200 sites in France and the country has designated 50 sites for the species as SPAs. Seven regions (Audomarois marshes, Seine Estuary, Bay of Mont Saint-Michel, Bay of Audierne, Loire estuary, Bay of Aiguillon and Gironde estuary) are particularly important for the species during the postnuptial migration. In 2004, a LIFE project was set up in Brittany to restore AW habitats at three sites and to learn more about the species' migration. This led to the development of AW migration monitoring (ringing, diet and habitat use) in other regions of France. The country signed the AW MOU in 2010, and set up a national SAP for the period 2010-2014. Following its evaluation, a second SAP for the period 2022-2031 has been adopted, and Bretagne Vivante, one of the co-beneficiaries of the LIFE AWOM project, is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the plan under the supervision of a steering committee. Favourable feeding habitats for the AW are transitional wetland vegetation with small helophytes. These habitats are threatened by sedimentation and the growth of woody plants. In large estuaries, channelisation encourages the deposition of sediment to the detriment of natural dynamics. In the Gironde estuary, global changes are causing erosion of the shore, and leading to loss of coastal marshes because of the presence of dykes. The LIFE AWOM project will contribute to the implementation of the second SAP by demonstrating the appropriate management of vegetation at three migratory stopover sites (the Pipy Island in the SPAs FR5210103 Estuaire de la Loire, FR2310044 Estuaire et marais de la Basse Seine, and FR2510046 Basses Vallées du Cotentin et Baie des Veys).

**Spain**

Intensive ringing campaigns by FGN and local groups during the LIFE Carricerín (LIFE02 NAT/E/008616) and LIFE Paludicola (LIFE16 NAT/ES/000168), both implemented by our project co-beneficiary FGN, and geolocator studies (Salewski *et al.* 2019, Flade 2021) have showed the importance of Spain as a staging area for the AW during the post- and the pre-nuptial migration. Spain is the most important entry and exit route for the AW to Africa and Central Europe. The LIFE AWOM project builds on experiences from the two earlier LIFE projects in the country and will demonstrate site management and restoration measures at 15 Spanish sites in Valencia (SPAs ES0000467 Prat de Cabanes i Torreblanca, ES0000211 Desembocadura del riu Millars, ES0000471 l'Albufera, ES0000487 Marjal de Pego-Oliva, SCIs ES5222002 Marjal de Peníscola, ES5222005 Marjal de Nules and ES0000470 Marjal del Moros), Castilla-La Mancha (SPA ES4250010 including Laguna de El Longar, Laguna Larga de Villacañas, Lagunas Grande y Chica de Villafranca de los Caballeros and Laguna de Manjavacas), Castilla y Leon (SPAs ES4140036 including Laguna de La Nava and Charcas del Cruce and ES0000216 including Lagunas Boada and Pedraza) and Catalonia (SPA ES0000019 Aiguamolls de l'Alt Empordà) and major research activities in the SPA ES0000024 Doñana.

**Portugal**

Until now, the importance of Portugal for AW was overlooked, and the country is not (yet) a signatory to the AW MOU. However, recent tracking data (Flade 2021) has shown that during the postnuptial migration almost half of tracked AWs (8 of 19 individuals) migrated through Portuguese territory using small and medium-sized coastal wetlands as stopover sites. Previous work at the SPA Ria de Aveiro has also shown that with the appropriate ringing effort (in the right habitat and at the right time of the year), it is possible to catch significant numbers there. The AW has been reported in many other coastal wetlands but at the national level the ringing and survey efforts have been limited. Therefore, the information on important sites for the species are still limited. In Portugal, there is no national action plan for the AW. In the meantime, the species and its potential habitats are affected by multiple threats (e.g., human pressure, climate change, invasive species, land use conversion) and the adequate management of those areas is not in place. The LIFE AWOM project will carry out habitat restoration and management measures at three wetlands along the coast (SPA PTZPE0004

Ria de Aveiro, PTZPE0013 Lagoa de Santo André, PTZPE0049 Lagoa Pequena) and will extend ringing efforts to three additional sites (Estuário do Coura, Barrinha de Esmoriz, and Ria de Alvor) to assess their importance for the species.

### **Senegal**

The country is an important wintering and passage area for the AW. Several expeditions have established the presence of the species in the vicinity of the Djoudj National Park and the latest geolocator studies have also indicated the presence of wintering areas in other parts of the country such as the Saloum River (Flade 2021). Despite the importance of the country for the species, no national species action plan has been developed yet in Senegal and not all the areas used by AW in the vicinity of the Djoudj National Park are legally protected. Due to the neglect of the water management infrastructure, the hydrological conditions are changing adversely (salinisation) at certain places, affected by the spread of invasive vegetation in freshwater bodies, the conversion of grazing land to agriculture and overgrazing on the remaining areas represent the main threats to the site. One of the wintering sites near Tiguete is highly degraded because floodwater cannot reach the area as the water canals feeding it are overgrown by invasive bullrush (*Typha*) vegetation. However, the species is still present at the neighbouring Débi and Nord du Grand Lac sites. It has been established during the project preparation, that the local community is willing to restore the hydrology of the area. The main economic activity in Tiguete and Débi is rice farming. Hence, the community has good water management skills and machinery for the restoration works. Currently, Senegal is the only wintering area where the security situation allows implementing conservation actions. The LIFE AWOM project will work both at national level and in particularly in the vicinity of the Djoudj National Park.

See further information on the importance of the targeted sites for the AW and other biodiversity on the attached **Description of sites** templates.

**List of references and frequently used abbreviations: see in the other annexes uploaded to the Funding and Tenders Portal.**

## **1.2 Specific project objectives**

### **Specific project objectives**

*Describe the specific objectives of your project (clear, measurable, realistic and achievable within the duration of the project).*

The aim of the project is to contribute to the recovery of the EU and the global population of AW.

The specific objectives by the end of the project in 2029 include:

- To identify and publish the description of a coherent, comprehensive flyway site network using the best available scientific data to guide further site conservation efforts (Work Package – hereafter WP – 2).
- To demonstrate the restoration and management of 819 hectares of AW staging habitats at 22 sites in Spain, Portugal, France and Belgium as well as one wintering site of 300 hectares in Senegal (WP3).
- To provide updated information on each important AW site to the relevant national authorities to support the update of the SDFs, and to promote other forms of site designations in Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal (WP3).

- To scale up restoration of AW habitats through member states national nature NNRP, PAFs and national programming documents under the Common Agricultural Policy in Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal (WP3).
- To raise awareness amongst the general public, reach out to local stakeholders and decision-makers and share experiences amongst project partners, with other projects and processes (WP4).
- To improve the methods for the assessment of the extent and quality of habitats and importance of staging and wintering sites for the AW (WP5).
- To replicate, upscale and ensure the sustainability of the project's results (WP6).

### 1.3 Compliance with LIFE programme objectives and call topic

#### Compliance with LIFE Programme objectives

*Explain how the project contributes to the specific objectives of the LIFE Programme and the sub-programme targeted by the call (Nature and Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Quality of Life, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation or Clean Energy Transition).*

#### Compliance with the LIFE programme objectives

The LIFE AWOM project intends to develop, demonstrate and promote some innovative and best practice approaches to systematic conservation planning (WP2), habitat restoration (T.3.1) and monitoring of site importance as well as habitat extent and quality (WP5), which are all designed to contribute to the knowledge base relevant for the implementation of the EU biodiversity and nature policies. The project will be implemented by national and international NGOs. Volunteers will play an important role in particular in the implementation of WP5. Through T.3.2 and T.3.3 the participating NGOs will also contribute to the development and implementation of the EU legislation and policy (Birds Directive, Nature Restoration Law, Biodiversity Strategy for 2030), but the project's measures are also relevant in the context of water management and soil conservation. WP4 is designed to use the AW as an attractive flagship species to mobilise for the conservation of sedge meadows across Western Europe and to promote the understanding of the importance of the Natura 2000 network and small habitat patches in the context of flyway-scale conservation. In addition, WP4 also intends to involve the private sector (primarily farmers) into local conservation actions. WP6 focuses on scaling up the application of techniques and approaches applied under T.3.1 to a larger geographic scale.

#### Compliance with the objectives of the LIFE sub-programme

The LIFE AWOM project will particularly contribute to the specific objectives of the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme. The project focuses on the conservation of the habitat of the AW, a globally threatened bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, which requires the designation of the most suitable areas for the species as SPAs as part of the Natura 2000 network. As the project focuses on protecting, restoring and managing the habitat of the species, it falls within the "Space for Nature" intervention area.

#### Compliance with the call topic

*Indicate the call topic to which your proposal relates, and explain how the proposed project addresses the scope of the topic description in the Call document.*

The AW is a globally threatened (Vulnerable) species. Its European population is also Vulnerable, but its EU population is listed as Near Threatened by BirdLife International due to the recent increases in Poland and Lithuania. However, the current population of 9,100–14,300 calling males (BirdLife International 2022) is still below the long-term recovery target of 12,600–17,000 calling males set in the ISAP (Flade & Lachmann 2008). The species is identified as a priority species for LIFE funding by the ORNIS Committee.

The project is implemented in Natura 2000 sites and the proposed measures contribute to the sites conservation objectives (where these were established) either directly or addressing a more generally formulated objective concerning the habitat of the AW. Although not all Natura 2000 sites have been designated for the species, information on the importance of the site for the AW is provided in the annex on the **Description of sites** and measures are designed (T.3.2) to update the SDFs.

Beyond the focus on AW, T.3.1 also contributes to the control of invasive alien species in Spain and Portugal that negatively affect the habitat of AW or other species at the target sites, includes measures to create green infrastructure and nature-based solutions. Sedge marshes targeted under T.3.1 are carbon rich habitats and many of the measures will result in reducing the risk of natural disasters such as floods, drought and fire. T.3.1 and T.3.3 also contribute to implementing the EU restoration targets for species and habitats

WP2 intends to provide some examples of scientific techniques that can be used to design a comprehensive, coherent and climate resilient site network and to promote their conservation under T.3.2.

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## 1.4 Concept and methodology

### Concept and methodology

*Describe the overall intervention logic of the project, including the main idea and assumptions (i.e. how are the proposed activities and steps of your project expected to lead to the intended changes in terms of outcomes and impacts).*

*Explain the methodology, i.e. the main tools, techniques, methods and procedures you will use to implement the technical part of your project. Justify why the proposed methodology is the most suitable for achieving the project's objectives.*

*For Clean Energy Transition:*

*Describe the market barriers, the needs and constraints of market actors, and how your concept will address them concretely.*

*For Circular Economy and Quality of Life (n/a to Environmental governance topics):*

*Describe the technical details of the proposed solution (process, material, product etc.) using a flowchart and including, where possible, the general mass and energy balance. Explain how you plan to establish your supply chain.*

*Specify the scale (e.g. production capacity) and output of the project (e.g. quantity produced/sold during the project). The chosen technical scale should be one that allows the evaluation of the technical and economic viability of the proposed solution. In case of close-to-market conditions the target should be industrial/commercial scale already during the project.*

As mentioned in the 1.1 Background section, the existence and quality of suitable stopover and wintering habitats determines the survival rate of the AW. It is a basic principle of population ecology, that the population growth rate in every species is more sensitive to one percent change in survival rate than to one percent change in the reproduction rate. Being a small passerine performing long-distance migration, the recovery of the EU and the global AW population strongly depends on the availability of suitable staging and wintering areas. As the AW is a trans-Saharan migrant, the quality of refuelling areas in France, Iberia and North Africa as well as of the wintering areas in Senegal and Mali are particularly important.

Unfortunately, the network of important staging and wintering sites is still not completely known due to the unobtrusive behaviour of the species and the functional importance of individual sites is even less understood. However, the application of advanced scientific methods and the availability of observational and ringing data, result of geolocator studies



make it possible to better understand the site network and how this network may change in relation to climatic changes. Using the available data, species distribution models (SDMs) will be produced to identify yet unknown sites that might be important for the species (T.2.2). SDMs are mathematical descriptions of the relationship between the observed pattern of known distribution and environmental predictors such as climatic variables, habitats (or their surrogates such as land cover classes or remote sensed information such as the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index [NDVI] or the Normalised Difference Water Index [NDWI]). SDMs can be useful tools to predict the distribution of species over large geographic areas and to identify highly suitable areas. Gap filling surveys (GFS) will be organised to validate the importance of these sites (T.2.4). These models also provide some insight into the environmental factors that drive the distribution of a species. This insight can be used to assess the exposure of important sites to climatic and other changes (T.2.5). Understanding the exposure of individual sites to climate change will then help the development of climate change adaptation strategies both at the site and at the network level. Existing ring recovery and telemetry data can also help understand the connectivity between breeding, staging and wintering areas and identify sites that might be particularly functionally important in the process of the annual migration and highlight them for decision-makers both at regional, national and international level (T.2.3).

Under the highly regulated and densely populated conditions of Europe, management and habitat restoration measures are needed to maintain or restore suitable conditions for the AW. The habitat restoration projects at the 22 staging sites under T.3.1 will demonstrate a wide variety of restoration techniques that can be applied under different circumstances to restore AW habitats. The applied techniques cover a wide range of issues to illustrate approaches that fit different management needs. To scale up the conservation of AW habitats, efforts will be made to update or add the population data and improve the site assessment for AW in the relevant Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms of SPAs; reflect the requirements of the species in the sites' conservation objectives (T.3.2); identify the habitat restoration needs for AW and to promote their inclusion into the NNRP to be prepared by the EU member states under the EU Nature Restoration Law and to gain a better recognition of the species management needs in the countries' PAFs and CAP strategic plans (T.3.3). In Africa, a Community Conservation Area (CCA) will be established at Tiguetee in the vicinity of the Djoudj National Park, Senegal to protect a key but currently unprotected wintering area for the species. This programme will be supported by actions aiming to improve the livelihood of local communities (T.3.4). This approach has been agreed both with the local communities and with the Directorate of National Parks during the project preparation because it would better respect the rights of the local communities than expanding the boundaries of the national park. In other African countries, site-based conservation efforts are hindered by knowledge gaps and, in many countries such as Mali, by the security situation. In these countries, the GFSs (T.2.3) will be used to fill the knowledge gaps and to stimulate research and conservation of AW. This will be achieved by using teams composed of European and local researchers, and reporting results to the national conservation authorities and NGOs. A small grant facility will be used to support local organisations to promote the official designation of important staging and wintering sites (T.3.2.3).

The project's communication actions will involve a wide range of awareness raising about the AW, the Natura 2000 Network and the LIFE Programme through the beneficiaries websites, social media, printed materials, merchandising products targeting the general public (T.4.1) and outreach activities (T.4.2) targeting key stakeholders such as farmers, local businesses and decision-makers and local populations (particularly school children) to secure their support to the conservation action on the sites where management and restoration actions take place (T.3.1).

The project will assess the effectiveness of habitat restoration measures by gaining better insight into the relationship between habitat use (T.5.4), habitat structure (T.5.1.1), food availability (T.5.1.2) and fuel deposition (fattening) rates (T.5.1.3). The assumption is that the ultimate measurement of the quality of the habitat is the fattening rate as this is related to the ecological function of a staging area: preparing the bird for the next leg of its journey. However, measuring food availability and fattening rates both require intensive sampling

efforts and would be costly to carry out at large spatial scales. Therefore, they will be only done at a small subset of the sites representing different ecological conditions from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. Habitat structure could be an easy way to take stock of the availability and quality of habitats and could be applied at large scale. Therefore, habitat structure will be monitored at each of the 23 project sites. This information will directly feed into the selected Key Performance Indicator of the project: Biodiversity (habitats) – Area of habitats where the loss of biodiversity is being halted and reversed (T.5.3). It is expected that the habitat assessment methodology can later be cheaply deployed across the entire network of key sites for the AW. However, the habitat assessment needs to be underpinned by a good understanding of the habitat use by AW. Neither field observations nor ringing data are free of biases. Therefore, automated radio-telemetry will be used to measure habitat use (scaling up earlier studies in France and Senegal to flyway-scale). This will be implemented at suitable project sites across the network. The automated radio-telemetry will also be used to calibrate capture-mark-recapture methods that can be used to assess the importance of sites for AW and to quantify the effect of net-avoidance and sampling biases in ringing studies. The project will upscale the operation of reference ringing stations (T.5.1.1.4) across the network, and develop and disseminate a standard methodology to be applied across the flyway to assess the importance of sites.

So far, national and international action plans played an important role in guiding the conservation of the AW and the collaboration amongst organisations along the flyway under the AWCT and the AW MoU. The project's sustainability, replication and exploitation strategy aims to build on these structures and will promote the development or update of national (T.6.1.1) and international (T.6.1.2) species action plans. These plans will be important elements of the project's After-LIFE Conservation Plan (T.6.1.3) in which project partners both collectively and individually set out their plans on maintaining the project's results. The project's steering committee will pay special attention to developing and implementing a transferability and replication strategy (TRS; T.6.2).

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### 1.5 Upscaling results of other EU funded projects *(n/a for concept note)*

#### Upscaling results of other EU funded projects *(n/a for concept note)*

*Explain if and how the proposal builds on or up-scales results of other EU funded projects.*

The LIFE AVOM project intends to build on and scale up the results of earlier LIFE projects for AW to other regions of the former target countries and to new countries in the flyway.

The first LIFE project in France, "Conservation du phragmite aquatique en Bretagne" (Conservation of the AW in Brittany, LIFE04 NAT/FR/000086), initiated the first elements of knowledge of habitats favourable to the species and the first tests on the restoration of habitats for the species on a small scale in Brittany. European Regional Development Funds were then used to develop knowledge of migration sites and map the species' habitats in Brittany over the period 2010-2014 (first PNA). The LIFE AWOM project will scale up site management and monitoring activities established under this earlier LIFE project to other regions in France and other countries in the flyway.

In Spain, two LIFE projects have targeted the conservation of the AW. The Conservation of the Aquatic Warbler in the ZEPA "La Nava-Campos" (LIFE02 NAT/ES/008616) project has been implemented from 2006 to 2006 in Castilla León. It has implemented flooding and tested different habitat management techniques at La Nava and increased the scientific knowledge of the species and its habitat at La Nava. The LIFE Paludicola project (LIFE16 NAT/ ES/000168) was implemented between 2017 and 2021. The project has restored and improved 380 hectares of habitat for the species at Boada de Campos, Marjal del Moro and l'Albufera de Valencia through implementation of hydraulic works, grazing and mowing. The project has further improved the knowledge of the species population through detailed surveys and promoted the integration of the species requirements into agri-environmental programmes. The LIFE AWOM project builds on the results of these previous LIFE projects

and intends to address the needs identified by the LIFE PALUDICOLA project. This proposal intends to replicate and extend actions both within the same sites and to new areas. In addition, the LIFE AWOM also proposes new actions to respond to the development of the vegetation on the sites. The LIFE AWOM project also extends the lessons learnt from the previous projects to other countries in the flyway.

In the recently approved and started Strategic Nature Project (SNaP) Life Belgium4Biodiversity (LIFE21-IPN-BE-B4B), Natuurpunt implements a dedicated action to boost Business Conservation Partnerships (BCPs) in Flanders, and upscale the approach to other regions in Europe. It intends to realise important collaborations in different sectors of business where working together has a real and substantial impact for wildlife, for people's well-being and for the future of the environment. As well as generating more nature and increasing biodiversity, Natuurpunt will help its partners to deliver on their sustainability goals, to integrate biodiversity into their business practice and potentially to reduce their cost base whilst doing so. Natuurpunt works only with companies which have a demonstrated commitment to improve internal as well as sectorial environmental performance. Natuurpunt is going to share its expertise of on BCPs with the LIFE AWOM partners, integrating insights into WP6 of our project as part of the After-LIFE conservation plan and the project's TRS.

In addition to LIFE projects, WP2 of the LIFE AWOM project intends to identify a comprehensive, coherent and climate resilient flyway network for the AW. This network will contribute to the creation of the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N). The Natura Connect Horizon project (implemented in 2022–2026) also aims to predict species distribution and multi-scale connectivity using advanced modelling techniques (<https://naturaconnect.eu/wp3-baselines-and-scenarios-for-european-biodiversity/>). It is expected that by the start of the LIFE AWOM the Natura Connect project will be already in the final phases of its implementation and the LIFE AWOM project can build on the methodological advances the HORIZON project will make on modelling techniques and scenarios. This will be facilitated by CSIC, a member of the LIFE AWOM consortium that is also a co-lead of WP.3 Baselines and scenarios for European biodiversity in the Natura Connect project.

## 1.6 Complementarity with other actions *(n/a for concept note)*

### Complementarity with other actions *(n/a for concept note)*

*Explain how the project is complementary to other regional, national or international initiatives/activities/projects. How will it integrate the results from these other actions?*

#### International level

*Ramsar Convention on Wetlands:* The project targets 11 Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) in Belgium (De Ijzerbroeken te Diksmuide en Lo-Reninge), France (Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin, Baie des Veys), Spain (Doñana, Aiguamolls de l'Empordà, Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca, L'Albufera, Marjal de Pego-Oliva, Laguna de Manjavacas and Laguna de La Nava de Fuentes), Portugal (Lagoa de Santo André et Lagoa de Sancha) and Senegal (Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj) and promotes the designation of new Ramsar sites in Spain.

*EU and CMS ISAP for the Aquatic Warbler* (see the Description of Species and Habitats template): This project supports the implementation of the ISAP whose implementation is coordinated by the BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team (AWCT). This project focuses on the conservation of the species during the migration and wintering stages of the species' annual cycle and complements another LIFE proposal (LIFE4AquaticWarbler) focusing on the AW conservation on the breeding grounds.

*EU Birds and Habitats Directives:* The project contributes to the conservation and management of 85 Natura 2000 sites in four EU Member States by carrying out restoration work at individual Natura 2000 sites (T.3.1), advocating the inclusion of AW into the Standard Data Forms and conservation objectives of the sites where the species occurs in significant numbers, but are not mentioned in these documents (T.3.2).

*EU Biodiversity Strategy:* The project aims to improve the status of the AW and it will contribute to the status improvement target of the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

*EU Nature Restoration Law:* The project will develop and demonstrate restoration methods for small wetlands and will identify AW habitats to be included into the National Nature Restoration Plans to be developed by the Member States (T.3.3).

### **National/regional level**

#### **Flanders, Belgium:**

The project is complementary to several Flemish actions and policy initiatives:

#### Blue Deal programme: Relance Plan Flemish Resilience

The actions implemented in WP3 and WP6 (replicability) are fully in line with the “Blue Deal” programme. The LIFE AWOM will contribute in particular to the following three (of six) tracks of the Blue Deal:

- Agriculture and nature become part of the solution;
- Security of supply is increased;
- Together we invest in innovation to make our water system smarter, more robust and more sustainable.

#### Flemish Decree on Integrated Water Policy

With this LIFE project we make a significant contribution to the realisation of the Flemish Decree on Integrated Water Policy that transposes the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive in Flemish legislation.

#### Flemish Natura 2000 Programme

The objectives proposed for the project are fully in line with the Flemish Natura 2000 programme and were discussed before the project was submitted with the relevant Flemish administration, the Agency for Nature and Forests. The LIFE AWOM, will achieve the restoration objectives for the AW and its habitat. In this way, we will contribute to the realisation of more robust target habitats and the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

#### Flemish Energy and Climate Plan (VEKP) 2021-2030

The project gives a very good interpretation of the VEKP and more specifically to the following measures within the chapter on land use and forestry (LULUCF):

- Use climate, biodiversity and water management as guiding objectives in the design and management of wetlands;
- Invest in extra nature in function of European nature and climate goals (+20.000 ha extra nature under nature management by 2024);
- Investing in more carbon storage in carbon rich ecosystems.

#### **Spain**

The AW in Spain is not included in the Spanish Catalogue of Threatened Species, so it does not have an approved Conservation or Recovery Strategy in place, or an official national Action Plan to help conserve and improve the management of migratory stopover sites. For this reason, the participation of Spain is very important, as the LIFE AWOM would allow several conservation actions to be carried out in numerous wetlands across the country and

to try to get the regional and state governments to incorporate these measures into their wetland conservation programmes, especially in the Natura 2000 Network areas. The LIFE AWOM would also make it possible to create a wider migration monitoring network between different working groups and ringing groups for the species that would allow knowledge and experience to be shared. In addition, LIFE AWOM will provide the information that supports the arguments for the declaration of the AW as Vulnerable in the National and Regional Catalogues of Threatened Species.

### **France**

France is implementing a new National Action Plan (2022-2031) with the main aim to maintain or increase feeding habitats at migratory stopover sites. France's participation in LIFE AWOM will enable a number of habitat restoration projects to be carried out at key sites, as well as the development of migration monitoring (quality of stopover sites, population and breeding success assessment and migration routes) on a European scale.

### **Portugal**

In Portugal, the LIFE AWOM will be an important complement for:

- The management of Natura 2000 sites, particularly the small coastal lagoons with priority habitats and are under severe threat;
- The development of a National Action Plan together with national authorities;
- Awareness raising amongst the general public and stakeholders concerning the importance of coastal wetlands for biodiversity and to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

## **1.7 Synergies and co-benefits with other LIFE sub-programmes (n/a for concept note)**

### **Synergies and co-benefits with other LIFE sub-programmes (n/a for concept note)**

*Describe synergies with other LIFE sub-programmes (Nature and Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Quality of Life, Climate Change or Clean Energy Transition). Describe spillover effects (co-benefits) in addition to those targeted by the project. If possible, quantify the contribution.*

*Identify the activities/tasks that address these policy objectives of other LIFE sub-programmes.*

#### **LIFE Nature & Biodiversity subprogramme**

Parallel to the LIFE AWOM project, there is another LIFE Nature & Biodiversity Standard Action Project submitted to the 2023 call (**LIFE4AquaticWarbler**) by the Baltic Environmental Forum and partners from the breeding range states of AW: Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Hungary and Ukraine. That project focuses on conserving the target species at the breeding ground and increasing the reproductive success of the species, while the LIFE AWOM proposal focuses on the conservation of staging and wintering sites and thus increasing the survival rate of the species. Together, the two projects will comprehensively address the flyway-scale conservation of the AW. If both projects are supported, they will collaborate on networking with AW experts, exchange of experience on habitat management, updating the ISAP and contributing to the work of the AW MoU.

Through Natuurpunt, the LIFE AWOM project will collaborate with Eurosite, the European Land Conservation Network that is currently implementing a LIFE preparatory project focusing on the involvement of private landowners in nature conservation: **LIFE ENPLC – European Networks for Private Land Conservation** (LIFE19 PRE/NL/000003). The findings of that project are highly relevant for scaling up the habitat restoration measures for the AW.

ICO is the coordinating beneficiary of the **LIFE EBP reinforcement** (LIFE22-PLP-ES-EBP reinforcement) project. That project assembles citizen science data through the

EuroBirdPortal (EBP). To support the LIFE AWOM project, the EBP databank will include the AW data collected in Europe by different online bird portals. Moreover, the dynamic distribution models to be developed for the AW under the LIFE AWOM project will also benefit from the experience developed in the context of the EBP and specifically some tasks of the LIFE EBP reinforcement (e.g. Work Package 11). Working closely with EBP/EBCC and LIFE EBP reinforcement will also facilitate access to other datasets that are necessary to build up the database under task T.2.1 of the LIFE AWOM project e.g. from individual online bird recording portals and standard bird monitoring schemes, but also from EURING and its schemes, with which EBP works closely. The actions undertaken on WP5 (field data collection) will also help the EBP to collect more and better data on the species.

#### **LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation subprogramme**

The LIFE AWOM project will contribute to climate change mitigation through the wetland restoration measures planned under T.3.1. While degraded wetlands are a major source of GHG emissions, restored wetlands sequester carbon. Our project provides a nature-based solution to store GHG as a contribution to the climate mitigation goals. It will set an example in nature development as a contribution to climate change objectives.

The wetlands restored under T.3.1 will also contribute to mitigating the impact of climate change. They will work as natural sponges and absorb more water than drained areas. The water in the restored systems will also remain longer, thereby contributing to the prevention of flooding of downstream (urban) areas. For example, the pilot site Blankaart (Flanders, Belgium) plays a crucial role in flood mitigation in Woumen, Diksmuide and Nieuwpoort (about 100,000 inhabitants in total) and the adjacent highly productive agricultural areas. Thanks to the greatly increased infiltration effect through wetland restoration, the LIFE project will also make a significant contribution in replenishing the groundwater table and thus mitigate the effects of prolonged droughts and water scarcity in the very broad surroundings of the project areas with significant positive impacts on (drinking) water supply, agricultural production and water reclamation, among others.

In France, A new LIFE project named ADTAPO (II) is being prepared by the Conservatoire du Littoral. As the successor to the LIFE ADAPTO (LIFE16 CCA/FR/000131) that was implemented between 2017 and 2021, this new project will also concern AW migration sites. Therefore, networking and exchange of ideas will be actively sought between the LIFE Adapto (II) and the LIFE AWOM project.

#### **LIFE Clean Energy Transition subprogramme**

For the rewetting measures in WP3 in pilot site Blankaart, Natuurpunt will use innovative solar pumps, among other technologies. These will achieve rewetting without using fossil energy sources. The deployment of these solar pumps will be included in LIFE AWOM's communication, promotion and replication initiatives.

### **1.8 Synergies and co-benefits with other EU policy areas (n/a for concept note)**

#### **Synergies and co-benefits with other EU policy areas (n/a for concept note)**

*Describe the synergies and positive spillover effects (co-benefits) with other EU policy areas (for example agriculture, health, civil protection, jobs and growth, etc.). If possible, quantify the contribution.*

*Identify the activities/tasks that address these other EU policy objectives.*

#### **Water Frame Directive and Flood Directive**

Through the restoration of wetland areas, the project will contribute to the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Floods Directive as increased water retention capacity reduces flood risk during long and/or intense periods of rainfall and retains sufficient

levels of (ground)water in periods of severe drought. The habitat restoration actions, will also contribute to achieving good water quality status.

### **European Water Scarcity and Droughts Policy**

The project will restore the natural hydrology of wetlands (T.3.1) which is crucial to improve the balance between water demand and available resources.

### **Agricultural policy**

Local farmers will benefit from improved crop security through the reduced flood and drought risk (see above in this and the previous sections), the project activities turning extracted materials into compost (T.3.1) and the knowledge dissemination activities under WP6.

### **Well-being and health**

Natural areas and wetlands with visitor facilities offer benefits by improving the quality of life for inhabitants of surrounding areas. Proximity to nature has a positive impact on health and well-being, contributes to social objectives, and has a proven impact on reduced public expenditures for healthcare. Many problems like obesity, decreasing social relations and stress-related problems like burn-out, can be partly solved by spending more time in nature. The restoration of natural areas under this project targeting some popular areas will thus contribute to a healthier society.

### **Recreation and (eco)tourism related jobs**

Some of the restored areas are equipped with cycle trails and footpaths that make these sites an attractive destination and adds value to the economy of the whole region by supporting recreation activities.

### **Volunteering and citizen science**

Volunteering has a very strong tradition in many partner organisations. Natuurpunt involves many local volunteers in site management (WP3), monitoring (WP5) and communications (WP6). Their monitoring work is an example of citizen science as volunteers will gather information on the species, its habitat and water quality. The Life AWOM project aims to further expand and broaden volunteer engagement to create a large support base and to ensure the sustainability of the project. Involving volunteers is part of an inclusive society, where there is room for all people on the basis of equal rights and obligations.

### **EU Youth Strategy**

Some project partners will particularly encourage young people to volunteer. They have already started an active youth work programme that will contribute to the project. Thus, the project will contribute to the EU Youth Strategy, which attaches great importance to the voluntary involvement of young people in our society.

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## **2. IMPACT**

Fill in **only** sections 2.1-2.3 at stage 1 (concept note). Fill in **all sections** at stage 2 (full proposal).

### **2.1 Ambition of the impacts**

#### **Ambition of the impacts**

*Identify and quantify the effects of the project (during the implementation and up to 5 years after its end).*

*Be specific and provide only information about impacts that are a result of your project. The impact of other projects should not be taken into account.*

*Wherever possible, use quantified indicators and targets.*

**Note:** In addition to the description above, for stage 2 (full proposals) include quantified indicators in Part C of the application forms (both horizontal KPIs for the LIFE programme as well as any specific KPIs relevant to the proposal). Ensure correspondence between Part B and Part C.

The ultimate aim of the LIFE AWOM project is to contribute to the recovery of the globally threatened AW by increasing its annual survival through improvements in the quality and extent of its staging and wintering habitats. The overall impact of the project could be measured through the changes in the overall population size and survival rate. However, none of these could be attributed solely to our project. The population size is also strongly influenced by the breeding success, which depends primarily on the quality and extent of the breeding habitats. The survival rate depends more, but not exclusively, on the quality and extent of staging and wintering sites. The AW performs a loop migration using the Atlantic coast for the post-nuptial migration, but a large proportion of the birds return to the breeding grounds using a more easterly route across the Sahara and the Mediterranean that is partly outside of the geographic scope of the project due to the security situation. In addition, measuring annual survival with an acceptable accuracy would only be feasible on the breeding ground, not on the staging or wintering sites due to the relatively low annual survival rates of the species and its low fidelity to such areas.

Therefore, the project's **direct impact** can be best measured through the extent and quality of the habitats available for the AW as these depend only on the interventions of the project.

- I.1. The project intends to directly restore and maintain 1,119 ha of habitat for the species in four European countries and Senegal (T.3.1). The indicator of this impact is the extent of restored areas. Project activities under T.5.1 will establish the relationship between habitat use, habitat quality and habitat extent, but the extent of good habitats will be the measure of the impact of habitat restoration, and this will also be the Key Performance Indicator the project will measure.
- I.2. The project also aims to protect c. 600 ha of wintering and staging areas in Senegal as community-based conservation area (T.3.4).
- I.3. The importance of at least 15 new sites will be validated for AW in Europe and Africa as a result of the GFSs (T.3.3).
- I.4. The protection of at least 6 new sites will be proposed and supported through small grants in Africa (T.3.2.3).
- I.5. At a minimum of 11 Special Protection Areas the importance of the site for AW will be recognised in the Natura 2000 Standard Data Form and their conservation objectives by the end of the project. This represents a more than 12% increase in the Natura 2000 sites supporting the species during its passage (T.3.2).
- I.6. At least 1,000 ha of AW habitats will be included into the member states' national nature restoration plans by the end of the project in 2029 and restoration works will start in at least one-third of this area by 2034 (T.3.3).

It is also expected that the project will have a significant additional **indirect impact** by reaching out to the managers of other Natura 2000 sites identified for the AW (there are 45 other SPAs in the project countries alone that are not involved in the project where the AW is a trigger species) and managers of other Natura 2000 sites with sedge and reed marshes (potentially several hundreds). Based on these considerations, we assume that the project's indirect impact may reach 5,000 ha. The activities that aim at the valorisation of management residues by turning them into compost (T.3.1) and the dissemination of the results and lessons learnt (T.6.2) can improve the financial viability and sustainability of the management of sedge and reed marshes across the EU. Another opportunity for scaling up is the integration of threatened species conservation into nature-based solutions (waste-water treatment, coastal and riparian flood defence). All of these will be promoted through WP6.



The project's scientific approach to systematic conservation planning at flyway-scale will also serve as an example for the science-based conservation planning for other threatened species with a lot of knowledge gaps.

## 2.2 Credibility of the impacts

### Credibility of the impacts

*Show the steps of your calculations and base yourself on the activities mentioned in your work plan.*

*Justify and substantiate the baselines, benchmarks and assumptions you used, making reference to relevant publications, studies or statistics.*

*Try to use the same methodologies for calculating impacts (avoid using different methodologies for each partner, region or country).*

The estimate for the extent of habitat restored and maintained is based on the planned habitat restoration and management activities described under T.3.1, not taking into account length of water management and other infrastructural work. These estimates are based on the preparatory works of the project partners.

The extent of the community-based conservation area in Senegal is based on the mapping of suitable areas in the vicinity of Tiguete and Debi by Tegetmeyer *et al.* (2014) and discussions between the local communities, the representatives of the Directorate of National Parks and our local project partner WIACO.

The estimate of at least 15 new key sites for AW is based on the assumption that 11 gap filling expeditions are planned to Africa and at least one in each of the European project countries.

The estimate that the protection of at least six new sites will be proposed in Africa is based on the budget allocation for six small grant projects in Africa under T.3.2.3.

The estimate recognising the importance of the AW in at least 11 Special Protection Areas is based on the review of the Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms of each restoration sites where the occurrence of the species is confirmed by earlier studies, but the SDF does not mention it.

The level of ambition to include at least 1,000 ha of AW habitats into the NNRP's project activities under T.3.3 is currently just an estimate but the consultations planned under T.3.3 will help quantify the necessary areas more precisely.

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## 2.3 Sustainability of project results

### Sustainability of project results

*Describe your strategy to sustain the project's results after the EU funding ends. Consider the following aspects:*

- *How will the project impact be ensured and sustained? Which tasks will you carry out during the project to ensure that?*
- *Which parts of the project should be continued or maintained? How will this be achieved and which resources will be necessary?*

The project will apply a range of strategies both in country and internationally to sustain the project's results and these are detailed in WP 6 and can be summarised as follows.

#### Internationally

##### ISAP

The project's result will contribute to the implementation of the AW MoU. The findings of the LIFE AWOM project (in collaboration with the LIFE4AquaticWarbler project, if funded, and with the AWCT) will be integrated into the update of the ISAP (T.6.1.2) to be endorsed by the

NADEG and adopted by the Meeting of the Signatories to the MoU. This will create new commitments for the continuation of the project's actions and sustain the project's results. In particular, the new scientific insights gained through WP2 shall be reflected in the revised version.

### **After-LIFE Conservation Plan**

The plan to be developed under T.6.3 will spell out the concrete steps for the conservation of the species both at international and at national level.

#### **Nationally**

Sustainability of the project's results at national level will also require concerted efforts. Some countries (France, Belgium and Spain) already have existing structures to coordinate the work on the AW at national level. Other countries (such as Portugal, Senegal and other African countries) will need to learn from the experiences of those countries and establish their own coordination mechanisms. Organisations from Portugal and Senegal will be part of the project consortium, while other countries (Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria and possibly also Mali and Burkina Faso) will engage with the project more loosely through GFSs (T.2.4) and a small grant scheme (T.3.2.3). Nevertheless, the project will support the development or update of national SAPs for the AW (T.6.1.2) and of country chapters of the After-LIFE Conservation Plan (T.6.3) which will guide further works at national level. Following up the integration of the results of WP2 on the site network and implementing the proposals made for new habitat restoration activities under T.3.3. will need to be followed up in the framework of these plans by a broader group of organisations.

### **Maintenance of restored sites**

The project focuses on habitat restoration measures (T.3.1) which means that the project primarily seeks support to initial investments. After the restoration of the site, some recurring management will be needed at some of the sites. This will be implemented by the local site management partners from their own resources and with the support of regional and national authorities, seeking valorisation of management residues to farmers and other partnerships with businesses (T.6.2). In each country, the project consortium includes organisations with decades long site management experiences. They have skilled staff and processes to ensure the maintenance of the restored areas. They will also involve volunteers to support this work.

### **Monitoring activities**

Monitoring activities are designed in such a way that they either result in the development of proxy indicators for habitat quality and extent (T.5.1) or the project focuses on the development of a replicable monitoring methodology (T.5.2) and will focus on disseminating that knowledge to site managers and training volunteers and others in implementing those methods at other sites.

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## **2.4 Exploitation of project results (n/a for concept note)**

### **Exploitation of project results (n/a for concept note)**

*Do you foresee other ways of exploiting the project's results (e.g. utilisation in further research, in developing / creating / marketing a product or process, in creating / providing a service, in standardisation activities etc.)? Who are the targeted users?*

*For close-to-market projects: Describe the reference market: actual and potential market size, features of prospective customers and of their demand, competitors, market and regulatory barriers, etc. Explain the economic feasibility of the proposed solution comparing cost, price or other economic investment variables (e.g. payback period, net present value, etc.).*

**Note:** Don't forget to include the activities in the mandatory Work Package for Sustainability, replication, and exploitation of project results.

The LIFE AWOM project will assist range states and regions responsible for the implementation of the Birds Directive to better comply with their obligations, improve the management and monitoring of Natura 2000 areas and contribute to the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law and the species recovery targets.

The LIFE AWOM project offers a unique opportunity to exploit an innovative pilot around converting biomass from marshland and reedbed management to carbon-rich compost for soil quality restoration in agricultural areas (see T.3.1.1.3) as a win-win model for nature management and agriculture in the context of circular economy. With the adoption of the EU Nature Restoration Law, it is expected that (wetland) habitat restoration will substantially increase across Europe. This will result in the extraction of a large amount of carbon-rich materials that might be either deposited somewhere or could be turned into a valuable resource.

Another recurring theme of the restoration projects implemented in this project is using water released from water treatment plans to create habitat for conservation. This will become increasingly important in the arid regions of Europe (and Africa) where it is expected that surface waterbodies will be adversely affected by climate change.

The project's predictions on the exposure of key sites to climate change (T.2.5) will also help managers of the key sites in planning climate change adaptation strategies.

## 2.5 Catalytic potential: Replication and upscaling

### Catalytic potential: Replication and upscaling *(n/a for concept note)*

*Describe the potential for the results to be replicated in the same or other sectors or places. Which factors might favour or limit the replication?*

*Describe the potential for the results to be up-scaled by public/private actors or through mobilising larger investments or financial resources. What is the coverage and size of the market? Who are the potential users of the results?*

*Describe the strategy and tasks to multiply the impact of the project (during implementation or afterwards). How will its main actions and results be replicated elsewhere?*

**Note:** Don't forget to include the activities in the mandatory Work Package for Sustainability, replication, and exploitation of project results.

The LIFE AWOM project offers several results that can be replicated or upscaled.

#### **Systematic conservation planning**

WP2 of the project will use a portfolio of scientific techniques to identify a comprehensive, coherent and climate resilient flyway site network for an unobtrusive species in contrast to the (somewhat haphazard) criteria-based method so far applied for SPA selection under the Birds Directive. This approach may serve as an example for the conservation planning of other threatened species and can help achieve the species recovery target. Potential users of the results include the Nature Unit of the EC, the CMS Secretariat and its other MoUs and flyway instruments as well as other international species working groups. The scientific results of the project will be promoted under T.6.2.6.

#### **Replication and upscaling of site restoration and management experience**

Under T.3.1, the LIFE AWOM project will demonstrate habitat restoration methods on the staging areas of the species. Twinning projects amongst the project partners and others and documentation of the project's results will promote their replication. Implementing habitat restoration at flyway-scale will be limited by both technical skills and funding. The project will address this by sharing experiences concerning business models to finance habitat- and ecosystem restoration. The key target audience of this activity will be other site managers and Natuurpunt, TdV and FGN will play an important role in the upscaling process. T.6.2 is dedicated to upscaling the results.

### Upscaling site monitoring

Knowing the importance of a site for AW and monitoring its suitability over time is an important prerequisite for the conservation of the species' staging and wintering sites. Unfortunately, the majority of the Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms for the AW in Spain and Portugal contain no quantitative population size estimates and many of the sites where the species occurs in significant number are not recognised. Monitoring AW at staging and wintering areas is difficult due to its unobtrusive behaviour. The project will develop standardised and cost-effective monitoring techniques under WP5 that can be scaled up and applied across the entire site network.

### Extending AW conservation to Africa

So far, the conservation of species has mainly focused on Europe and African countries themselves were not very active. The LIFE AWOM project aims to extend these efforts to Portugal, whose importance for the species was only recently recognised, and to Africa. Here, we focus on Senegal but will also pursue active engagement with other range states (Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria) depending on the security situation.

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## 3. IMPLEMENTATION

Fill in **only** section 3.1 and 3.3 at stage 1 (concept note). Fill in **all sections** at stage 2 (full proposal).

### 3.1 Work plan

#### Work plan

*Provide a brief description of the overall structure of the work plan (list of work packages or graphical presentation (PERT chart or similar)).*

The proposed work programme includes 6 work packages:

**WP1. Project management:** This WP contains activities related to project management and governance activities at national and project level and structures to facilitate collaboration amongst the co-beneficiaries on certain technical issues.

**WP2. Site network:** This WP contains scientific activities related to defining a comprehensive, coherent and climate resilient flyway site network for the AW.

**WP3. Habitat restoration and management:** This WP contains activities focusing on the restoration and management of staging and wintering habitats for the AW. It also includes activities that aim to scale up the AW conservation by making the necessary information available for the relevant national authorities to better protect its habitat within the Natura 2000 Network and integrate its habitat management requirements into their NNRPs, new PAFs and new CAP Strategic Plans.

**WP4. Communications and outreach:** This WP includes awareness raising activities about the AW, the project, the Natura 2000 Network and the LIFE Programme (T.4.1) as well as outreach activities that target the local population, farmers, businesses and decision-makers at the project sites (T.4.2).

**WP5. Monitoring and evaluation:** This WP includes a set of activities focusing on establishing a connection between the easily measurable and observable presence of habitats and the habitat quality by measuring food availability and habitat use, whilst also developing standards to monitor site importance in a comparable manner.

**WP6. Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results:** This WP includes the development or update of national and international SAPs, an After-LIFE Conservation Plan and a range of other activities to scale up and exploit the project's results.



### 3.2 Work packages and activities (n/a for concept note)

#### WORK PACKAGES (n/a for concept note)

##### Work packages

*This section concerns a detailed description of the project activities.*

*Group your activities into work packages. A work package means a major sub-division of the project. For each work package, enter an objective (expected outcome) and list the activities, milestones and deliverables that belong to it. The grouping should be logical and guided by identifiable outputs.*

*The number of work packages should be proportionate to the scale and complexity of the project. WP1 should cover the project management and coordination activities (meetings, coordination, project monitoring and evaluation, financial management, progress reports, etc.) and all the activities which are cross-cutting and therefore difficult to assign to just one specific work package (do not try splitting these activities across different work packages). WP2 (and further WPs) should be used for the other project activities. You can create as many work packages as needed by copying the structure of WP1.*

*Include a **mandatory work package** called “Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results”.*

*For Nature and Biodiversity, include also a mandatory work package on “Monitoring and evaluation”.*

*In addition, ensure your work packages cover also the following activities:*

- dissemination and communication, including networking with other LIFE projects
- impact monitoring and evaluation
- reporting of (estimated and actually achieved) key-performance indicators (KPIs) in the [LIFE KPI web tool](#) within the first 9 months from grant signature and at the end of the project

*Work packages covering **financial support to third parties** (⚠ only allowed if authorised in the Call document) must describe the conditions for implementing the support (for grants: max amounts per third party; criteria for calculating the exact amounts, types of activity that qualify (closed list), persons/categories of persons to be supported and criteria and procedures for giving support; for prizes: eligibility and award criteria, amount of the prize and payment arrangements).*

##### **Mandatory deliverables:**

- dedicated project page on the beneficiaries’ websites
- exploitation plan including replication component / business plan including replication component / “After-LIFE Conservation Plan”
- extract of the project data from the LIFE KPI webtool (month 9 and end of the project) (n/a for Clean Energy Transition)
- in case of land purchase, digital copies of the land register (with “conservation clause”)

⚠ Enter each activity/milestone/output/outcome/deliverable only once (under one work package).

⚠ Ensure consistency with the detailed budget table/calculator (if applicable). (n/a for prefixed Lump Sum Grants)

### Objectives and results

List the specific objectives to which the work package is linked and expected results.

### Activities and division of work (WP description)

Provide a concise overview of the work (planned tasks). Be specific and give a short name and number for each task. The tasks should be numbered continuously, linked to the WP they relate to (e.g. T.1.1, T.1.2, T.2.1, etc.).

Show who is participating in each task: Coordinator (COO), Beneficiaries (BEN), Affiliated Entities (AE), Associated Partners (AP), indicating **in bold** the task leader.

Add information on other participants' involvement in the project e.g. subcontractors, in-kind contributions.

#### Note:

The Coordinator remains fully responsible for the coordination tasks, even if they are delegated to someone else. Coordinator tasks cannot be subcontracted.

### Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)

**Milestones** are control points in the project that help to chart progress (e.g. completion of a key deliverable allowing the next phase of the work to begin). Use them for major outputs or achievements expected during the project time, and not only at the end. Please limit the number of milestones by work package.

Means of verification are how you intend to prove that a milestone has been reached. If appropriate, you can also refer to indicators.

Milestones have a continuous numbering not linked to their WP (e.g. MS1, MS2, etc).

**Deliverables** are project outputs which are submitted to show project progress (any format). Refer only to major outputs. Do not include minor sub-items, internal working papers, meeting minutes, etc.

For deliverables such as meetings, events, seminars, trainings, workshops, webinars, conferences, etc., enter each deliverable separately and provide the following in the "Description" field: invitation, agenda, signed presence list, target group, number of estimated participants, duration of the event, report of the event, training material package, presentations, evaluation report, feedback questionnaire.

For deliverables such as manuals, toolkits, guides, reports, leaflets, brochures, training materials etc., add in the "Description" field: format (electronic or printed), language(s), approximate number of pages and estimated number of copies of publications (if any).

Deliverables a continuous numbering linked to their WP, (e.g. D1.1 in WP1, D2.1 in WP2, etc).

For each deliverable you will have to indicate a due month by when you commit to upload it in the Portal. The due month of the deliverable cannot be outside the duration of the work package and must be in line with the timeline provided below. Month 1 marks the start of the project and all deadlines should be related to this starting date.

The labels used mean:

Public — fully open (⚠ automatically posted online on the Project Results platforms)

Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement

EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision [2015/444](#). For items classified under other rules (e.g. national or international organisation), please select the equivalent EU classification level.

## Work Package 1

<b>Work Package 1: Project management and coordination</b> <i>(n/a for concept note)</i>			
<b>Duration:</b>	M01 – M60	<b>Lead Beneficiary:</b>	1-WI-EA
<b>Objectives and results</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To carry out the project coordination and management in accordance with the management structure and decision-making mechanisms of the project.</li> </ul>			
<b>Results</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractual requirements of the LIFE project are fulfilled.</li> </ul>			
<b>Activities and division of work (WP description)</b>			
<b>T.1.1 Establish and operate project management structures (WI-EA, BEN)<sup>1</sup>:</b>			
<b><u>T.1.1.1 Project coordination unit (WI-EA)</u></b>			
A Project Coordination Unit (PCU) will be established within WI-EA within the first month of the project ( <b>MS1</b> ).			
This unit will have a twofold role: (1) to oversee the financial monitoring of the project including monitoring financial progress, supporting the partners in administrative, financial, legal and other aspects of the project and fulfilling payments and (2) to ensure project coordination and the day-to-day management of activities. The PCU will include:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>I.7. Programme Head (PH):</b> will provide strategic guidance during the implementation of the project.</li> <li><b>I.8. Biodiversity Manager (BM):</b> will monitor and supervise the PCU, champion the project and assist resolving any risks and issues that may arise.</li> </ul>			

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<sup>1</sup> BEN indicates all project beneficiaries. In such cases only the lead beneficiary is mentioned separately.



- I.9. **The Project Manager (PM):** will represent the project in its interaction with the European Commission (EC), third parties and the public, provide for regular discussion and interchange with WP Leaders, ensure that the overall vision of the project is maintained and that it fulfils its objectives, provide day-to-day project management, track and measure progress in terms of work timelines and outputs, provide support to all WP and WT Leaders to ensure timely production of all deliverables and adherence to the Consortium Agreement, and setting of agendas for meetings.
- I.10. **Project Coordinator (PC):** will support the Project Manager in the day-to-day activities with special attention to coordination of partners, reporting and general operations.
- I.11. **Financial controller (FC):** will provide relevant expertise for financial management, collation of financial records, financial reporting to the EC, and verification of transfers to partners.
- I.12. **Communications officer (CO):** will lead the project's Communication Task Force (CTF), lead the delivery of WP4 on communications and outreach as well as contribute to the dissemination and upscaling of the project's results.

#### **T.1.1.2 Co-beneficiary coordination units (BEN)**

Each co-beneficiary will have its own Coordination Unit (CCU) to organise its own activities. Typically, the CCUs will include a coordinator responsible for the day-to-day management of the co-beneficiary's activities and reporting to the PCU, a finance staff responsible for the financial administration, monitoring and reporting within the organisation to the PCU, a communication officer and other staff of the co-beneficiary involved in the implementation of the actions. The coordinators will be the main contact points for the PM, the finance staff for the FO and the communication officers for the CO. List of staff and names and contact details of the CCU coordinators will be sent to WI-EA (**MS2**).

#### **T.1.1.3 Project Steering Committee (WI-EA, BEN)**

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will include one representative from each of the project beneficiaries and a representative of the AWCT, the representative of the LIFE4AquaticWarbler project (if funded) and of the CMS Secretariat responsible for the MoU.

The role of the PSC is to oversee the work of the PCU and CCU (T.1.1.1 and T.1.1.2) and to provide support and advice as necessary to ensure effective delivery of the project on schedule and within budget. The PSC will also encourage collective thinking, discussion and problem-solving. It will advise on the appropriate course of remedial actions if necessary. The PSC will be chaired by the PH of WI-EA, who will convene the meetings. Other members of the Steering Committee will be senior staff of the project beneficiaries supervising their project teams. Staff from the beneficiaries and other project partners will also attend the PSC as required. The PSC meetings will usually be held online to save travel costs and to reduce the carbon footprint of the project. When possible, PSC meetings will be held in-person linked to other project meetings where the majority of the project partners will be present. It is foreseen to hold 10 PSC meetings during the five-year lifespan of the project, in the first and third quarter of each year (**MS3**). The first meeting each year will be in late January or early February to review the draft technical and financial progress reports. Extraordinary PSC meetings can be convened by the Chair deems it necessary. Meeting minutes will record recommendations to the PCU and CCUs. The meeting minutes will be signed by the Chair of the Committee and will be circulated to all partners.

#### **T.1.1.4 National Working Groups (BEN)**

In addition to the Project Steering Committee, National Working Groups (NWGs) will be formed in France, Spain and Senegal. The NWGs will include all national project partners, main subcontractors and key stakeholders. The NWGs will coordinate the implementation of in-country actions and will be a platform to ensure the engagement of key stakeholders with the project. They will meet at least quarterly. The NWGs will be chaired by a senior staff of a national beneficiary selected by the beneficiaries in the country. Minutes of their meetings will be shared with the PM.

#### **T.1.1.5 Task Forces (WI-EA, BEN)**

Besides the Project Steering Committee and the National Working Groups, four Task Forces (TF) will be set up to coordinate international activities under WP2, 4, 5 and 6. The TFs will be chaired by the WP lead and attended by the PM.

These structures will ensure that the project partners work together effectively on delivering the project and will be able to adapt to changing policy, security and financial circumstances.

#### **T.1.2 Technical and financial monitoring and reporting (WI-EA, BEN):**

WI-EA will take sole responsibility for liaising with, and reporting to, the Commission. WI-EA will ensure that all milestones are met and that all deliverables are prepared and submitted to the EC in accordance with contractual arrangements. Five Periodic Reports will be submitted directly on the EC portal in M14, M26, M38, M50 and M62. The PM will coordinate the production and submission of the continuous and periodic reporting through the Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous and Periodic Reporting modules. In this task he will be supported by the FO as well as coordinators of the CCUs.

The continuous reporting will include updates of deliverables, milestones, critical risks and programme-specific monitoring information.

Each project activity (and sub-activity) will have a lead organisation responsible for its delivery. The activity and sub-activity leads will be responsible for breaking down their sub-activities and activities into smaller, timebound steps (tasks) and allocate staff and other resources, start and end times for their implementation. These detailed plans and their subsequent changes will be approved by the Project Steering Committee.

Implementation of project activities will be monitored by the PM on a monthly basis using the project timeline and associated milestones and deliverables using simple but effective electronic forms. Each activity, sub-activity and contributing components will be assigned to simple (Kanban) status indicators such as:

- 1) To Do, 2) Doing, 3) Done

These status indicators will be used in conjunction with the time allocation to identify delayed tasks by the (sub-)activity leads and the PM. In case of delays, the (sub-)activity leads should also give a prognosis for the extent of delay and propose remedial actions.

Financial progress will be monitored against the task level estimates both for staff time and for subcontracts and other direct costs. Actual expenditure will be assessed against the budget using the following categories:

- 1) Under budget, 2) According to budget, 3) Over budget

In case of the last category, the difference between the actuals and the budget will be reported together with the proposed remedial actions. However, detailed financial reporting from project partners will be required only once in every six months (one by end of December and one by end of June).

At all levels, critical risks will be monitored and reported. The PM will regularly report on the project progress to the PSC prior to their regular meetings. In case of the risk of significant delays, budget overspending or the emergence of any other critical risks, he will immediately inform the PSC with an indication whether advise or intervention is required.

The PM will also liaise on a regular basis with the CINEA to respond to any requests for information and for site or project's evaluation visits.

#### **T.1.3 Drawing up and signing a consortium agreement (WI-EA, BEN):**

A consortium agreement (**D1.1**) between WI-EA, as a coordinating beneficiary, and the 14 co-beneficiaries will provide a clear framework for successful delivery of this project. The agreement will outline the roles and responsibilities of each partner in delivering the project objectives, schedules for technical and financial planning and reporting, the distribution of LIFE funds, the partner's co-financing, and management processes. The consortium agreement will also ensure that partners are aware of and adhere to both the General and Special Conditions of the LIFE programme. The consortium agreement shall be signed within 3 months from the beginning of the project.

The consortium agreement is an essential component to help ensure that the project goal and individual project objectives are delivered on schedule and within budget, and to safeguard the use of LIFE funds.

#### **T.1.4 Project “take off” conference (FGN, BEN)**

A project “take off” (launch) meeting (**D1.2**) will be organised by FGN in Spain in the first half of Y1. As the former coordinator of the LIFE Paludicola project, FGN is well placed to host the take off conference of the LIFE AWOM project that will build on the results of their previous project. The purpose of the conference is to launch the LIFE AWOM project and to offer an initial opportunity to bring together key stakeholders and collaborators. The invites will include the project partners, representatives of the EC, the CMS Secretariat, the AWCT, BirdLife International, Eurosite, national, regional and local authorities, communities and other LIFE projects. The conference will also offer excellent media (WP4) and scaling-up (WP6) opportunities. The PSC will compile the programme of the conference and identify the speakers. The CTF will be responsible for organising the communication and outreach activities.

#### **Summary of resources allocated to this WP:**

Personnel: in total 198 person-months across 14 organisations = € 909,151.

Travel and subsistence: € 101,734

Equipment: € 6,900

Other goods, works and services: € 164,100

#### **Major cost items (> € 30,000):**

Yearly audit costs for 14 partners and 5 years, legal advice for Consortium Agreement: € 135,000

Travel related to attending project meetings and take off conference: € 34,000

Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)							
Milestone No	Milestone Name	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	Description		Due Date (month number)	Means of Verification
MS1	PCU set up	1	WI-EA	PM, FO and CO are in place and assigned to the project		1	(Updated) TORs, Time registration
MS2	CCUs set up	1	WI-EA	Each co-beneficiary will set up a coordination unit to manage its own staff's input into the project		3	List of staff names and contact details of the CCU coordinators sent to WI-EA
MS3	10 PSC meetings	1	WI-EA	Two meetings annually		3, 9, 14, 21, 26, 32, 38, 45, 51, 56	Meeting minutes
Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month number)	Description (including format and language)
D1.1	Consortium agreement	1	WI-EA	OTHER	SEN	3	See description in T.1.3. Consortium Agreement signed by all parties uploaded to the Funding & Tenders Portal reporting module

D1.2	Project take off meeting	1	FGN	OTHER	PU	6	In-person conference of c. 100 people. Local languages with English translation.
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## Work Package 2

<b>Work Package 2: Site network</b> <i>(n/a for concept note)</i>			
<b>Duration:</b>	M01 – M54	<b>Lead Beneficiary:</b>	10-ICO
<b>Objectives and results</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify and publish the description of a coherent, comprehensive flyway site network for AW using the best available scientific data to guide further site conservation efforts.</li> </ul>			
<b>Results</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A database containing all observations of AW in the project countries is created and kept up to date.</li> <li>Species distribution models produced.</li> <li>Understanding of importance of sites in migratory connectivity improved.</li> <li>Knowledge gaps in key sites filled through targeted GFSs.</li> <li>Climate change exposure of key sites is understood.</li> <li>A coherent, comprehensive, and climate-resilient flyway site network for the AW is documented and shared with key national (governments) and international (European Commission, AW MoU) stakeholders.</li> </ul>			
<b>Activities and division of work (WP description)</b>			

**T.2.1. Database on species occurrence, condition and movements (ICO, Natuurpunt, FGN, CSIC, Bretagne Vivante, GONm, AssACROLA, SPEA, UAveiro)**

This task will consist of the creation of a database that centralises and contextualises all the available information about the species occurrence, physical condition and movements across its entire distribution range. The database will include the data collected by some of the project partners (e.g. FGN, Bretagne Vivante, SPEA and WIACO), the AWCT in previous initiatives and any contained in other external datasets. The occurrence data will be obtained from citizen science projects (e.g. online bird recording portals), scientific bird ringing and standard bird monitoring programmes, while movement data will be obtained from bird ringing recoveries, tracking and geolocator studies. Finally, the information on physical condition (mass, fat, body condition, fattening rate, etc.) will be extracted from bird ringing studies. All these datasets will be adequately structured and standardised to facilitate the modelling work to be developed in T.2.2 and T.2.3.

Given the patchiness of the data, particularly during passage, we expect that the inclusion of data on physical condition will complement the occurrence and movement data and help to better assess the value and role of the different potential staging and wintering areas (see also T.5.1). The creation of the centralised database will involve typical data management issues (e.g. data transfers and imports, data checking and formatting and data standardisation) and the preparation of the necessary arrangements and agreements with the different data providers in order to ensure the use of the data in the context of the project.

Bird ringing data and recoveries will be obtained, as necessary, from the main continental coordinating schemes in Europe (EURING) and Africa (AFRING), the individual bird ringing schemes and/or the specific projects or studies. Data on tracking and geolocating will be accessed through centralised platforms like Movebank (<https://www.movebank.org/>) and/or directly from local projects and studies. Data from standard bird monitoring programmes will be obtained from the individual national or regional schemes (e.g. PECBMS and AWCT partners). Finally, data from online bird portals will be accessed through the EuroBirdPortal project (Europe), the African Bird Atlas Project (<https://www.birdmap.africa/>), GBIF or the various individual portals (e.g. eBird, observation.org, etc.).

This centralised database will be completed in Y1 (**D.2.1**) and then updated annually with the new information on species movements, physical condition and occurrence gathered during the project (mostly from Tasks T.2.4, T.5.1 and T.5.2).

**T.2.2 Modelling key staging and wintering sites (ICO, CSIC, FGN, Bretagne Vivante, TdV, SPEA)**

Building species distribution models for unobtrusive and rare species is difficult. We will develop dynamic distribution models for the AW using experience developed in the context of the EuroBirdPortal (EBP, LIFE15 PRE/ES/000002) project aiming to identify seasonal changes in the distribution of the species during migration and winter.

For this, in Y2, we will evaluate all the data assembled and structured through T.2.1 and develop weekly to monthly distribution spatial-temporal models (STEM) using different combinations of climate, weather and habitat-related variables. Special attention will be paid to habitat types already known to be relevant for the species (see T.5.1.1). Moreover, habitat variables will describe the hydrological characteristics of the areas potentially used by the species

and remote sensing functional information integrating variability in sensor response over the season/period of interest. We will investigate, using different statistical methods, the adequacy of different information pathways and propose an optimal integration pathway to develop STEM models at the level of the species flyway. These first models will be validated with investigations to unrecognised areas to confirm if they are indeed important for the species. If so, those sites will be of high interest for the T.2.4 surveys.

In a second step, we will use the new information on species movements, physical condition and occurrence gathered during the project (mostly from T.2.4) to update the centralised database (T.2.1) and validate the dynamic maps produced and eventually update them using the new information gathered especially in those areas with initially poor information (T.2.4) and on habitat requirements (T.5.1). The findings will be published in a technical report (**D2.2**).

### **T.2.3 Site network connectivity analysis (UAveiro, ICO, CSIC, TdV, FGN):**

Effective conservation of migratory species cannot be achieved without combined efforts across its distribution range. This is very challenging for a species with limited information across its distribution, particularly at relevant conservation units, i.e., sites. In addition, the level of population spatial structuring may result in individuals from a specific breeding area using only some non-breeding sites. Establishing these spatial links across the species' flyway is therefore important in order to better coordinate conservation plans, so that actions in the breeding areas can be further enhanced by actions in specific non-breeding sites for the same individuals (and vice-versa). The same applies within the non-breeding range as individuals from specific wintering sites may use only a few stop-over sites during their migration. Information from ringing and tracking studies will thus be used to analyse the connectivity amongst key sites for AW and identify those that may be of special importance during migration, such as hubs where individuals concentrate during migratory stop-over.

In Y2, a connectivity analysis will be carried out based on the ring recovery data from EURING and AFRING, and earlier geolocator studies lead by AWCT collated and prepared under T.2.1. We will strive to use the most advanced methods in order to classify the role of specific sites using network analysis, and metrics such as degree and betweenness. UAveiro has considerable expertise in such analysis, currently leading a project on flyway connectivity of selected waterbird species commissioned by BirdLife International. However, these models are extremely data hungry, and their applicability is limited by data availability. Therefore, other approaches to quantify connectivity will also be explored using this dataset, such as Mantel tests. The results of this analysis will be published in Y3 in a technical report (**D2.3**) and submitted to a peer reviewed journal in Y4 (**D2.4**). The data analysis will be carried out by the UAveiro who will hire a postdoctoral researcher to support this task and will interact with CSIC [Doñana] and ICO leading on related work under 5.1.1.4 and T.2.2, respectively. TdV and FGN will also provide input into the design and interpretation of the results.

### **T.2.4 Gap filling surveys (FMigres, BEN):**

Since 2006, the identification and study of wintering sites is considered one of the main priorities of the AW MoU and the AWCT. This priority has been confirmed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Signatories to the MoU. Geolocator studies have indicated that potentially important stopover sites are located in Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania. Potentially important wintering sites can be found in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. It is assumed that the Djoudj in Senegal is mainly used by the westernmost populations of Poland and probably also Lithuania. However, recent geolocator studies have shown that birds from Lithuania also winter in the Inner Niger Delta in Mali and in Nigeria. Although, geolocator studies can locate the stop-over and wintering

regions, they are not able to give exact locations, which would be important to target site conservation actions. In addition, the fact that certain individuals occur in certain areas does not necessarily mean that the location actually supports a lot of individuals. Targeted GFSs can confirm the importance of the site.

In addition, it is expected that the species distribution modelling under T.2.1 will identify additional areas with high probability of the occurrence of AW both within the EU and in the African part of its range. Targeted GFSs will be organised to confirm the importance of these high probability locations.

As indicated by the geolocator studies (Flade 2021), AW might rely on temporary water bodies directly related to intensive local rainfalls during the desert crossing. These sites aren't usually well explored and will hardly be detected by any modelling exercise, while they are generally threatened by human pressure. During Y1, ICO will develop a list of such potential temporary sites (e.g., desert lakes in southern Morocco) and ways to obtain information about their condition (from satellite imagery like Copernicus to information from local contacts). In later years, if any of these areas become suitable, they could also be surveyed.

In Y1 and Y2, the GFSs in North and West Africa will focus on key regions identified by the latest geolocator studies (Flade 2021) in Morocco (two in second half of March and first half of April and two in mid-September), Algeria (two in first half of April), Mauritania (two in October – November) and Senegal (two in September – March). In all countries, the surveys will prioritise locating and checking the sites with the longest recorded autumn or spring staging durations. Sites in Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria will only be targeted if the security situation improves (i.e. it is not on the list of areas not recommended for travel<sup>2</sup>). Surveys in areas recommended for only necessary travel<sup>3</sup> will be visited only if the local authorities guarantee the safety of the survey teams. The search areas will be located using the data from the above mentioned geolocator studies and analysing up-to-date remote sensing data following the method applied earlier in the Djoudj and in the Inner Niger Delta. Presence of the AW will be proven by mist-netting using the rope-netting method. In addition, hand-held antennas will be used to search for and locate tagged AW (see activity T.5.1.1.4) that might be present in the area.

The GFSs to Africa will be organised by FM in collaboration with other project partners from Spain and France, experts associated with the AWCT and with local partners in the host countries. Each expedition will include four European and four local experts. The European experts will have ringing licences that qualifies them to capture and handle AW. The local experts will be recruited from local universities, research institutions, protected area

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<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, the security situation is problematic at many of the key staging and wintering areas in Africa. At the time of writing the proposal, areas not recommended for travel include the border zone of Morocco with Mauritania, the border zone of Algeria with Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Libya and Tunisia, the eastern and south-eastern part of Mauritania, all of Mali, Burkina Faso and the northern part of Nigeria.

<sup>3</sup> Areas recommended only for necessary travel include the border zone of Morocco with Algeria, the central part of Mauritania and its southern part along the Senegal River, the border zones of Senegal except the lower section of the Senegal River downstream from Richard's Toll, the southern part of Nigeria with the exception of the Niger Delta and the border zones with Niger, the northern part of Benin and Cameroon.



agencies and/or conservation NGOs. During the GFSs local research or conservation groups will be trained in using the appropriate research techniques and mist-netting and ringing equipment will be donated to them to support further in-country research efforts.

In Y3 and Y4, the GFS efforts will focus on checking out areas without known occurrences of the AW, but with high probability of presence predicted by the modelling under T.2.1. In the EU countries, this activity will be carried out by the project partners. Special training will be given to project partners in Portugal by more experienced partners in Spain and France. In Africa, additional GFSs will be organised in a similar manner as described in the previous paragraph.

The results of the GFSs will be summarised in annual GFS reports with separate chapters dedicated to each survey (**MS4**) and a technical report on new key sites for the AW (**D2.5**) which will be sent to the relevant national authorities and the EC for consideration as potential protected and Natura 2000 areas, the CMS Secretariat for the inventory of key sites in the context of the AW MoU and the national BirdLife International partner organisations and the BirdLife International Secretariat for consideration as Important Bird and Key Biodiversity Areas (IBAs).

#### **T.2.5 Assessing potential impacts of climate change (ICO, BEN):**

Many AW sites are already affected by the impacts of climate change (e.g., sea-level rise, water shortages). The exposure of key AW sites will be assessed by projecting some of the STEM SDMs developed under T.2.2 under different future climate change scenarios. For this objective, we will use a more mechanistic approach centred on likely major drivers for the species distribution. We will therefore use available hydrological projections of river discharge to account for water table dynamics, as well as proxies for future overall climate risk derived from expected site climate mismatch (differences between present and projected climate) available for the species range. These analyses will be used to (i) identify the factors driving the changes in site suitability and (ii) develop adaptation strategies both at the level of individual key sites and at the level of the network. The results will be summarised in a technical report (**D2.6**). The report will be directed to the EC, the CMS Secretariat, relevant national authorities and regional and local site managers (including site managing co-beneficiaries of the project) with particular attention to those that are likely to be adversely affected by climate change according to the results of the study.

#### **T.2.6 A blueprint for a comprehensive, coherent and climate resilient flyway network for the AW (UAveiro, ICO, CSIC, TdV, FMigres, WI-EA, WIACO)**

In Y5, the scientific project partners will produce a synthesis of the results of T.2.2, T.2.3, T.2.4 and T.2.5 into a technical report on “*A blueprint for a comprehensive, coherent and climate resilient flyway network for the AW*” (**D2.7**). This report will highlight unprotected key sites and regions for the AW in Europe and Africa, their exposure to climate change and make recommendations concerning the priorities for site and habitat conservation, a climate change adaptation strategy and how these could be supported by the EU internal and external policy instruments. The report will be shared with the relevant national and regional authorities, the EC, the CMS Secretariat and signatories to the AW MoU. This report will be an important input into the revised ISAP for the AW and will be promoted by the beneficiaries in their actions under WP6.

#### **Summary of resources allocated to this WP:**

Personnel: in total 214 person-months across 14 organisations = € 755,347.

Subcontracting: € 15,000

Travel and subsistence: € 270,661

Equipment: € 118,217

Other goods, works and services: € 75,560

**Major cost items (> € 30,000):**

T.2.4 Gap filling surveys in Africa: Travel and subsistence € 260,187 (FMigres)

T.2.4 Gap filling surveys in Africa: Equipment € 116,270 (FMigres)

T.2.4 Gap filling surveys in France: Other goods, works and services € 60,000 (Bretagne Vivante)

**Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)**

Milestone No	Milestone Name	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	Description		Due Date (month number)	Means of Verification
MS4	Annual GFS reports	2	FMigres	See description in T.2.4		12, 24, 36, 48	Electronic PDF documents publishes on the WI-EA website.
Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month number)	Description (including format and language)
D2.1	AW database	2	ICO	DATA	SEN	12	See description under T.2.1. Online relational database in English.
D2.2	Technical report on distribution of staging and wintering areas for the AW	1	ICO	R	PU	24	See description under T.2.2. Electronic PDF report published on the WI-EA website.

D2.3	Technical report on flyway connectivity	2	UAveiro	R	SEN	36	Technical report on site connectivity at flyway scale and highlighting important sites for the species. This data will also be published as a scientific paper (thus becoming public), but until then it remains for project partners only.
D2.4	Manuscript of a scientific paper on flyway connectivity	2	UAveiro	R	PU	48	Scientific paper on the flyway connectivity of AW submitted to a peer review journal.
D2.5	Technical report on new key sites for the AW	2	FMigres	R	PU	54	Technical report in English published on the WI-EA website (see further details in T.2.4)
D2.6	Technical report on potential impact of climate change on the key sites for the AW	2	ICO	R	PU	48	Technical report in English published on the WI-EA website (see further details in T.2.5)
D2.7	A blueprint for a comprehensive, coherent and climate resilient flyway network for the AW	2	UAveiro	R	PU	58	Technical report in English published on the WI-EA website (see further details in T.2.6)

### Work Package 3

<b>Work Package 3: Habitat restoration and management</b> <i>(n/a for concept note)</i>			
<b>Duration:</b>	M01 – M60	<b>Lead Beneficiary:</b>	2-FGN
<b>Objectives and results</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>			

- To demonstrate the restoration and management of 819 hectares of AW staging habitats at 22 sites in Spain, Portugal, France and Belgium as well as one wintering site of 300 hectares in Senegal.
- To provide updated information on each important AW site to the relevant national authorities to support the update of the SDFs, and to promote other forms of site designations in Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal.
- To scale up restoration of AW habitats through member states NNRPs, PAFs and national programming documents under the Common Agricultural Policy in Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal.

### Results

- In total, 1,119 hectares of AW habitats are restored at project sites.
- C. 600 ha CCA is established in Senegal.
- The population data and site assessment information and site conservation objectives better reflect the status of AW and the management needs of its habitat at each Natura 2000 sites where it occurs in significant numbers on passage (i.e. where its population assessment should be A – C).
- At least six new sites are proposed for protection in Africa.
- Habitat management needs of AW are recognised in key conservation planning documents for important sites for the species (i.e. where its population assessment is A – C).
- Habitat restoration needs of marshlands are reflected in the national nature restoration plans of four member states covering at least 1,000 hectares.
- In four countries, the new national CAP programming documents include support to the maintenance of marshlands.

### Activities and division of work (WP description)

#### T.3.1 Restore AW habitat at project sites (FGN, Natuurpunt, AssACROLA, MdE, GONm, SPEA, WIACO):

AW habitats will be restored and managed at selected project sites in Belgium (one site – see T.3.1.1), Spain (15 sites, see T.3.1.2), France (three sites, see T.3.1.3), Portugal (three sites, see T.3.1.4) and Senegal (one site – see T.3.1.5). These actions intend to address the site-specific threats to the AW habitat at the selected areas. Beyond demonstrating various management measures addressing threats such as habitat degradation due to land conversion (P1, addressed by T.3.1.1.1, T.3.1.2.3.2, T.3.1.2.5.3, T.3.1.3.3.1), succession (P2, addressed by T.3.1.1.1, T.3.1.2.2.2, T.3.1.2.4.1, T.3.1.3.1, T.3.1.3.2, T.3.1.3.3.2, T.3.1.3.3.3, T.3.1.4.5, T.3.1.4.6), abandonment of traditional agricultural management (P3, addressed by T.3.1.2.2.4, T.3.1.2.4.1), pollution (P4 addressed by T.3.1.2.4.1) and effects of invasive alien and other problematic species (P5, addressed by T.3.1.1.2, T.3.1.1.4, T.3.1.2.1, T.3.1.2.2, T.3.1.2.2.1, T.3.1.4.1), these restoration projects will also demonstrate various ways of integrating the conservation needs of AW with broader environmental and societal objectives such as overall management of Natura 2000 areas (T.3.1.2.1, T.3.1.2.4.1, T.3.1.2.4.2, T.3.1.2.5.2, T.3.1.2.5.3), green infrastructure (T.3.1.2.5.1, T.3.1.2.5.2, T.3.1.4.3), climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation (T.3.1.1.1, T.3.1.1.2, T.3.1.2.3.2, T.3.1.2.5.1, T.3.1.2.7), disaster (fire, flood, drought) risk reduction (T.3.1.2.2.2, T.3.1.2.2.4, T.3.1.2.3.1), water management (T.3.1.2.3.1, T.3.1.4.2,

T.3.1.5), conservation use of water from waste-water treatment plants (T.3.1.2.3.2, T.3.1.2.5.1) and valorisation of site management residues (T.3.1.1.3, T.3.1.2.2.3). This way the project will contribute to the knowledge-base on managing sedge marshes and scaling up conservation measures that will be supported by T.3.2, T.3.3, WP4 and WP6. Locations of the restoration measures are shown in the annex **Maps** templates. Milestones for activities under T.3.1 will be described and presented in a separate annual consolidated restoration progress report (**MS5**) resulting in the restoration and management of 1,119 ha of AW habitats (**D3.1**).

#### **T.3.1.1 Restoration of AW habitat in nature reserve Blankaart, Yser Valley, Flanders, Belgium (Natuurpunt)**

The approved site-specific conservation objectives for the Blankaart and Yser Valley propose an expansion of high-quality habitat for AW. To achieve this objective, three different yet complementary sub-actions are envisaged:

- I.13. Restoration of a seven ha new marshland as part of a large (25 ha) contiguous area of diverse and high-quality marshes;
- I.14. Development of deep-water reed marshes for AW;
- I.15. Start-up of diverse reed-bed management in collaboration with local farmers for processing management residues to compost.

##### T.3.1.1.1 Restoration of a large contiguous area of diverse and high-quality reed marshes

Former reclaimed pastures will be restored and developed into diverse reed and sedge marshes through excavation and adapting the profile of land plots. Perfect conditions will be created for the development of seven ha of new reed marshlands, creating a large contiguous area of 25 ha of diverse and high-quality reed marshlands through nature restoration. The currently flat terrain will be diversified by a varied network of ditches, pools and depressions spread across the restored parcels with a depth varying between 0.1 to 2 m below the surface level. A total of 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> of soil will be excavated. The excavated soil will be removed from the area. Removing the nutrient rich soil will allow the development of more diverse reedbeds. This action builds on Natuurpunt's experience and expertise to restore reedbeds and it does not expect any problems with obtaining permits, soil quality and existing archaeological values (of course, surveys and reports are needed) and practical execution of the measures in the field.

##### T.3.1.1.2 Development of deep-water reed marshes with permanent water (0.5 ha)

Reed marshes developed in deep water are quite specific and rather rare habitats, but they enhance the quality of the habitat for the AW by providing suitable feeding habitat under dry conditions. New sprouts of reed marshes developing in deep water are preferentially grazed by geese and other waterfowl. This grazing prevents the development of deep-water reed marshes, but it is possible to prevent geese from grazing young sprouts of new reed plants by erecting a fence along the edge of the reed marshes facing open water. In this way every year the reed marsh can grow by one to two meters. Normally, the reedbeds are sufficiently developed after three to five years and the fence can be removed.

##### T.3.1.1.3 Start-up of diverse reed-bed management in collaboration with local farmers for processing management residues to compost

In the absence of natural wetland dynamics in highly regulated landscapes, mowing reed marshes is essential to maintain a higher level of (plant and insect) diversity and to prevent the development of homogenous reed stands that are less suitable for AW as foraging habitats. However, disposal of management residues of reed and sedges represent a management problem. In the past, this biomass was either dumped somewhere in an (undesirable) area or disposed at a high cost. This cost factor has hindered reedbed management. Under the LIFE AWOM, Natuurpunt will address the

problem of sustainable use of management residues. In collaboration with local farmers, they will create a win-win solution by making compost from the biomass that comes from mowing reed and sedge marshes. This kind of biomass is rich in carbon and therefore is an interesting product for farmers. It can be added to manure from cows from local farms to produce high quality compost that farmers can use on their land to substantially improve the soil. Thus, the project will also contribute to improving soil quality and to a circular economy while reconciling nature and agriculture interests. After mowing, Natuurpunt will transport the reed clippings to the farms of the local farmers they already collaborate with for extensive grazing in other parts of the Yser Valley. To support and facilitate this process, they will also collaborate with a local farmers' organisation. At the local farms Natuurpunt will start the composting process by adding manure to the reed and sedge clippings. Then the compost can be made by using a compost turner which mixes the manure with the clippings, allowing more air inside the material that will induce the composting process. The final product can then be used by the farmer on his arable land to improve the soil carbon and quality.

#### T.3.1.1.4 Creating new reedbeds and tackling an invasive alien species (IAS)

The local dominance of water primrose *Ludwigia grandiflora*, a well-known IAS, inhibits the colonisation of new reed and consequently the development of structure-rich reed beds and AW habitat on locations with suitable abiotic conditions. Developing these reed marshes is also an effective measure to reduce the dominance of water primrose and an effective and cost-efficient measure to tackle the negative impact of this IAS. In this project, we want to initiate the start-up of 100 islands of reed marshland of 10 m<sup>2</sup> on locations where the development of reed marshes is inhibited by water primrose dominance. First the dominance of water primrose will be reduced by removing the plant multiple times in its peak production moment. Subsequently locally harvested reed plants (including the root system) will be planted on the location. The reed plants will be protected from grazing waterfowl (particularly geese) in order to give it encourage its establishment.

#### **T.3.1.2 Restoration and management of AW sites in Spain**

##### T.3.1.2.1 Removal of alien species

###### T.3.1.2.1.1 Removal of alien fauna species (FGN)

In Spain, the LIFE AWOM project will target common carp *Cyprinus carpio*, which affects AW habitats through uprooting and eliminating the aquatic vegetation, and the red-eared slider *Trachemys scripta elegans* which shares the habitat with common carp and further increases the degradation of these areas. In addition, it presents a threat to the native European pond turtle *Emys orbicularis* that is listed in Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive. Fixed nets (trammel nets) will be used for the elimination of common carp. These nets are easy to use, as they do not tangle and are very selective regarding the species and size of the fish. Native species will be released while the exotic ones will be processed by an authorised manager of animal by-products. For the removal of red-eared slider, hoop nets or floating boxes will be used to capture the animals alive. In this way, exotic and native animals can be separated. The native ones will be identified and released back into the environment, while the exotic ones will be handed over to the Wildlife Service of the Valencian Government for their elimination. Once the exotic fauna has been removed, it will be replaced with native species provided under the collaboration agreement between the Valencian Government and FGN on "*Wetlands conservation and the promotion of ecological agriculture aligned with the management plans in the Natura 2000 Network of the Valencia Region*". The local environmental agents and fishermen's guilds will be informed about these activities before they start. The removal of alien fauna species will be carried out at by the LIFE team (a brigade of two

people). It is expected that the activity will result in removal of a total of 400 tons of exotic fauna among the three wetlands (Marjal de Nules, Desembocadura de riu Millars and Marjal de Peñíscola). The activity will be carried out throughout the year in the case of common carp, increasing the effort during the spring and summer months for the elimination of alien turtles. Desembocadura de riu Millars is the most affected by the common carp, and a larger number of fishing sessions will be carried out here. To sustain the results of this measure, it will be proposed to the site manager to incorporate this measure in the regular management plans of the natural area, as well as seeking other management measures to maintain a low population density of these alien species.

#### T.3.1.2.1.2 Removal of alien plant species (FGN, ICO)

The removal of alien plant species will primarily target the giant reed *Arundo donax*, but also papyrus *Cyperus papyrus*, pampas grass *Cortaderia selloana*, castor bean *Ricinus communis* and others. *Tamarix* species will also be removed where it has colonised wetlands during severe droughts (such as at the Lagunes Chica and Grande in Villafranca de los Caballeros in 2019 and 2020).

For the elimination of the giant reed, mechanical methods will be used which have been tried and tested earlier and which are defined in the document “Bases para el manejo y control de Arundo donax L” of the Valencia Government. These methods are based on the crushing of the aerial part and the extraction of the rhizome of the plant using machinery. These actions will be carried out in August, when the plants have used all their energy reserves. Once the rhizomes have been crushed and removed, after six months any specimens that may sprout again will be removed by hand. Herbicide suitable for and permitted to be used in riparian environments will be applied to these shoots. This mowing of the shoots and application of herbicide shall be repeated every six months. With this procedure, it is possible to eliminate the targeted invasive species in three years. The mechanical actions will be subcontracted to a specialised company, while the monitoring and application of the herbicide will be carried out by the LIFE work team (a brigade of two people). The plant residues will be delivered to an authorised manager to dispose and thus prevent their spread to other areas. To prevent the recolonisation of invasive species, native riparian species will be planted (see T.3.1.2.2.1)

For the elimination of the *Tamarix* species, mechanical methods will be used. These actions will be carried out from August to October taking into account the timing of the AW migration. The mechanical actions will be subcontracted to a specialised company.

The elimination of invasive plant species will be carried at the following regions and sites: CV (Marjal de Peñíscola: one ha, Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca: one ha, Desembocadura del riu Millars: one ha, Marjal de Nules: one ha), CLM (Laguna Grande y Chica: one and a half ha).

In addition, IAS, such as giant reed and knotgrass *Paspalum distichum* will be also removed from c. 10 ha following similar protocols in the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park, by ICO.

#### T.3.1.2.2 Vegetation management

##### T.3.1.2.2.1 Replanting of native flora (FGN, ICO)

To prevent the recolonisation of giant reed, 15,000 plants of native riparian species will be planted after the removal of the IAS. The restoration of the native species will contribute to carbon sequestration and increase biodiversity.

A subcontractor will mow four ha of alien vegetation for three years and help the LIFE team (a brigade of two people) to plant 15,000 plants in the Valencian wetlands (1. Marjal de Peñíscola: 3,750 plants, 2. Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca: 3,750 plants, 3. Desembocadura del riu Millars: 3,750 plants, 4. Marjal de Nules: 3,750 plants) starting in Y3.

Planting of local species such as *Scirpus* sp. And *Carex* sp. Will also be implemented in the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park by ICO with the support of a subcontractor.

#### T.3.1.2.2.2 Mowing

Mowing will be applied to rejuvenate and diversify the vegetation to provide suitable habitat for the AW by controlling succession (P2) and to improve the carbon sequestration of wetlands. By creating fire breaks it will also contribute to fire control. Marsh and reedbed vegetation will be mowed at selected places considering the condition of the vegetation (density, age, etc.) and to avoid destroying bird breeding areas. An amphibious TRUXOR DM 50 machine will be purchased to cut vegetation in Valencia. Its operator will be a project staff in addition to the two-persons LIFE brigade. The latter will carry out the shredding work. The FGN has already acquired a similar machine in the LIFE Paludicola project and has verified its suitability for the task. In CyL, mowing works will be carried out with a tractor. In addition, one GINKO-MGM TT 680 Self-propelled Y-blade brush cutter with Honda GX200 engine and 3 hand mowers will be necessary for works in CLM where mowing activities should be carried out manually or with small machinery (manual mowers) in the temporary saline wetlands despite its higher costs. This is because the water is not deep enough to use amphibious mowing machines and the soil is typically too soft to mow with a tractor. In addition, the bearded tit *Panurus biarmicus* breeds in the targeted wetlands in CLM, and it requires three to six year old reedbeds so the mowing will take place only once during the project's duration in these wetlands. Mowing will be carried out outside the breeding season from 15 August to 15 March from Y1. After mowing, the biomass will be shredded, weighed, and delivered to farmers in the area for composting (Peñíscola, Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca and Marjal del Moro) or livestock bedding. During the project we must be able to get the farmers in each territory to see the by-products of mowing as a source of fodder: cattle bedding, compost, etc. The use of the amphibious machine for harvesting in CV will be incorporated into the regular management of natural areas.

In total, 137 ha will be mowed during the project, spread over the project's wetlands as follows: CV (amphibious machine: 1. Marjal de Peñíscola: nine ha [three ha x three years], 2. Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca: 12 ha [four ha x three years], 3. Desembocadura riu Millars : 12 ha [four ha x three years], 4. Marjal de Nules: six ha [three ha x two years], 5. Marjal del Moros: 12 ha [four ha x three years], 6. Laguna de l'Albufera: six ha [three ha x two years], 7. Marjal de Pego-Oliva: 12 ha [four ha x three years]), CLM (Self-propelled Y-blade brushcutter: 8. Laguna de Manjavacas [Mota del Cuervo, Cuenca]: two ha, 9. Laguna Grande y Chica [Villafranca de los Caballeros, Toledo]: five ha, Laguna de El Longar [Lillo, Toledo]: half ha, Laguna Larga [Villacañas, Toledo]: half ha), CyL (tractor: Laguna de Boada [Boada de Campo, Palencia] 30 ha [10ha x three years], Laguna de Pedraza [Pedraza de Campos, Palencia]. 30 ha [10ha x three years]).

#### T.3.1.2.2.3 Making compost from management residues

To support and promote the use of management residues as compost to increase soil carbon storage and productivity, three composting bins will be constructed in the Marjal de Peñíscola, Marjal dels Moros and Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca. The bins will be fed with management residues produced by T.3.1.2.2. Each bin is expected to produce five m<sup>3</sup> of compost per year resulting in a total of 60 m<sup>3</sup> in total during the project duration. The compost will be used by local organic farmers. The action will be carried out by the two person LIFE brigade



#### T.3.1.2.2.4 Grazing

Controlled grazing regulates the growth of plant species, increases habitat diversity and the number of insects, thus improving the conditions for the AW, although overgrazing can lead to habitat loss or degradation for marshland birds. Management agreement will be drawn up with livestock farmers to introduce animals into the wetland in CV: Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca (50 ha), Marjal dels Moros (150 ha) Pego-Oliva (50 ha) and in CyL: Laguna de la Nava (143 ha). There have been previous experiences with cattle and sheep grazing in these areas, but not with habitat improvement objectives for marshland birds. As part of this action, farmers will be encouraged to restart grazing as a management and fire prevention tool. The farmers be supported by two portable drinking troughs and one electric fence at each site. In the Marjal dels Moros, the livestock infrastructure, owned by the regional government, is in disrepair, including an out-of-service water well. The activity will restore the infrastructures and install a water pump. The activity will be coordinated by FGN staff and will result in a total of 393 ha grazed by the livestock of at least four farmers.

In the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park, ICO will improve grazing by cattle on c. 300 ha using a GeoFencing system, which allows better monitoring of animal behaviour without the need for electric fences.

#### T.3.1.2.3 Water cycle management (FGN)

##### T.3.1.2.3.1 Restoration of water management infrastructure

A well-functioning water management infrastructure is required for adequate management of wetlands to maintain AW habitats, reduce the risk of floods and drought and prevent the release of GHG. A specialised company with suitable machinery will be subcontracted to carry out the earthworks to adjust the bed and slopes of the wetlands. The material accumulated at the bottom of the channels will be used to restore the slopes and create an upper platform on which conventional machinery can pass, thus facilitating future maintenance work. La Charca del Cruce is connected to the Canal de Castilla with a water intake facility for agricultural use, but it is currently unused. By changing the water permit, this intake could be used for environmental purposes to supply water to the wetland during the months of October to April, as in the Boada lagoon. Furthermore, several water level control gates are out of order due to vandalism. Replacing these gates is necessary to control the water level in the targeted wetlands.

The following water management infrastructure restoration will be carried out: CV (Marjal de Pego-Oliva: 1,200 m channel reconstruction and two water level gates, Marjal de Nules: 400 m and three water level gates, Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca: 3,000 m, Marjal de Peñíscola: 2,125 m and one water level gate and the recovery of the original route of the Rey channel). CLM (Lagunas Grande y Chica, Villafranca de los Caballeros: restoration of 1,700 m, Laguna Larga, Villacañas: 1,000 m, Laguna de El Longar: 600 m) CyL: (Laguna de Boada: repair of the water intake of the Canal de Castilla [crank repair]; piping or expansion of the stream from the water intake of the Canal de Castilla to the Fuente del Arroyal stream [approximately 350 m], reinforcing of dykes on both banks of the Madre creek from the by-pass to the entrance of the creek into the lagoon [approximately 1,000 m to protect farms from floods] and possibly a deeper retubing of a section of five to six meters in a path that crosses the stream. Laguna de Pedraza: Maintenance of gates and dams that need periodic repairs for their proper functioning [three locations of 450 m tubed section, and a 2,200 m stream], reinforcing of dikes around the lagoon [with stripping works]. Works in the central channel of the lagoon to soften the slopes of shores and create shallower areas in the central channel. Charcas del Cruce: adaptation and regulating the water intake of the Canal de Castilla. Regulation of drainage at the crossing point between the Canal de Castilla and the Las Loberas stream. Elimination of old irrigation infrastructures [ditches and siphons]). The actions will be carried out by a specialised subcontractor under FGN's coordination.

#### T.3.1.2.3.2 Construction of new waterbodies for AW and other fauna and flora

Habitat loss makes it increasingly difficult for the AW to find suitable staging areas where it can refuel. This problem is further exacerbated by climate change especially in the Iberian Peninsula and further south. Increasing the water retention capacity of wetlands is an important element of the climate change adaptation strategy for the AW. To this end, three different types of water retention solutions will be implemented:

- **A lagoon excavated in the bed of the Millars.** This would be the third lagoon built for this purpose, as the managing authority has already built two others, due to the large water deficit suffered by this wetland. This lagoon will have an approximate surface of 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> and an average depth of about 40 cm. The lagoon will be filled with effluent from the sewage treatment plant, reusing this water resource for environmental purposes. This lagoon will receive water from the other lagoons upstream that have already been re-naturalised, so it is also expected that the quality of the water will be better than in the previous ones, with a lower eutrophication index.
- **Six seasonal ponds in the bed of the Millars.** These ponds will also be built in the Millars and will have a surface area of about six m<sup>2</sup> and a depth of about 50 cm. They will be built along the riverbed at the points where the most water accumulates. These ponds will be waterproofed, thus increasing the time the water remains in each one of them. Their location is made based on the observations of the field technicians.
- **Recovery of a lagoon clogged by vegetation and sediment in Nules.** This lagoon will be built in the Nules wetland. The continuous entry of sediment and the alteration of the water cycle has created areas clogged by sediment and vegetation, causing the loss of areas of open water. This lagoon will have a surface area of about 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> and an average depth of 80 cm. Once recovered, it will be connected to the wetland through the recovery of a ditch that will be carried out with T.3.1.2.3.1.
- **Recovery of natural springs in Torreblanca and Peñíscola.** Natural springs will be restored by removing a layer of sediment to allow the water to rise again by capillarity.

The action will be carried out by subcontractors under the supervision of FGN staff.

#### T.3.1.2.4 Restoration of wetland basins

Abandonment of grazing, wastewater and rubbish dumping has led to the siltation of wetlands.

##### T.3.1.2.4.1 Topsoil removal

Topsoil removal is necessary to ensure good water flow in wetlands with high sediment load from agriculture or waste-water treatment plants and to prevent the development of dense and homogeneous stands of tall helophytes that can threaten the priority charophyte habitats (3170\*) and open water areas. These habitats are crucial for oxygenation of the water body and essential for maintaining the invertebrate community, the food resource of AW. The extracted mud will be partially reused as material for consolidating perimeter dykes, and partially used by nearby agricultural farms as organic fertiliser. This will result in the creation of several bodies of open water surfaces of one to one-and-a-half hectares, independent of the water level in the central channel, thereby retaining water for a longer period in spring. Additionally, it would be converted into HIC 3170\* habitats for charophyte communities. In CV, the topsoil will be turned over with agricultural machinery (“fangueos” in the Valencian language), breaking the rhizomes of the reeds

and allowing the water table to rise and create areas of water between the reeds. This work will be carried out at the following places: CLM (Laguna Larga: two ha), CyL (Laguna de Boada: four-and-a-half ha distributed in several zones of different surface areas, Laguna de Pedraza: four-and-a-half ha distributed in several zones of different surface areas), CV (Desembocadura del riu Millars: two ha, Marjal del Moro two ha).

#### T.3.1.2.4.2 Removal of debris

Debris hinders water flow, poses a risk of pollution and injuries as well as reducing the aesthetic value of (protected) areas. The removal of debris will be implemented by a subcontracted local company at CLM (Laguna Larga: 80 ha), CyL (Laguna de Pedraza: 50 metres)

#### T.3.1.2.5. Creation of green infrastructures for wetlands protection (FGN)

The Spanish National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PNACC) proposed climate change adaptation through green infrastructures that conserve these coastal ecosystems, including the construction of plant and sand traps (bardisas). These capture sand, making the dunes grow and hence forming a natural barrier along the coast that protects against floods from the sea. The bardisas have been tested in restoration projects such as LIFE Dunas (LIFE19 CCA/PT/001178) or LIFE Enebro Valencia (LIFE04 NAT/ES/000044), which restored more than 15 km of dunes. They are constructed from natural materials such as dry giant reeds acting as a structural element, and common reed stems acting as passive sand collectors. Three m<sup>3</sup> boxes will be built with these materials and native plant species will be planted inside them. Once they are established, the native plants will trap and fix the sand. Giant reed will be extracted from the area, contributing to its elimination (see T.3.1.2.1.2). The action will be undertaken by the two-persons LIFE brigade. As the result of the activities 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> bardisas will be constructed in Marjal de Peñíscola, CV.

At the Charcas del Cruce, a two km green filter (plant screen) will be created to treat the water with high nutrient load coming into Las Loberas from the Villarramiel wastewater treatment plant upstream.

Vegetation barriers can reduce disturbance to protected areas. Such vegetation barriers have already been successfully implemented in other lagoons during the LIFE Canal del Castilla project coordinated by FGN. For these barriers, native fruit-bearing shrubs will be used to provide shelter and food for fauna. This green infrastructure will be built between August and March outside the nesting season. This task will be implemented by a subcontracted forestry company under the supervision of FGN and will produce 300 m of barrier along the N-610 road at Charcas del Cruce wetland.

Encroachment of arable land impacts many wetlands. Surveying and visually marking the boundaries of wetlands can prevent further habitat losses. This action will be implemented at the Boada wetland, along the approximately three km perimeter of the lagoon. Local topography and engineering companies will be subcontracted to carry out the land survey.

Unauthorised entry of visitors and dogs to conservation areas can cause disturbance and damage the vegetation. Rope-posts barriers will be installed at Marjal de Peñíscola (450 m) and Desembocadura del riu Millars (450 m), CV by the 2-person LIFE brigade.

#### T.3.1.2.6. Land purchase (FGN)

At the Laguna de Boada (part of the SPA ES0000216 La Nava Campos Sur) three small agricultural parcels owned by private persons encroach on the wetland basin. The purchase of four-and-a-half ha of land will help avoid conflicts with the neighbours over surplus water in the wetland and mitigate the negative effects of sediment, fertilisers and pesticide runoff, minimise disturbances and thus contribute to the preservation of the wetland habitat. Once the land is acquired, the boundaries will be demarcated to prevent neighbours from ploughing up land belonging to the lagoon. These lands will be managed as fallow land turning into steppe grassland through natural revegetation for the benefit of steppe birds such as great bustards, little bustards and stone curlews. There will be no need for recurring management. The land purchase ensures that the management of this land will be done in accordance with FGN's environmental criteria, and it is more sustainable than a land lease would be which depends on the possibility of raising money for this purpose. FGN has already purchased more than 600 hectares of land with the support of LIFE support and the purchases have always satisfied the requirements of the European Commission. It has a lawyer on staff who is an expert in procurement contracts. The purchased land will be dedicated exclusively to nature conservation. Once purchased, the ownership will always be under a Foundation for the nature protection. Article 38 of FGN's statute describes the profile of non-profit organisations that can be chosen by the board to bequeath all property. FGN always asks a valuer for a land valuation report prior to purchase to ensure that the purchase price is consistent with the current market price. This report will be attached to the progress reports. Currently, only one of the owners is in favour of selling the land, the other two are negotiating the price.

#### T.3.1.2.7 Fostering restoration-food nexus in the face of climate change (FGN)

This activity recognises the interdependence between the wetlands and the surrounding agricultural areas in the face of climate change. It intends to demonstrate a more holistic and mutually beneficial approach to farming and wetland management that can support the AW habitats in the long-term. Under the LIFE AWOM project, only a small scale pilot will be implemented, but activities will be carried out under WP6 to upscale these efforts.

##### T.3.1.2.7.1 Identification of the working area through a GIS assessment in five pilot wetlands, using remote sensing technologies

A GIS expert at FGN will for five months at 50% map the main land uses around the wetland catchment areas and define the landscape level of work. The result of the analysis will be published in a GIS Project report on the land uses around the five pilot wetlands (one in CyL, two in CLM and two in CV).

##### T.3.1.2.7.2 Assessment of the vulnerability to climate change of these areas, and of the identified farming systems around the five pilot wetlands

Using the methodology defined in LIFE AgriAdapt project, with the Climate Analysis for Agricultural Recommendations and Impacts ([Canari](#)) for Spain (Available in March 2023), and [Copernicus tools](#) developed after LIFE AgriAdapt project (Multimodel tools, including the RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5) the main agroclimatic indicators for the different farming systems will be identified.

##### T.3.1.2.7.3. Land stewardship agreements with local farmers

At least one agreement per pilot wetland in the three Spanish Regions (CLM, CyL, CV) will be concluded with interested farmers. At the end of this action, a total of five agreements will be signed with local farmers. The agreements will cover at least two different farming systems: perennial crops and rainfed crops.

##### T.3.1.2.7.4. Sustainable Climate Change Adaptation Plans for the five pilot farms

Based on the assessment of the vulnerability of farming systems Climate Change Adaptation Plans will be developed for the five pilot farms in consultation between the farmers and FGN staff.

#### T.3.1.2.7.5 Implementation of the Action plans at the five pilot farms

Farmers will implement Climate Change Adaptation Plans at the five pilot farms. Third party grants will be offered to the farmers based on an open application to encourage and support the implementation of at least five climate change adaptation measures per plan. Eligible measures include use of cover crops on arable crops, green cover on permanent crops, shrub and tree planting in hedgerows, water retention and to allow run-off and leachate to flow into wetlands. With an average size of three ha per farm, the following results are expected: at least four km of planted hedgerows, three ha of green cover, one ha of cover crops on rainfed crops.

#### T.3.1.2.7.6 Monitoring of the impact of the Climate Change Adaptation Plans

Definition of indicators (impact and performance indicators) regarding quality/quantity farming production, and biodiversity at different scales (landscape and farm). This task will produce two deliverable products:

- a) Report with impact and performance indicators regarding the sustainable adaptation to climate change achieved in the five pilot farms.
- b) Online guidelines “Sustainable adaptation to climate change of agrarian systems around pilot wetlands” with a description per farming system for the main agroclimatic indicators, the main impacts expected in the near future, recommended sustainable adaptation to climate change of these crops, a biodiversity component, main impact and performance indicator results in the pilot farms.

### **T.3.1.2 Restoration and management of AW sites in France**

#### T.3.1.3.1 Rejuvenating reedbeds in the Seine Estuary (MdE)

Old reedbeds will be cut over a maximum of eight hectares to restore the transitional habitat mosaic favoured by the AW. This will be followed by maintenance cuts either several times a year or every year depending on the regrowth of vegetation and the evolution of the environment. The manager will regularly assess the state of development of the restored environment in order to determine the course of action to be taken. An inventory will be made prior to the start of the LIFE AWOM project in 2024 (on MdE's own cost) to define the eight ha to be restored and the type of restoration to be carried out: cutting with export or grinding. Grinding and cutting will be carried out by subcontractors who will be selected at the beginning of Y1. Start of restoration work mid-August Y1. The restoration work will take place from Y1 to Y3.

#### T.3.1.3.2 Rejuvenating tall wet meadows at Pipy Island in the Loire Estuary (AssAcrola)

This action intends to restore an *Agrostis stolonifera* grassland to bulrush *Scirpoides sp.* vegetation on four ha that was the preferred habitat of AW until 2012–2013. To this end 40–60 cm of the topsoil will be removed. Prior to the works, legally required preliminary studies (Fauna Flora Habitats initial report) shall be carried out. It is also necessary to carry out the legally required Fauna Flora Habitats monitoring activities two and five years after the

implementation of the works. These studies have to be carried out by an independent consultancy under subcontract. The design and execution of the works will be carried out by specialist companies under subcontract.

#### T.3.1.3.3 Increasing habitat diversity in the Réserve Naturelle Régionale des Marais de la Taute (GONm)

##### T.3.1.3.3.1 Creating open water in a sedge meadow at La Defends

At this subsite, the project aims to create suitable habitat on abandoned meadows for AW and other marshland birds. Currently, the area is covered by fairly common grassland vegetation. The restoration works will target the part of the area that is currently covered by *Glyceria maxima*. Through the restoration works, the project intends to diversify the habitat structure where islands with the original vegetation mixed with water bodies provide suitable habitat for the AW and other wetland birds. To create such a diverse habitat, the topsoil will be removed on 0.7 ha at varying depth but with an average of 0.2 m and not exceeding 0.4 m. Gently sloping banks will be created to encourage the development of varied plant communities. The works will be implemented in two steps in Year 1 and Year 2. The excavated area will be connected to the water network through a sluice to regulate the water levels.

##### T.3.1.3.3.2 Creating small ditches in overgrown former hunting ponds at Marais de Saint Hilaire and Marais du Cap

At these two subsites, the habitat diversity of former hunting ponds currently covered by dense homogenous reedbeds will be increased by digging three ditches of c. 100 m long. The works will be implemented in Year 2.

##### T.3.1.3.3.3 Restoring an overgrown former hunting pond at Marais de Saint Hilaire 2

At this subsite an abandoned hunting pond will be targeted for restoration. Currently, the pond is overgrown with homogenous reedbed vegetation and surrounded by natural grasslands. The area covered by reedbed will be reprofiled by excavating the top layer of the sediment to create a more varied habitat structure. The water supply to the area will be restored by digging a c. 120 m long canal. The works will be implemented in Year 3 and 4.

#### **T.3.1.4 Restoration and management of AW sites in Portugal (SPEA)**

##### T.3.1.4.1 Alien species removal

This activity will be carried out at Lagoa Pequena and Lagoa de Santo André. In Y1, flora and fauna surveys will be carried out to characterise the current status of the sites. The surveys will focus on three groups: species and habitats legally protected, species and habitats important for the AW, and IAS, which will be mapped. These surveys will identify the locations where the removal of IAS should take place in Y2. The species to be removed include the giant reed and pampas grass among others. The removal will be done through mechanical action. In terms of fauna, traps will be used to capture exotic reptiles, namely the pond slider that occurs in the area. These animals will be delivered to a recovery wildlife centre and following standard procedures (check up and quarantine), to an appropriate exhibition centre.

##### T.3.1.4.2 Restoration of dikes

At Lagoa Pequena, a dike will be rebuilt to allow proper management of the water level to help diversify the feeding and resting habitats for the staging AWs. The water levels will be maintained near the ground level in a five ha patch for a year which will favour the development of reed and sedge marshes.

At Lagoa de Santo André, a dike will be built to regulate the water level in a small patch that includes reeds and pastures, to ensure adequate habitat both for resting and feeding AW on passage.

#### T.3.1.4.3 Creation of green infrastructures for wetland protection

At Lagoa de Santo André and Lagoa Pequena, hedges will be created to partially delimit the area where needed, and to enhance biodiversity and protect the area from human disturbance and excessive presence of cattle.

#### T.3.1.4.4 Replanting of native flora

At Lagoa de Santo André and Lagoa Pequena native riparian species will be planted where alien species were removed. Plant species will be selected that support the rest of the local biodiversity including pollinators, insects and other invertebrates.

#### T.3.1.4.5 Vegetation management

At Lagoa de Santo André and Lagoa Pequena, the dominance of reed marshes will be controlled by mowing, promoting a higher diversity of plants and insects which will favour the AW.

#### T.3.1.4.6 Grazing

At Lagoa de Santo André, Lagoa Pequena, and Ria de Aveiro, local farmers will manage sedge marshes through grazing with a limited number of cattle and without the use of chemicals. In Y1, preliminary site visits will be conducted with the local farmers. These will be followed up with additional annual events from Y2. Material for proper management will be made available (e.g., electric fences, native plants for planting natural hedges).

#### **T.3.1.5 Restoring sedge marshes in the vicinity of the Djoudj National Park (WIACO)**

The sedge marshes near to Tiguetee and Debi were the most important wintering and staging locations for the AW in the vicinity of the Djoudj National Park (Arbeiter & Tegetmeyer 2011, Tegetmeyer *et al.* 2014). This area is located just outside the buffer zone of the park. However, this site has dried out since the above-mentioned surveys because the water channels feeding them have clogged up with invasive bullrush (*Typha sp.*) and sediment. Therefore, the project intends to restore the water supply to this area by clearing a 2.5 km long canal. However, restoring the canal represents some flood risk for Tiguete. Therefore, it will be necessary to build a small dyke (length: 2 km, height: 0.8 m, width: 2–1.5 m) to protect the village. The dyke will be constructed by a local subcontractor.

First, a subcontracted excavator will be used to extract the accumulated sediment and vegetation from the canal and will build the dyke in May – June Y1. After the restoration of the canal, the annual maintenance works to prevent excessive vegetation growth will be carried out by the local community under

a subcontract from WIACO. These works will result in rewetting an estimated 300 ha of wintering habitat for the AW. WIACO will inspect the status of the canal annually in May – June from Y2 to Y5.

**T.3.2 Promote the inclusion of key AW sites in the protected area network (WI-EA, Natuurpunt, Bretagne Vivante, FGN, SPEA, ICO):**

**T.3.2.1 Provide information to the updates of SDFs of Nature 2000 sites in the EU (WI-EA, Natuurpunt, Bretagne Vivante, FGN, SPEA, ICO)**

With the exception of France, AW sites are often not recognised in the SDFs of the Natura 2000 sites where they occur in significant numbers on migration and thus their conservation requirements do not need to be considered during the management of the site or in the appropriate assessment processes required by Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. In Y2, the LIFE AWOM project will use the database created under T.2.1 and consultation with national expert networks to produce a technical report about the site network for the AW in the EU (**D3.2**) In this report, it will make available the information on the AW as required by the SDFs and the ISAP to the member states, the EC and the CMS Secretariat. This report will be updated in Y5 with new information and insight from the activities under WP2 (**D3.3**).

Natuurpunt and FGN will make special efforts to provide adequate information to the relevant national authorities to update the SDF on AW for the project sites where AW is not included into the SDF of the area, i.e. Ijzervallei (BE2500831), Humedales de la Mancha (ES4250010), l'Albufera (ES0000471), Prat de Cabanes i Torreblanca (ES0000467), SPA and SCI ES0000148 Marjal dels Moros (ES0000470), SPA Desembocadura del riu Millars (ES0000211), Marjal de Nules (ES5222005), Marjal de Pego-Oliva (ES0000487) and Marjal de Peníscola (ES5222002). SPEA will make the results of the Natura 2000 sites targeted by surveys under T.5.2 available, i.e. Barrinha de Esmoriz (PTCON0018), Ria de Alvor (PTCON0058) and Estuários dos Rios Minho e Coura (PTZPE0001).

**T.3.2.2 Promoting the inclusion of key sites for AW in the List of Wetlands of International Importance in Spain (FGN)**

In Spain, FGN will make an official proposal for the extension of the existing RAMSAR site by the regional authorities of CyL to include small lagunes important for the AW to provide additional protection and recognition (**MS6**).

**T.3.2.3 Promote the conservation of key AW sites outside of the EU (WI-EA, FMigres, WIACO)**

Outside of the EU, the protection of key sites identified either by earlier studies (T.2.1) or by the GFSs (T.2.4) will be promoted through small grants to local civil society and academic organisations in Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Algeria. In Y3, an open call for proposals will be issued to support the designation of key sites as national protected areas or under international treaties such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The maximum grant will be € 10,000 per application with a total amount of € 60,000. Eligible activities will include costs of additional surveys, preparing proposals for the protected area designation, stakeholder consultation and advocacy activities (**MS7**). Each applicant should apply with a detailed budget and work plan. The activities shall be completed and reported by M54. The call, the application process and payments will be managed by WI-EA. WIACO and FMigres will be involved in the project selection and evaluation. WI-EA will produce a consolidated report on protecting key sites for AW in Africa by M56 (**D3.4**).

**T.3.3 Promote the inclusion of AW habitat restoration into the national nature restoration plans and the countries prioritised action frameworks (WI-EA, Natuurpunt, Bretagne Vivante, FGN, SPEA )**



To scale up the restoration of AW habitats in the passage countries within the EU, the LIFE AWOM project will target the development of the national nature restoration plans (NNRP) under the proposed EU Nature Restoration Law. Based on the results of the negotiations of the European Council and the European Parliament, we assume that the regulation will be adopted in 2024 and the NNRP will be due by 2026. To be able to influence the process, WI-EA in consultation with the Natuurpunt, Bretagne Vivante, FGN and SPEA will compile guidance on how to identify restoration sites based on the final text of the regulation and considering potential synergies with the restoration of Annex I habitats and habitats for other marshland species. In the second half of Y1, Natuurpunt, Bretagne Vivante, FGN and SPEA will conduct consultation with the national experts on AW and site managers responsible for the management of sites important for the species to identify areas to be restored. The results of the consultation will be summarised and published in an international report (**D3.5**) to be produced by WI-EA and distributed to the European Commission and national decision-makers. Natuurpunt, Bretagne Vivante, FGN and SPEA will promote the national findings of the report at national level, participate and provide input into the national planning and consultation processes directly or through influencing the position of national NGO coalitions.

It is also expected that member states will be engaged with revising their prioritised action frameworks for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028–34 from 2027 (i.e. Y3) of the project. In Y3, WI-EA will organise a webinar (**MS8**) for the national project partners to explain the process of developing the PAFs and facilitate the exchange experience amongst the partners about influencing the PAFs. It will acquire and share with the project partners the relevant EU guidance documents. In Y4 (and possibly Y5), Natuurpunt, Bretagne Vivante, FGN and SPEA will engage with the national planning process. Similar to the NNRP, Natuurpunt, Bretagne Vivante, FGN and SPEA will seek synergies with efforts to conserve other marshland birds and marshland habitats and will collaborate with other national NGOs.

### **T.3.4 Creating a community conservation area (CCA) for AW in the vicinity of the PNOD (WI-EA, WIACO)**

A significant part of the suitable habitats for AW (1,897 of a total 4,729 ha) lies outside of the PNOD and its buffer zone. During the project's preparation an agreement has been reached with the local communities to establish a c. 600 ha large community-based conservation area in the vicinity of Debie and Tiguete to protect the majority of the AW habitats outside of the park and its buffer zone in exchange for supporting sustainable development of the villages. A community-based conservation area is another form of effective area-based conservation measures (OECMS), which is gaining increasing prominence in the global biodiversity policy and was even mentioned in Target 3 of the of the Global Biodiversity Framework. The proposed community conservation area represents the first OECM for AW outside of Europe and can serve as a model for the conservation of other key sites in Africa.

In Y1, WIACO will work with the communities to agree on the exact boundaries, the site management measures for the CCA and the income generating activities. As the ecology of the area is closely linked to the PNOD, they will be also involved in the planning process. The boundaries, the management measures and the plans for income generating activities (such as ecotourism development, poultry and other livestock farming, development of economic value chains for utilising the invasive Typha and Water Lily, beekeeping) will be incorporated into a management plan and will be adopted by the local communities with the approval of the DPN (**MS9**). These discussions will be supported by detailed ecological surveys and a study into alternative livelihood opportunities.

After the agreement on the site boundaries, in Y2, the boundaries will be clearly demarcated with a fence to prevent the intrusion of grazing animals, and the local councils will set up measures to monitor and enforce the agreed restrictions.

In Y1 and Y2, WIACO, in collaboration with the PNOD will transfer skills to the local authorities necessary to effectively manage the CCA. This will include sharing experiences on managing CCAs by organising exchange visits for village leaders to other similar projects in Senegal, providing information on the habitat requirements of AW and the ecological requirements of its habitat and the processes that may influence it, the adaptive management of nature reserves, the monitoring techniques. Presentations by AW experts visiting Senegal for the GFSs will also be organised.

The income generating activities will be supported through grants (financial support to third parties) to the village councils of Tiguete and Débi (**MS10**). A grant of maximum € 20,000 will be set aside for each village (i.e. € 40,000 in total), and made available from Y2. The grants will support capital investments into the establishment of new income generating activities that are compatible with the management objectives of the CCA. This may include buying breeding stocks, purchasing equipment and constructing infrastructure and trainings. These grants will be managed by WIACO. The villages shall apply for the grants by compiling their business plans for the income generating activities detailing the investment costs. WIACO will assess the soundness of the proposals in terms of compatibility with the conservation objectives agreed in the management plan, the viability of the business plan and the realism of the cost estimates, and, if necessary, improvements required. Once, satisfactory proposals are received, WIACO will sign a formal grant agreement with the village councils. In line with the LIFE call's requirements, a 30-year guarantee will be required for the maintenance of the CCA. Until then, consistently with the bio-right approach, the recipients will have a repayment obligation if the CCA is severely damaged by human activities.

**Summary of resources allocated to this WP:**

Personnel: in total 216 person-months across 9 organisations = € 868,140.

Subcontracting: € 1,973,102

Travel and subsistence: € 101,734

Equipment: € 117,880

Other goods, works and services: € 134,543

Financial support to third parties: € 100,000

Land purchase: € 32,400

**Major cost items (> € 30,000):**

Subcontracting

T.3.1.1 Restoration of AW habitat in nature reserve Blankaart, Yser Valley, Flanders, Belgium: excavations € 733,730 (Natuurpunt)

T.3.1.2 Restoration and management of AW sites in Spain: Excavations and other subcontracted management task € 720,689 (FGN)

T.3.1.3 Restoration and management of AW sites in France: Excavations € 160,000 (AssACROLA)

T.3.1.3 Restoration and management of AW sites in France: Excavations € 160,000 (MdE)

T.3.1.3 Restoration and management of AW sites in France: Excavations € 160,000 (AssACROLA)

T.3.1.4 Restoration and management of AW sites in Portugal: Excavations € 40,000 (SPEA)

T.3.4 Creating a community conservation area (CCA) for AW in the vicinity of the PNOD: demarcation with a fence to prevent illegal grazing € 69,883 (WIACO)

Equipment

T.3.1.2 Restoration and management of AW sites in Spain: purchase of an amphibious TRUXOR DM 50 € 117,880 (FGN)

Other goods, works and services

T.3.1.2 Restoration and management of AW sites in Spain: Vehicle and pilot € 115,593 (FGN)

Financial support to third parties

T.3.2.3 Promote the conservation of key AW sites outside of the EU: small grants for promoting site designation in Africa 6 x € 10,000 = € 60,000 (WI-EA)

T.3.4 Creating a community conservation area (CCA) for AW in the vicinity of the PNOD: small grants for income generating activities 2 x € 20,000 = € 40,00 (WIACO)

Land purchase

T.3.1.2 Restoration and management of AW sites in Spain: purchase of 4.5 ha (FGN) € 32,400

#### Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)

Milestone No	Milestone Name	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	Description	Due Date	Means of Verification

					(month number)		
MS5	Annual consolidated restoration progress report Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4 & Y5	3	FGN	Milestones under T.3.1 are lumped into annual consolidated progress reports including the progress under each subtask of this action due in the given year	12, 24, 36, 48, 60	Annual consolidated progress report published on the WI-EA website. The completion of subtask will be documented by technical handover reports including time-tagged before-after photos.	
MS6	Proposal to regional authorities to designate some AW habitats as Ramsar sites	3	FGN	See T.3.2.2	18	Copies of letters sent to the regional authorities. Minutes of meetings with regional authorities.	
MS7	Call for proposals	3	WI-EA	See T.3.2.3	26	Copies of the publication of the call for proposals	
MS8	Webinar on prioritised action frameworks	3	WI-EA	See T.3.3	36	Recording of the webinar	
MS9	Management plan for the CCA in Senegal	3	WIACO	See T.3.4	12	Management plan document adopted by the village councils of Tiguete and Débi.	
	Small grants for income generating activities	3	WIACO	See T.3.4	18	Final version of the applications. Proof of payments.	
Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month number)	Description (including format and language)
D3.1	AW habitat	3	FGN	<i>OTHER</i>	<i>PU</i>	60	A total of 1,119 ha AW habitat will be restored as detailed under T.3.1. The completion of subtasks will be documented in MS5

D3.2	Key sites for staging AWs in the EU 2025	3	WI-EA	R	PU	15	T.3.2.1. Updated AW population data and assessment at key sites. PDF. In English
D3.3	Key sites for staging AWs in the EU 2029	3	WI-EA	R	PU	57	T.3.2.1. Updated AW population data and assessment at key sites. PDF. In English
D3.4	Consolidated report on protecting key sites for AW in Africa	3	WI-EA	R	PU	56	T.3.2.2. This report will summarise the implementation and the results of the small grants. PDF. In French with English summary.
D3.5	Habitat restoration needs of AW in the EU	3	WI-EA	R	PU	13	T.3.3. Habitat restoration needs of AW in Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal. PDF. In English.

#### Work Package 4

<b>Work Package 4: Communications and outreach</b> <i>(n/a for concept note)</i>			
<b>Duration:</b>	M01 - M60	<b>Lead Beneficiary:</b>	1-WI-EA
<b>Objectives and results</b>			
<b>Objectives:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To raise awareness amongst the general public, reach out to local stakeholders and decision-makers and share experiences amongst project partners, with other projects and processes.</li> </ul>			
<b>Results:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The general public is aware of the challenges the AW faces during its migration, the importance of marshland habitats and the need for protecting, restoring and managing these, the role the Natura 2000 and other protected area networks, the LIFE Programme, the EU Nature Restoration Law and the CAP supports can play in these.</li> </ul>			

- The local population, farmers, businesses and decision-makers are aware and supportive of the conservation of the AW habitats at the project sites.
- Synergies are created with other LIFE and EU projects affecting the AW and its habitat at European, national or local level.
- The project contributes to the work of international processes such as the AWCT, the AW MoU, the CMS Landbirds Action Plan and the Bern Convention.

#### Activities and division of work (WP description)

#### **T.4.1 Communication and awareness raising (WI-EA, BEN)**

##### **T.4.1.1 Communications plan (WI-EA, BEN)**

A communication plan will be developed by M6 (**MS11**). The first plan will be developed by the CTF with the assistance of a subcontracted graphic designer, and it will define the timing of communication actions as well as the branding (including logo, visual identity, powerpoint templates) of the project to be used by all participants. The communication plan will cover all activities under WP4. At the end of each year a consolidated communications progress report will be produced (**MS12**) and at the start of the new project year the communication plan will be reviewed and updated by the CTF.

##### **T.4.1.2 Web pages (WI-EA, BEN)**

The CO at WI-EA will develop and maintain a project web page on its website (<https://europe.wetlands.org/>). These pages will make information available about the project's overall objectives, activities, and achievements. It will target an international audience and will facilitate the exchange of information amongst project partners and with other LIFE projects. The international project webpages will include project news, a central depository of the project's reports and other publications, as well as audio-visual materials produced by the project. It will be updated with relevant information at least monthly in English.

In addition, each other project beneficiary will develop and maintain project pages on their own existing websites in their own national languages such as Dutch, French, Spanish and Portuguese. These web pages will aim to inform their national audiences both about the overall project objectives, activities and results and will provide more detail concerning the specific activities in their own countries and/sites. Project beneficiaries will place the project pages on their existing websites. In addition, the website of the *Pôle-relais lagunes méditerranéennes* (Mediterranean Lagoon Centre), maintained by TdV and its subcontractor the *Conservatoire d'espaces naturels d'Occitanie* (Occitanie Conservatory for Natural Spaces) will also contribute to disseminating news in France. Each web page will include an acknowledgement of the LIFE funding.

The CTF, led by a Communication Officer at WI-EA and including communication officers from each project beneficiary will be responsible for organising the dissemination of news and generating the audio-visual materials. All the websites will be open in the first six months of the project and will be updated throughout the project. Website activities will be included into the consolidated communications progress report (**MS11**).

**T.4.1.3 Social media (WI-EA, BEN)**

Project information will also be distributed by the communication officers of the project beneficiaries through their social media channels aiming to attract attention to the material published on the project web pages of the beneficiaries. All partners will communicate their actions and news on their networks through the #LIFE\_AWOM hashtag so that all partners can share them and reach a wider audience. Social media communication will start the first month following the announcement of the project start. Currently FGN, TdV, CSIC, ICO has a virtual community of about 108,840 followers, including all the Social Networks in which it is present. X(Twitter): 30,978 followers, LinkedIn: 23,536 followers, Facebook: 22,453 followers, Instagram: 20,415 followers, YouTube: 2,326 followers and more than 10,000 readers of newsletters. We expect to produce a total of at least 1,000 social media posts over the duration of the project and increase the combined number of social media followers by 20% in each year reaching 200,000 by the end of Y5. Social media activities will be included into the consolidated communications progress report (**MS11**).

**T.4.1.4 Printed materials (WI-EA, BEN)**

A suite of integrated printed materials will be produced about the project at key points during its implementation. Printed materials are intended to reinforce the more dynamic online communications instruments such as websites and social media and aim to reach stakeholders who are not active users of the websites and social media channels of the project partners but might engage with the project (e.g., rural population at project sites). In Y1, a project poster (**D4.1**) will be produced focusing on raising awareness about the project, its objectives and the AW, the targeted sites, key issues, and expected results. One side of the poster will act as a flagship for the project while the backside will provide the detailed information. The design and content of the backside will be harmonised with the content of the mobile exhibition mentioned below. In Y3, the emphasis will shift to explaining the project's findings, results, and achievements in a project leaflet (**D4.2**), in order to generate long-lasting support from key stakeholder groups for the AW, and its priority sites locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. The texts and the photographs will be written and selected by the CTF. The design and layout will be commissioned to a professional designer to ensure high quality results.

All printed materials will be produced on environmentally friendly paper and disseminated in a smart, environmentally friendly and cost-effective way. All printed materials produced under this action will make specific reference to LIFE and Natura 2000 in accordance with the respective instructions, rules and regulations.

**T.4.1.5 Teacher's and pupil's notebook (FGN, WIACO, AssACROLA)**

A small booklet (D4.3) will be adapted from the LIFE Paludicola project. It will contain information, games, drawings, and worksheets on the role of wetlands and AW. The booklet will be distributed free of charge to all educational centres where the environmental education campaign will take place. This material will be fundamental for the African awareness campaign. At least 3,000 workbooks and 1,000 teacher books will be printed.

**T.4.1.6 Mobile exhibitions (FGN, Bretagne Vivante, SPEA, WIACO )**

With the support of a subcontracted graphic designer, the CTF will design an attractive mobile exhibition (**D4.4**) with many illustrations with special focus on AW, wetlands and marshes and their importance in supporting the migration of the AW will be explained. It will also explain the flyway concept, the importance of protected (Natura 2000) sites from the breeding areas in Eastern Europe to the wintering areas in West Africa and the threats affecting the AW during its journey. The overall design will be standardised, but each BEN will produce the materials in the local language and highlight the local sites

and conservation issues. It will include 10 panels, and designed to be mobile and could be displayed at different locations (Natura 2000 and newly identified AW hotspots) for awareness-raising purposes. These materials will be presented at local and national events and stakeholder meetings. In total four mobile exhibitions will be produced.

#### **T.4.1.7 Fixed exhibitions (Natuurpunt, FGN, AssACROLA)**

Natuurpunt has a very popular visitor centre in the Flemish project area in the Yser valley, the "*Blankaart*". It is a perfect base for exhibitions on the AW and the LIFE project. Natuurpunt will also showcase current and past conservation efforts for this species, including through EU-funded projects, in its information centre. The FGN also has two visitor centres at the Desembocadura del riu Millars "*El Termet*", and another at the Marjal de Nules "*Motor del arroz*", where it will place two fixed exhibitions and informative posters about the sites. AssACROLA also has two more information centres in "*Terre d'Estuaire*" in Cordemais, Loire Estuary and "*La Maison du Lac*" at Grandlieu's lake. In total five fixed exhibitions will be produced (**D4.5**).

#### **T.4.1.8 Information signboards (FGN, BEN)**

At the most suitable locations selected by the BEN and in consultation with local authorities, information signboards (**D4.6**) will be installed in Y1 at project sites in Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal and Senegal to inform local people and visitors about the project and its objectives as well as about the activities carried out at the site. Boards will also include an acknowledgment of the LIFE funding and references to the Natura 2000 network in the EU and thus provides visibility for them. They will be produced in local languages with a summary in English. The signboards will follow an overall brand design developed by the CTF with professional help from graphic designers. Signboards will be produced from robust and durable materials to minimise wear and damage and will serve as a long-lasting visual memento of the project.

#### **T.4.1.9 Audio-visual archive of the project (WI-EA)**

A high-quality, comprehensive, and royalty-free audiovisual archive is essential to carry out all communication activities of the project. The production of printed material, such as brochures, booklets, calendars, reports, project posters, etc., as well as all electronic forms of communication, such as the website and social media.

Documentaries have proved to be one of the most successful ways to inform, educate and provoke a positive attitude among the population about biodiversity and the need to preserve it. Flagship species such as the AW are extremely good subjects to attract public attention and serve as a banner to promote nature conservation.

A combined archive of photographs, audio and video of the project will be assembled without copyright limitations for all BENs to maximise the profile of the project to key stakeholders. This archive will be the source of all images, maps, sound and video used in the presentation of the project on beneficiary websites, social media, in printed materials, educational materials, events, media activities and reports. Audio-visual materials will be stored in an online system maintained by the project's CTF.

During Y1, high quality photos and videos of the AW, its habitats and management issues will be obtained in order to create an initial stock of audio-visual material for use in the project. AW photos will be bought from external photographers, as it is extremely difficult to photograph this species without special



preparations and a lot of time spent with good lenses. The project will select and buy the copyrights for images that have been taken by external photographers or cover the costs of site visits by project staff members or external photographers.

Subsequently, photographs, interviews, sound recordings and video recordings will be made at all project sites throughout the project to document all key activities. A photographer and videographer will be arranged to join key project activities throughout the duration of the project at key times reflecting timing, location, need and prevailing weather conditions.

The timing of each of these will be planned and included in the respective annual communications plans. At least 15 photographs and five videos of the AW will be bought.

#### **T.4.1.10 Producing short videos (FGN, BEN)**

A series of short (30 to 60 seconds) videos will be produced presenting the species and its conservation issues in the main distribution sites of the flyway. In Y1 and Y5, two short five minute videos will be produced presenting the objectives, activities (**D4.7**) and results of the project (**D4.8**). The videos will be distributed free of charge and disseminated through the BEN's websites and YouTube channels. The project team will try to attract local news coverage in local communities around the key sites for AW to inform local communities. Each of the project partners will be responsible for filming their footage at each of their wetlands and the FGN will be responsible for editing the footage and formatting it into a corporate format. The videos will be subtitled in English. The best videos and photos will be provided to CINEA to promote the LIFE Programme and the Natura 2000 network. At least 20 short videos will be produced.

#### **T.4.1.11 Promotional materials (FGN)**

T-shirt, cotton bags, magnets, stickers with the project's branding will be produced and distributed at project events and at the permanent exhibitions. At least 2,000 units for each one will be produced.

#### **T.4.1.12 Layman's Report (WI-EA, BEN)**

A richly illustrated presentation of the LIFE AWOM project's results will be produced in Y5, both in printed and electronic format (**D4.9**). It will target the general public, relevant management authorities at local, regional and national and EU level. It will contain information about the project, the European Bird and Habitats Directives, the Natura 2000 Network, the European Biodiversity Strategy and EU Nature Restoration Law. It will be written by the CTF with input from the project partners' technical teams. The report will be in English and translated in the languages of the partner organisations. This report will be published in print and as an electronic PDF and will be available on the project's and all the partners' websites.

#### **T.4.1.13 Media coverage of the project (WI-EA, BEN)**

The CTF will develop and implement a media engagement plan for print media, internet, radio and television as part of T.4.1.1. Journalists will be contacted to raise their interest in the AW, the project and the problems it seeks to solve. Interest will be encouraged through briefings, site visits and press releases led by BEN staff. Given the international conservation status of the AW, there will be intrinsic international interest in this project. International news will be disseminated by the CO, using the established WI-EA and BirdLife International networks (i.e. the umbrella organisations of the project beneficiaries). Each BEN's website (T.4.1.2) will include a section dedicated to press releases and a news archive, as well as links to the news

coverage generated. The project will endeavour to generate at least one broadcast about the project on national TV channels per year, as well as at least two such broadcasts on regional TV news, live programmes, etc. At least three publications in print media will be generated. In order to measure the success of the promotion of the project through the media, the CTF will monitor and update monthly the records of media coverage generated. In each case, media companies will also be required to provide basic data on the number and characteristics of readers, listeners, viewers and unique visitors (internet). These indicator data will be combined to produce a media impact report which will form part of the overall project reports and will be provided to the PSC. All project partners will make a trip with journalists at the beginning of the project to explain the objectives and present the areas of action and at the end of the project to see the actions and results achieved.

Throughout the media engagement, special reference will be made to the LIFE+ Programme and the EU contribution.

#### **T.4.2 Outreach campaign (FGN, Natuurpunt, AssACROLA, MdE, GONm, SPEA, WIACO)**

The objective of this task is to reach out to different stakeholders living and/or working at the project sites. Targeted stakeholder engagement activities will be initiated at the level of the project sites. This way, we want to create maximum social participation and socio-economic support in a sustainable way and to quickly detect specific bottlenecks and look for specific solutions. This awareness-raising will inform other stakeholders before the actions are carried out and will also create a platform for feedback after the restoration works have been executed. In doing so, we want to respond to the growing social pressure around, for example, the felling of trees or removing of IAS. With this activity, we want to move from classical stakeholder awareness-raising to stakeholder involvement. In this way, we also want to respond faster and better to the fast and not always correct communication of stakeholders via social media. This stakeholder consultation and strategy will serve as an example for other projects, areas and managers in Europe.

The outreach activities will take various forms adapting to the local customs and conditions. In some areas three hour information evening sessions will be organised where the objectives and results of the project will be explained, so that the stakeholders can apply this knowledge to their activity and improve the conditions of the AW, elsewhere special activities will target schools, local businesses and media covering three school periods during the project and all municipalities in the working area. This campaign will be accompanied by the materials designed in action T.4.1.

The outreach activities will specifically target the following stakeholder groups:

##### **T.4.2.1 Farmers**

Farmers are an important target group because of the impact they have on the environment. Therefore, in this LIFE project we want to pay special attention to the involvement of farmers, both in the short-term during the project period, as well as in the long-term. Both Natuurpunt and FGN has a tradition of cooperating with local farmers who help with nature management. They mow some agreed upon areas and their cattle graze nature reserves under clear conditions for nature values (e.g. zero fertilisation, timing), laid down in user agreements. In the framework of LIFE AWOM, Natuurpunt will organise information evenings for local farmers. A desk study will show which fields and grasslands of private users border the project area in important places. The owners of these lands will then be contacted and invited to the information evenings. It will be clearly mentioned that in neighbouring areas large-scale nature restoration actions will take place, and that the project team wants to explain the possibilities of cooperation and specific advantages for the farmers themselves. In addition, Natuurpunt wants to look at and actively explore with the farmers concerned how they can link up with action T.4.2 of the new Belgian Strategic Nature Project (SNaP) "Life Belgium4Biodiversity" (LIFE21-IPN-BE-B4B) focusing on nature inclusive agriculture. Action T.4.2 seeks to improve the condition and diversity of agroecosystems, in a way that supports both biodiversity and agriculture. Nature inclusive

agriculture combines measures dedicated towards specific farmland species and habitats (e.g. through agri-environmental schemes) and agro-ecological measures dedicated to functional biodiversity. It searches for synergies between both, and it searches for synergies with neighbouring protected areas. The LIFE AWOM project can therefore be a good pilot, strengthen both projects and scale up the actions T.6.7 (LIFE AWOM) and T.4.2 (LIFE B4B). Natuurpunt is partner in LIFE B4B and involved in T.4.2. FGN will also work with farmers in WP3, integrating farming systems around pilot wetlands for a landscape scale approach in the restoration (T.3.1.2.7). Training evenings with farmers will be developed to share the results and encourage replication. At least 12 sessions with farmers will be held in three Spanish regions.

#### **T.4.2.2 Politicians and local decision makers**

As set out in sections 3.2 and 3.6, politicians in general and the local decision makers specifically, are of great importance. Political involvement is important for the promotion and dissemination of the project in media, permits/advisories and public support. All municipalities concerned will be involved in this communication action. During the project, Natuurpunt, GONm, AssACROLA, FGN and SPEA will organise at least three information evenings each for the affected municipalities. It will be left up to the municipalities themselves to decide who is best fit to join these informative events: the mayor himself, aldermen, the members of the city council, employees of the municipality (such as the environmental officers). All the municipalities will be invited to all information evenings. During these events, LIFE AWOM actions will be discussed and the role (that is expected or wished for) of the municipalities will be discussed, with room for suggestions and questions. Time and space for networking will be included.

In Senegal, information meetings will be organised with the Senegal River Basin Authority (OMWS), responsible for irrigation and therefore agriculture. Information will be provided about the effects of water management on the habitat of AW and other bird species. The OMWS will also be invited into the NWG and to other project events. There will be at least five meetings with politicians and decision makers.

#### **T.4.2.3 Companies**

Well managed wetlands can not only support AW, but are also one of the most effective carbon sinks. Natuurpunt and FGN will engage with at least 50 companies and local businesses to sensitise them to the idea of investing in the restoration and conservation of these ecosystems and generate carbon or biodiversity credits.

#### **T.4.2.4 Schools**

Local schools will be targeted by the outreach activities as part of environmental education and as another means to reach out to the local population. This activity will begin in Y3 when all the materials are already available and will continue until the end of the project, with a focus on those sites where the entities have the most power to reach out, such as information centres or municipalities with agreements with the BEN. At least 200 schools will be sensitised.

In Senegal, a special environmental education campaign will target the schools in the villages around the Djoudj National Park with excursions and games. These activities will also be supported by the mobile exhibition (T.4.1.6) and the teacher's and pupil's notebooks (T.4.1.5) will also be used to reach this target audience. Pupils will also be involved in celebrating the World Migratory Bird and World Wetland Days, important campaign days in Senegal.

Other potential stakeholders as recreational groups (hikers, mountain bikers, fishermen), landowners, photographers etc. will also be invited to these sessions.

#### **T.4.3. Networking (WI-EA, BEN):**

##### **T.4.3.1 Networking with other LIFE and other European projects (WI-EA, BEN)**

The LIFE AWOM project focuses on the conservation of the stopover and wintering sites from Belgium to Senegal, while the twin LIFE4AquaticWarbler project (also submitted to this call) focuses on the breeding countries Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Hungary and Ukraine. If both projects are approved, they will work closely together. Representatives of both projects will be invited to the governing or advisory bodies of the other projects. The two projects will seek synergies in their activities, harmonise their workplans and budgets to the extent possible. They will share information about ringed and geolocator or radio tag-bearing birds, collaborate on locating them during the annual cycle stage covered by the other project, invite partners of the other project to their events and share the project outputs.

The project will closely collaborate with the new Euro Bird Portal LIFE project, coordinated by one of the beneficiaries of our project, ICO. The LIFE AWOM project will build on the methods developed in the framework of that project to model the distribution of AW. In turn, the LIFE AWOM project will act as a test case for developing modelling approaches for unobtrusive and rare species that are more difficult to monitor.

The LIFE AWOM project will also network with the Natura Connect HORIZON project which addresses systematic conservation planning and develops future scenarios. Our co-beneficiary, CSIC is a task lead for the WP that deals with the scenario development.

In addition, project beneficiaries will seek collaboration opportunities with other LIFE projects in their countries that address strategic conservation issues relevant for the conservation of the AW and its habitats, species that have similar habitat requirements as the AW or the management of Natura 2000 sites or habitats where AW occurs in significant numbers, wetland restoration or management, climate change mitigation or adaptation or development of partnership with businesses and farmers.

##### **T.4.3.2 Participation in international processes (WI-EA)**

The primary objective of this proposal is to promote the conservation of the AW during the passage and wintering phase of its annual cycle and focusing on the non-breeding countries. However, the AW is subject of the AW MoU, the CMS Landbirds Action Plan and the Bern Convention. There is also a dedicated AWCT focusing on the conservation of the species. The project aims to support the implementation of the MoU. Therefore, some members of the project consortium will participate in any upcoming relevant meetings of the MoU, CMS Landbirds Action Plan and the Bern Convention and the meetings AWCT.

#### **Summary of resources allocated to this WP:**

Personnel: in total 137 person-months across 11 organisations = € 564,179.

Subcontracting: € 41,600

Travel and subsistence: € 48,441

Equipment: € 93,201

Other goods, works and services: € 245,320

**Major cost items (> € 30,000):**

Subcontracting

T.4.1 Communications and awareness raising: Designs € 36,600 (FGN)

Equipment

T.4.2 Outreach campaign: Teaching materials € 45,795 (WIACO)

Other goods, works and services

T.4.1 Communications and awareness raising: €54,750 (WI-EA)

T.4.2 Outreach campaign:: Workshops and communications € 92,790 (FGN)

T.4.2 Outreach campaign:: Workshops € 36,000 (Natuurpunt)

**Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)**

Milestone No	Milestone Name	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	Description	Due Date (month number)	Means of Verification
MS11	Communication Plan	4	WI-EA	See T.4.1.1	6, 13, 25, 37, 49	An electronic PDF document in English, updated annually.
MS12	Annual consolidated communications progress reports Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5	4	WI-EA	To respect the page limit for this application, milestones under WP4 are lumped into annual consolidated progress reports including the progress under each subtask of this WP due in	12, 24, 36, 48, 60	Annual consolidated communication progress reports published on the WI-EA website. These reports will contain copies of web pages, social media activities, visitor and followers statistics, printed materials, short videos, promotional

Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	the given year as defined in the Communication Plan			Due Date (month number)	Description (including format and language)
				Type	Dissemination Level			
D4.1	Project poster	4	WI-EA	R	PU	6	See T.4.1.4. A2 sized posters in English, Dutch, French, Spanish and Portuguese	
D4.2	Project leaflet	4	WI-EA	R	PU	36	See T.4.1.4. Printed in English, Dutch, French, Spanish and Portuguese	
D4.3	Teacher's and pupil's notebook	4	FGN	R	PU	12	See T.4.1.5. Printed in French and Spanish.	
D4.4	Mobile exhibition	4	FGN	DEC	PU	24	4 sets of a 12-panel exhibition on the AW in the language of each partner, with a summary in English, will be produced in roll-ups	
D4.5	Fixed exhibition	4	Natuurpunt	DEC	PU	24	5 fixed exhibition of 12 panels on the AW in the language of each partner, with a summary in English, will be produced at visitor centres.	
D4.6	Information signboards	4	FGN	DEC	PU	12	23 signboards in English, Dutch, French, Spanish and Portuguese installed	
D4.7	Introductory video	4	FGN	DEC	PU	12	5-minutes introductory video clip in English, Dutch, French, Spanish and Portuguese with English subtitles	
D4.8	Summary video	4	FGN	DEC	PU	54	5-minutes summary video clip in English, Dutch, French, Spanish and Portuguese with English subtitles	

D4.9	Laymen's report	4	WI-EA	R	PU	60	Printed and electronic PDF in English, Dutch, French, Spanish and Portuguese
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### Work Package 5

<b>Work Package 5: [Monitoring and evaluation]</b> <i>(n/a for concept note)</i>			
<b>Duration:</b>	M01 – M60	<b>Lead Beneficiary:</b>	Bretagne Vivante
<b>Objectives and results</b>			
<b>Objectives:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To improve the methods for the assessment of the extent and quality of habitats and importance of staging and wintering sites for the AW.</li> <li>▪ To generate information for the project's KPI.</li> </ul>			
<b>Results:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Method to measure the extent of suitable habitat is developed.</li> <li>▪ Change in suitable habitat is measured at the restorations sites.</li> <li>▪ Relationship between habitat types and food availability is established at selected sites.</li> <li>▪ Relationship between habitat types, food availability and fuel accumulation rate is established at selected sites.</li> <li>▪ Habitat preferences and impact of restoration is understood.</li> <li>▪ Internationally agreed protocol to assess the relative importance of sites and site conditions for the AW.</li> <li>▪ The project's contribution to the KPIs is measured.</li> </ul>			

**Activities and division of work (WP description)****T.5.1 Monitoring and evaluation of habitat availability and feeding conditions (Bretagne Vivante, Natuurpunt, TdV, AssACROLA, MdE, GONm, FGN, CSIC, SPEA, WIACO, ICO):**

Stopover areas should provide adequate resting and feeding conditions for migratory species. Consequently, the conservation of these shall focus on creating adequate habitat structure that cater for these requirements. Monitoring activities will focus on four aspects: habitat availability, food availability, and measuring the rate of fat reserve accumulation in and habitat use by AWs.

**T.5.1.1 Habitat availability**

Earlier studies (Bargain 2002, Foucher *et al.* 2011, Provost *et al.* 2010 and 2011, Fontanilles *et al.* 2014, Musseau *et al.* 2014) in the Seine estuary and in the Adour valley have described the habitat requirements of AW and made it possible to construct a simplified habitat typology for the species. This typology will be further refined by the French AW Working Group prior to the start of the LIFE AWOM project and it will be cross-referenced to other established habitat typologies more widely used in the context of the EU Habitats Directive and the EUNIS with the aim of mapping suitable AW habitats for the species to monitor the changes in the extent of suitable habitats. The habitat classification methodology will be first tested at the sites restored under the framework of this project. In Y1, the habitat classification methodology will be shared with project partners in other countries. In Y2, the project partners will extend the habitat classification methodology to the conditions in their countries (**D5.1**). This process will be informed by the STEM development under T.2.2 lead by ICO. In Y3, ICO will develop a methodology for the large-scale monitoring of the availability of suitable habitats and their change using remote sensing. A baseline habitat mapping (**MS13**) will be carried out at the project sites before the start of the restoration works and a final one in Y5 (**MS14**). As some of the restoration work will start already in Y1, the baseline habitat mapping will use the EUNIS classification system with additional descriptions on the physical characteristics of the site.

**T.5.1.2 Food availability**

Previous data exist on the diet composition of migrating AWs in France based on remains of arthropods found in the faeces of AW collected during ringing sessions. Prior to the start of the LIFE AWOM project, the diet information will be updated in France using environmental DNA (eDNA) collected from faecal samples. In Y1, eDNA samples will also be collected at ringing stations in other project countries (Spain and Senegal). Based on the eDNA studies, the main prey species will be identified (**MS15**), and entomologist experts will recommend and describe appropriate standard survey methods for food availability that is suitable for the main prey species (**MS16**). Autumn Y2 and spring Y3: Food availability will be assessed at five sites. The sampling and analysis of the samples will be carried out by subcontracted entomologists. The results of the sampling and the relationship between the food availability and habitat structure will be summarised in a report (**D5.2**) and depending on the quality of the data collected, the project team will endeavour to publish the results in a peer reviewed scientific journal.

**T.5.1.3 Fuel accumulation rate**



Capture-mark-recapture methods can be used to estimate fuel (body fat) accumulation rate, which is a good functional indicator of the quality of the staging habitat as it is directly linked to the ability of the site to support the refuelling of birds for the next stage of their migration. Body mass and fattening data are easier to gather and process than e.g., food availability and telemetry data. Thus, measuring fuel accommodation rate could be potentially used more widely to monitor the quality of staging and wintering sites. Depending on the number of recaptures enabling repeated measurements of the same individuals, fuel deposition rates will be estimated as changes over time in individual mass and fat scores (longitudinal approach) or in mean population mass or fat scores (cross-sectional approach). As the application of this method requires the operation of a ringing station during the migration period, it will be implemented in conjunction with T.5.1.2 and T.5.2 and only at the permanent ringing stations under T.5.2. In Y1 a fat reserve measurement protocol will be established (**MS17**). The results of the studies will be described in a technical report (**D5.3**).

#### **T.5.1.4 Habitat use by telemetry**

The AW is a small passerine species with unobtrusive behaviour outside of the breeding season. Both observational studies and ringing provide biased data on the habitat selection of the species. Observations are easier in more open habitats, while mist netting is usually carried out in closed habitats (e.g. reedbeds) rather than in open ones. The effectiveness of the mist nets also differ by habitat types. Telemetry studies can provide a better insight into the habitat use and selection of the species. In addition, radio-telemetry studies linked to the capture-recapture data collected under T.5.2 and fat accumulation rates under T.5.1.3 will allow estimating fuel loads, fat deposition rates and stopover duration post-capture, under the assumption that mean stopover duration and fuelling rate should increase in higher-quality sites relative to lower-quality ones.

To assess the effectiveness of restoration actions, we will assess the quality of selected restored sites relative to their quality prior to restoration and/or the quality of unrestored control sites based on the use of the habitats by AW using telemetry and ringing data (see below). Site management measurements will start at some sites in Y2 and Y3 of the project. Thus, a before-after comparison of restored sites can be made by initiating tagging in Y2, before the restoration works start. In addition, depending on the site, we will track birds to estimate habitat use and stopover duration also at control sites that remain unrestored and similar to the restoration area before the restoration started. Control sites should ideally be located at a similar distance to the catching site as restoration sites to facilitate comparison. Bird tagging and tracking at control and restored sites will be conducted during Y2–Y4. We plan to investigate the habitat use with telemetry at a subset of 10 restoration sites in Europe and at one site in Senegal. In addition, we will carry out similar studies at some permanent ringing stations (T.5.2) and at the Doñana and in southern France to study migration.

For a small bird such as the AW, GPS-GSM devices cannot be used due to tag-size limitations. However, automated radiotelemetry emerges as an efficient tool for tracking AW. It allows better understanding of space-use patterns and stopover duration at key stopover sites, including restored areas, and in wintering locations. In addition, insofar as the number of receiver-stations and the battery life of the tags permit, telemetry can provide additional information for the assessments of site importance (T.5.2), site connectivity (T.2.3) and contribute to GFSs (T.2.4).

To assess the habitat use of AW, birds will be captured at ringing stations and at selected sites, and will be equipped with CTT LifeTags or PowerTags (<https://celltracktech.com/>). Such miniaturised radio transmitters can easily be attached to the bird using a leg-loop harness (Naef-Daenzer 2007). Each CCT tag contains a unique digital ID that enables discernment between individually-marked animals and minimises the rate of false positives. CTT tags have been chosen based primarily on their small size, ease of attachment, affordable price, and battery life options. The smallest CTT tag model is 0.35 g, much smaller than the rump-mounted tags used in earlier geolocator studies of AW (Salewski *et al.* 2019). CTT tags provide more accurate location

data than the geolocators. In addition, CTT tags can be used on birds caught at a given stop-over or wintering location, which makes them more suitable for assessing local habitat use. (Small birds can be fitted with geolocators only at sites where they can be also recaptured. In case of the AW, this would be the breeding grounds, which makes them unpredictable for the purpose of our study). A further advantage of the CTT tags in comparison to geolocators, is that the birds' movements within the area can be followed "live", which is another great advantage from a communications perspective. In case of geolocators, the movement data can be downloaded only when the birds are recaptured, usually once a year on the breeding grounds.

The functionality and data reception mode of LifeTags (0.45 g) or PowerTags (0.35 g) are the same, but they differ in the duration of the battery life. The main advantage of the LifeTag is that it is battery-free and relies on a small solar panel. Hence, it is expected to deliver absence-presence data over long time periods, from a minimum of one year to multiple years. LifeTags should enable full-annual cycle tracking, furthering our understanding of the migratory pathways of AW and their life cycles more generally. Nonetheless, for a meadow-dwelling species like AW, the daily exposure to sunlight might not be sufficient to keep the battery operating due to shading effects, potentially affecting the performance of solar-powered LifeTags. The PowerTag is a battery variant of the LifeTag. The battery facilitates data transmission even in the absence of sunlight, so this type of transmitter might be better suited for species that seek refuge or forage in dense vegetation during the day, as is the case of the AW. Battery-powered CTT tags have proven useful in tracking bats, small turtles, rodents, night rails, and cavity-nesting birds (D. LaPuma, pers. com.), and should therefore be suitable for AW as well. The expected duration of the battery life of PowerTags (from six months to multiple years) is long enough to better understand local habitat use and duration of stay at the stopover sites. This information can be used to assess the effectiveness of habitat restoration/management measures (T.5.1) and to calibrate ringing efforts (T.5.2), since birds stage for a relatively short period of time (less than two months) at the European stopover sites and often take under three months to complete their autumn or spring migration. Therefore, the use of CTT to investigate the stopover ecology of the species is considered a valuable tool in determining the local importance of stopover sites and the effectiveness of monitoring protocols and habitat restoration measures.

CCT tag detection data can be received by one or more base sensor stations, a grid of tracking nodes or by portable CTT locators connected to a directional antenna. To investigate habitat use and selection at key stopover sites and restoration sites, fine-scale presence-absence data are needed. Hence, at these key sites the base receiver station (€ 1,190 + installation costs) will be connected to a node grid covering both potentially used and unused sites (to enable habitat use/selection assessment). Nodes (€180 each + installation costs) are presence/absence detectors that record tag ID and upload tag detection data to the base station as data packets. The effective detection range of nodes is 250-300 m and are often located in a regular grid across the landscape to maximise the surface of the tracking area. Thus, in practice, one single node setup will suffice to cover a surface of six to nine ha, while a node grid of 25 nodes would be required to cover a surface of 150-200 ha. The total number and spatial arrangement of the nodes will be adjusted according to the specific characteristics (e.g. surface, shape) of each site. To estimate habitat selection, the nodes will be distributed as far as possible across locations perceived to be suitable for AW based on the researchers' experience, as well as across locations perceived to be unsuitable, to generate a presence-absence matrix from which habitat selection can be inferred. Moreover, a portable receptor (€ 775) connected to a directional hand-held antenna may be used to cover particularly large areas at strategic locations and key stopover sites like the Doñana National Park, and to maximise the chances of detection of tagged birds in the wintering areas during the GFSs (T.2.4). It should be noted that the use of the CTT system to determine the migratory pathways of AW is currently limited in most of their distribution range by the availability of receiver stations and, possibly also, by shading effects reducing the performance of LifeTags. Still, the information provided by PowerTags may opportunistically be used to examine the movement of birds between sites, migratory timing and routes, aspects of barrier crossing and, eventually, to gain general insight into their annual cycle. To explore

these benefits, we will also deploy CTT receiver stations at some strategic locations along the migration routes, such as major geographic barriers (e.g. Strait of Gibraltar and the Pyrenees).

Before implementing the automated tracking system across all countries, in the first semester of the project we will set-up a pilot experiment (**MS18**) to compare the performance of each tag model and assess their suitability to our research priorities. To do so, we will capture as many birds as possible during the spring migration of Y1 at a subset of stopover sites and attach either LifeTags or PowerTags to the birds in similar proportions. To ensure data comparability, the pilot experiment will be conducted by the same observer(s) (from EBD-CSIC) and within the same country (Spain). One field technician will work at EBD-CSIC for three years to perform the pilot trial (Y1), taking over the major portion of local monitoring activities over a vast area of Doñana (Y2-Y4), and providing support on technical issues upon request from other partners (Y1-Y4). The preliminary results of this pilot will enable us to fine-tune the tagging and tracking methods, determine the sample size of birds equipped with each tag type in subsequent years, and to gain experience with data management. A quick evaluation and reporting on the results of the pilot study is planned for the second and third quarters of Y1 (**MS19**). The analysis of CTT data is complex and time-demanding and requires tailored data processing and modelling approaches. A postdoc will work at the EBD for two years, starting in summer Y1, to set up a unified tracking database (**MS21**) develop data analysis tools and a data management and sharing plan. The same or another postdoc will be hired again for two years, starting in January Y4, to process and interpret the telemetry data collected during Y1-Y4 and write up the final scientific report (**D5.4**) and scientific articles.

It is challenging for one team of researchers to install the tracking system in all countries and tag all captured birds. Therefore, in the last quarter of Y1 the project partners will be trained in setting up, maintaining and using the tracking stations and node grids, and in bird-tagging techniques with the support of both the CTT manufacturer and the staff from EBD-CSIC.

Deployment of the receiver station network will be conducted between Y2 and Y3 (**MS20**). The specific setup to be installed at each barrier-crossing, key stopover, or restoration site will need to be adjusted to the habitat composition, surface and shape of each site.

For barrier-crossing tracking at strategic sites, we will install a receiver station connected to two to four directional Yagi antennas (€ 110 each) facing east-west and north-south axes. To maximize the detection range, bearing antennas will be mounted on a tower of 10 m height. This setup should enable detection of passing birds within a 1.5-km radius, although the effective detection range of these antennas may vary depending on local factors affecting the signal transmission. One of these setups will be erected in both the Pyrenees and the Strait of Gibraltar as soon as the first AW are tagged in spring-autumn 2026.

#### **T.5.2 Assessing the importance of staging and wintering sites (Bretagne Vivante, Natuurpunt, TdV, CSIC, ICO, FGN, AssACROLA, WIACO):**

Assessing the importance of a site for the AW during passage is difficult due to its unobtrusive behaviour. It is not surprising that only less than half of the Standard Data Forms of Natura 2000 sites selected for the species in France, Spain and Portugal contain any quantitative population size estimates and at most of the sites the status of the migratory population is not even monitored. Consequently, there is no information about the effectiveness of habitat management for the species. However, good management of the staging areas is essential in the conservation of the species because these sites play an important role as refuelling areas during migration.

In order to improve the monitoring of at least the already known key sites for the AW, standardised ringing methods will be applied across the migratory range of the species in the EU and there will be efforts made during the GFSs to extend such methods to the staging and wintering areas in Africa. The ringing efforts will aim to produce an indicator of the quality of sites that is based on trends in catches (relative abundance) at the site. In addition, data from the ringing activities can also provide information on fattening rates (T.5.1.3), stopover duration (T.5.1.4) and on the changes in the overall breeding success of the European population.

The standardised ringing methodology will build on the ACROLA protocol introduced in France in 2008 and developed further in 2012 (Jiguet *et al.* 2012). This protocol standardises the capture units (3 x 12-meters mist nets), capture times including the opening and closing of nets and the use of sound playback to attract birds. Timing of ringing activities will be standardised at the national level, reflecting the time period when the main migration of AW occurs in the country (e.g. August in France).

In Y1, Bretagne Vivante will organise a workshop for ringers from Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal and Senegal (**MS22**) to introduce the protocol and agree on the best way to adapt it to the local circumstances while preserving the comparability of the data. National ACROLA protocols will be published by M15 (**MS23**).

From Y2, three ACROLA demonstration ringing stations will be operational in France, 15 in Spain, one in Portugal and one in Senegal. Each station will operate for at least three seasons. During their operations, the ACROLA stations will host and train ringers interested in applying the methodology at other sites. The ACROLA stations in collaboration with the national coordinating partners will also organise open days for the managers of Natura 2000 sites important for the AW in their respective countries with the objective of setting up similar stations at other sites deemed important for the species. The national coordinating partners will also follow up with the site managers and support them in planning and setting up new stations with the objective of ensuring that at least half of all important sites for AW in the country have an operational ACROLA station.

The data collected by the network of ACROLA stations will be analysed in 2029 with the help of subcontracted scientists and the results will be published in a scientific report (**MS24**) demonstrating the ability of the method to monitor the importance of individual sites and the changes in breeding success.

In Senegal, the establishment of the monitoring of the site importance with ringing is more difficult than in European countries. Ringing activities should be sustained over a longer period (from December to February) to monitor the status of the population and to clarify the importance of the site for wintering and passage, respectively. The GFS (T.2.3) can help establish local capacity amongst the staff of the PNOD assisted by researchers and students from the University of Gaston-Berger in Saint-Louis in Senegal, which offers Masters courses in Ornithology, Conservation and Development. The set-up of such a station will be technically assisted by AssACROLA. The ringing operations in Senegal will use wtBirds rings ([wtBirds.org](http://wtBirds.org)).

Realising a “permanent” ringing station at the Djoudj would require providing some accommodation and facilities for the researchers and students because Saint-Louis is located more than 650 km away of which c. 40 km is unpaved road. The Djoudj Biological Station is owned by the DPN and situated on the edge of the PNOD but it would require renovation to accommodate the researchers and students during the annual ringing operations. If the station is renovated, the DPN would sign a long-term commitment required by LIFE that the Biological Station will be dedicated to nature and biodiversity conservation purposes and that it would co-finance the renovation works.

### **T.5.3 Monitoring Key-performance indicators (WI-EA,BEN)**

All LIFE proposals have to report on their expected outputs and impacts using the LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). To assess the impact of this project, the following KPI was selected: “*Biodiversity (habitats) – “Area of habitats where the loss of biodiversity is being halted and reversed”*”. The project will directly affect the areas restored under T.3.1 and protected under T.3.4. Indirectly, it will affect a much larger area through T.3.2 and T.3.3 and WP6. The area of habitats affected by T.3.1 will be based on the final habitat assessment (MS14), which will include a direct comparison with the situation at Y1. Values five years after the end of the project (Y10) will be measured through repeating the habitat assessment and comparing that with the baseline situation.

The impact of T.3.2 of T.3.3 will be assessed based on the remote sensing information to be developed under T.2.2 and linked to the habitat classification developed under T.5.1.1. The remote sensing information will be analysed for Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal in Y5 (**MS25**) and repeated in Y10. These assessments will compare the habitat availability in these countries in Y1, Y5 and Y10.

**Summary of resources allocated to this WP:**

Personnel: in total 245 person-months across 12 organisations = € 1,035,452.

Volunteers: € 123,708

Subcontracting: € 246,417

Travel and subsistence: € 92,865

Equipment: € 135,961

Other goods, works and services: € 333,130

**Major cost items (> € 30,000):**

Subcontracting

T.5.1 & T.5. 2: eDNA analysis and renovating the Djoudj Biological Station € 56,642 (WIACO)

T.5.1: eDNA analysis: € 166,775 (FGN)

Travel and subsistence

T.5.1 and T.5.2: Ringing € 41,080 (SPEA)

Equipment

T.5.1 Sensor stations, nodes, tags € 38,106 (FGN)

T.5.1 Sensor stations, nodes, tags € 44,500 (Bretagne Vivante)

Other goods, works and services

T.5.2 Ringing training € 65,780 (WIACO)						
T.5.1 Sensor stations, nodes, tags € 38,106 (TdV)						
Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)						
Milestone No	Milestone Name	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	Description	Due Date (month number)	Means of Verification
MS13	Baseline habitat assessment	5	Bretagne Vivante	T.5.1.1 Results of the baseline habitat mapping in Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Senegal	10	Electronic reports in PDF format in English and the local languages uploaded on the WI-EA website. GIS layers.
MS14	Final habitat assessment	5	Bretagne Vivante	T.5.1.1 Results of the final habitat mapping in Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Senegal and comparison with the baseline mapping	58	Electronic reports for each sites in PDF format in English and the local languages uploaded on the WI-EA website. GIS layers.
MS15	Report on prey composition of AW on the Iberian Peninsula	5	Bretagne Vivante	T.5.1.2 Results of the eDNA analysis from faecal samples	12	Electronic report in PDF format in English published on the WI-EA website.
MS16	Entomological sampling protocol	5	Bretagne Vivante	T.5.1.2 Describes the proposed entomological sampling to be carried out	18	Electronic report in PDF format in English published on the WI-EA website.
MS17	Fat reserve measurement protocol	5	Bretagne Vivante	T.5.1.3 Describes the method of measuring fat accumulation rate	6	Electronic report in PDF format in English published on the WI-EA website.
MS18	Set up telemetry pilot	5	CSIC	T.5.1.4 Installation of nodes and receivers at the pilot site	3	Installation report including georeferenced locations of the nodes and receivers

MS19	Tagging and telemetry pilot	5	CSIC	T.5.1.4 Lessons learnt and advice to partners	9	Electronic report in PDF format in English published on the WI-EA website.	
MS20	Telemetry set up at all study sites	5	CSIC	T.5.1.4 Installation of nodes and receivers at all study sites	27	Installation reports including georeferenced locations of the nodes and receivers	
MS21	Unified tracking database	5	CSIC	T.5.1.4 All tracking data is consolidated in one database	48	Copy of the database	
MS22	International workshop on standardising ringing efforts	5	Bretagne Vivante	T.5.2 with participants from Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal	6	Workshop report in English	
MS23	National ACROLA protocols	5	Bretagne Vivante	T.5.2 International standards for comparable site surveys	15	Electronic report in PDF format in local languages with English summary published on the WI-EA website.	
MS24	Scientific report on ACROLA stations	5	Bretagne Vivante	T.5.2 Report describing relative importance of sites and breeding success	59	Electronic report in PDF format in English published on the WI-EA website.	
MS25	Technical report on availability of suitable AW habitat	5	WI-EA	T.5.3 Extent of AW habitat in Belgium, Spain, Portugal to be produced by ICO	59	Electronic report in PDF format in English published on the WI-EA website.	
Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month number)	Description (including format and language)
D5.1	AW habitat typology for Belgium, Spain and Portugal	5	Bretagne Vivante	<i>R</i>	<i>PU</i>	24	Electronic PDF document in English and the local languages
D5.2	Food availability technical report	5	Bretagne Vivante	<i>R</i>	<i>SEN</i>	36	Electronic PDF document in English

D5.3	Fuel accumulation technical report	5	Bretagne Vivante	<i>R</i>	<i>SEN</i>	59	Electronic PDF document in English
D5.4	Telemetry technical report	5	CSIC	<i>R</i>	<i>SEN</i>	59	Electronic PDF document in English
D5.5	Update of KPI	5	WI-EA	<i>R</i>	<i>PU</i>	60	Update on the KPI value on the Funding & Tenders Portal supported by an electronic PDF document in English

### Work Package 6

<b>Work Package 6: Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results</b> <i>(n/a for concept note)</i>			
<b>Durati on:</b>	M03 – M60	<b>Lead Beneficiary:</b>	3-Natuurpunt
<b>Objectives and results</b>			
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To replicate, upscale and ensure the sustainability of the project's results.</li> </ul> <p><b>Results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sustainability of the project's results will be ensured through updated or new national and international SAPs and an After-LIFE Conservation Plan.</li> <li>The project's results will be upscaled and replicated through advocacy and dissemination activities.</li> </ul>			
<b>Activities and division of work (WP description)</b>			



### **T.6.1 Activities to ensure sustainability of the project's results (WI-EA, BEN)**

#### **T.6.1.1 Update or prepare new national species action plans for the AW**

National SAPs (or equivalent documents) are proven to be useful instruments to guide conservation efforts for threatened species in the long-term. National species action plans set out a framework for the implementation of the ISAP in the national context in more concrete terms than the international ones. The existing national species action plans will be updated in Belgium, France and Spain. New national species action plans will be prepared in countries without a species action plan namely in Portugal and Senegal. The revision of existing national species action plans for the AW and the development of new SAPs will involve a wide range of national stakeholders in each country. The process will include the evaluation of the ongoing conservation actions, identifying gaps in implementation and assessment of new opportunities. As part of this process national species action planning, in person or on-line national workshops will be organised (**MS26**) and the draft action plans will be presented to the national relevant authorities for approval (**MS27**). The updated and new national action plans will outline a set of activities to be implemented at national level, their timeline and the organisations leading and contributing to each task. These plans will create a framework for sustaining and upscaling the project's results.

#### **T.6.1.2 Updating the ISAP**

ISAPs are useful tools to guide conservation efforts at international level and provide a guiding framework for the national species action plans. The first ISAP for the AW was produced almost 30 years ago (Heredia 1996). This action plan was revised in the framework of the AW MoU in 2003, then that plan was replaced by a revised ISAP based under the Service Contract N#070307/2007/488316/SER/B2 "*Technical and scientific support in relation to the implementation of the 92/43 "Habitats" and 79/409 "Birds" Directives*" which was published on the EC website in 2009 and by the CMS MoU in 2010. This plan was last updated in 2016 (Flade & Lachmann 2016), already eight years ago, while the recommended periodicity is between 5–10 years. In the meantime, a lot of new information came to light concerning the migration strategy and habitat requirements of the AW, and it is expected that the activities implemented in the framework of this project will also provide new insights.

The revision of the ISAP for the AW will be done in close collaboration with the AWCT, the CMS Secretariat and the Nature Unit of the EC. If approved, collaboration will be sought with the LIFE4AquaticWarbler project. During the update of the ISAP for the AW, implementation of the current international action plan will be reviewed, lessons learnt from this project, the LIFE4AquaticWarbler project and from other recent AW LIFE projects will be analysed. A planning workshop will be organised in Y4 (**MS28**) involving representatives of the AW range states including official representatives to the AW MoU and a wide range of experts engaged with this and the LIFE4AquaticWarbler projects as well as experts associated with the AWCT, as well as representatives of the CMS Secretariat and the EC. The revised draft action plan will be offered for revision and ultimate endorsement to the NADEG and the AW MoU in Y5 (**D6.1**).

#### **T.6.1.3 Develop an After-LIFE Conservation Plan**

An After-LIFE Conservation Plan will be developed by the end of the project. This plan will build on and consolidate the results of the national (T.6.1.1) and international action plans (T.6.1.2) and it will also pay special attention to the maintenance of the staging and wintering sites restored under T.3.1.

The project team will organise a special workshop for the project partners and key stakeholders to discuss the structure and the content of the plan. The workshop will take place in the first half of Y5. The After-LIFE Conservation Plan will contain national chapters in English and the local languages for each

participating country and will contain an overall chapter for the international work. The document will be produced in a PDF format and will be available on the website of WI-EA, the COO (**D6.2**). The document will set out how the project partners will sustain the results of the actions carried out under this project and continue improving the conservation status of the AW and the additional measures needed.

It is assumed that the AW MoU and the AWCT will be instrumental in the future conservation of the species. Therefore, their representatives will be involved in the development of the After-LIFE Conservation Plan. In addition, input will be sought from the LIFE4AquaticWarbler project that aims to address the breeding range states.

The After-LIFE Conservation Plan will include at least the following aspects:

- I.16. **Management plans with concrete measures for next 20 years:** The focus will be on the first 10 years after the project, since the newly restored areas will need an intensive follow-up management, in order to achieve a good development of the AW habitats, but also the longer term perspectives will be included.
- I.17. **Further implementation/expansion from the lessons learned:** the BEN commit themselves to further implement the lessons learned and expand the project area. This will be established by using the data collected during the actions in WP2, WP3, WP5 and in this work package and the further activation of local residents, stakeholders and volunteers both for maintenance and monitoring. Based on the lessons learned, new proposals will be submitted to the authorities and other potential funders to continue the restoration/management work for AW in the project area
- I.18. **Monitoring:** The BEN will continue to monitor the project sites for at least 20 years after the project ends. Particularly the evolution of the AW habitats and the use of them by the species during migration and effects of climate change will be monitored closely.
- I.19. **General communication and networking:** BEN will continue the general communication about the project and its objectives in order to generate support for further implementation and to further stimulate participation of local residents, volunteers, private landowners and other stakeholders.
- I.20. **Education and visitor facilities:** The After-LIFE Conservation Plan will contain plans for the education activities focussing on AW and its habitats as well as the visitor facilities (visitor centre). This will include cooperation with schools.
- I.21. **Replication/uptake of results:** the replication strategy will be further developed and continue to stimulate similar projects elsewhere in Europe through active participation in the existing network organisations (e.g. BirdLife & Atlantic Flyway Initiative, Migratory Birds for People).
- I.22. **Financial sources for the future:** Last but not least, a financial chapter will explore and list possible funding sources and funding approaches for the future, including both public and corporate funding.

#### **T.6.1.4 Upscaling the valorisation of management residues**

During the restoration and management measures by Natuurpunt in WP3, a lot of management residues are released. In previous years, this biomass was invariably disposed of unprocessed (often at high cost price). Nowadays, site managers such as Natuurpunt are trying to utilise these leftovers within

the framework of the circular economy. Other project partners in Spain and France (see T.3.1) also face similar problems and valorisation of the product from management of invasive species is also part of T.3.4 in Senegal. When valorising marshland and reedbed residues from nature restoration/management works in the framework of LIFE AWOM, many problems still need to be solved in order to scale up our pilot. For example, suitability of different applications on a larger scale need to be assessed and the relevant managers must receive customised training about this matter. With the help of Natuurinvest, Natuurpunt wants to roll out the further valorisation of management residues on a larger scale based on the opportunities offered by the market and the policy, through training, advice and policy support. In this project Natuurpunt will investigate how we can further scale up the pilot to convert management residues into compost (see WP3) for local/regional use and what preconditions are crucial for this. These experiences will be shared with other project partners who will also explore the opportunities to valorise management residues. Results of these tests will be published on the project website, distributed to the partners and stakeholders of the project (international organisations, websites of partners, dissemination via workshops) and be included in the best practice example for the platforms mentioned under T.6.2.

#### **T.6.1.5 Promoting/enabling Transformative Change**

Transformative Change is one of the four main pillars of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. LIFE AWOM wants to actively contribute to the realisation of this pillar through several actions:

- I.23. Mainstreaming biodiversity through investing in and strengthening relations between nature and other policies like water, air, agriculture, spatial-planning, climate by contributing actively to policy processes and decision making. For this, we refer specifically to T.3.3.
- I.24. Providing training and information towards stakeholders. Since many stakeholders will be involved in the implementation of LIFE AWOM, a clear capacity building programme will be put in place for a very diverse target audience and use specific, target group oriented tools, training packages etc.). For this, we refer specifically to T.4.2.
- I.25. Creating a knowledge network where information and experiences are shared and learned from each other, as providing training is insufficient. Different tools will be used to achieve this. This network should not be limited to the counties involved in this Life project. LIFE AWOM will also liaise with other, similar European projects and initiatives. For this, we refer specifically to T.4.3 and T.6.2.
- I.26. Raising and increasing awareness among society: transition towards biodiversity restoration has also a social dimension (leave no one behind). All groups of society should be involved and be aware of the importance of biodiversity because it affects all people: biodiversity provides essential ecosystems, nature-based solutions are part of societal challenges. For this, we refer specifically to T.4.1. With LIFE AWOM we bring Natura 2000 to the people and the society.
- I.27. Mobilising additional funding and realising complementary restoration actions with the active engagement of all the relevant stakeholders.

In this way, LIFE AWOM will support effective mainstreaming of nature and biodiversity objectives and priorities into other EU policy areas and financing instruments & funding opportunities.

#### **T.6.1.6 Strengthen volunteer engagement and explore new opportunities for the future**

Volunteers can play an increasing role in sustaining the results of the LIFE AWOM and other similar projects as they can be involved in recurring site management and monitoring. Within the European nature conservation world, our project partner, Natuurpunt is the most striking grassroots organisation: volunteers have formed the basis of Natuurpunt at all levels since the organisation was founded in the 1930s. Volunteers are very closely involved in policy and implementation in all fields in which Natuurpunt is active and are given opportunities to take responsibility. Natuurpunt has developed a very extensive and well-founded volunteer policy that is strongly focused on commitment, mandating and, above all, feasibility (volunteer work must remain enjoyable). This approach is unique in Europe and ensures that in Flanders there is a large support base - at all levels - for nature conservation, biodiversity restoration and climate action: no fewer than 48,000 people in Flanders consider themselves to be a volunteer of Natuurpunt. As part of LIFE AWOM, Natuurpunt wants to use its expertise to develop and strengthen volunteer engagement among the other project partners based on 3 sub-actions:

#### T.6.1.6.1 Consolidating and improving volunteer engagement

The process during the LIFE project of recruiting numerous new volunteers, combined with the provision of reliable equipment must ensure that these habitats continue to be managed so that they can be kept in the same condition and even continually be improved. There will also be regular working days organised by the volunteer group and communicated to the general public. Attention will be paid to volunteer recruitment in all communications (LIFE brochure, layman's report, website, social media, etc.) at all activities (symposia, info sessions, etc.). The new volunteers will also be offered the chance to follow all kinds of training courses, such as working with a chainsaw and bush cutter. In addition to these technical training courses, we also offer other types of training courses that increase the knowledge within our management teams, such as classes on AW and its habitats.

#### T.6.1.6.2 Attracting new target groups of volunteers and exploring new ways of volunteering

We want to explore in LIFE AWOM how we can appeal to "new" volunteer target groups to commit to nature conservation close to home and by extension to nature in Europe. The profile of the "traditional" volunteer at Natuurpunt is fairly well known thanks to social research. The challenge lies in motivating other profiles/target groups to dedicate themselves to nature. These new target groups will have to be approached in a different way and will also have to commit themselves in a different way in the short and longer term. Initially, we will explore which target groups can be addressed in which way. In a second step, these new groups will be involved in a targeted way. Thirdly, the experiences will be evaluated in function of the possibilities and the perspective. Finally, all experiences and lessons learned will be compiled and made available to all interested organisations in Europe. At the European level, we will look at how we can build on the existing experiences (uptake results) in projects of the European Solidarity Corps, in addition to the EU Lifelong Learning Platform and the volunteering platform of the United Nations. In addition, there will be a targeted search for projects within the ESF and Erasmus+ funds related to volunteering.

#### T.6.1.6.3 Citizen science monitoring and fostering species

In order to conduct the follow up monitoring after the LIFE-project, the species experts from NP Studie and KBIN will involve volunteers with the monitoring actions, especially on AW. They will identify and educate volunteers with very specific training days to teach them to do the monitoring themselves after the project. These training days will include several species groups, e.g. birds, amphibians, dragonflies, butterflies, grasshoppers and

plants. Through this action, we will train a whole network of species experts, which will guarantee good monitoring after the project. One of the main goals is to develop a system of fostership for vulnerable and endangered species by local volunteers.

## **T.6.2 Activities to ensure the upscaling and replicability of the project's results (Natuurpunt, BEN)**

### **T.6.2.1 Transferability and Replicability Strategy**

This action intends to establish a plan of action at the beginning of the project to achieve result-oriented implementation of WP6 and to support several actions from WP3, WP4 and WP5.

During the first year of the project the Transferability and Replicability Strategy (TRS, **MS29**) will be designed whose principal objectives will be:

- 1.28. To transfer technical knowledge, results obtained in the project, problems encountered and lessons learned during and after the project;
- 1.29. To explore synergies with other initiatives and European projects (financed i.e. through LIFE, Interreg, Horizon and Erasmus);
- 1.30. To establish new opportunities for the realisation of the catalytic potential of the project and the scaling up of results in the same or other sectors/places.

This Strategy will be a multiplier of the project's impact, offering solutions found to a wide spectrum of stakeholders involved in restoration and management of AW sites and habitats, which can be applied to other places along the AW flyway but also more generally at European level. Networking with other projects (see WP4) will be a fundamental element of this Strategy. The TRS will be approved by the PSC (see T.1.1.3) and will be taken forward by the CTF with the support of the technical staff. The Strategy will depend on a set of clearly defined activities which will be implemented in this WP, with a calendar of tasks, each with an identified leader. Materials produced by other actions of the project will be used (see WP4), but also through specific diverse initiatives. The elaboration of the Plan will focus explicitly on how existing and newly developed techniques and models can be substantially scaled up in LIFE AWOM and in other European projects. Once per year, a TRS progress report (**MS30**) will be produced on the implementation of the TRS and it will be discussed and evaluated by the PSC and adjusted if necessary. The reporting will also include information from the beneficiaries on how the project's results are taken up by others.

### **T.6.2.2 Twinning**

In the context of the Transferability and Replicability Strategy of the project, a twinning between project sites will be initiated in collaboration with Eurosite. The Eurosite Twinning provides a framework for two or more organisations to work together on pre-defined, mutually agreed objectives. It involves sharing and acquiring new skills, experience & knowledge, enabling individuals and organisations to compare approaches, address specific site management problems and realise mutual benefits in a structured and organised manner. This twinning can be either a traditional twinning between organisations and natural sites (e.g. about cost-effective management and best practice restoration) or a thematic twinning focusing on the specific theme of safeguarding relict populations of key species in Natura 2000 sites. Twinning is thus more than an exchange of knowledge or networking (see WP4). It is a very efficient way of working together intensively with European and other international partners on a common theme or area over several years. Twinning relationships will be established amongst project partners, between project partners and other organisations managing AW sites. The twinning

between partners will include establishing contacts in the Djoudj in Senegal and rice growing sites in Spain. The experiences generated in this way will be shared with all interested parties (organisations, authorities, private owners) in a final twinning report (**D6.3**) with conclusions and lessons learned.

#### **T.6.2.3 Organisation of webinars**

Nowadays, webinars are often used as an efficient tool for sharing knowledge and exchanging experiences with a larger, more specialised audience and part of a blended method for replicating and transferring knowledge and expertise. In the framework of this project, we will organise at least 3 webinars that specifically deal with certain topics of this project. Among other things, we will focus on the methodologies and techniques used in WP3, monitoring activities from WP5 and broadening support around the various project themes as elaborated in WP4.

#### **T.6.2.4 Organisation of workshops**

Natuurpunt will organise two workshops on replication and transferability, each with a different target group and scope.

A one-day Flemish workshop for nature and site managers of public bodies (a.o. ANB), Natuurpunt, private landowners and other interested parties will be organised (region managers, forest and nature wardens, advisors). Habitat restoration and specific habitat management for a dedicated species, AW, along its flyway in combination with actions for recovery of key species is quite new to Flemish nature/site managers and not very well covered in current general nature management education programs. During this workshop, the sites where the actions in WP3 were implemented will be visited, assisted by local site managers and/or specialists. This will allow the participants to better understand the actions and the specific approach of LIFE AWOM.

A two-day international expert workshop with experts and site managers will bring together a range of actors active in AW conservation, AW habitat restoration and management. The overall aim is to exchange knowledge and experiences across countries. The outputs will be very useful to scale up the outcome and impact of LIFE AWOM. Via international (network) organisations such as Wetlands International, BirdLife and Eurosite, members all over Europe will be mobilised in order to attend this expert workshop.

The results of this workshop will be disseminated through these networks, contacts with other European projects (LIFE and Interreg in particular, but also Leader), the Ecopedia website, the project website and the websites of all partners.

In France, the *Pôle-relais lagunes méditerranéennes* will organise annually two workshops and training sessions for Mediterranean site managers to disseminate the project's results (climate change adaptation from T.2.5, site management techniques from T.3.1, monitoring and assessment methods from WP2) to stimulate

#### **T.6.2.5 Project “landing” conference (WI-EA)**

The WI-EA, in collaboration with Natuurpunt and other partners, will organise a project “landing” (closing) conference (**D6.3**) at Diksmuide in Belgium (close to the Blankaart project site) targeting both private and public site managers, volunteers and researchers. At the conference (1) the concept and goals of the project are introduced, (2) the restoration goals and proposed techniques of the actions are presented and (3) the ultimate project results with

the lessons learnt during the project. We aim to hold a meeting that will provide an important media and networking opportunity. The PSC will be involved in preparing the programme. It will be organised within the last six months of the project. It will also be accompanied by an on-site excursion.

#### **T.6.2.6 Scientific collaboration**

The project partners will participate in at least 15 conferences, symposia, panel discussions and similar meetings to present, discuss and disseminate the goals and results of the LIFE project to both an expert or more general public. Given the high demonstration value, pilot aspects and best practice nature of the project, it is our intention to actively disseminate this information, knowledge and expertise to other European site managers, organisations, institutions, etc. Stimulate the uptake of scientific approaches and methods in the conservation of other species as well. All the target groups will be defined in the Transferability and Replication Strategy. In the course of the project we will maintain active contact with them and other European (wetland) projects.

#### **T.6.2.7 Stimulating the uptake of the project results**

LIFE AWOM combines best practice methods for AW habitat restoration and management based on monitoring and research. The project partners aim not only to replicate this approach but to maximise the uptake of the project results. We want to achieve this by making the project results available to various platforms aimed at stimulating cooperation and valorising knowledge with the aim of the sharing of best practice & expertise, improving policies and enhancing capacities and skills.

Via Ecopedia (currently level Flanders & The Netherlands)

[www.ecopedia.be](http://www.ecopedia.be) is a knowledge-sharing platform where knowledge is built about nature, greenery and forest management. As part of LIFE AWOM, Ecopedia will regularly be updated with knowledge gained during the project. Natuurpunt will provide information to Natuurinvest who manages the platform, whereafter it will be published on the website in an attractive way. It will also be a website where data obtained during LIFE AWOM will stay available after the project ends. Best practices, documentation of techniques, findings of the workshops will all be published on this knowledge platform. There are currently advanced plans to scale up the Ecopedia platform to European level.

Via EU Knowledge Valorisation Platform (European level)

In 2021 the European Commission launched the EU Knowledge Valorisation Platform, a digital space that provides an interactive forum to stimulate cooperation across borders and improve the broad uptake of research and project results in society and the economy, including nature and environment benefits.

As

- the LIFE AWOM approach is underpinned by research and monitoring;
- these research results directly contribute to the realisation of a best practice project on AWM habitat and management,
- we want to create more visibility of the project results for further uptake;

- we are willing to join the European exchange and the knowledge valorisation strategy;  
we like to contribute with LIFE AWOM to the EU Knowledge Valorisation Platform through the submission of the project as best practice in the repository.

The ultimate aim of our contribution to the platform is to improve policies and enhance capacities and skills.

#### Via Eurosite management toolkit (European level)

This online portal provides support organisations, public bodies, private landowners and other individuals involved in managing protected areas. It offers solutions to issues that impact the protection and management of protected areas by providing links to additional information and to examples of best practice. As Eurosite, the European Network for Land Conservation, is well placed to actively promote best practice examples for the restoration and management of habitats and species populations to a wide range of site managers, we will also make the results of LIFE AWOM available in this online portal with the aim of replicating approaches and techniques across Europe on the one hand and the upscaling and uptake of the project results on the other hand.

#### Via the Lagoon's Letter (Mediterranean France)

This newsletter targets the network of the *Pôle-relais lagunes méditerranéennes* and is a useful platform to share news and experiences amongst the site managers in the Mediterranean part of France.

#### **Summary of resources allocated to this WP:**

Personnel: in total 96 person-months across 11 organisations = € 450,621.

Subcontracting: € 45,000

Travel and subsistence: € 168,366

Other goods, works and services: € 151,221

#### **Major cost items (> € 30,000):**

##### Subcontracting

T.6.2 Workshops two per year over five years € 30,000 (TdV)

##### Travel and subsistence

WP6 Workshops and landing conference: € 105,760 (WI-EA)

##### Other goods, works and services

T.6.2 Workshops € 44,500 (Natuurpunt)



T.6.2 Workshops € 36,800 (Bretagne Vivante)						
T.6.2 Workshops € 35,880 (WI-EA)						
<b>Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)</b>						
Milestone No	Milestone Name	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	Description	Due Date (month number)	Means of Verification
MS26	National species action planning workshops	6	WI Europe	See T.6.1.1.	48	Workshop reports in respective local languages (Dutch, French, Spanish and Portuguese)
MS27	Draft national species action plans	6	WI Europe	See T.6.1.1	54	Draft national species action plans in the respective local languages (Dutch, French, Spanish and Portuguese) submitted to the national authorities
MS28	ISAP planning workshop	6	WI Europe	See T.6.1.2	48	Workshop report in English.
MS29	Transferability and Replicability Strategy	6	Natuurpunt	See T.6.2.1	18	Electronic PDF document in English
MS30	Annual report on the implementation of the Transferability and Replicability Strategy Y1, Y2, Y3, Y5	6	WI Europe	To respect the page limit for this application, milestones under WP6 are lumped into annual consolidated progress reports including the progress under each subtask of this WP due in the given year as defined in the Communication Plan.	12, 24, 36, 48, 60	Annual consolidated reports on the implementation of the Transferability and Replicability Strategy to published on the WI-EA website. These reports will contain copies and documentation of each upscaling and replication activities.

Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month number)	Description (including format and language)
D6.1	Final draft ISAP	6	WI Europe	R	PU	58	Final draft of the revised ISAP in English
D6.2	After-LIFE Conservation Plan	6	WI Europe	R	PU	60	After-LIFE Conservation Plan in print and electronic PDF version in English
D6.3	Final twinning report	6	Natuurpunt	R	PU	60	Final twinning report in English in electronic PDF format
D6.3	Project landing conference	6	WI-EA	OTHER	PU	60	Conference will be held in Belgium. The conference will be in the local languages of the project with English translation.

*Timetable (n/a for concept note)*

<b>Timetable (projects of more than 2 years) (n/a for concept note)</b> Fill in cells in beige to show the duration of activities. Repeat lines/columns as necessary. <b>Note:</b> Use the project months/years instead of calendar months/years. Month 1 always marks the start of the project. In the timeline you should indicate the timing of each activity per WP. You may add additional columns if your project is longer than 6 years.																								
ACTIVITY	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3				YEAR 4				YEAR 5				YEAR 6			
	M 1	M 4	M 7	M 10	M 13	M 16	M 19	M 22	M 25	M 28	M 31	M 34	M 37	M 40	M 43	M 46	M 49	M 52	M 55	M 58	M 61	M 64	M 67	M 70
WP1 - Project management and coordination																								



<b>connectivity analysis</b>																						
<b>Task 2.4 - Gap filling surveys</b>																						
<b>Task 2.5 Assessing potential impacts of climate change</b>																						
<b>WP3 - Habitat restoration and management</b>																						
<b>Task 3.1 - Restore AW habitat at project sites</b>																						
<b>Task 3.2 - Promote the inclusion of key AW sites in the protected area network</b>																						
<b>Task 3.3 - Promote the inclusion of AW habitat restoration into the national nature restoration plans and the countries prioritised action frameworks</b>																						
<b>T.3.4 Creating a community</b>																						

conservation area (CCA) for AW in the vicinity of the PNOD																					
WP4 - Communications and outreach																					
Task 4.1 - Communication and awareness raising																					
Task 4.2 - Outreach campaign																					
Task 4.3 - Networking																					
WP5 - Monitoring and evaluation																					
Task 5.1 - Monitoring and evaluation of habitat availability and feeding conditions																					
Task 5.2 - Monitoring of the importance of staging and wintering sites																					

<b>Task 5.3 - Monitoring Key- performance indicators</b>																							
<b>WP6 - Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results</b>																							
<b>Task 6.1 - Activities to ensure sustainability of the project's results</b>																							
<b>Task 6.2 - Activities to ensure the upscaling and replicability of the project's results</b>																							

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### 3.3 Stakeholder engagement

#### Stakeholders engagement

Identify any key stakeholders outside the consortium that are required to ensure the success of the project. How will you mobilise them to contribute to your project activities or participate in these?

Annex Letters of support to demonstrate the type and level of commitment already secured (if any). (n/a for concept note)

For Nature and Biodiversity: If your project (or a part of it) depends on support of the competent authority or stakeholders, provide letters of support to show their commitment to the project (needed for full proposal, n/a for concept note)

#### International level

##### CMS AW MoU

Most of the range states of the AW are signatories to the AW MoU. As a flyway instrument, this is a useful to promote the conservation of the AW and its habitats across its entire range. It provides access to and coordination amongst the governments of the range states. Voluntary contributions from richer countries can help upscaling measures in lower income countries. The CMS Secretariat and the AWCT team play a crucial facilitating role in the AW MoU and both will be involved in the PSC (T.1.3), but the project will also maintain regular coordination with them. The LIFE AWOM, in collaboration with the proposed LIFE4AquaticWarbler, project will contribute to the programme of the Meetings of Signatories to be organised by the CMS Secretariat during the project's duration and will closely collaborate with them during the revision of the ISAP (T.6.1.2). The project will also use the CMS AW MoU's website to distribute project news to the signatories of the AW MoU.

##### DG Environment of the EC and the Expert Group on the Nature Directives (NADEG)

The Nature and Biodiversity Units play an important role in coordinating the implementation of the Birds Directive (T.3.2.1) and the EU Nature Restoration Law (T.3.3), the Nature Unit also coordinates the compilation of PAFs and can influence the content of the CAP programming documents (T.3.3). The updated ISAP can be endorsed by the NADEG. The LIFE AWOM project, in coordination with the AWCT and the LIFE4AquaticWarbler project, will closely liaise with the Nature Unit concerning the update of the ISAP and its endorsement both by the NADEG, but also in the context of coordinating the EU member states in the context of the AW MoU. Outputs of the project activities under WP2 and WP3 will be shared with the Nature and Biodiversity Units, followed up with meetings of the relevant officers. Representatives of these will be also invited to project events such as the take off and the landing conferences.

##### LIFE and other EU-funded restoration projects

Internationally, we are actively contacting other habitat restoration and species recovery projects (see WP4 and WP6). We are doing this through our own contacts: all partners have a broad network of contacts in the nature management and nature conservation sector where restoration projects are executed. Pan-European network organisations like Birdlife, Eurosite and Europarc; will be involved as well.

#### Flanders, Belgium

##### Local municipalities

As the Flemish project area is stretched across municipalities, several local councils are involved. These municipalities have several roles. They are involved in the procedure for obtaining permits, but they can also be an interesting partner in communication to the local residents, visitors and citizens. Their involvement in the project at an early stage is very important for creating local support and facilitating the administrative procedures. Natuurpunt has a good relationship with all the municipalities involved, thanks to years of partnership driven by the organisation's local volunteers who are, as it were, ambassadors of the project. We expect all local municipalities to support the project.

##### Flemish administrations

The main Flemish administration involved in this project is the Agency for Nature and Forests. Although not a formal partner, the Agency has been closely involved from the concept phase of this project onwards. The Agency for Nature and Forests fully supports the objectives and actions of Peat Pals for LIFE. The Agency will continue to be closely involved in the implementation phase of the project as well as in the concrete planning of all actions.

The Flemish Environmental Agency is the main watercourse manager, both at regional and Flemish level. We often work closely together on various Flemish nature and water conservation projects. The Flemish Environment Agency is a partner in several of Natuurpunt's LIFE and Interreg projects, too. These good relations will undoubtedly lead to good and close cooperation in LIFE AWOM.

Other involved administrations are the Flemish Heritage Agency, the Spatial Planning Administration and the Flemish Agency for Agriculture and Fisheries. These administrations are all involved in procedures for obtaining permits. Like the local municipalities, all of these administrations are also involved in existing partnerships. Because the local partnerships already exist we expect the support of the administrations in general. For individual cases, conflicts about the local hydrology (agricultural administrations) and habitat restoration (Agency for Agriculture and Fisheries) might require discussions. In these crucial occasions early involvement will be needed from the beginning of the planning process.

#### **Private landowners and farmers**

Private landowners can be involved in the implementation of restoration measures on the project sites by setting up joint restoration projects with Natuurpunt within the framework of the annual Flemish Project Call for Nature Subsidies. This call is very much focused on the realisation of European nature goals and the restoration of wetlands and peatlands. Private landowners can get up to 95% funding from the Flemish government if they invest in nature restoration through a joint project with a nature conservation NGO such as Natuurpunt. Communicating the results of this participation in this LIFE project could be a leverage for involving private landowners in other projects.

Some private plots in the valley are still in agricultural use and therefore managed by farmers. These farmers form a specific stakeholder group as well. They are often represented by the Farmers Union ("Boerenbond"). A specific consultation with the Farmers Union will be launched to see to what extent farmers can be involved in the long-term (see also WP6). The development of the pilot around management residues will be done in collaboration with local farmers.

In Senegal, intensive community engagement programme forms part of T.3.4.

#### **Volunteers**

In addition to the voluntary "reserve managers" in the project areas, there is also a large and important group of locally active people for monitoring and nature research in the local branches. For nature research, the [www.waarnemingen.be](http://www.waarnemingen.be) tool, an internet input application for nature observations that is managed by Natuurpunt Studie, is an important supporting element. There are a lot of people who might be interested to be involved in LIFE AWOM. We want to capitalise on this huge potential, of course, in the project by scaling up the existing volunteer work.

#### **Economic stakeholders**

Economic stakeholders are also an important group as they will benefit from the results of the project in the future, by means of making the project areas more attractive and inviting more visitors. In addition, this stakeholder group will play an important role in the future when PES (Payments for Ecosystem Services) measures and visitor payback systems can be rolled out to finance nature conservation and management /restoration, making land managers less dependent on subsidies and project funding. In the project areas, Natuurpunt already has good relations with economic actors including recreational and sporting associations, local catering and accommodation establishments, tourist services, businesses and local/regional entrepreneurs. In LIFE AWOM, we want to strengthen these relationships between the partners



and stakeholders, making them not only aware of the project and willing to engage in the efforts in the project areas, but also making sure they actually want to engage more, for example in the form of participation in PES or visitor payback.

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### 3.4 Impact monitoring and reporting *(n/a for concept note)*

#### Impact monitoring, evaluation and reporting strategy *(n/a for concept note)*

*Describe your overall approach to monitor and evaluate the impact indicators during your project. Ensure that you include specific tasks to monitor, evaluate and report impacts in the work plan (section 2 of this template).*

I.1 (see Section 2.1) will be monitored using the method described under Activity T.5.3.

I.2–I.6 will be monitored through the annual progress reports (T.1.2) and evidence provided by the project's beneficiaries.

The scaling up and replication of the project's results will be monitored through the annual reporting on the project's TRS (T.6.2.1).

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### 3.5 Communication, dissemination and visibility *(n/a for concept note)*

#### Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding *(n/a for concept note)*

*Define your target audience(s). Describe the planned communication and dissemination activities to promote the action and its results and maximise the impact (to whom, which format, how many copies, etc.). Clarify how you intend to reach each target audience, and explain the choice of the dissemination channels. Describe the methods and indicators (quantitative and qualitative) to monitor and evaluate the outreach and coverage of the communication and dissemination activities and results.*

*Describe how the visibility of EU funding will be ensured.*

#### Target audience

In addition to a broad group of stakeholders (see section 3.3), the target audience we want to reach with LIFE AWOM is also determined.

#### General public

The general public will be informed about the AW, its conservation issues, about the LIFE AWOM project's plans and achievements, the Natura 2000 network and the LIFE programme in general through the project's communications and awareness raising activities (see details under T.4.1).

#### Stakeholders

Farmers, businesses, municipalities and members of local communities are important stakeholders at site level. They will be targeted through outreach activities described under T.4.2.

#### National and international decision-makers

They will be important in the process of scaling up the project's results through implementation of the Birds Directive, the NNRPs, PAFs and CAP strategic plans. They will be targeted through technical reports produced under WP2, WP3 and WP5 and through conferences and personal communications. At national level, key decision-makers will be involved in the NWGs (T.1.1.4) and project partners will work with other national and international NGO coalitions to influence key decisions that affect the scaling up of the project's results in the above mentioned national planning processes.

#### Other site managers

They will be targeted for scaling up management (T.3.1) and monitoring methods (T.5.1.1 and T.5.2). They will be targeted through national workshops, webinars, twinning and networking with other European projects as described under T.4.3 and T.6.2.

### **Other scientists**

A two-way interaction with other scientists is essential for the fine-tuning of the project's scientific approach, but also to the scaling up of the projects' result. Besides of networking with other projects, international conferences focusing on birds or site conservation will be particularly targeted and the project team's intention is to eventually turn the technical reports produced under the project into scientific papers published in peer reviewed journals.

### **Visibility**

All communication, both digital and printed, and all meetings and events will consistently mention the LIFE project, as well as the financial support of the European Commission. Naturally, the LIFE logo and the Natura 2000 logo will also be used.

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## **4. RESOURCES**

Fill in **only** section 4.1 at stage 1 (concept note). Fill in **all sections** at stage 2 (full proposal).

### **4.1 Consortium set-up**

#### **Consortium cooperation and division of roles (if applicable)**

*Describe the consortium composition. How will all the partners together bring the necessary expertise?*

*In what way does each of the participants contribute to the project? Show that each has a valid role and adequate resources to fulfil that role.*

*For stage 2 (full proposal), fill out the Participant information (annex) with more details on the participants and their project teams (key staff).*

WI-EA will lead the LIFE AWOM consortium using its long experience with flyway-scale conservation actions, developing and implementing ISAPs and leading various EU and other projects across Europe and the Mediterranean. WI-EA collaborates with a vast network of organisations within and beyond Europe. Among the members of WI-EA, FGN and TdV are included in this consortium. Likewise, WIACO, one of the network organisations globally of Wetlands International, will be part of this project.

WI-EA will be responsible for coordinating the project and for overseeing all communication actions with the support in specific task from partners. WIACO will be responsible for implementing various activities in Senegal and other West African countries, including community-based activities in Senegal.

National NGOs with extensive site management experiences from Belgium (Natuurpunt), France (AssACROLA, MdE, GONm), Spain (FGN, ICO), Portugal (SPEA) will be responsible for carrying out site management activities under T.3.1. These NGOs, with the exception of SPEA, already manage nature reserves which are important for the AW and active in the field of AW conservation in general.

The consortium also includes a number of scientific partners:

- ICO (Spain) is responsible for modelling current and future species distribution (T.2.1, T.2.2 and T.2.5). ICO and associated researchers have long experience with developing species distribution models for the Catalan Breeding Bird Atlas and the EuroBirdPortal.
- U Aveiro (Portugal) will be leading on the connectivity analysis (T.2.3) and contribute to the development of the AW database (T.2.1). They are playing a pioneering role in such analyses in Europe, performing similar studies for a selection of wader species in the East Atlantic Flyway.

- FMigres (Spain) is specialised in migration research in the Mediterranean. In collaboration with other project partners (FGN, Bretagne Vivante, AssACROLA, TdV, WIACO), they will be leading on the GFSs planned under T.2.4.
- Bretagne Vivante (France) is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the AW SAP in France. They will be leading on the monitoring activities focusing on habitat structure (T.5.1.1), food availability (T.5.1.2) and capture-recapture-based population monitoring (T.5.2). involving other scientific partners such as Tour du Valat.
- Spanish National Research Council (CSIC, Spain) is responsible for coordinating the monitoring of habitat use by automated radio telemetry through its Doñana Biological Station (T.5.1.4).
- Tour du Valat (TdV, France) will contribute both to the scientific work (WP2 and WP5) and to scaling up the results amongst Mediterranean site managers in France (WP6).

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## 4.2 Project management *(n/a for concept note)*

### Project management, quality assurance and monitoring of progress *(n/a for concept note)*

*Describe the management structures and decision-making mechanisms within the consortium. Explain how decisions will be taken and how regular and effective communication will be ensured.*

*Describe the measures and methods planned to ensure good quality, monitoring, planning and control of project implementation.*

The day-to-day project management will entail leadership in terms of the project direction, ensuring that the PCU (T.1.1.1) is always available to respond to queries from all parties. A project intranet or file share facility will be established to provide a consistent source of communication between the PCU team and partners and between the partners themselves within and between WPs. A regular communication exchange will occur on at least a weekly basis and be supported by monthly virtual meetings with WP leaders to ensure that the project is on track to meet its objectives and to conform to agreed timelines for WPs, tasks, milestones and deliverables. The PCU will organise the dates, agenda and document the minutes of the different Project related meetings (T1.1). It will also allocate responsibilities and oversee the financing related to the hosting of project meetings by partners.

A priority is to ensure that there is full collaboration between WPs and that the different expertise of project participants are brought together to address the common objectives set out in each WP. This will also involve updates and discussion of work programmes, respective partner inputs, decision making procedures, strategies to overcome challenges encountered, the coordination and exchange of knowledge gained, and recognition and follow-up of opportunities for greater impact. The PCU team will provide for regular critiques of work plans, adequacy of management procedures, risk management, conflict management, document management and quality of output.

The PCU team must similarly ensure that financial and logistical resources are made available on time to partners as set out in the Consortium Agreement, that these resources are used appropriately to secure the outputs described for each WP and that sufficient resources are forthcoming to support the restoration activities which are at the heart of the project objectives. There will be a need for timely financial reporting and monitoring of these reports, maintenance of expenditure records throughout the project timeframe, ensuring that the requisite management and financial supports are provided at the appropriate times.

At partner level, CCUs will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the work. Coordinators of the CCUs will closely work together with the PCU (see T.1.1.2).

The PCU will be supervised by the PSC as described under T.1.1.3. At national level where there are multiple project partners or critical external parties, NWGs will be formed (T.1.1.4).

### 4.3 Green management *(n/a for concept note)*

#### **Green management** *(n/a for concept note)*

*Describe the measures proposed to reduce the environmental impact of your project, for example through the use of green procurement, environmental management systems, etc.*

#### **In general**

All the involved project partners put effort in reducing the ecological footprint by common measures like reduced printing, digitalising and emailing when possible, using public transport when travelling and energy efficiency in the office.

As a large site manager with many habitat restoration measures and recurrent management in Flanders, Natuurpunt has developed a specific policy on the reduction of their own ecological and carbon footprint. This policy was approved internally by Natuurpunt and is being implemented systematically.

New trends regarding sustainability, sustainable use and reduction of impact/footprint are continuously monitored; in particular by the purchasing/tendering department of Natuurpunt.

#### **Calculating the carbon footprint as first step towards reduction**

Calculating the CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions in a carbon footprint is the first step towards a sustainable organisation. It clearly shows where the biggest challenges for CO<sub>2</sub>-reduction can be found and pinpoints the direction for targeted and structured actions. A periodic update of the footprint can show the results of actions taken to reduce emissions. The footprint provides a comprehensive accounting framework and can be used as a strategic management tool. Natuurpunt started the process to calculate its carbon footprint as a first step in the process to reduce it. In the second half an action plan will be elaborated and consequently implemented.

Natuurpunt works together with an external accredited agency for this purpose: Futureproofed. The efforts we are going to make within the framework of LIFE AWOM are explicitly included in this process as a pilot project on how we can measure and reduce the carbon footprint where possible in the course of a large-scale (restoration) project.

#### **Green procurement for contractors of restoration measures**

Large-scale restoration works as foreseen and described in WP3 also have an unavoidable environmental impact and carbon footprint. In order to reduce both as much as possible, Natuurpunt designed the procurement process in such a way that emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and ecological impact are minimised during the realisation of the project.

In the Plan of Approach that every contractor is obliged to enclose with his tender, a detailed explanation must be given that includes at least the elements listed below:

- organisation of the site with consideration of the ecological aspects and impact on existing habitats and species.
- ecological aspects that are important in this task / measures to reduce environmental impact and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- transparent planning and timing of the worksite with attention to ecological impact.
- description of the machines to be used with criteria mentioned above for equipment (e.g. use of biofuel, electric machines).
- soil impact (see higher) and soil contamination.
- use of e-procurement i.e. less paper.

In the evaluation of tenders for awarding tenders to external contractors in LIFE AWOM, these award criteria are given a weighting of 25% to 35% of the total points, which is considerable.

#### **Re-use of materials and sustainable forestry**

Building materials are aligned with required service life and reuse of materials is promoted. Contractors are obliged to work according to environmental regulations. When the use of timber is needed, the use of timber from sustainable forestry (FSC label or equivalent) is required.

**Transport**

During LIFE AWOM, environmentally friendly transport will be promoted as much as possible, both within the project team and to external parties. The project team will as much as possible use public transport (train and bus) in order to attend meetings. For the proposed activities under WP4 and WP6, public transport will be stimulated.

**Recycling management residues (“green waste”)**

Alternative options for the management of residues are incorporated in the project (see WP3 and WP6). In LIFE AWOM we will actively seek to scale up the solution for composting very difficult management residues (marsh lands) from the pilot site in the Blankaart in collaboration with local farmers. During LIFE AWOM, it is estimated that 400 tons of “green waste” (management residues) could be recycled this way.

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**4.4 Budget (n/a for concept note)**

<b>Estimated budget — Resources</b> <i>(n/a for concept note)</i>
See detailed budget table/calculator (annex 1 to Part B).

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**4.5 Risk management (n/a for concept note)**

<b>Critical risks and risk management strategy</b> <i>(n/a for concept note)</i>			
<i>Describe critical risks, uncertainties or difficulties related to the implementation of your project, and your measures/strategy for addressing them.</i>			
<i>Indicate for each risk (in the description) the impact and the likelihood that the risk will materialise (high, medium, low), even after taking into account the mitigating measures.</i>			
<i>Describe any barriers/obstacles and framework conditions (such as regulation and standards) that may be a risk for the achievement of the project’s objectives/impacts.</i>			
<b>Note:</b> <i>Uncertainties and unexpected events occur in all organisations, even if very well-run. The risk analysis will help you to predict issues that could delay or hinder project activities. A good risk management strategy is essential for good project management.</i>			
Risk No	Description	Work package No	Proposed risk-mitigation measures
	COVID-19/PANDEMICS. It may prevent physical events (or prohibit travel to key events) (Low)	All WPs	In preparing physical events, we will strictly follow the regulations of the country involved, and guidelines of the host institution. Decision on whether attendees may travel in strict adherence to advice of national governments. Where possible, we will ensure remote access to attendees who are unable to attend physically and will have a backup plan so that events can be switched to remote if necessary.
	Project Management (fulfilment of assigned tasks,	All WPs	The partnership already has good experience in managing

	<p>communication with partners) (Low)</p>		<p>and reporting projects in the environmental field and in particular LIFE projects to which a large part of the individual beneficiaries have already participated as leaders and/or associated beneficiaries. To ensure correct management of the project, a solid coordination structure has been created which will be able to detect any critical issues and remedy them with adequate corrective measures. The COO in particular has among its staff figures with great experience in management and management coordination of LIFE projects with strong problem-solving skills and relational skills capable of effectively coordinating and monitoring the project and keeping the partnership cohesive in case of difficulties.</p> <p>The project management actions have therefore been adequately planned and calibrated, to ensure that the coordinating beneficiary can always keep the progress of the activities under control and that of partners, according to principles of effectiveness and efficiency. A clear and regular plan of specific meetings will be set and an internal project collaboration tool will ensure transparent and fluid communication.</p>
	<p>Key staff changes (Low)</p>	<p>All WPs</p>	<p>Medium - It is possible that some key roles in the implementation of the project are unavailable due to reasons impossible to foresee. However, if this problem arises, the project partners have highly qualified personnel able to manage temporary absences or the unavailability of some key personnel figures. In the event that it becomes necessary, the partners will replace the missing personnel with other equally competent staff. A recruitment process will be carried out with enough time in advance to ensure a proper induction before the departure of the key staff member. We will also require staff to prepare sufficient</p>

			handover documentation before leaving.
	Management, administrative or financial issues (Low)	WP1	<p>WI-EA is a sound management organisation. Decision-making rules and responsibilities are clearly specified. Regular Project Management meetings will ensure clear tasks and responsibilities to ensure effective working.</p> <p>For the monitoring of financial aspects, frequent checks will be carried out between all partners in relation to documentation and economic-financial reporting</p>
	A partner decides to quit the participation (Low)	all WP"s	All partners stated to contribute to the project financially. Within three months after the project's start a Consortium Agreement will be signed between the different partners.
	Security situation in Africa: adverse security situation in certain countries may pose risk to the GFS participants and activities planned under WP3 (Medium)	WP2 & WP3	The travel and safety policies of WI-EA will be applied. Amongst others, no surveys will be authorised to areas that are not recommended for travel by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Each team will include local participants. GFS will target lower risk areas.
	Authorisations and interventions. Possible delay due to problems in the administrative and policy procedures. An administrative procedure is necessary to get permits for the project's site implementation actions (Low)	WP3	<p>Project partners already have good communication with stakeholders. The municipalities involved have been briefed in advance and support the project. Also, there is sufficient leeway foreseen.</p> <p>Also, when determining the project duration, a buffer period has been calculated to absorb any delays.</p>
	Public procurement (Awarding works/services to external parties) (Medium)		One of the problems that may be encountered is linked to delays attributable to the procedures for the external awarding of works who must in any case comply to public evidence procedures. To mitigate this risk measures were taken at the design stage taking into consideration the time required for this process and as a precaution, a buffer period capable of absorbing these types of delays was calculated.

	Delays due to weather, hydrological conditions and equipment availability (Medium)	WP3	There is sufficient leeway in the planning to deal with these problems.
	Year-round implementation of measures might disturb wildlife (Low)	WP3	During the restoration works we will take into account the breeding season and, where relevant, the timing of the AW migration and wildlife will not be disturbed. The restoration locations are inventoried beforehand for the presence of vulnerable species.
	Risk of misinterpretation of the project by the press and incorrect information disseminated (Low)	WP4	Clearly written press texts will be prepared and we have personal contacts with journalists.

**#§RSK-MGT-RM§# #§QUA-LIT-QL§# #@ETH-ICS-EI@#**

## 5. OTHER

### 5.1 Ethics

<b>Ethics</b>
Not applicable

#§ETH-ICS-EI§# #@SEC-URI-SU@#

### 5.2 Security

<b>Security</b>
Not applicable

#§SEC-URI-SU§# #@DEC-LAR-DL@#

## 6. DECLARATIONS

<b>Higher funding rate</b> <i>(for Nature and Biodiversity; n/a for concept note)</i>	<b>YES/NO</b>
Do you fulfil the conditions set out in the Call document for a higher funding rate (75% or 67%)? If YES, explain and provide details.	<b>YES</b>
<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> is listed on the "List of EU bird species/subspecies considered as "Priority for funding under LIFE", as agreed by the ORNIS Committee (last updated: April 2021). Hence, the LIFE AWOM project proposal fulfils the eligibility criteria for 75% funding rate.	

<b>Double funding</b> <i>(n/a for concept note)</i>
---



<b>Information concerning other EU grants for this project</b>  Please note that there is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions).	YES/NO
We confirm that to our best knowledge neither the project as a whole nor any parts of it have benefitted from any other EU grant (including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, e.g. EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, etc.). If NO, explain and provide details.	YES
We confirm that to our best knowledge neither the project as a whole nor any parts of it are (nor will be) submitted for any other EU grant (including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, e.g. EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, etc.). If NO, explain and provide details.	YES

<b>Financial support to third parties (if applicable) (n/a for concept note)</b> <i>If in your project the maximum amount per third party will be more than the threshold amount set in the Call document, justify and explain why the higher amount is necessary in order to fulfil your project's objectives.</i>
Not applicable. Financial support to third parties does not exceed the maximum threshold of € 20,000 per grant and € 100,000 in total.

<b>Seal of Excellence (if applicable) (n/a for concept note)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>If provided in the Call document, proposals that pass the evaluation but are below the budget threshold (i.e. pass the minimum thresholds but are not ranked high enough to receive funding) will be awarded a Seal of Excellence.</i></li> <li>• <i>In this context we may be asked to share information about your proposal with other EU or national funding bodies.</i></li> </ul>	
Do you agree that your proposal (including proposal data and documentation) is shared with other EU and national funding bodies to find funding under other schemes?	YES

#§DEC-LAR-DL§#

## ANNEXES

### LIST OF ANNEXES

#### Standard

Detailed budget table/Calculator (annex 1 to Part B) — *mandatory (n/a for concept note)*

Annual activity reports (annex 3 to Part B) — *mandatory, if required in the Call document (n/a for concept note)*

#### Special

Other annexes (annex X to Part B) — *mandatory, if required in the Call document (n/a for concept note)*

<b>HISTORY OF CHANGES</b>		
<b>VERSION</b>	<b>PUBLICATION DATE</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	01.05.2022	Change of document short name. Clarifications in the Important Notice (language, font size, concept notes, etc). Minor adaptation of structure (section 3.2 becomes section 3.3). Minor clarifications regarding other sections. Addition of declaration on SoE. Consolidation, formatting and layout changes. Tags added.

<b>Proposal Info</b>			
<b>Proposal ID</b> SEP-210968186	<b>Call for Proposal</b> LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT	<b>Topic</b> LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE	<b>Type of Action</b> LIFE-PJG

## LIFE Programme – Application Forms (Part C – KPI)

Horizontal KPIs for all LIFE applicants (Mandatory to report on all the KPIs of this section).

<p><b>Innovation</b></p> <p>Is your project proposal developing, demonstrating and promoting innovative techniques and approaches?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Governance</b></p> <p>Is your project proposal improving governance through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Plans &amp; strategies</b></p> <p>Is your project proposal implementing key plans or strategies?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>Catalytic effect - Financial</b></p> <p>Will your project trigger additional investments?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Catalytic effect - Spatial</b></p> <p>Will the results of your project be replicated beyond its intended geographical scope?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Catalytic effect - Thematic</b></p> <p>Will the results of your project be replicated (transferred) beyond its intended thematic scope?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>Catalytic effect - Societal</b></p> <p>Will your project :</p> <p>a) Contribute to the development of new or existing national legislation, policies, regulations, incentives and voluntary commitments?</p> <p>b) Achieve a step-change in more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union environmental and climate legislation and/or in policy implementation?</p> <p>c) Achieve a step-change in awareness and support of environmental and climate matters?</p> <p>d) Establish a new macroregional or national model of cooperation (networking)?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Rio markers for climate, biodiversity and air quality</b></p> <p>Please indicate if your proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has climate change/ biodiversity/ air quality as their primary objective</li> <li>• Has climate change/ biodiversity/ air quality as their secondary objective and provide substantial contributions to these objectives</li> <li>• Does not contribute significantly to climate change/ biodiversity/ air quality</li> </ul> <p><b>Climate change</b> Secondary Objective</p> <p><b>Biodiversity</b> Primary Objective</p> <p><b>Air quality</b> Not contributing</p>	

### LIFE Programme - Context selection

<p>Please select the EU Member State(s) or/and Associated Countries (if any) or/and potential Associated Countries (if any) that best describe the geographical context of your project proposal, i.e. the area(s) of work or/and area(s) of impact.</p> <p>Please select the type of country you wish to add</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> EU Member States <input type="radio"/> Associated Countries</p>
---

To Be Associated Countries

Spain(ES)

**Please select the EU Member State(s) or/and Associated Countries (if any) or/and potential Associated Countries (if any) that best describe the geographical context of your project proposal, i.e. the area(s) of work or/and area(s) of impact.**

**Please select the type of country you wish to add**

- EU Member States  
 Associated Countries  
 To Be Associated Countries

Belgium(BE)

**Please select the EU Member State(s) or/and Associated Countries (if any) or/and potential Associated Countries (if any) that best describe the geographical context of your project proposal, i.e. the area(s) of work or/and area(s) of impact.**

**Please select the type of country you wish to add**

- EU Member States  
 Associated Countries  
 To Be Associated Countries

France(FR)

**Please select the EU Member State(s) or/and Associated Countries (if any) or/and potential Associated Countries (if any) that best describe the geographical context of your project proposal, i.e. the area(s) of work or/and area(s) of impact.**

**Please select the type of country you wish to add**

- EU Member States  
 Associated Countries  
 To Be Associated Countries

Portugal(PT)

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.**

**EU Country**

Belgium

**Typology**

SPA: Special Protection Area

**Natura 2000 sites**

BE2500831: IJzervallei

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.**

**EU Country**

France

**Typology**

SPA: Special Protection Area

**Natura 2000 sites**

FR2310044: Estuaire et marais de la Basse Seine

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.**

**EU Country**

France

**Typology**

SPA: Special Protection Area

**Natura 2000 sites**

FR5210103: Estuaire de la Loire

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.**

**EU Country**

France

**Typology**

SPA: Special Protection Area

**Natura 2000 sites**

FR2510046: Basses Vallées du Cotentin et Baie des Veys

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.**

**EU Country**

Spain

**Typology**

SPA: Special Protection Area

**Natura 2000 sites**

ES0000024: Doñana

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.****EU Country**

Spain

**Typology**

SPA: Special Protection Area

**Natura 2000 sites**

ES0000019: Aiguamolls de l'Alt Empordà

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.****EU Country**

Spain

**Typology**

SCI: Sites of Community Importance

**Natura 2000 sites**

ES5222002: Marjal de Peníscola

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.****EU Country**

Spain

**Typology**

SPA: Special Protection Area

**Natura 2000 sites**

ES0000467: Prat de Cabanes i Torreblanca (ZEPA)

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.****EU Country**

Spain

**Typology**

SPA: Special Protection Area

**Natura 2000 sites**

ES0000211: Desembocadura del riu Millars

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.****EU Country**

Spain

**Typology**

SCI: Sites of Community Importance

**Natura 2000 sites**

ES5222005: Marjal de Nules

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.****EU Country**

Spain

**Typology**

SPA: Special Protection Area

**Natura 2000 sites**

ES0000470: Marjal dels Moros (ZEPA)

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.****EU Country**

Spain

**Typology**

SPA: Special Protection Area

**Natura 2000 sites**

ES0000471: l'Albufera (ZEPA)

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.****EU Country**

Spain

**Typology**

SPA: Special Protection Area

**Natura 2000 sites**

ES0000487: Marjal de Pego-Oliva (ZEPA)

**If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.**

<p><b>EU Country</b> Spain</p> <p><b>Natura 2000 sites</b> ES4250010: Humedales de La Mancha</p>	<p><b>Typology</b> SPA: Special Protection Area</p>
<b>If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.</b>	
<p><b>EU Country</b> Spain</p> <p><b>Natura 2000 sites</b> ES4140036: La Nava-Campos Norte</p>	<p><b>Typology</b> SPA: Special Protection Area</p>
<b>If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.</b>	
<p><b>EU Country</b> Spain</p> <p><b>Natura 2000 sites</b> ES0000216: La Nava-Campos Sur</p>	<p><b>Typology</b> SPA: Special Protection Area</p>
<b>If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.</b>	
<p><b>EU Country</b> Portugal</p> <p><b>Natura 2000 sites</b> PTZPE0013: Lagoa de Santo André</p>	<p><b>Typology</b> SPA: Special Protection Area</p>
<b>If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.</b>	
<p><b>EU Country</b> Portugal</p> <p><b>Natura 2000 sites</b> PTZPE0049: Lagoa Pequena</p>	<p><b>Typology</b> SPA: Special Protection Area</p>
<b>If relevant, please select the Natura 2000 sites that your project will be addressing.</b>	
<p><b>EU Country</b> Portugal</p> <p><b>Natura 2000 sites</b> PTZPE0004: Ria de Aveiro</p>	<p><b>Typology</b> SPA: Special Protection Area</p>

**LIFE Programme - Annex II - Section 2 - Specific KPIs - (Please report on KPIs you consider relevant).**

**Please select the relevant indicators for your project. For each selected indicator please provide any required values and comments. Please note that if you deselect an indicator, all values entered will be lost.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (Invasive Alien Species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (habitats)
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity (number of Species)	<input type="checkbox"/> C2M projects	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (environment)
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals (humans)	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate area vulnerability reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate vulnerability (humans)
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy savings	<input type="checkbox"/> GHG emissions
<input type="checkbox"/> GHG sequestration	<input type="checkbox"/> Investments and Financing	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> Other project specific KPIs	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/> Resource efficiency
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste management	<input type="checkbox"/> Water efficiency
<input type="checkbox"/> Water quality		

**Biodiversity (habitats)**

**Area of habitats where loss of biodiversity is being halted and reversed**

The start-value is pre-set to 0. In the end-value please provide an estimate of the area of habitats where loss of biodiversity is being halted and reversed due to your project, at project-end. The end-value is expected to be higher than the start-value,

demonstrating an increase in the area positively affected, due to the project actions. Please also provide the estimated number, 3/5 years after the project-end, to demonstrate if further area of habitats will be positively affected. Please also provide relevant comments (e.g. 3 most relevant habitats addressed , their areas, etc)..

Project-Start Value (Baseline)	Project-End Value	3/5 years beyond Project-End Value	Unit
0	11.19	50	km2

**Please provide stand-alone information to further clarify your input and briefly explain any assumptions/calculations. Please also ensure alignment with the main proposal text.**

The project intends to directly restore and maintain 1,119 ha of habitats for the species in four European countries and Senegal and this has been taken into account in the Project-End Value. The estimate of 10,000 ha for the 3/5 years value takes into account the number of other Natura 2000 sites that support staging aquatic warblers and other Natura 2000 sites with sedge and reed marshes where some of the management techniques will be applicable.



# Wetlands International - European Association

## Annual Report and Accounts 2022



*The elaboration of this report has been funded by the European Union and opinions expressed are however those of the author only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.*

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## Introduction

As part of Wetlands International, the only global not-for-profit network dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands, Wetlands International - European Association, further known as Wetlands International Europe, was established in 2013 as a membership-based Association aiming to improve policy development and implementation to enhance practices and investments in wetlands protection and conservation. By the end of 2022, the Association counted on **11 NGOs from seven European countries** (ES, IT, PL, DE, LT, FR, UK).



Wetlands International Europe is driven by the knowledge that safeguarding and restoring wetlands is urgent and vital for water security, biodiversity, climate regulation, sustainable development and human health. As a member-based organization, our working model is designed to connect knowledge at three levels: European, national and on-the-ground, creating a virtuous cycle of information flow between the Secretariat of the Association and member organizations. This cycle combines bottom-up and top-down approaches, and facilitates the collection of examples of best practices and lessons learned that are used to inform policy processes and decision-makers.

2022 has been marked by new strategic partnerships that have resulted, for example, in a new role of Wetlands International Europe as co-coordinator of the Secretariat of the [Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands](#) (MAW) or the launch of the Trans-European Swimways Network and its programme.

The organisation of the European Rivers Summit in Brussels, an event that served as a megaphone for freshwater-related policies, featuring more than 50 speakers from NGOs to the European Commission and European Parliament and businesses, and 180 participants from more than 30 European countries, made us realize the enormous capacity and possibilities that our team can offer.

2022 was also a key year for our External Action programme as we saw how it is increasingly gaining acceptance and recognition in Wetlands International's network. This has been reflected with the proposal from the network to include the External Action agenda of Wetlands International Europe in Wetlands International Global Fundraising Strategy.

Although we sadly saw our new member BirdLife Belarus leave after being shut down by the Belarusian government, we welcomed a new member from Lithuania: the Foundation for Peatland Restoration and Conservation.

Finally, the Secretariat's team grew in 2022 from 8 to 13 people, increasing the capacity in project management, finance, communications and policy advocacy. We would not like to end this section without being grateful and thanking for the support provided by four interns in organising the European Rivers Summit, general communications and external action activities.

## Summary of activities and achievements in 2022

The work undertaken by Wetlands International Europe contributes and is complementary to the global [Strategic Intent of Wetlands International 2020-2030](#), which is built around three streams of work: Deltas and Coasts, Rivers and Lakes, and Peatlands. For the purpose of this report, we will refer to Freshwater when addressing Rivers and Lakes. Moreover, the European strategy adds two cross-cutting work areas to these streams, namely the European External Action and Biodiversity.

In 2022, we continued building our knowledge and experience, providing input into policy processes and raising awareness about the importance of wetlands for a variety of ecosystem services beneficial for nature and people.

Most importantly, we did not stand alone in pursuing our claims and goals, which is why we have persisted in nurturing the alliances, partnerships and coalitions we are part of such as Dam Removal Europe, CONCORD, Living Rivers Europe, European Habitats Forum (EHF) and the Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands. Moreover, we have created new ones with organisations such as Rewilding Europe, European Justice Forum and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). Without these partnerships and alliances we would not have been able to be part in twelve project proposals, seven of them approved by the time this report has been published.

2022 has granted us with new working platforms and projects. Examples of the former are our new membership of the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Ecological Connectivity, the EU Biodiversity Platform, the Vision Leadership Team on Grey Green Infrastructure under Water Europe and the Steering Group of the Open Rivers Programme. Examples of projects are the three new Horizon projects we are now part of [ALFAwetlands](#), [WET HORIZONS](#) and [REWET](#).

The contribution of the European office to the Global governance of Wetlands International has gained relevance with our participation in the regular meetings of the Network Management Team and the Annual Meeting of Heads of Office of Wetlands International that this year took place in the headquarters of our member Tour du Valat in the Camargue in France and whose main focus was on Upscaling Wetlands International's strategic vision and Business Planning.

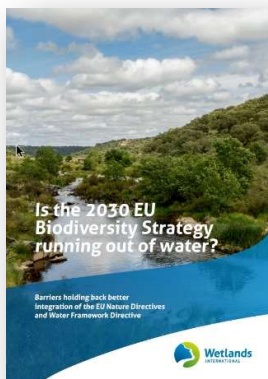
In the following section, we would like to present in detail a description of the main outcomes of the year for each work programme.

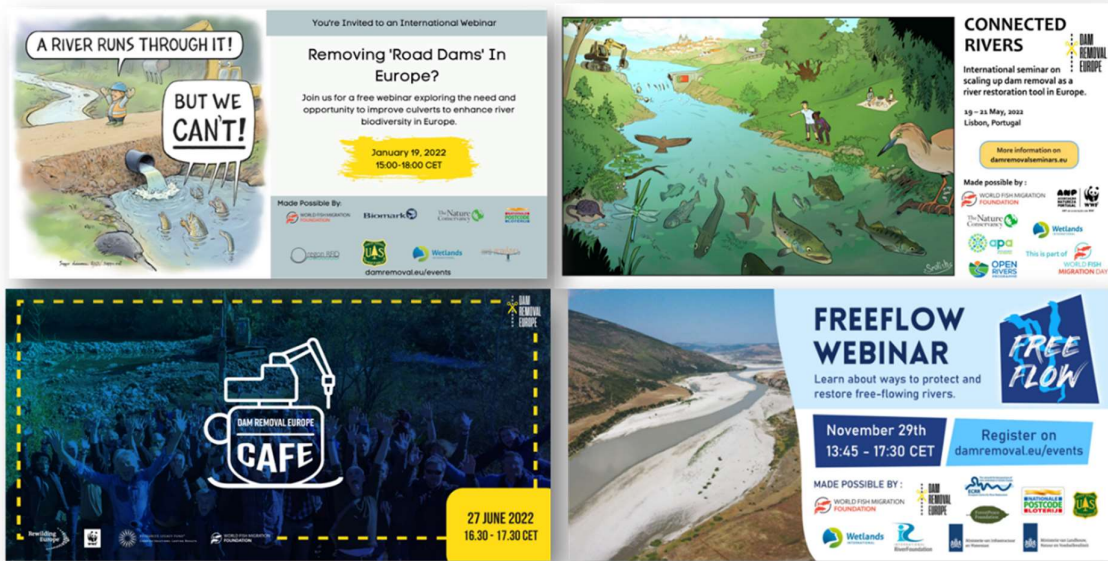
## Freshwater

Our advocacy efforts towards the European institutions and Members States to strengthen the implementation of EU water-related Directives took different forms along the year. We co-wrote the report "[Is the 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy running out of water?](#)" that examined the integration of nature conservation objectives into the most recent River Basin Management Plans for 2022-2027 as required by the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). We signed a [joint statement](#) with 20 NGOs,

including our member Fundación Global Nature, on the revision of lists of surface and groundwater pollutants and a joint letter with Living Rivers Europe to Water Directors on the impact of the proposed Nature Restoration Regulation on the implementation of the WFD.

With our partners from the MAVA Foundation project "Restoring Iberian Rivers", we developed a joint vision document for future collaboration in Iberian transboundary river cooperation after 2022 and a letter to the UNECE Water Convention's Implementing Committee. The latter stressed the discrepancies between the transboundary river management cooperation in Iberian countries under the Albufeira Convention and the obligations under the UNECE Water Convention.





We maintained our advocacy efforts for the protection and restoration of free-flowing rivers to achieve the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy. In this regard, we co-sponsored and co-organised an [International Dam Removal workshop in Lisbon](#), Portugal where we presented the European Green Deal policy opportunities for dam removal and [announced the winner](#) of the Dam Removal Award. We moderated the international webinar [Removing “Road Dams” in Europe](#) and the [Dam Removal Café](#) webinar featuring live connections from barrier removal sites and interviews. Similarly, we participated in the [Free Flow Webinar](#) as part of the International River Symposium to showcase the importance of free-flowing rivers among practitioners, civil society, and policy makers and focus on how dam removal can be understood and applied.

On advocacy towards the recognition of “sponges” as essential Natural Water Retention Measures to address floods and droughts, we remained working closely with WWF Netherlands and Bureau Strooming to turn our existing knowledge into action on the ground and position us for longer-term leadership.

What is more, we delivered a keynote address during the Society of Ecological Restoration Europe conference in Alicante, Spain and a presentation during the Europe-Wide Flagship Conference on Climate Change Adaptation “Designing climate resilient landscapes” hosted by the EU Presidency of Czechia. This last intervention led to the inclusion of natural sponges in the Prague Appeal. Alongside these opportunities, we presented the natural sponges to the International Meuse Commission and during a webinar organized by JRC on nature-based solutions for climate and water pollution mitigation in agricultural regions.



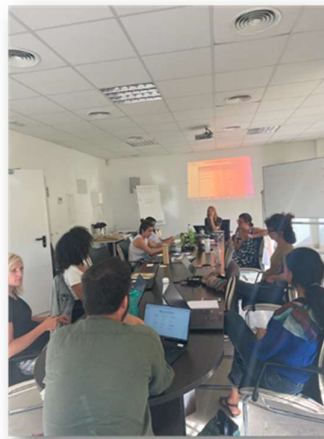
*Free Flow seminar*



To increase public support for healthy European rivers, an important milestone in 2022 was the organization of the [3<sup>rd</sup> European Rivers Summit](#) in Brussels, with more than 50 speakers and 180 participants from more than 30 European countries. It featured a River Film Festival which included the premiere of the [documentary #DamBusters](#).

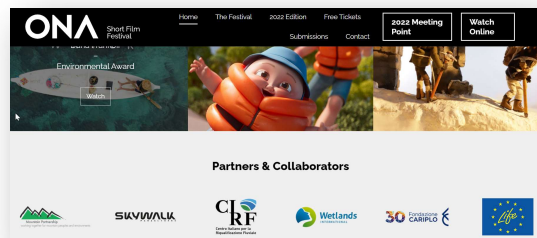
### Work with members

In 2022, MAVA Foundation closed its doors. It was a year of reflection and opportunities that paved the way to strengthening our work in the Mediterranean region with our member Tour du Valat and IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN Med). We met with different MAVA beneficiaries during the year: during the Donors' Fair organized by MAVA in Tunis, in Malaga with IUCN Med and Tour du Valat to plan for the future of the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands, and at MAVA's final workshop in Tepelenë.



With our member the Italian Centre for River Restoration (CIRF), we kept participating in the meetings and consultations of the Strategic Coordination Group within the WFD Common Implementation Strategy (CIS). We joined the Floods and ECOSTAT working groups besides the WFD CIS meetings.

Moreover, we co-organised with CIRF a free-flowing rivers workshop at the IS Rivers Conference in Lyon, France and supported a freshwater award at the ONA Short Film Festival in Venice. With CIRF too, we developed and launched a [new website](#) on river connectivity to draw attention to the importance of free-flowing rivers.





In Spain, we supported our member the Iberian Centre for River Restoration (CIREF) with the organisation of an in-person geomorphology course to help inform the better implementation of the WFD and 2030 Biodiversity Strategy and the celebration of World Fish Migration Day.

With the Sustainable Eel Group, we actively engaged with the European Commission and stakeholders for better implementation of the European Eel Regulation and integration with EU Green Deal policies. In relation to this, we delivered a presentation assessing the need for better integration of different freshwater related policies during an [event](#) at the European Parliament “Eel Deal 2030” hosted by to the Members of the European Parliament Annie Schreijer-Pierik and attended by 50 people.



## Peatlands

As in previous years, the analysis of legislative proposals, creating advocacy materials and engaging with EU stakeholders through events was a standing action to ensure that peatlands are rightly placed in key EU laws and initiatives. Among others, we worked on the Commission's proposal for a revised LULUCF regulation, sending feedback on the different amendments for the revision and voting recommendations to Members of the European Parliament. Besides this, we contributed to the [public consultation](#) for a Soil Health Law, calling for higher ambition to protect and restore peatlands and published a [reaction](#) to the proposal for a regulation to certify carbon removals.



We [welcomed](#) the recognition of paludiculture as a farming practice in the Commission's proposal for a Nature Restoration Regulation and contributed to the 2022 EU Green Week with a series of awareness-raising initiatives on our social media and the organisation of a [quiz](#) on paludiculture.

To provide an overview of some of the facts and figures related to peatlands in Europe, and how to make the draft Nature Restoration Regulation work better for these valuable ecosystems, we developed a [Peatlands factsheet](#) together with the EHF.

A new policy dossier for us in 2022 was the Commission's proposal for a Carbon Removal Certification Framework. We were actively involved in different meetings sharing Wetlands International's position paper on voluntary carbon markets and responded to the European Commission's call for evidence and public consultation on EU rules for certifying carbon removals in a [joint statement](#) with Rewilding Europe.

Furthermore, we were involved in establishing the European Peatlands Initiative (EPI), led by the Irish government. We contributed to different stakeholders engagement activities and to an exploratory study. These lead to the production of an EPI [report](#) that identifies the emerging needs for a government-supported network for peatlands across Europe through engagement with multiple Irish and international stakeholder groups.

In autumn, we gathered together partners from the Interreg project PEAT CARE and the Horizon project WaterLANDS in Wetlands International Europe’s premises in Brussels in a meeting called “For Peat’s Sake: Strengthening Peatlands Targets”. The meeting ended with a high level policy event at the European Parliament hosted by the Member of the European Parliament Jutta Paulus. We also took part in several discussions with Cesar Luena, rapporteur for the Nature Restoration Regulation, the Swedish Permanent Representative and people from the Commission’s DG ENVI and AGRI presenting our demands for peatlands restoration.



**Work with members**



With our member Michael Succow Foundation, we co-organised a five-day paludiculture [study trip](#) to peatland rich federal states in northern Germany, attended by 50 international stakeholders from 11 different EU countries to promote and build knowledge on paludiculture and its multiple benefits as well as understand the environmental damage of drainage-based peatland utilisation to nature and the climate. A second field visit was co-organised, attended by Members of the European Parliament and government officials.

Together with our member CMok, we organised an online workshop [Dos and Don’ts of voluntary carbon schemes](#) destined to inform about the latest EU and national developments on carbon farming’s main remuneration income: voluntary carbon schemes.



As members of the Policy Task Force for Mediterranean Wetlands within the MAVA Foundation project “Communicating and advocating to reduce water abstraction and detrimental coastal development in Mediterranean coastal wetlands”, together with MedWet, BirdLife Europe, Tour du Valat and WWF Spain, we produced a policy brief on “Mediterranean wetlands in the EU Nature Restoration Law” that was presented to the Commission during a [lunch seminar](#). We invited our member Fundación Global to join and deliver a presentation on “Mediterranean wetlands management and restoration as carbon sinks” as part of the LIFE Wetlands4Climate project they are leading.

### Biodiversity

This year again, we coordinated the African-Eurasian Waterbird Census and made population size and trend information available for decision-makers and stakeholders via different publications like the [annual IWC count totals](#) online report, the [annual EU Multispecies Trends online report](#), the [East Atlantic Flyway Report 2020](#) with Sovon and the [annual IWC newsletter](#).



*8th Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.*

In addition, we organized the annual meeting of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership Strategic Working Group, the meeting of the [European national IWC coordinators](#) at the European Birds Census Council’s “Bird Numbers 2022” conference and an [online meeting of the African national IWC coordinators](#).

Our attendance to the European Birds Census Council board meetings and EU Expert Group meetings on reporting under the EU Nature Directives was likewise of relevance for our waterbirds conservation work.

Similarly, we engaged in international species recovery and management to support the Birds Directive through our participation in joint meetings of the AEWA International Species Working Groups (ISWG), the AEWA ISWG Task Force meetings and the [7th meeting of the European Goose Management Platform](#).

We promoted the conservation of migratory waterbirds beyond the EU to complement the achievements of the Birds Directive with our active contribution during the 8th AEWA MOP in Budapest through the drafting of different resolutions and meeting documents besides our presentation of the AEWA Conservation Status Report. What is more, we had a great opportunity to organise a webinar “Future



*International Waterbird Census coordinators meeting*

BirdScenarios: The impact of climate change on our bird conservation policies” and a networking event on the conservation of migratory freshwater fishes with the Commission’s Nature Unit.



With Commonland and Landscape Finance Lab, we organised a workshop in Brussels in April with nearly 30 different organisations including representatives of the Commission that led to the launch of a [set of Recommendations](#) at UNFCCC COP27 on how landscape-scale restoration can help to achieve the EU Green Deal’s objectives. A case study by Fundación Global Nature was included in this report.

Finally, of importance was the launch of the Trans European Swimways Network and programme. To achieve this, we organized and facilitated an online European



Launch of the Trans European Swimways Network

Swimways workshop to introduce the network, and collaboratively worked on the [first Trans-European Swimways Programme](#).

### Work with members

Our work to reduce lead poisoning of wild birds in Europe was sustained with our member the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. We worked with Ruth Cromie, leading expert on the issue of lead poisoning to submit information to the European Chemicals Agency and coordinate a campaign on banning lead in gunshot and fishing tackle in the EU.

We supported the organisation by our member the Sustainable Eel Group of a [restocking field trip](#) to the Netherlands attended by 10 officials from Brussels.

With our members CIREF and Fundación Global Nature, we contributed to a letter signed by 30 European environmental NGOs to the European Parliament calling for action against the threats to wetlands in Doñana National Park in violation of the WFD, and warning about potential threats to other Spanish wetlands.



We sponsored the organisation of a [symposium on restoring coastal habitats in Europe](#) with our member the Zoological Society of London to promote the importance of ecological connectivity in the context of the EU Regulation on Nature Restoration and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

With our member Fundación Global Nature, we co-organised and facilitated an online Aquatic Warbler Conservation meeting that hosted 40 experts from 25

different organisations to develop a project plan to conserve and restore a site network for the aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) around Europe as a first step towards a trans-European conservation network.

A key mission during 2022 was influencing the EU’s proposal for a Nature Restoration Regulation. We started our work on this topic by pushing for the publication of the proposal, which had been delayed. Once published, we responded to the [Commission consultation](#) on the proposed Nature Restoration Regulation, recommending changes to strengthen wetland-related targets and drafted our internal

analysis and [position](#) on the draft law. We supported several joint positions with the policy task force of the MAVA [Mediterranean Coastal Wetlands](#) project, [Living Rivers Europe](#) and our member [Michael Succow Foundation](#).

Our advocacy activities were combined with active sharing of our views during events and meetings. Some examples are the different meetings we organised with representatives of the European Commission and parliament and the co-organisation of an event in the Parliament for a legally binding free flowing rivers target with the Member of the European Parliament Cesar Luena, the rapporteur for the Nature Restoration Regulation.

### EU's impact on wetlands around the world

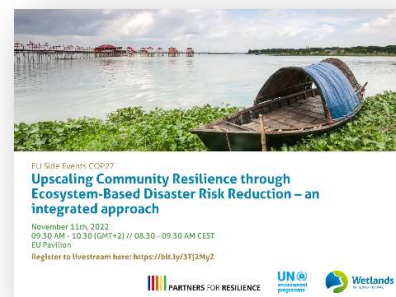
In our efforts to embed wetlands for sustainable development into the EU's global leadership, we advocated for the inclusion of wetlands in Multiannual Indicative Programmes and Annual Action Plans which successfully ended with the inclusion of wetlands in several of these documents.

Networking with EU delegations and Team Europe partners on wetlands' importance for the planetary goal of the EU Consensus on Development remained a constant besides our facilitation role to strengthen communication between Wetlands International network offices and EU external related institutions. Thanks to this work, we were invited to different events and meetings and to take part in two missions: on blue economy in Tanzania and on Copernicus in Argentina. Additionally, we produced a [briefing](#) on the EU's priorities for Africa that will be shared with EU delegations in 2023 and used by our regional colleagues as a guidance document for advocacy.



Our growing engagement with EPLO was highly relevant to promote the inclusion of wetlands as sources for stability, human peace and security in relevant EU policies and planning. We were panellists in the [event](#) "The EU, climate change and conflict: Conflict sensitivity as an entry point for integrated engagement" as part of the Stockholm Peace and Development Forum and facilitated the participation of Wetlands International's Director for Eastern Africa in the policy [meeting](#) of the Civil Society Dialogue Network on "Water, Peace and Conflict: Exchanging on opportunities and best practices". This work was complemented with our active participation in events like "Enhancing Water Security for Better Resilience to Climate Threats" organized in partnership with the French Presidency of the EU and "[Building resilience for people through sustainable food systems, tackling climate and environmental crises, and humanitarian action](#)" at the Europe-Africa Commission.

On wetland solutions for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, we organized sessions during the UNFCCC COP27 and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction focusing on the results of the EU-funded project "[Upscaling community resilience through Eco-DRR](#)" of which Wetlands International is a partner and on "[Embedding Risk in Investment Decisions](#)". Likewise, we stressed the role of healthy wetlands as natural buffers against disasters and as precious ecosystems to strengthen community to the EU Commissioners ahead of the EU- Africa Commission to Commission meeting in November.



Our advocacy efforts for a greener EU footprint on wetlands around the world revolved around the Commission’s proposal for a Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products and public consultation on Critical Raw Materials ([here](#) our reply). During the negotiations in the European Parliament and during the trialogue, we signed two NGO [statements](#) asking for the inclusion of wetlands in the Regulation. We also joined forces with the Environmental Justice Foundation and drafted amendments to be tabled for the plenary and coordinated closely with Wetlands International’s offices in Latin America.



We continued supporting Wetlands International’s programme "Save the High Andes Wetlands" led by Wetlands International’s office in Argentina to advocate for more sustainable lithium mining practices in the EU which included the organisation, during the European Development Days, of the event “[Lithium Triangle in Latin America and High Andean Wetlands](#)”<sup>1</sup>

## Functioning and governance

### The Board

The general management of Wetlands International Europe has been entrusted to its Board members. Board members are unremunerated.

In 2022, the Board met several times to approve the 2022 Annual Report and Accounts, Forecast Budget 2023, succession of Board members and planning for the General Members Meeting. Other relevant topics discussed related to general management of the Secretariat and approval of new member applications.



*General Members Meeting 2022*

<sup>1</sup> Article written by Fred Pierce on this issue after the event <https://e360.yale.edu/features/lithium-mining-water-andes-argentina>

2022 composition of the Board<sup>2</sup>:

<b>Member Organisation</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Position on Board</b>
Wetlands International	Jane Madgwick	Chair
Michael Succow Foundation	Jan Peters	Vice-Chair
Fundación Global Nature	Eduardo de Miguel	Secretary
Zoological Society of London	Alison Debney	Treasurer

The Chair of the Board, Jane Madgwick left per 1 May 2023. The election of a new Chair has not been formalized yet at the time of signing the Management report. Therefore, the Vice-chair, Jan Peters co-signed for this report.

### Our members

Wetlands International Europe's governance is steered by its members who guide the Secretariat's work and strategic direction.

On a yearly basis, our members gather for the General Members Meeting to discuss and assess the Association's progress and identify new lines of action for the future. In 2022, the General Members Meeting for 2021 took place in January and the General Members Meeting for 2022 in November.

Besides this yearly event, the Wetlands International Europe Secretariat's team nourishes the relation with members on a bilateral basis or through the organisation of sessions with a group of members on specific issues. In 2022, thematic discussions focused on topical issues such as the Nature Restoration Regulation and restoration targets, the establishment of the Trans-European Swimways Network and Carbon Markets.

List of Wetlands International Europe's members:

<b>Since</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
2013	Spain	Centro Ibérico de Restauración Fluvial	CIREF
2013	Poland	Centrum Ochrony Mokradel	CMok
2013	UK	The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust	WWT
2013	UK	Zoological Society of London	ZSL
2013	UK	Sustainable Eel Group	SEG
2013	France	Fondation Tour du Valat	TdV
2015	Italy	Centro Italiano per la Riqualificazione Fluviale	CIRF
2013	Germany	EuroNatur	EuroNatur
2019	Germany	Michael Succow Foundation	MSF
2019	Spain	Fundación Global Nature	FGN
2022	Lithuania	Pelkių atkūrimo ir apsaugos fondas	

<sup>2</sup> Note: Board members are not remunerated for their work.

### The Secretariat

All Wetlands International Europe's operations are possible thanks to the work carried out by the Secretariat made by a team of 13 people and different interns, associated experts and consultants.

New recruitments took place in 2022 to reinforce the different programmes (Communications Officer, Peatlands Policy Officer, Swimways Coordinator, Peatlands Project Manager, Financial Controller).

The European Programme Manager has been leading the executive management and operations of the European office in close cooperation with the wider network organisation and the European Association members thanks to a Power of Attorney signed by the Executive Board. She coordinates the development and implementation of the project portfolio of the European office to deliver significant results towards the Wetlands International 2020-2030 Strategic Intent.

With a growing portfolio and growing team, the Board identified the need for a strategic position in the Association's Secretariat and a new position for a Director was created and a vacancy published in 2022. A new Director should be in place in 2023.

### Summary of finance and resourcing

Since 2016, Wetlands International Europe has been granted a LIFE NGO Operating Grant under the EU's LIFE Programme. This grant has co-financed the running costs of the Association. In 2022, following the application to conclude a Specific Grant Agreement (SGA), we signed a new agreement.

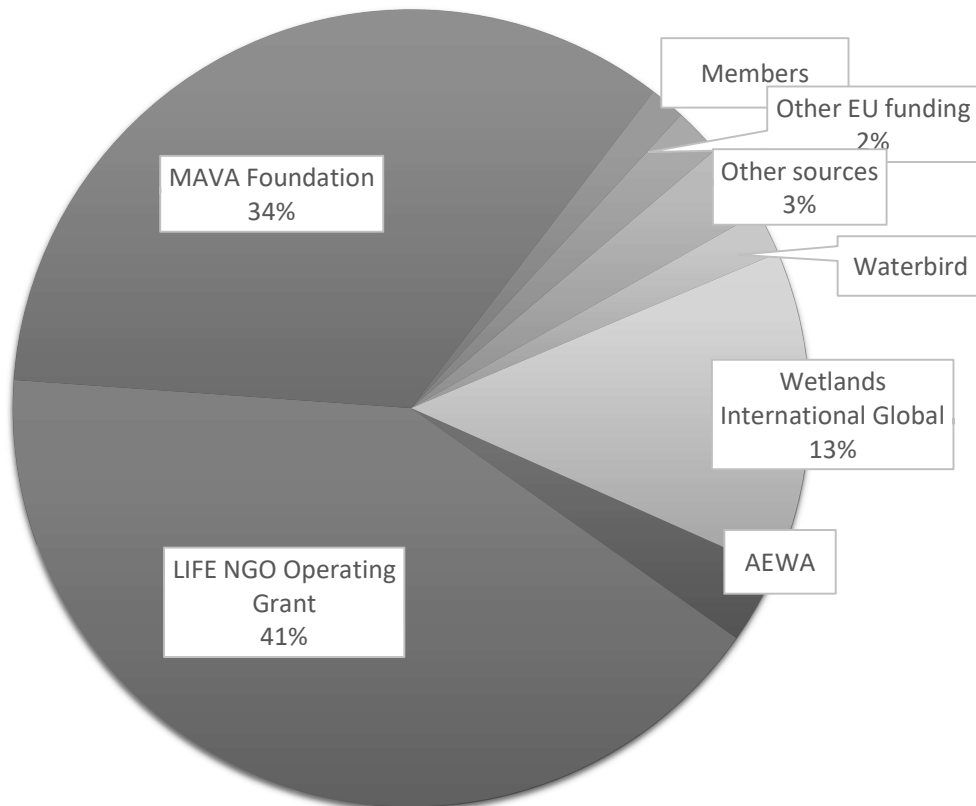
In 2022, all five MAVA Foundation projects concluded and three Horizon projects started: [ALFAwetlands](#), [WET HORIZONS](#) and [REWET](#).

In 2022, we submitted different project applications to public donors such as the European Commission and private donors on topics such as sponges, swimways and waterbirds.

As reflected in the graphic below, in 2022, the main sources of funding came from the LIFE NGO Operating Grant, MAVA Foundation and Wetlands International Foundation.

The total income in 2022 was € 1.326.656 of which €172.855 came from the Wetlands International Foundation. See pie chart below. The total expenses amounted to € 1.252.976. As a result, the year ended with a positive result of €73.680.

### 2022 Funding sources



## Actuals and Budget 2022

In the table below the actuals 2022 are compared with the budget 2022:

	Actuals (€)	Budget (€)	Deviation (€)
<b>Income</b>			
Subsidies	574.113	599.456	-
Other income	<u>752.543</u>	<u>512.759</u>	<u>239.784</u>
	1.326.656	1.112.215	214.441
<b>Expenses</b>			
Staff costs	678.670	708.767	-30.097
Direct project costs	492.700	319.662	173.038
Housing costs	21.057	15.000	6.057
General costs	59.107	67.100	7.993
Depreciation	<u>1.442</u>	<u>1.686</u>	<u>-244</u>
	1.252.976	1.112.215	140.761
<b>Result</b>	<u><u>73.680</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>73.680</u></u>

### Result

The result is €73.680 higher than foreseen.

### Income

Income is 19% higher than budgeted. The main reason for this are the finalisation of the 5 MAVA projects in 2022. The contribution of the Life Operating grant for 2022 was only 1% lower than budgeted.

### Expenses

The overall expenses increased with a total of € 140.761 against the budget. The main increase took place in the direct project cost. This has mainly to do with the finalisation of the MAVA projects as mentioned earlier. Also, in 2022 most of the Covid 19 restrictions were lifted which made it possible to travel and organise events.



## Considerations looking ahead

The members of Wetlands International Europe are the pivotal element of the Association. 2022 was the year of realization that now is the time to bring more members to the network and become more influential without losing sight of our priority to work more effectively together. Additionally, small steps were taken towards strengthening engagement with the European members of Wetlands International Global, and 2023 should represent a tipping point for integration of these members into our strategy and annual plans.

The European Commission's Nature Restoration Regulation proposal and the negotiations in the European Parliament and European Council have served us as a good example of what joint collaboration should mean between the members of Wetlands International Europe and the Secretariat. During the General Members Meetings, a call for a protocol to ensure higher visibility of members and for advocacy and communication plans was made to the Secretariat as a way to increase the value of our political calls. Moreover, joint Resource Development has remained as an outstanding issue that we will address by developing a more systematic and transparent Resource Development process.

Nothing has changed in our position to keep working and strategizing in partnership and alliances as it keeps bringing us new opportunities to catalyse new initiatives and absorb additional funding. For this reason, we will continue nurturing our allies and will build new ones mainly on peatlands, swimways and "sponges" protection and conservation.

We saw MAVA Foundation closing its doors this year which opened new opportunities for exploration in the Mediterranean region. With our new role as co-coordinator of the Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands, we will persevere in finding our niche in the Mediterranean region together with our member Tour du Valat and key stakeholders.

Wetlands International network has recognised the importance of Wetlands International Europe's programme on European External Action and we now look ahead with a stronger ambition to integrate this programme in the Global Strategy of Wetlands International. If we meet this goal, a strengthened relation between Wetlands International network offices and EU Institutions would lead to the inclusion of wetland protection and recovery into Europe's external agenda for development and adaptation to climate change.

The recruitment of the new Director to help balance and complement the internal organisation of the Association with its strategic direction was delayed to 2023. With this position, the awaited support to introduce new sourcing of unrestricted funding, which was always identified as a challenge, will finally start happening.

Finally, in terms of fundraising, drafting and consolidating our different programmes will stay as a priority and as the so much needed needle in the compass to prioritize fundraising on strategic priorities.

Of course, we will do all this in close collaboration with our members.

On behalf of Wetlands International – European Association:



Jan Peters  
Vice-chair of the Board

Yurena Lorenzo de Quintana  
European Programme Manager

## Annual Accounts Wetlands International - European Association 2022

### Balance sheet as per 31 December

(in Euros)

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>		
Tangible fixed assets (1)	6.967	3.503
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors and other receivables (2)	241.490	147.969
Cash and Banks (3)	<u>37.232</u>	<u>139.504</u>
	278.722	287.473
<b>Total assets</b>	<u><u>285.689</u></u>	<u><u>290.976</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Reserves and funds</b>		
Continuity reserve (4)	81.950	8.270
<b>Short term Liabilities</b>		
Creditors (5)	10.885	16.964
Taxes and social security (6)	33.594	9.602
Other short terms liabilities (7)	<u>159.260</u>	<u>256.140</u>
	203.739	282.706
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u><u>285.689</u></u>	<u><u>290.976</u></u>

## Statement of Income and Expenditure Wetlands International - European Association 2022

(in Euro's)

	2022	Budget 2022	2021
<b>Income</b>			
Subsidies (8)	574.113	599.456	399.164
Other income (9)	752.543	512.759	385.591
	<u>1.326.656</u>	<u>1.112.215</u>	<u>784.755</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Staff costs (10)	678.670	708.767	406.942
Direct project costs (11)	492.700	319.662	302.541
Housing costs (12)	21.057	15.000	12.280
General costs (13)	59.107	67.100	60.990
Depreciation (14)	1.442	1.686	866
	<u>1.252.976</u>	<u>1.112.215</u>	<u>783.619</u>
<b>Result</b>	<u>73.680</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1.136</u>
<b>Result appropriation</b>			
Decrease / Increase continuity reserve	73.680	0	1.136
	<u>73.680</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1.136</u>

## Cashflow Statement

(in Euros)

	2022	2021
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		
Result	73.680	1.136
Depreciation	1.442	866
Cash flow	<u>75.122</u>	<u>2.002</u>
Changes in work capital		
- Change in receivables	-93.521	-32.274
- Change in short-term debts	<u>-78.967</u>	<u>64.549</u>
	-172.488	32.275
Changes in subsidy fixed assets	0	0
Cash flow from operating activities	<u>-97.366</u>	<u>34.277</u>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>		
Investments in fixed assets	<u>-4.906</u>	<u>-3.579</u>
Cash flow from investing activities	-4.906	-3.579
<b>Change in cash &amp; banks</b>	<u><u>-102.272</u></u>	<u><u>30.698</u></u>
Cash & banks		
- as per 1st January	139.504	108.806
- as per 31st December	<u>37.232</u>	<u>139.504</u>
<b>Change in cash &amp; banks</b>	<u><u>-102.272</u></u>	<u><u>30.698</u></u>

## General accounting principles

Wetlands International - European Association is established on 25 September 2013 and is registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce with no. 58891641.

Since 2018 Wetlands International - European Association has the ANBI status

The financial statements are prepared according to the following principles:

The annual accounts 2022 have been drawn up in accordance with Dutch Accounting Guidelines.

Valuation of assets and liabilities and determination of the result are calculated under historical cost convention. Unless presented otherwise at the relevant principle for the specific item, assets and liabilities are valued at nominal value.

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate at the time of the transaction. Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are converted at the exchange rate at the year-end.

Income and expenses are accounted for on accrual basis. Profit is only included when realized on the balance sheet date. Losses originating before the end of the financial year are taken into account if they have become known before preparation of the financial statements. Cash and bank balances are freely disposable, unless stated otherwise.

The financial year runs from January 1st to December 31st.

### **Currency**

All amounts are expressed in Euro.

### **Principles of valuation of assets and liabilities**

#### Tangible Fixed assets

Tangible Fixed assets are presented at cost less accumulated depreciation and, if applicable, less impairments in value. Depreciation is based on the estimated useful life of 3-5 years and calculated as a fixed percentage of cost, taking into account any residual value. Depreciation is applied from the date an asset comes into use.

#### Projects in progress

Projects in progress started before 31 December 2022 and continue into the next financial year.

Project grants are generally determined after the end of the project, upon submission of a report on the use of the funds made available. Insofar the received tranches from donor exceed the costs spent on the project, this surplus is recognised as a grant liability and presented under "Projects to be executed", as part of the short term debts. If the costs spent exceed the grants received, the difference is recognised as a claim on the donor and presented under "Project funds to be received", as part of the short term receivables. In valuing the costs spent on projects, account is taken of whether or not the costs are eligible and the maximum amount of the grant.

#### Taxes

The tax authorities decided that the organization is not subject to VAT tax and company tax.

### **Principles of determination of results**

Income and expenses are accounted for in the profit and loss account at the time of supply of the relevant goods or services. Results are determined by the difference between income and expenses concerning the financial year.

### **Principles of determination of the Cash Flow**

The cash flow is drawn up based on the indirect method.

**Other off-balance sheet assets and liabilities**

The European Commission granted us a LIFE NGO Operating Grant "Framework Partnership Agreement" for a three-year period 2022-2024, with only an indicative budget. For each year a separate agreement is signed.

Wetlands International European Association has a rental agreement for the office in Brussel till the end of September 2024.

## Explanatory Notes to the Balance sheet

(in Euros)

<b>(1) Tangible fixed assets</b>	<b>ICT Hardware</b>	<b>Furniture</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance 1st January			
Purchase value	9.155	0	9.155
Accumulated depreciation	5.652	0	5.652
Book value 1st January	<u>3.503</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3.503</u>
Investments	4.138	768	4.906
Desinvestments Purchase value	0	0	0
Desinvestmenst Accumulated depreciation	0	0	0
Depreciation	1.378	64	1.442
Balance 31st December			
Purchase value	13.293	768	14.061
Accumulated depreciation	7.030	64	7.094
Book value 31 December	<u>6.263</u>	<u>704</u>	<u>6.967</u>

Fixed assets financed by projects and in use by Wetlands International staff are activated.  
The counter value of these assets is accounted for under 'subsidized fixed assets' which are decreased in line with the depreciation of the assets.

<b>(2) Debtors and other receivables</b>	<b>31/12/2022</b>	<b>31/12/2021</b>
Debtors	23.641	200
Other donor funds	199.037	125.069
Current Account WI Foundation	0	3.553
Prepayments	15.915	19.078
Rent Deposit	1.398	0
Staff advances	1.500	69
	<u>241.490</u>	<u>147.969</u>

Contributions outstanding for more than 1 year are amortized  
For contributions outstanding 2 years or more, the policy is maintained to institute a provision for 100% because in practise it is impossible for the Association to enforce such payments.

<b>(3) Cash &amp; banks</b>	<b>31/12/2022</b>	<b>31/12/2021</b>
ABN AMRO Current account EUR	37.232	139.504
	<u>37.232</u>	<u>139.504</u>

All liquidities are available on demand

<b>(4) Continuity reserve</b>	<b>31/12/2022</b>	<b>31/12/2021</b>
Balance 1 January	8.270	7.134
Result appropriation	73.680	1.136
Balance 31 December	<u>81.950</u>	<u>8.270</u>

The result in the Association's annual account is added to the continuity reserve, in accordance with the organisation's reserves policy.

<b>(5) Creditors</b>	<b>31/12/2022</b>	<b>31/12/2021</b>
Creditors	10.885	16.964
	<u>10.885</u>	<u>16.964</u>

<b>(6) Taxes and social security</b>	<b>31/12/2022</b>	<b>31/12/2021</b>
Tax & Social costs on salaries	33.285	9.531
Pension	309	71
	<u>33.594</u>	<u>9.602</u>

<b>(7) Other short term liabilities</b>	<b>31/12/2022</b>	<b>31/12/2021</b>
Current Account WI Foundation	48.236	0
Projects to be executed	59.663	182.714
Creditors Subcontractors commitments	7.437	41.771
Holiday reserve	15.329	12.058
Reserve holiday hours outstanding	9.904	4.895
Auditors	15.097	12.300
Other	3.594	2.402
	<u>159.260</u>	<u>256.140</u>

Subcontractor commitments are contracted amounts due to subcontractors for the execution of projects.



## Explanatory Notes to the Statement of Income and Expenditure

(in Euros)

<b>(8) Subsidies</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Budget 2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
European Commission Operating Grant	548.135	552.627	358.788
European Commission Horizon 2020	25.978	46.829	40.376
	<u>574.113</u>	<u>599.456</u>	<u>399.164</u>

The LIFE Operating Grant financial report for the year 2021 has been submitted and approved by the EC. For 2022, the financial report has been submitted (March 2023), but has not yet been approved.

<b>(9) Other income</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Budget 2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Project income from donors/partners	511.494	269.874	142.780
Other sources of co-financing	209.820	213.482	163.864
Project income co-funding by members	17.463	22.550	36.493
Project income other revenues	12.166	0	14.753
Membership fees	1.600	1.700	1.700
Extraordinary profit and losses	0	5.153	26.001
	<u>752.543</u>	<u>512.759</u>	<u>385.591</u>

The contribution by Foundation Wetlands International in 2022 is € 0. The contribution in 2021 was € 26,000 and is classified under extraordinary profit and losses.

<b>(10) Staff costs</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Budget 2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Wages & salaries	523.808	0	325.686
Social security costs	97.359	0	57.314
Pension costs	23.371	0	9.030
	<u>644.538</u>	<u>694.967</u>	<u>392.030</u>
Other personnel costs	34.133	13.800	14.912
Total staff costs	<u>678.670</u>	<u>708.767</u>	<u>406.942</u>

<b>(11) Direct project costs</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Budget 2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Subcontracting	278.306	298.262	239.023
Travel costs general	90.654		19.428
General Publication costs	6.047		22.473
Meetings/workshops	2.512		0
Events	51.453		370
Conference fees	847	6.550	968
ICT costs	6.842	6.050	6.372
Project audit costs	8.800	8.800	8.800
Other project running costs	47.238		5.107
	<u>492.700</u>	<u>319.662</u>	<u>302.541</u>

<b>(12) Housing costs</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Budget 2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Rent	21.057	15.000	12.280
	<u>21.057</u>	<u>15.000</u>	<u>12.280</u>

<b>(13) General costs</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Budget 2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
General Publication costs	29	0	1.973
Office costs	39.449	43.500	38.636
Travel costs	49	900	561
Auditors	6.000	6.000	3.189
Banking costs	573	750	379
Subscription service providers	7.902	9.450	10.905
Others	5.105	6.500	5.347
	<u>59.107</u>	<u>67.100</u>	<u>60.990</u>

<b>(14) Depreciation costs</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Budget 2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
ICT Hard- & Software	1.378	1.686	866
Furniture	64	0	0
	<u>1.442</u>	<u>1.686</u>	<u>866</u>

## Budget 2023 Wetlands International - European Association

On **20 December 2022** the following budget for 2023 was approved by the General Members Meeting. For comparison reasons the actuals 2022 have been added.

(in Euro's)

	<b>Budget 2023</b>	<b>Actuals 2022</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Subsidies	812.264	574.113
Other income	598.348	752.543
	<u>1.410.612</u>	<u>1.326.656</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Staf costs	1.024.938	678.670
Direct project costs	242.104	492.700
Housing costs	29.283	21.057
General costs	111.749	59.107
Depreciation	2.538	1.442
	<u>1.410.612</u>	<u>1.252.976</u>
<b>Result</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>73.680</u>

<b>Result appropriation</b>	<b>Budget 2023</b>	<b>Actuals 2022</b>
Decrease / Increase continuity reserve	0	73.680
	<u>0</u>	<u>73.680</u>



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: the management of Wetlands International European Association.

### A. Report on the audit of the financial statements 2022 included in the annual report

#### Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements 2022 of Wetlands International European Association based in Ede.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Wetlands International European Association as at 31 December 2022 and of its result for 2022 in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at 31 December 2022;
2. the profit and loss account over 2022; and
3. the notes comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of Wetlands International European Association in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### B. Report on the other information included in the annual report

In addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, the annual report contains other information that consists of:

- the management board's report;
- other information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

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KvK nummer 70758301

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information:

- is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements;
- contains the information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation of the management board's report in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and other information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

### **C. Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements**

#### **Responsibilities of management for the financial statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code. Furthermore, management is responsible for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, management should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Management should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

#### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit assignment in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional skepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our audit included e.g.:

- identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control;
- evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- concluding on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a company to cease to continue as a going concern;
- evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and
- evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Utrecht , 22 June 2022

Bonants Accountancy & Advies

Signed on original  
P.A.J.M. Bonants RA  
Partner

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

*(To be filled in by the participants and uploaded as part of the application. To add information for more participants, copy the table as many times as necessary. This section is not bound by any page limit. )*

<b>PROJECT</b>	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM

<b>PARTICIPANT 1</b> <i>(use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).</i>	
<b>Legal name (short name):</b>	Wetlands International European Association (WI-EA)
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT</b>	
<i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>	
<p>Wetlands International European Association (WI-EA), also known to external audiences as Wetlands International Europe was founded in 2013 by seven founding organisations to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity. This network, now composed of 12 NGOs across eight countries, operates under a central Secretariat staffed by 20 people of 16 nationalities located in Brussels, Belgium and Ede, the Netherlands.</p> <p>WI-EA is a part of Wetlands International network, the only global not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands. We contribute substantially to achieving Wetlands International Strategic Intent 2020-2030 as its guiding global principles are also key for Europe.</p> <p>WI-EAs mission is to inspire and mobilise society to safeguard and restore wetlands for people and nature. This is achieved by raising awareness about wetland ecosystems and advocating the sustainable use of wetlands for people and nature, in particular by linking science, policy and practice. WI-EA influences European policies and their implementation nationally, through networking, awareness raising, lobbying and advocacy, policy implementation and fundraising, but also with restoration actions on the ground that help connect knowledge development with policy advocacy and practices.</p> <p>The WI-EA programme includes the conservation of rivers, peatlands and coastal areas with biodiversity and external relations as two cross-cutting themes. Consequently conservation activities across flyways and ensuring that the EU's external policies have a positive impact on wetlands outside Europe is a high priority for the organisation. WI-EAs programmes support the implementation and enforcement of European Union environmental and climate objectives by bringing together European NGOs working to accelerate action for wetland solutions to solve the most urgent challenges facing Europe and the planet. WI-EA will take a similarly collaborative approach to implement the activities in this proposal.</p> <p>WI-EA member organisations and networks contribute to actions at different geographical levels across Europe, both in EU member countries and in neighbouring and candidate countries. They also work in different scales of operation and influence, from the African-Eurasian flyways to the EU, the sub-regional, national and local level, engaging with different sectors, cultures and languages, in rural and urban settings. WI-EA builds capacity among its members, partners and networks to better understand the requirements of EU policies so that they can contribute to improved implementation at the national and lower levels or raise the alarm when stricter enforcement is needed. All of this aligns with the proposed work packages and tasks.</p> <p>WI-EA develops and manages multi-partner, international projects and programmes around Europe, ranging from research on wetlands and nature-based solutions to the management and restoration of waterbird and freshwater fish populations, as well as implementing governance, capacity building, advocacy, strategic planning and stakeholder mobilisation activities. WI-EAs current project portfolio in Europe connects expertise from practitioners, universities, knowledge institutes and businesses with on-the-ground implementation, science and policy influencing. This experience will allow effective management and successful the implementation of this project.</p>	
<b>KEY STAFF</b>	
<i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>	

**Yurena LORENZO, Female, Programmes Head, MsC**

She is a biologist by education with vast experience on project and programme management and EU funding consultancy. She has participated as an external expert in several EU-funded projects allowing her to take an active part in, among other things, the implementation and evaluation of programmes and policies. Her key qualifications include senior-level management experience for over 15 years. She will ensure strategic guidance during the implementation of the project.

**Szabolcs NAGY, Male, Biodiversity manager, PhD**

MSc in Agronomy, MSc in Nature Conservation, PhD in Wildlife Management. Szabolcs Nagy has worked for conservation authorities and NGOs at national level for 10 years and for 25 years at international level (BirdLife International Europe, Wetlands International, Wetlands International Europe). Currently, he is coordinating the biodiversity programme at Wetlands International Europe focusing on migratory waterbirds and freshwater fishes. He coordinates the International Waterbird Census in the African-Eurasian flyway, covering almost 90 countries, and represents Wetlands International at the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. He is also a member of the Connectivity Working Group of the CMS Scientific Council and also of the EU Biodiversity Platform. He has overseen the development or co-authored ten international species action plans and two management plans and contributed to the AEWA and EU guidelines on species action planning. He has worked on several large-scale flyway projects such as the Wings Over Wetlands, the Arctic to Africa and the Climate Resilient Flyway Network. He will carry out the monitoring and supervision of the Project Coordination Unit, championing the project to the EC and the CMS, assisting with any risks and issues that may arise.

**Remco HAEX, Male, Financial controller, Msc**

He is responsible for all of the financial planning and control cycle of WI-EA, monitoring the financial position and results and supporting the management in financial controls. His background is in accounting and control. He started his career as an external auditor working at different audit firms and in 2013 moved to the non-profit sector. He has worked at several NGOs (Cordaid, British Red Cross, Leonard Cheshire Disability), in different positions and has knowledge around auditing, budgeting and donor management. He will provide checks and overall assistance during financial reporting. He will also supervise the Project Officer on financial matters. He will be responsible for the management of the budget and all financial matters, including financial reporting to the EC and audits.

**Odetta GONZÁLEZ, Female, Project manager, PhD**

She is a Project Manager for different Horizon projects funded by the European Commission (REWET, WATERLANDS, ALFAWetlands and WET HORIZONS). She has a vast experience monitoring complex programmes in Europe, working in protected areas and on climate change, having previously worked for organisations including the European Climate Foundation and WWF Adria. She will be responsible for leading and coordinating the overall project management; as well as carrying out other project actions and ensuring that all actions and administration are carried out effectively to meet the project's objectives, results, and deadlines. She will ensure that the project indicators are monitored, analysed and evaluated adequately and that all the reporting requirements are met according to the grant agreement. She will facilitate spaces for regular discussions with the WP leaders. She will also act as the contact point with the CINEA and will represent WI-EA in front of partners and stakeholders.

**Marianne DE RIJK, Female, Project officer, MsC**

She has more than 15 years of experience in environmental and nature related project administration and management. Before joining WI-EA she worked for 7 years at BirdLife International European Division Office as Office Manager ensuring procurement activities, daily finances, project administration, translations (Dutch to English) and various kinds of administrative support of colleagues. She has sound knowledge on environmental matters and has a strong experience in working in an international context, with experience of EU funded grants and projects. In this project, she will provide administrative and logistic managing support related to budgeting, contracting, overseeing financial transfers, organising logistical and travel arrangements, preparing documents, supply supporting data and prepare minutes and actions agreed at meetings. Furthermore, she will support the Project Manager in the day-to-day activities.

**Marc HALL, Male, Communications officer, Msc**

He brings to this project several years of experience in environment and science communications having worked as a communications officer for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Brussels and the climate science institute Climate Analytics in Berlin. Prior to that, he worked as a journalist and editor in Brussels covering mostly environmental and agricultural affairs. He will be responsible for the communication content and general coordination of communication tasks by generating knowledge products and disseminating them internally with the team and partners and externally. He will lead the development of communication materials together with WP leads.

**PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES**

*List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.*



**1. LIFE NGO Operating Grant. Period: 2014-2024. Funded by EC (CINEA)**

Since 2014 WI-EA has been a grantee of the LIFE NGO Operating Grant, participating in the EU policy dialogue supporting the implementation and enforcement of Union environmental and climate objectives. The activities implemented combine EU-level advocacy with innovative wetland solutions, national and/or local level implementation, knowledge development, training, capacity building and outreach to help achieve the ambitions of the European Green Deal, including the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, and the EU's global commitments.

Through this project, WI-EA supports data management for the International Waterbird Census and contributes to the publication of scientific articles and reports. We have also worked in the implementation of species action plans and have supported the organisation of different events and capacity-building activities. This monitoring work has allowed us to influence the designation of SPA areas in Europe, to contribute to Article 12 reporting of the Birds Directive and to advocate for the designation of Ramsar sites.

**2. REStoration of WETlands to minimise emissions and maximise carbon uptake – a strategy for long term climate Mitigation (REWET). Period: 2022-2026. Funded by EC (CINEA)**

The REWET project facilitates the sustainable restoration and conservation of terrestrial wetlands – freshwater wetlands, peatlands, and floodplains. To do so, REWET draws upon the network of seven carefully selected demonstrations (Open Labs ≥ 2400 ha in total) that cover a range of local conditions, geographic characteristics, governance structures and social/cultural settings to fully understand the wetlands-carbon-climate nexus and provide a replication plan to boost successful wetlands restoration throughout Europe and internationally. As main outcomes, REWET will deliver a wetlands inventory with carbon sink potential, models for wetlands GHG emissions/sequestration under different scenarios including climate change, policy recommendations for wetlands restoration, sound business models and a roadmap for replication.

WI-EA leads the deployment of one of the seven open lab restoration sites located in Belgium where we are restoring the sponges capacity of the land in the face of greater climate risks. We have a leading role in using the knowledge of stakeholders to fill gaps in wetland inventories through a systemic approach to participatory research. Likewise, we have a key role in providing policy recommendations at EU, national and international levels for enabling and upscaling wetlands restoration, based on evidence from Open Labs. As in most of the projects we are part of, we are contributing to the dissemination of project results/findings to relevant stakeholders, the scientific community and the general public.

**3. Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands (MAW). Period: 2023-2025. Funded by MAVA Foundation.**

Since 2023, WI-EA is coordinating together with Tour du Valat and IUCN Med the MAW to create a network of civil society organisations and research institutions to increase the capacity of Mediterranean societies to ensure the protection, restoration and sustainable use of wetlands and rivers.

Through this position, we are contributing with our expertise in network management, policy and advocacy and restoration at scale. Through MAW, we are working towards the realisation of a landscape scale restoration project called Wetlands4MedResilience

<https://wetlands4medresilience.com/#:~:text=Wetlands%204%20Mediterranean%20resilience%20is,coastal%20developments%20across%20the%20Mediterranean>

**4. Strengthening the M1-M2 Partnership. Period: 2020-2022. Funded by MAVA Foundation.**

This project aimed at ensuring integrated management of river basins in the wider Mediterranean region to minimise the impacts of water abstraction, dams and other infrastructure. Moreover, it contributed to conserving and restoring freshwater ecosystems by understanding river basin ecology and environmental flows, influencing policies and legal frameworks, promoting stakeholder engagement in river basin management and demonstrating the benefits of restoration.

WI-EA was the lead of this partnership that brought together organisations from seven main river basins that helped change the way rivers, wetlands, and aquifers are perceived by water managers and local communities. The project also filled scientific knowledge gaps on water-related ecosystems. It contributed to strengthening and expanding the community dedicated to wetlands and rivers conservation in the Mediterranean and to law enforcement and development of governance schemes to protect wetland and river biodiversity and ecosystems and ensure minimum conditions for water security and ecological connectivity. The final report can be found here: <https://mava-foundation.org/library/final-evaluation-m1m2-ensuring-integrated-management-of-river-basins-2017-2022/>

**5. Reconnecting Iberian Rivers. Period: 2020-2022. Funded by MAVA Foundation.**

In this project, WI-EA played an important part in the efforts towards restoring the ecological quality and connectivity of the three major transboundary river basins between Portugal and Spain through increased and effective cross-border Integrated River Basin Management. We also contributed to the creation of better transboundary regulatory mechanisms, beyond the Albufeira Convention, and pushed for improved

implementation of the Water Framework Directive through nature-based solutions, preventing new dams and removing obsolete ones and proposing legal protections for free-flowing rivers in Portugal.

**AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*

**PARTICIPANT 2** (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).**Legal name (short name):**

FUNDACIÓN GLOBAL NATURE (FGN)

**DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT***Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.*

Fundación Global Nature (FGN) is a private non-profit foundation dedicated to nature protection. Its work is based on technical knowledge, ethical commitment, and innovation. Since its creation in 1993, it brings together theory and practice: FGN combines the elaboration of strategies and plans with fieldwork and applied projects. FGN has vast experience in EU project management, accounting for more than 20 LIFE projects and projects from other EU programs/funds such as FP7, ESF, DG Agri, Interreg, Erasmus, etc.

FGN is committed to wetlands conservation and develops each action by creating alliances with local collectives (landowners, farmers, etc.) and administrations to generate opportunities for social and economic development in rural settings. FGN is a member of IUCN, the European Living Lakes Association, the international network Living Lakes and Wetlands International European Association. FGN coordinated two previous LIFE projects with the AW, Conservation of the AW in the IBA, La Nava-Campos (LIFE02 NAT/E/008616) and the LIFE Paludicola (LIFE16 NAT/ES/000168) with the aim of increasing and improving the surface area of wetlands, in some of the most important passing and resting areas for the Aquatic Warbler in the Iberian Peninsula.

FGN also developed the LIFE project Wetland Restoration and Management: Canal de Castilla Special Protection Area (LIFE06 NAT/E/000213), where the final aim of the project was to re-establish a favourable condition of the wetlands connected to the channel, improving and favouring all the conditions needed for the recovery of species, which are priority in terms of conservation. FGN has also coordinated two LIFE projects to restore some of the main temporary wetlands and priority habitats in La Mancha Region: LIFE Wetlands of Villacañas (LIFE99 NAT/E/006339) and LIFE La Mancha Wetlands (LIFE10/NAT/ES/000563), both aimed at restoring priority habitats under the Habitats Directive such as 1510\* Mediterranean salt steppes (*Limonietalia*) and 1520\* Iberian gypsum vegetation (*Gypsophiletalia*). In 2018 FGN received the **RAMSAR Convention award** for its experience restoring more than 14.000 hectares of wetlands directly or indirectly, where more than €20 million have been invested. Currently, FGN coordinates the LIFE Wetlands4Climate (LIFE19 CCM/ES/001235), a project seeking to establish guidelines for the management of Mediterranean wetlands to foster their capacity as carbon sinks.

FGN is also working with the agricultural sector to address the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change and to identify and assess mitigation and adaptation measures that will create benefits in wetlands and avoid potential diffuse pollution from these crops.

**KEY STAFF***Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.***A versatile team with vast experience in EU projects management will be the cornerstone for developing this proposal****Eduardo de Miguel, Male, Executive Director, Degree in Agricultural Engineer.**

Eduardo has more than 30 years of working in nature conservation projects. He is not only the FGN lead but also the mind behind the sustainability strategies for inland and coastal wetlands conservation. Eduardo is a member of the board of several organisations such as IUCN, Living Lakes International, Living Lakes European Association and Wetlands International Europe and he will also play a key role in the project networking.

**Amanda del Río, Female, Technical Director, Degree in Environmental Sciences.**

Amanda has a wide experience leading teams in LIFE Projects and the ability to establish synergies between key stakeholders (National-Regional-Local Government and Businesses). Amanda was also the Project Coordinator of the LIFE10/NAT/ES/000563 and will play the role of supporting technically to the project coordinator.

**Antonio Guillem, Male, Environmental Technician, Degree in Aquatic Ecotechnology Engineer.**

He has been the project coordinator of the LIFE12 ENV/ES/000685, LIFE16 NAT/ES/000168. He also has experience leading INTERREG projects and has a wide experience in artificial and natural wetlands management. He is working as coordinator in the Valencia Region for more than 20 years and for FGN he is the link with the Valencia Government.

**David Miguelez, Male, Environmental Technician, Degree in Biology, PhD in Biology**

David has an extensive background in scientific research about Aquatic Warbler. He is also a certified bird ringer and has designed and participated in most conservation actions linked to the conservation of the species in different LIFE and national projects LIFE16 NAT/ES/000168. Author of the Draft Strategy for the Conservation of the Aquatic Warbler in Spain.

**Sonia Monferrer, Female, Environmental Technician, Degree in Educational Sciences.**

Sonia has a wide experience in awareness campaigns and is an expert in collecting data in the field. She has worked for more than 20 years in Castellón Region where the 5 wetlands are located. She is the contact person in this region for farmers, ranchers, hunters, etc. and will coordinate all the field activities in the project.

**María López, Female, Environmental Technician, Degree in Biology.**

María is the FGN's GIS expert. She is an expert in biodiversity conservation and agricultural biodiversity, and she will be in charge of transforming the results of the projects into graphical information so that users can access this information in a very visual way.

**Laura Mediavilla, Female, Communication Technician, Degree in Environmental Sciences**

Laura applies her environmental knowledge to communicate in a rigorous way the results obtained in the projects. She has extensive experience in both local and international projects. She will be in charge of the project communication.

**Blanca Berzosa, Female, Environmental Technician, Degree in Environmental Sciences, MSc Conservation Biology**

Blanca's main field of expertise is advocacy actions at regional, national, and European levels, combined with a wide experience in international LIFE projects (LIFE19 GIE/BG/000846, LIFE16 GIE/DE/000661) aiming to create knowledge-sharing networks to translate demonstrative field actions into effective policy.

**Ernesto Aguirre, Male, Environmental Technician, Degree in Biology**

With almost 20 years of professional experience, Ernesto has coordinated European, national and local projects with public and private funds. He is co-author of several publications focused on primary productivity and carbon flow, environmental conservation, ecological restoration, monitoring of landscape structures, implementation of agri-environmental measures for the conservation of steppe birds and the valorisation of the agro-steppe landscape. He has experience and great capacity to create and strengthen land stewardship networks, finding common ground to establish synergies and foster collaboration between landowners (public and private), companies, NGOs and regional governments.

**Alicia Bello, Female, Environmental Technician, Degree in Forestry Technician Engineering and Pedagogical Aptitude Course**

Alicia's main field of expertise is field works and teaching. She has the Aptitude Certificate for Ringing and Marking Wild Birds, with the category of Expert Ringer, since 2009, working for different bird tracking campaigns, as LIFE projects (LIFE02 NAT/E/008616, LIFE06 NAT/E/00213). She also has experience teaching in adult education centers about Palearctic birds and environmental education for adults and children.

**PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES**

*List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.*

- a) LIFE 20NAT/ES/000035 "**El Hito**". Coord. Beneficiary
- b) LIFE 19CCM/ES/001235 "**Wetlands4Climate**". Coord. Beneficiary
- c) LIFE 16NAT/ES/000168 "**Paludicola**". Coord. Beneficiary
- d) LIFE 10NAT/ES/000563 "**La Mancha Wetlands**". Coord. Beneficiary
- e) LIFE 02NAT/ES/008616 "**Aquatic Warbler**". Assoc. Beneficiary

**AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*

**PARTICIPANT 3** *(use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).***Legal name (short name):**

Natuurpunt Beheer vzw (Natuurpunt)

**DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT***Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.*

Natuurpunt Beheer vzw is a specific association that is part of Natuurpunt vzw, Belgium's largest nature conservation NGO. Natuurpunt vzw has more than 130.000 member families in Flanders. Thousands of local volunteers are active in more than 190 local chapters and working groups, including management and the development of nature reserves. The most important activities of Natuurpunt Beheer vzw are:

- The establishment of nature reserves with high current or potential nature values. The emphasis here is on areas in the Natura 2000 network (75% of the managed area). The organisation currently manages more than 28,000 ha. Every year, the area of managed nature reserves grows by 700-1,000ha. Moreover, a lot of habitats and species in a favourable conservation status in Flanders are situated in nature reserves of Natuurpunt. This has often been made possible by previous LIFE projects.
- The management and restoration of natural habitats. Natuurpunt has a broad experience in drafting management plans. The management is consciously done mostly by volunteers from the local chapters, who are supported by a professional framework, including a social economy company.
- Focusing on nature based solutions in the management of our nature reserves as a cost-effective approach to tackle crucial challenges such as biodiversity loss, climate change and human health.
- Creating accessibility of nature reserves under the motto 'Nature for everyone'. In principle, all nature reserves are open to the public, if the capacity of the area and the species allow it. This offers economic benefits by improving the quality of life of the surrounding villages and by stimulating regional development.
- The organisation has an intense collaboration with various partners specialised in the field of nature conservation, landscape managing, tourism, regional development, scientific research and local and regional authorities.

**KEY STAFF***Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.***Stefan Versweyveld, m, Planning & projects manager, scientific master**

Stefan Versweyveld will be managing the project. He has a Master's Degree in Biology (Universiteit Antwerpen). He has worked for Natuurpunt since 1997 as project officer and author in writing nature management plans and evaluations. Since 2003 he has held the positions Head of Management Planning Unit (2003-2005), Head of Nature Management Department (2005-2013) and Head of Projects and Grants Department and International Relations Officer (2013-present). He was also president of Eurosite from 2015 to 2020. For over 20 years Stefan Versweyveld has been involved in the LIFE projects carried out by Natuurpunt as author, coordinator and since 2005 as general project manager.

**Frederik Naedts, m, Planning ecologist, project coordinator, scientific**

Frederik Naedts has worked for Natuurpunt for more than 15 years at a professional level as project officer and nature planning consultant. He has specialised in project planning, nature management and nature restoration in Natuurpunt nature reserves on peat soils and in nutrient-poor ecosystems. Frederik Naedts was project coordinator of the following European nature projects: Life Liereman, Life Visbeekvallei, Life Helvex and Interreg Canape. The objectives of these projects included the following habitats on peaty soil: quaking bogs, lowland peatland in river valleys, raised bog relics, nutrient-poor grasslands on peaty soil, peaty heathlands, small sedge vegetation. He is also responsible for planning and monitoring Natuurpunt sites with similar habitats. Frederik has extensive knowledge of GIS (Q-GIS) and its use for spatial analyses in function of restoration of target habitats and species on peaty soils. Use of soil maps, historical maps, groundwater studies, digital elevation models etc. are standard.

**Koen Swinnen, m, projects staff member, scientific**

He has worked for Natuurpunt since 2010 as a project co-worker and more specifically in administrative and financial matters. He has a Master's degree in Bio-Engineering. (KU Leuven).

**PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES***List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.*

- 1) LIFE Green Valleys - Green Valleys: connecting (LIFE17 NAT/BE/000445)
- 2) LIFE Hageland – Habitat restoration in the Hageland, concentration of biodiversity on a multiple gradient (LIFE11 NAT/BE/001067)
- 3) LIFE DELTA - Action Plan for the Improvement of Habitats of Threatened European Species in the Demer Valley through Broad Cooperation (LIFE15 NAT/BE/000760)
- 4) INTERREG CARE-PEAT – Carbon loss reduction from peatlands: an integrated approach (NWE808)
- 5) LIFE MULTI PEAT - Multi-stakeholder Landscape and Technical Innovation Leading to Peatland Ecosystem Restoration (LIFE20 CCM/DE/001802)

All of these projects had and have the following habitats on peat soil: quaking bogs and transition mires, lowland peat in river valleys, raised bogs, nutrient-poor grasslands on peat soil, depressions on peat substrates, wet heathlands, bog woodland, small sedge vegetation. To achieve an efficient and result-oriented restoration in the long term, good preparatory knowledge and study of the abiotic is necessary. Use of soil maps, historical maps, groundwater studies, digital height models, etc. are necessary for this. Sound ground knowledge by the professional and voluntary employees of Natuurpunt is also crucial. This cooperation model is unique in Europe and leads to a highly targeted recovery of the target habitats and species on peat soils (highly interesting for replicability and transferability).

#### **AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*

**PARTICIPANT 4****Legal name (short name):**

Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA)

**DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT***Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.*

SPEA is a Portuguese not for profit environmental NGO that promotes the study and conservation of birds and their habitats by promoting sustainable development. Since 1999, SPEA is the BirdLife International partner in Portugal. SPEA has a strategy which comprises 6 general objectives:

- (1) to promote the active conservation of birds and their habitats;
- (2) to gather and disseminate scientific and monitoring data in order to support bird conservation;
- (3) to increase significantly the number of members and its involvement in the work of the organization;
- (4) to promote public awareness and education concerning bird conservation;
- (5) to set the organisation as an international reference in bird conservation; and
- (6) to continuously improve internal management and capacity.

Since its creation SPEA has been very active in coordinating monitoring programmes and publication of guiding documents (e.g. leading the review of IUCN Bird Red List for Portugal, atlas of breeding birds, common bird census, IBA network, etc.) and in implementing important projects under the EU LIFE Programme for the conservation and restoration of priority habitats for some of the most threatened bird species in Europe especially the Azores bullfinch *Pyrrhula murina*, the little bustard *Tetrax tetrax*, the Fea's petrel *Pterodroma feae*, the Balearic shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* and the Macaronesian sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus granti*. In 2010, LIFE Priolo project was honoured with the Best of the Best Life and the LIFE Marine IBAs project was considered one of the Best Life. In 2022 the MedAves Pesca project won the European Natura 2000 Prize, in the Marine Conservation category.

SPEA keeps leading important LIFE projects, the most recent being LIFE Ilhas Barreira (2018-2022) and LIFE Lx-Aquila (2020-2025), with Bonelli's eagle in Lisbon and Tagus valley region. Besides saving threatened birds, SPEA has also been leading habitat restoration projects in Portugal, removing invasive species, using natural engineering techniques and promoting natural regeneration. Some examples of habitats being actively restored are the Laurel forest, Barrier islands in Ria Formosa wetland, or Berlengas islands.

Through the years, SPEA has implemented several conservation projects, closely collaborating with a wide range of relevant stakeholders, including hunting and agricultural associations, land owners and local municipalities. Since 2016, SPEA has been responsible for managing visitation to the Lagoa Pequena Interpretive Centre (the largest wetland on the Setúbal Peninsula, SPA, part of Natura 2000 network). This is done through an agreement with the municipality of Sesimbra and in collaboration with the ICNF, the national authority for nature conservation.

SPEA has a special concern for the protection of wetlands, which continue to suffer extensive human pressures. We have alerted the population and supported citizens' movements, even taking legal action in court to prevent the destruction or degradation of important wetlands, namely the Tagus Estuary, where there are plans to build the new Lisbon airport; Paul do Taipal, where a poorly planned walkway jeopardizes the shelter of thousands of birds; or Alagoas Brancas, in the Algarve, where a project wants to convert one of the last remaining wetlands into yet another commercial area.

As mentioned, SPEA has participated in, and in some cases led, the publication of relevant documents, a recent example being the review of the Red List of Birds of Mainland Portugal, coordinating the contributions of partners such as ICNF, universities and environmental consultants. The results of SPEA's work are not only felt in Portugal. We have led conservation projects in Cape Verde or São Tomé and Príncipe to save endangered species and strengthen local civil society organizations. In São Tomé and Príncipe, we played an important role in the publication of the Species Action Plan for the conservation of the Príncipe Thrush and led the publication of the Species Action Plan for the conservation of the 3CR birds of São Tomé island (São Tomé ibis, São Tomé fiscal and São Tomé grosbeak).

**KEY STAFF***Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.***Domingos Leitão, Male, Executive Director, PhD in Ecology and Biosystematics.**

SPEA's Executive Director since 2016, previously he was Coordinator of the Terrestrial Conservation Department for 14 years. Besides having great experience in leading and managing several species and habitats conservation projects, also has years of experience coordinating and managing LIFE-funded projects, such as LIFE Rupis (LIFE14 NAT/PT/000855) and LIFE Tetrax (LIFE02 NAT/P/008476), among others.

**Joaquim Teodósio, Male, Head of Terrestrial Conservation Department, MSc in Biology Applied to Animal Resources Environmental Sciences.**

Coordinator of Terrestrial Conservation Department and coordinator of several LIFE projects: LIFE Lx-Aquila (2020-2024), LIFE Rupis (2015-2020), LIFE+ Laurissilva Sustentável (2009-2013), LIFE+ Terras do Priolo (2013-2018).

**Hany Alonso, Male, Data Management & Cartography Officer, PhD.**

Graduated in Biology from the University of Lisbon, he specialised in Ethology (ISPA, 2008) and completed his PhD from the University of Coimbra, studying shearwaters in the Selvagens Islands. As a post-doctoral researcher, he was associated with CIBIO-InBio, MARE and FCUL, having collaborated in several research projects (e.g., OceanWebs) and environmental impact studies, and developed work with GIS and food web modelling. Most of his research has been focused on seabird ecology and behaviour, and more recently focused on the movement ecology of the little bustard *Tetrax tetrax*, using a large spatial dataset, derived from GPS/GSM tracking.

While working for SPEA, he has been leading bird monitoring programmes, such as the Common Breeding Bird Census for Portugal.

**Hugo Sampaio, Male, Conservation Officer, Graduated in Biology.**

Has been working at SPEA for 17 years, having participated in several ecology and monitoring studies and conservation actions of endangered species, such as the Azores bullfinch, the São Tomé dwarf olive ibis, the Príncipe thrush or more recently, the little bustard or the Montagu's harrier. During this period, he also participated in several bird censuses at national level, such as atlases of breeding, migratory and wintering birds.

**PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES**

*List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.*

- a) LIFE13 NAT/PT/000458. **LIFE Berlengas**. Coord. Beneficiary. Total Eligible Budget: 1,380,729 €
- b) LIFE18 NAT/PT/000927. **LIFE Ilhas Barreira**. Coord. Beneficiary. Total Eligible Budget: 2,242,586 €
- c) LIFE19 NAT/PT/000414. **LIFE LxAquila**. Coord. Beneficiary. Total Eligible Budget: 1,928,385 €
- d) POSEUR-03-2215-FC-000093. **Revisão do Livro Vermelho das Aves de Portugal Continental**. Coord. Beneficiary. Total Eligible Budget: 246.451,60 €
- e) LIFE17 IPE/PT/000010. **LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA**. Assoc. Beneficiary. Total Eligible Budget: 19,087,522 €

**AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*



**PARTICIPANT 5** *(use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).***Legal name (short name):**

Société d'Etude et de Protection de la Nature en Bretagne – Bretagne Vivante (Bretagne Vivante)

**DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT***Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.*

Bretagne Vivante is the leading regional association for the protection, management and conservation of areas and species in historic Brittany. It also provides nature education in schools and training for professionals.

Its missions:

- Knowledge: Bretagne Vivante is involved in a number of studies and surveys to improve knowledge of Brittany's natural heritage. This essential data is shared with other public players and nature protection associations.
- Raising awareness and providing training: Based on our educational project, Bretagne Vivante develops popular education in and about nature for all audiences. The aim of our training and activity programmes is to re-establish a link between humans and nature, through direct contact with living things.
- Protect: Bretagne Vivante runs a unique regional network of more than 135 natural sites, including 4 national nature reserves, 2 regional nature reserves and community reserves. Our monitoring, management and promotion activities are carried out in partnership with the State, local authorities and public and private landowners.
- Campaign: Bretagne Vivante and its local branches carry out campaigns and legal actions to ensure that nature is taken into account on a daily basis.

The association is in constant discussion with public authorities through its participation in various local, departmental and regional bodies.

2022

- Present in 5 départements
- 4,200 members and over 12,000 supporters
- 400 active volunteers in our 20 local branches
- 70 employees working every day

**KEY STAFF***Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.***Christine Blaize, female, project manager**

Main coordinator for SAP aquatic warbler in France and Brittany; coordinator of SAP freshwater pearl mussel in Brittany. Technical and financial management, monitoring on the field.

**Anne Delmaire, female, coordinator of regional and Finistère programmes**

Team, projects and budget management (local and regional)

**Marie Capoulade, female, coordinator of knowledge and conservation expertise**

Coordination of naturalist studies and actions on nature reserves

**Lydie Le Menn, female, accountant**

Accounting, tracking expenses and revenues, human resources assistance

**Florence Le Bot, female, administrative management assistant**

Monitoring and releasing grants

**Yann Berdellou, male, administrative and financial manager**

Overall budget management of Bretagne Vivante

**Philippe Clech, male, director**

Overall management of Bretagne Vivante

**Karine Morvan, female, secretary**

Secretary and administrative assistant, human resources assistance

**Barbara Deyme, female, communication manager**

Coordination of editions, websites, social network, press, fundraising campaigns

**Guillaume Gélinaud, male, Morbihan coordinator, Regional Bird Observatory manager**

Team, projects and budget management (local), coordination of regional bird data collection and expertise

**David Hemery, male, project manager**

Co-leader of aquatic warbler conservation actions, field actions, report drafting

**Gaétan Guyot, male, project manager**

In charge of the Trunvel bird ringing station, field actions, report drafting

**PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES**

*List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.*

Bretagne Vivante is :

Coordinator of the PNA for the aquatic warbler at national level and at regional level in Brittany

Coordinator of Regional Bird Observatory in Brittany (coordination of regional bird data collection and expertise)

Main manager of 133 nature reserves (4 national, 2 regional and 127 associative) for 2,500 hectares managed and protected in Brittany

Example of LIFE projects where Bretagne Vivante was associated beneficiary :

LIFE « Conservation and re-establishment of Southern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *Erica tetralix* in SW England and NW France » 95/UK/A22/EU/832 (1995-1999).

LIFE « Tourbières de France » LIFE95 NAT/F/000494 (1995-1999)

Example of LIFE projects where Bretagne Vivante was main beneficiary :

LIFE « Oiseaux d'eau de la façade atlantique » B4-3200/97/279 (1997-2000)

LIFE « Archipels et îlots marins de Bretagne » B4-3200/98/470 (1998-2003)

LIFE « Conservation du phragmite aquatique en Bretagne » LIFE04/NAT/FR/000086 (2004-2009)

LIFE « Conservation de la sterne de Dougall en Bretagne » LIFE05/NAT/FR/000137 (2005-2010)

LIFE « Conservation de la moule perlière d'eau douce du massif armoricain » LIFE09/NAT/FR/000583 (2010-2016)

**AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*

<b>PARTICIPANT 6</b> (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens). <b>Affiliated entity</b>	
<b>Legal name (short name):</b>	Association pour la Connaissance et la Recherche Ornithologique Loire et Atlantique (AssACROLA) <a href="http://acrola.fr">acrola.fr</a>
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT</b>	
<i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>	
<p>Since 2006 the ACROLA Association has monitored AW migration in Loire Estuary, one of the main French stopover sites. The association manages the ringing station of Donges in the Loire Estuary. In the past year the association has performed colour-ringing on AW in Poland and has searched for staging and wintering sites in Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and Mali. Two sites were discovered in Mauritania and the wintering of AW in the Inner Niger Delta was confirmed for the first time with 13 captures. One of them was recaptured the following spring in Ukraine (Poluda et al., 2014).</p>	
<b>KEY STAFF</b>	
<i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>	
<p><b>Hubert DUGUE, male, director, Ringing license</b> Worked on reedbed passerines and AW since 1995.</p> <p><b>Julien FOUCHER, male, employee, Ringing license, Bachelor's degree</b> AW specialist, he worked on AW in France, Poland, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and Mali.</p> <p><b>Eugene ARCHER, male, employee, Bird specialist</b> AW specialist, he has assessed the status of AW in Ireland.</p> <p><b>Amandine BARLES, female, employee, Master's degree</b></p>	
<b>PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES</b>	
<i>List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.</i>	
<p>Management of the ringing station of Donges in the Loire Estuary. Yearly report available online. We also organise ringing in other sites on the Loire Estuary, with shorter periods (10 days). Our results have confirmed that the Loire Estuary is a key stopover in the migration of the AW.</p> <p>Restoration of AW habitats: 4ha of topsoil removal. In 2015 we initiated trials to find the best way to restore AW preferred habitat in the Loire Estuary. With these results we undertook a large-scale restoration operation of 4 hectares in 2018. Data from the ringing stations located in these restored habitats suggest these efforts have been successful.</p>	
<b>AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS</b>	
<i>Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.</i>	
<p>World Travelling Birds : A French-Mauritanian association, partner of ACROLA, dedicated to ringing in West Africa. They have their own rings and are registered in EURING database. <a href="http://wtbirds.org">wtbirds.org</a></p>	

**PARTICIPANT 7** (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).**Legal name (short name):**

Maison de l'Estuaire (MdE)

**DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT***Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.*

The Maison de l'Estuaire is an association. Its main mission is to manage the National Nature Reserve of Seine Estuary. Created in 1992, the Maison de l'Estuaire brings together the many players involved in the Seine Estuary (HAROPA | Port du Havre, HAROPA | Port de Rouen, Seine-Estuaire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, local authorities, users of the nature reserve and environmental protection associations). It played a particularly important role as a mediator in the 1990s, during the public debate on the development of Port 2000.

Since 1999, the Maison de l'Estuaire has been responsible for the delicate task, entrusted to it by the French government, of managing the [National Nature Reserve of Seine Estuary](#), created on 31 December 1997.

**KEY STAFF***Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.***Faustine SIMON, female, Environmental Policy Officer, Master "Population Biology" at the University of Rennes and Tours, ethology and biodiversity course**

Faustine SIMON has been working on the natural reserve of the Seine estuary for more than 10 years within the association Maison de l'Estuaire, manager of the reserve. Previously she worked 3 years on the Baie de Somme natural reserve including bird counts. She participates in the 35 ornithological monitoring at the scale of the reserve but also at the scale of the ZPS "Estuary and marshes of the Lower Seine" as co-animator of the site. These follow-ups use various methods to study birds (banding, land and sea counts, listening points) and concern groups of species or particular species such as the Eurasian Bittern or the Aquatic Warbler. It participates in meetings with the various funders, actors and partners of the reserve. She sets up files, attends meetings and plans the budget of the various ornithological follow-ups in particular. She has worked on several projects with regional and even national partners, including National Action Plans, Research Programmes and regularly participates in meetings with managers of protected natural areas.

**Elodie REMOND, female, Environmental studies officer (Master I «Biodiversity of Continental and Marine Ecosystems» at the University of Lille, Master II "Environment, Soil, Water, Biodiversity" course biodiversity at the University of Rouen).**

Elodie Rémond has been working on the natural reserve of the Seine estuary for more than 10 years within the association Maison de l'Estuaire, manager of the reserve. It participates in the 35 ornithological monitoring at the scale of the reserve but also at the scale of the ZPS "Estuary and marshes of the Lower Seine". These surveys use a variety of methods to study birds (banding, land and sea counts, listening points) and involve specific species groups or species. She works on the analysis of data and the writing of several reports for the scientific community, partners and funders. She has worked on several regional and even national projects and has participated in the development and implementation of the National Action Plan for Eurasian Bittern and Aquatic Warblers.

**Yannick JACOB, Male, Environmental Technician**

Yannick JACOB has been working on the natural reserve of the Seine estuary for 10 years within the association Maison de l'Estuaire, manager of the reserve. Previously, he worked for the Normand Ornithological Group (GONm), particularly on bird counts. It participates in the 35 ornithological monitoring at the scale of the reserve but also at the scale of the ZPS "Estuary and marshes of the Lower Seine". These surveys use a variety of methods to study birds (banding, land and sea counts, listening points) and involve specific species groups or species. He obtained a general banding permit in 2011 and coordinates bird species monitoring within the nature reserve, including the Hode International Banding Camp (CBI), which studies the postnuptial migration of marsh passerines. These banding operations include the "ACROLA" banding program. It participates in various banding projects at regional and national levels.

**Simon GUILBAUD, male, geomatician and database administrator**

Holder of a master's degree in geography specialized in geographic information systems (GEORISTIG) obtained at the University of Caen, Simon Guilbaud works for the association Maison de l'Estuaire, the manager of the Seine estuary nature reserve for more than 10 years.

Within the association, two main tasks are assigned to it. The first is to administer the databases produced by its collaborators or subcontracting structures during faunistic or floristic monitoring, or measuring devices deployed on the

nature reserve. The second task concerns the analysis of georeferenced data and the production of cartographic renderings. This new information produced helps to assess the current management of the nature reserve and serves as a basis for future directions.

#### **Sébastien Petit, male, administrative and financial manager**

Sébastien Petit has been the administrative and financial manager of the *Maison de l'Estuaire* since 1999. He is in charge of monitoring financial agreements, paying invoices, dealing with the bank and accounting of the *Maison de l'Estuaire*. It is also responsible for the administrative aspects of personnel management and, more generally, the entire administrative aspect of the management of the structure. It also organizes, from an administrative point of view, the life of the *Maison de l'Estuaire* as an association.

#### **Martin Blanpain, male, conservator reserve (manager), Agricultural engineer**

He is the manager of the *Maison de l'Estuaire* since 2009. He coordinates the activity of nearly 20 employees in various fields: monitoring of natural habitats and species, management of natural environments, reception and public awareness and nature police. He supervises relations with the regulatory authorities, financial, scientific and technical partners as well as with local stakeholders and users.

### **PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES**

*List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.*

Habitat restoration

Population and species monitoring, in particular ringing of paludicolous passerines

Hydrological monitoring and management

Vegetation monitoring

Extensive grazing management

### **AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*

<b>PARTICIPANT 8</b> (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).	
<b>Legal name (short name):</b>	Groupe Ornithologique Normand (GONm)
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT</b>	
<i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>	
<p>The GONm is a French NGO operating in all ornithological fields within Normandy since 1972.</p> <p>Alain Chartier, former vice president of the GONM has been involved in surveys of the AW's migration through ringing in the floodplain near Carentan's city since 2013. The GONm owns and manages nearly 250 ha of wetlands in this area recognized as N2000 and Ramsar sanctuaries.</p> <p>One of our goals for the species is to increase the attractiveness of the land by offering a pattern of habitats preferred by the AW (sedges, free water, reed bed, wet meadow) and to provide non-mowed zones in August when the migration occurs.</p> <p>The GONm has been chosen by the local representative of the French state to coordinate the PNA (national action plan for the AW) in Normandy.</p>	
<b>KEY STAFF</b>	
<i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>	
<p><b>Alain Chartier, Male, Senior expert, ringer and ornithologist.</b></p> <p>Alain Chartier has run the technical and field management of the sanctuary since the early 1990's and conducted multiple studies of populations dynamics, reproductive biology of species nesting in the ground like whinchat and western yellow wagtail. He coordinates the summer ringing camps.</p> <p><b>Jean-Marc Savigny, Male, Chargé de mission, Engineer in agriculture, administrative follow, field follow</b></p> <p>Jean-Marc Savigny follows the project, especially the administrative aspects and coordinates the local animation of the PNA (see above).</p>	
<b>PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES</b>	
<i>List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.</i>	
<p>Mowing schedule management (mowing after August 15<sup>th</sup>)</p> <p>Entomofauna study during migration</p> <p>Ringing camps (from 2 to 5 Acrola Units) (approximate location: 49,265489, -1,224405)</p> <p>Habitat improvement through localised tripping, creation of temporary ponds.</p> <p>Botanical habitats survey to search optimal habitats for Aquatic Warbler.</p>	
<b>AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS</b>	
<i>Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.</i>	

<b>PARTICIPANT 9</b> <i>(use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).</i>	
<b>Legal name (short name):</b>	Fundacion Migres (FMigres)
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT</b>	
<i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>	
<p>Migres Foundation is a private non-profit organisation created in 2003 with the aim of monitoring bird migration through the Strait of Gibraltar as a tool for evaluating the effects of climate change, as well as developing and promoting sustainable development. In AWOM Migres Foundation will contribute to identifying and protecting the critical stop-over and wintering areas for the AW in southern Spain and North and West Africa.</p>	
<b>KEY STAFF</b>	
<i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>	
<p><b>Alejandro Onrubia, male, Tecnician and researcher, PhD Biological Sciences – University of Leon, Spain</b></p> <p>PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of León (Spain), with the thesis "Spatio-temporal patterns of soaring-bird migration through the Strait of Gibraltar". 35 years professionally involved in various works and projects related to nature conservation and wildlife management, linked to the University of Cantabria, Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Protection, Spanish Ornithological Society and University of León. 14 years of experience in an environmental consulting in northern Spain and 17 years in Migres Foundation (2006-2023). Scientific diver since 1990. Attendance at 120 national and international courses, congresses and conferences related to nature conservation, with 150 talks and conferences in various masters, courses, conferences and congresses. More than 190 publications in scientific journals with more than 1.040 citations (Google Scholar). Since 2006 he works as technician for the Migres Foundation, and currently is the coordinator of Migres program for monitoring bird migration through the Strait of Gibraltar.</p> <p>Expert in capturing and marking of wild fauna; 40 years as expert bird ringer accredited by the Spanish Ministry of Environment. Coordinator of the ringing stations in Garaio, Ullibarri-Gamboa reservoir, from 1995 to 2006 (&gt; 25,000 birds ringed), and Salburua, from 2003 to 2006 (&gt;50,000 bird ringed), in the Basque Country, focus on AW migration in northern Spain. Responsible for the ringing campaigns and prospecting of wetlands in Morocco for the identification of stopover areas during the migration of the AW and other marsh passerines, carried out in October 2007, March-April 2008, September 2008, January 2009, March-April 2009, January 2010 and May 2010 in the Loukkos marshes (Larache, Morocco), and other wetlands. Expert ringer in different projects involving wild birds in North Africa, capturing and banding aquatic birds (2009-2010) and forest birds (2018-2019). Participant in several projects of atlases and bird censuses in North Africa (great bustards, waterbirds, raptors, cranes, passerines etc.). Different training activities and workshops with Moroccan high school and university students, as well as administration technicians.</p>	
<b>PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES</b>	
<i>List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Migres Foundation. One of the most relevant projects carried out by the Foundation is Migres Programme, a long-term scientific monitoring of migratory birds population across the Strait of Gibraltar, which allows: detection of changes in migratory populations that can be related to the trends of these species at a global level, as indicators of their conservation status; detection of the changes in species migratory patterns; improved understanding of the biological meaning of these changes in relation to the current scenario of global change. Experts on ornithology and about 80-90 volunteers per year from twelve different countries are involved in Migres Programme. There are three different target groups within Migres Programme: migratory pelagic seabirds migrating between Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean and vice versa; soaring birds (birds of prey and storks) and small migrants (passerines and allies) migrating between Europe and Africa. The monitoring of those species improves understanding of birds' migratory patterns which may be affected by global change.</li> <li>- Organisation of the workshop "Identification and mitigation of the impact of electrical infrastructures on threatened raptors in the Mediterranean", organised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Ministry of the Environment of the Junta de Andalucía and the Migres Foundation. November 22-24, 2016. Bird Migration Center, Tarifa (Cádiz).</li> <li>- Organisation of the workshop "Programs of recensements et de suivi of diurnal rupicoles raptors. Planning d'actions dans le Royaume du Maroc", organized by the IUCN Center for Cooperation pour la Mediterranee (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and the Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forts et a la Lutte Contre la Desertification, with the support of Fondation MAVA and the Ministry of the Environment of the Junta de Andalucía, and the collaboration</li> </ul>	

of GREPOM, SEO/BirdLife, Vulture Conservation Foundation, Fundación Migres and AMFCR-Association Marocaine de Fauconnerie et de Conservation des Rapaces. October 2-4, 2018. Douar Chicha, Taghramt (Maroc).

- Fundación Migres work team in the ATLAS Program. Plan de suivi des rapaces rupicoles au Maroc, January to December 2019, organised by the Mediterranean Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med) and the Haut Commissaire aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification (HCEFLCD), with the collaboration of the Ministry of the Environment and Territorial Planning of the Junta de Andalucía. Surveys in the Haut, Rift and Middle Atlas mountain ranges (Morocco) in March-May 2019.

- "Visual Storytelling Tool on Bird Migration for Climate Change Adaptation (Bird-MIGMAPPER)" project, from October 2019 to October 2020, developed with the support of the "Copernicus Climate Change Service" (CS3) of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) (Service contract no: 2019/ C3S\_429 Randbee/SC).

#### **AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*



**PARTICIPANT 10** *(use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).***Legal name (short name):**

Associació Institut Català d'Ornitologia (ICO)

**DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT***Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.*

The Catalan Ornithological Institute (ICO) is a non-profit association with a large experience implementing bird monitoring schemes in Catalonia (e.g. common breeding and winter bird census and breeding and winter bird atlases) and on-line citizen science projects (e.g. [www.ornitho.cat](http://www.ornitho.cat), [www.orenetes.cat](http://www.orenetes.cat), [www.nius.cat](http://www.nius.cat), [www.ocellsdelsjardins.cat](http://www.ocellsdelsjardins.cat)) as well as mobilizing and disseminating biodiversity data (e.g. [www.sioc.cat](http://www.sioc.cat)). The institutions main aim is to monitor bird populations in Catalonia (NE Spain) and to develop sound biological indicators to correctly address key environmental and conservation issues. To undertake this task the ICO counts with the regular collaboration of c. 5,000 volunteer birdwatchers and citizen scientists. Moreover, ICO has been coordinating scientific bird ringing in Catalonia since 1975 and this Ringing Scheme was recognised by EURING in 2020. ICO has been running standardised bird ringing projects, including its Constant Effort Site Scheme (CES) and spring and autumn migration campaigns, uninterruptedly since 1991. Additionally, some spring migration campaigns have been conducted, specifically to study the passage of the AW in order to gain information from this endangered species in Catalonia.

The ICO staff team has good expertise coordinating citizen science and bird ringing projects, in data management and analysis. Moreover, at the continental level, ICO is coordinating the EuroBirdPortal project (EBP) project and co-coordinating the European Breeding Bird Atlas 2 (EBBA2), two of the main initiatives of the European Bird Census Council (EBCC), and coordinated Piccole Isole project in the western Mediterranean (Spain and Morocco) from 1992 to 2011. Although the Piccole Isole project itself is no longer running, ICO has maintained three ringing campaigns (two in spring –one in Catalonia and one in Morocco- and one in autumn –in Catalonia).

**KEY STAFF***Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.***Gabriel Gargallo, male, director general, Diploma École Pratique des Hautes Études (Montpellier)**

General Director of the ICO since 2000 and coordinator of the EuroBirdPortal project (EBP) project since its inception (2012). Has extensive expertise setting up and coordinating bird monitoring and citizen science projects both locally (e.g. [www.ornitho.cat](http://www.ornitho.cat), [www.orenetes.cat](http://www.orenetes.cat), [www.nius.cat](http://www.nius.cat), [www.ocellsdelsjardins.cat](http://www.ocellsdelsjardins.cat)) as well as internationally (e.g. EBP). Also conceptualising and designing citizen science and biodiversity dissemination online tools and websites both at the local (e.g. [www.orenetes.cat](http://www.orenetes.cat), [www.nius.cat](http://www.nius.cat), [www.ornithollistes.cat](http://www.ornithollistes.cat), [www.sioc.cat](http://www.sioc.cat)) and international level (e.g. EBP viewer ([www.eurobirdportal.org](http://www.eurobirdportal.org))). Has strong knowledge in organising, handling and managing large amounts of biodiversity data and designing data standards and a very good knowledge of the bird monitoring community in Europe. He has also coordinated the work done by the EBP, together with EURING, in order to combine the observational data collected by the EBP and the bird ringing recoveries to support avian influenza surveillance in Europe (c.f. the New Migration Mapping Tool; <https://app.bto.org/mmt>). Also has an extensive experience leading bird ringing projects focussed on the study of bird migration. From 1992 to 2011 coordinated the Piccole Isole project in the western Mediterranean (Spain and Morocco) and designed and implemented the Catalan Bird Ringing Constant Effort Site Scheme (SYLVIA; 1992-) and the Catalan Bird Ringing Standards (1994-).

**Marc Illa, male, Catalan Ringing Office, biologist**

Part of the Catalan Ringing Office and ICO's staff member responsible for this LIFE proposal. He has an extensive experience as bird ringer, participating in ringing campaigns in different countries (such as Morocco and Sweden) as well as many different projects in Catalonia. Among them, he has targeted AW in NE Catalonia during three spring seasons and also participated in several projects using modern technologies to track an array of species.

**Marc Anton, male, area coordinator of Monitoring, biologist**

Has an extensive experience developing bird distribution atlases at different scales (European, Regional and Local). Including the design of the methodology, coordination of field work and data collection, and also analysing and modelling of bird distributions. Has co-edited the European Breeding Bird Atlas 2 (EBBA2), the Barcelona Breeding Bird Atlas (2010-2017) and the Catalan Winter Bird Atlas 2006-2009. (2005-2011). Is also leading the coordination and data analysis of the Catalan Common Breeding Bird Survey (SOCC) and the Forest Breeding Raptor Scheme in Natural Interest Sites (SEGRE). (2017-). He is also database manager and analyst of the biodiversity databases of the ICO and responsible for the data collection and management under Article 12 of Bird Directive in Catalonia.

**Oriol Clarabuch, male, Catalan Ringing Office, biologist**

Has an extensive experience as a bird ringer and field ornithologist. He is a member of the Catalan Ringing Office and has collaborated in many ringing campaigns, mostly the ones at Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park that he has

coordinated for over a decade. He collaborates in several of the Constant Effort Ringing Sites (Sylvia) and he has also worked in many of the other projects from ICO, including Breeding Bird Atlas surveys, the Common Breeding Bird Survey (SOCC) and the Forest Breeding Raptor Scheme in Natural Interest Sites (SEGRE). Additionally, he has been a field technician at the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park, and has a very good knowledge of the area, as well as sighting the AW on passage in several occasions.

**Oriol Baltà, male, Catalan Ringing Office, biologist**

Has extensive experience both in the field as bird ringer but also in the office, as he takes care of the data management of the Catalan Ringing Office.

**Eloi Rovira, male, IT expert, web developer and master in Ecology**

As member of the ICO IT team since 2016, has an extensive expertise designing and developing the websites and tools implemented by the ICO both locally (e.g. [www.orenetes.cat](http://www.orenetes.cat), [www.ornitholistes.cat](http://www.ornitholistes.cat), [www.ocellsdelsjardins.cat](http://www.ocellsdelsjardins.cat)) as well as internationally (e.g. EBP) and with the implementation of the EBP databank and data flow system.

**Marina Cuito, female, publicity and public relationships expert**

She is responsible for the communication of ICO through social media, press and also communication with the members, since 2010.

## PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES

*List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.*

- Coordination of 32 years of spring and autumn ringing campaigns in Catalonia (Aiguamolls de l'Empordà and Ebre Delta), with the *Piccole Isole* methodology, including the coordination of the Piccole Isole project in the western Mediterranean (Spain and Morocco) from 1992 to 2011.
- EuroBirdPortal (EBP, [eurobirdportal.org](http://eurobirdportal.org)) – coordination of the project since 2012. Coordination of the network of organisations and individuals, technological development (EBP databank, viewer and data flow system), data handling and management, and communication to the main stakeholders.
- European Breeding Bird Atlas 2 (EBBA2, [ebba2.info](http://ebba2.info)) – co-coordination of the project and the publication of the associated book. Leading data management and analyses and the development of the new website.
- Ornitho.cat – running the local online bird portal since 2007, data handling and checking, providing feedback and engaging observers and networking with the rest of European ornitho partners.
- Catalan bird monitoring programmes (bird atlas and common bird monitoring) – recruitment & maintenance of volunteer fieldworkers, data management & analyses, communication to policy and research communities.

## AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*

<b>PARTICIPANT 11</b> <i>(use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).</i>	
<b>Legal name (short name):</b>	University of Aveiro (UAveiro)
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT</b>	
<i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>	
<p>The University of Aveiro (UAveiro) is one of the most dynamic and innovative universities in Portugal, considered one of the best universities in the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings (category 50 years or under). UA has around 13,700 students distributed by 16 Departments and 4 Polytechnic Schools which work together in an interdisciplinary format according to their academic and research affinities. Last year, 628 research and technology transfer projects have been active. Of these, 134 include international collaborations, of which 40 are funded by ERASMUS+ and 48 by Horizon 2020. Among them are three ongoing ERC Grants with another three recently approved for funding. Projects are developed on the 20 research centres which act in different scientific areas, and 95% of these are classified as very good or excellent in the last evaluation process promoted by the National Foundation for Science &amp; Technology (FCT).</p> <p>The Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM) where the UAveiro team in this project is affiliated is an Associated Laboratory, evaluated as an Excellent Research Unit by FCT (last evaluation in 2019). CESAM's mission is to develop leading international R&amp;I on environmental sciences and related risks, including extreme weather events and climate change, with a special emphasis on complex socio-ecological coastal systems and marine areas. CESAM's ultimate objective is to promote a more efficient use of terrestrial and aquatic resources leading to a competitive, resilient and sustainable economy.</p> <p>In this project UAveiro will be primarily responsible for establishing the network connectivity of the AW across its range. This work will build upon the database created within the project (lead by ICO) on which UAveiro will participate, and the connectivity analysis will then be developed at UAveiro, given its expertise in the topic. This information is crucial in order to further improve targeted conservation measures at key migration sites. UAveiro will also interact with other partners particularly within WP2, but also as member of the Project Steering Committee so that results from the connectivity analysis are provided to project partners as results start to emerge.</p>	
<b>KEY STAFF</b>	
<i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>	
<p><b>Jose Alves, Male, Principal Investigator, PhD</b></p> <p>Has been studying wetland migratory species (particularly waders) for more than 20 years and coordinated and participated in multiple research projects in Portugal, Iceland, UK and West Africa. Will be responsible for all activities by UAveiro within the project, including interactions and coordination with other partners at national and international levels.</p> <p><b>No Name, unknown, Post-doctoral Researcher, PhD</b></p> <p>Researcher to be hired within the project. Will be responsible for developing the connectivity analysis in collaboration and under the supervision of JA, as well as leading the writing of technical report and scientific papers. They will also participate in project meetings and present the outputs of this research in relevant events (both within the project, but also at conferences and other meetings).</p> <p><b>Luís Carvalheiro, Male, IT technician, PhD</b></p> <p>With a PhD in Physics and relevant expertise on computer modelling, will provide support during the connectivity analysis, specifically in the interface with ARGUS (UAveiro computer cluster platform) as well as on data visualisation.</p> <p><b>Isabel Saúde, Female, Administrative technician, Msc</b></p> <p>With relevant experience in project management, will be responsible for the budget execution and finances for UAveiro and dissemination of outputs by UAveiro on relevant outlets.</p> <p><b>Amadeu Soares, Male, Full Professor, PhD</b></p> <p>Experienced in coordinating international projects and international teams, having authored more than 650 scientific papers mostly in the areas of ecology and eco-toxicology. Main function in this project is to coordinate activities and execution for UAveiro ensuring that national law and EC regulations are being met throughout the duration of the project. Will also contribute towards the deliverables of WP2 and a blue print of a comprehensive, coherent and climate resilient flyway network for the AW.</p>	
<b>PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES</b>	

*List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.*

1. Project “*Mapping an East Atlantic Flyway ecological network, through connectivity for priority coastal waterbirds*” 2022-2024 **(JA Co-I)**. Research project funded by BirdLife International to develop a methodology based on network analysis in order to establish site connectivity network for migratory waterbirds and identify key connectivity sites for priority species.
2. Project “*Conservation of the black-tailed godwit along the flyway (LIFE22-NAT-DE-LIFE Godwit Flyway)*” 2023-2030 **(JA Co-I)**. Applied conservation project aimed at improving habitats for the black-tailed godwit across its range. In Portugal this involves the restoration of wetland habitats such as, salt-pans, costal lagoons and rice-fields, actions which will improve conditions for all migratory birds, including the AW.
3. Portuguese Ministry of Environment and Climatic Action, Fundo Ambiental - “*WaderTrack – Seguimento de alta precisão de aves limícolas*” 2020 **(JA PI)**. Research project on movement ecology of costal waders, focusing on three species (black-tailed godwit, redshank and grey plover), assessing their habitat use and connectivity across the Tagus estuary.
4. MAVA Foundation - “*Securing the ecological integrity of the Bijagós archipelago as a key site for waders along the East Atlantic Flyway*” 2017-2022 **(JA PI)**. Applied conservation project investigating conditions of waders wintering in the Bijagós archipelago, specifically their diet, habitat use, abundance, phenology and migration patterns to inform conservation.
5. **(JA)** Expert on the ongoing court case against the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure for the Proposed New Lisbon Airport. Technical Report on limitations of impact assessment upon Tagus estuary waterbirds submitted during public consultation which highlighted technical errors and limitations and suggested corrections to be imposed on the developer by the Portuguese Environmental Agency. Currently producing research to present further evidence of arguments to the court.

#### **AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

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<b>PARTICIPANT 12</b> (use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).				
<b>Legal name (short name):</b>	AGENCIA	ESTATAL	CONSEJO	SUPERIOR DE
	INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS (CSIC)			
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT</b>				
<i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>				
<p>The Doñana Biological Station (EBD) is a public Research Institute belonging to the Spanish National Research Council (AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS - CSIC) in the area of Natural Resources. The institute conducts high standard multidisciplinary research to understand, from an evolutionary viewpoint, how biodiversity is generated, maintained and deteriorates, as well as the consequences of its loss and the possibilities for its conservation and restoration. A crucial aim of the institute is to promote the transfer of this knowledge to society. EBD research lines include wetland ecology, disease dynamics and avian pathogens, evolutionary biology, integrative ecology, conservation biology, biological invasions and plant-animal interactions. Close collaboration and cross-referencing are common practices among the different research groups. The institute is widely recognized as one of the best research locations using fundamental research for conservation purposes on a European and global scale. Its excellence is evidenced by the fact that 25% of the centre's body of researchers are among the 1% most frequently cited researchers in the areas of ecology, environment and plant and animal sciences. EBD has a lively intellectual environment in which, at any one time, there are about 30 PhD students, 40 post-docs and 41 staff researchers (supported by 150 technicians and administrators). Seminars, workshops and symposia are held on a regular basis, which together with the highly interactive nature of the personnel leads to numerous internal and external collaborations. EBD has a high level of collaboration, for example over 90% of EBD publications are co-authored, over 80% of them by foreign institutions.</p>				
<b>KEY STAFF</b>				
<i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>				
<b>Carlos Camacho, Male, Scientific researcher (tenure-track), PhD in Biology</b>				
<p>Carlos is a junior scientific researcher and a certified bird ringer. His research addresses issues at the intersection of ecology, evolution, and behaviour, and focuses on aspects of movement and space use patterns of insectivorous birds. He uses large datasets from long-term (15-40 years) studies of marked individuals to investigate natal dispersal strategies, movement responses to landscape change and migration of birds. His research combines field observations, field experiments, and biologging technologies to address basic questions in evolutionary ecology and applied questions in conservation biology.</p>				
<b>José Luis Arroyo, Male, Environmental technician, Technician of Technical and Professional Activities</b>				
<p>José Luis has an extensive background in avian monitoring with more than 30 years of experience as a technician in a wide variety of scientific projects. As a certified bird ringer, he has been working with the AW in the Doñana Natural Reserve since 2000. He will be charge of coordinating field activities within the project. He is the author of the species' factsheet for the Andalusian Red List of Threatened Vertebrates.</p>				
<b>Roger Jovani, Male, Scientific researcher, PhD in Biology</b>				
<p>Roger is a scientific researcher with 20+ years of experience on the study of different aspects of the ecology and evolution of birds and their symbionts. His contributions span from different aspects of the morphology and ecology of feathers; the ecology and evolution of the interaction of birds with their feather mites and other symbionts; to the study of bird social behaviours. He combines field work (e.g. bird ringing) with molecular ecology and individual-based computational models to address his studies.</p>				
<b>David Serrano, Male, Scientific researcher, PhD in Biology</b>				
<p>David is a scientific researcher interested in phenotype-mediated consequences of environmental variation on population patterns, including spatial structure and distribution, habitat use and selection, demography and population dynamics. His work has focused mainly on birds, from small passerines to large raptors, often with threatened species and from an applied perspective.</p>				
<b>PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES</b>				
<i>List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.</i>				

1. LIFE19 NAT/ES/001055: LIFE LYNXCONNECT: Creating a genetically and demographically functional Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) metapopulation, 2020-2025
2. SUMHAL: Sustainability for Mediterranean Hotspots in Andalusia integrating LifeWatch ERIC (European Infrastructure Consortium providing e Science), 2020 - 2023
3. LIFE14 CCA/ES/000612: ADAPTAMED Protection of key ecosystem services by adaptive management of Climate Change endangered Mediterranean socioecosystems, 2015 - 2020
4. FP7 ENV 2012 two stage: EU BON Building the European Biodiversity Observation Network, 2012 - 2017
5. INFRAIA 01 2018 2019: eLTER PLUS European long term ecosystem, critical zone and socio zone and socio-ecological systems research infrastructure PLUS, 2020 - 2025

#### **AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

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<b>PARTICIPANT 13</b> <i>(use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).</i>	
<b>Legal name (short name):</b>	Wetlands International Africa Western Coast and Gulf of Guinea (WIACO)
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT</b>	
<i>Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.</i>	
<p>WIACO is an international non-profit association under Senegalese law and a member of the worldwide Wetlands International network that works at global, regional and national levels for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, for the benefit of biodiversity and human well-being. WIACO has been operating in Africa and the Republic of Senegal since 1998. WIACO designs and implements its programmes with a focus on the ecoregion covering coastal West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea.</p> <p>The organisation's areas of intervention revolve around a number of regional priorities that are in line with the organisation's global strategy and Senegal's national priorities in particular. These priorities range from the development of sustainable livelihoods to the conservation of bird migration routes, the rational use of wetlands, water management, sanitation and hygiene, climate change, the conservation of wetland biodiversity, networking and advocacy at local, national and regional level.</p> <p>With a current staff of around 25, made up of administrative and technical staff – supported, where necessary, by associate experts in specific fields – the organisation ensures that its activities are carried out to a high standard. WIACO currently manages a portfolio of medium- and long-term projects in Senegal aimed at restoring ecosystems and developing livelihoods for local communities. In and around the Djoudj, WIACO has participated, as lead or technical partner, in various similar initiatives focusing on either biodiversity conservation (particularly migratory birds), ecosystem restoration, capacity building and awareness raising for environmental conservation with stakeholders both at site and regional level.</p> <p>The types of activities carried out by WIACO as part of its projects essentially concern: the development and implementation of management plans for sites or species conservation, capacity building for site managers and community members in ecological monitoring, technical and financial support for local communities in the development and implementation of alternative income-generating activities, raising awareness among local communities and supporting them in the establishment and management of protected areas. These activities overlap well with those planned as part of this project, justifying our ability to fulfil our responsibilities.</p>	
<b>KEY STAFF</b>	
<i>Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.</i>	
<p><b>Alioune SALL, Male, Administrative &amp; Finance Manager, Master degree in Audit &amp; Management control</b></p> <p>The Admin &amp; Finance Manager has a degree in auditing and management control after a course leading to a higher diploma in accounting. Before joining WIACO in March 2023, this staff member spent 6 years working for companies and groups in the transport, property and IT sectors. As with his current duties at WIACO, his main responsibilities included accounts managing, monitoring staff and payroll, management of relations with tax authorities and financial reporting.</p>	
<p><b>Gabin AGBLONON, Male, Project manager, Master degree in Project management</b></p> <p>The project manager holds a Master degree in Project Management in addition to a MSc in Management. With 15 years' experience within WIACO, this staff member currently has a range of responsibilities on different projects run by the organisation in the field of conservation, livelihoods development and grant management. His responsibilities include supervision of some colleagues, day-to-day management of certain projects and monitoring and evaluation of initiatives within the organisation.</p>	
<p><b>Khady GUEYE, Female, Project Officer, Master degree in Ecology and Ecosystem Management</b></p> <p>The project officer has a Master degree in Ecology and Ecosystem Management. With 6 years' experience within WIACO, this staff member has some responsibilities as Biology Management inside of WIACO and also to ensure the implementation of different project activities, such as in-the-field conservation, international waterbird census (IWC), and IWC database management.</p>	
<p><b>Moutarou DIALLO, Male, GIS Specialist, Geo-mathematician, Cartographer and Topographer</b></p> <p>The GIS specialist joined WIACO in 2022 with SQL and Web mapping certifications obtained after a professional degree in Hydrogeology. Before joining the WIACO team, the staff had already accumulated around 6 years of practical experience in the processing of cartographic and spatial imagery data, and the collection and processing of cartographic data. This experience, gained through projects carried out or supervised within various organisations in different sectors, enabled a smooth transition to WIACO, where he is currently supervising the collection of data and information for the regular running of the organisation's webGis platform.</p>	

**Boubacar SAGNA, Male, Community Development Specialist, Ph.D. in Agroforestry and Plant Production.**

The community Development Specialist holds a Ph.D. in Agroforestry and Plant Production. During the 4 years prior to his arrival at WIACO, gained experience in supporting local community groups. They were mainly involved in supporting income-generating activities, providing technical training for market garden producers, setting up and managing management funds at community level, and structuring and strengthening the technical and organisational capacities of the groups. The experience he has acquired will enable her to take on her current responsibilities within WIACO, and in relation to the many producer, processor and savings and loan groups.

**Rokyatou THIAM , Female, Communications Manager, Bachelor's degree in Organisational Management**

With a Bachelor, degree in Management , the communication Manager joined WIACO in 2021, after completing 4 years' practical experience in communications and events agencies. Since her recruitment, the Communications Officer has managed the office's external relations (incl. sharing information on project activities, producing project communications documents, website maintenance and social networks, etc.). In addition to the practical implementation of the communication activities planned within the projects, she is the advisor on certain strategic aspects of WIACO's visibility within the initiatives.

**PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES**

*List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.*

**1- Title:** MFS II - Ecosystems Alliance; – **Donor:** Netherlands Development Cooperation (DGIS) **Value:** €1,519,393; – **Period:** 2011 to 2015; - **Activities description:** Restored mangrove habitat in St. Louis and Fatik using participatory processes, including the establishment of community-managed nurseries, capacity building, management planning, and environmental education. This initiative promoted sustainable income generation activities (e.g., apiculture, sustainable oyster harvesting) and the use of improved fish smoking stoves.

**2- Title:** IWC - Building capacity for the conservation and monitoring of coastal wetland birds in West Africa; **Donor:** MAVA Foundation; **Value:** € 610,518; **Period:** 2017-2022; **Activities description:** Developed and supported national networks for the International Waterbird Census (IWC), and built effective monitoring at the key sites in the region, especially the Banc d'Arguin, the Senegal and Saloum River deltas and the Bijagós Archipelago. Supported local universities in training students as well as national coordinators and national networks in all aspects of waterbird monitoring, such as effective collection and submission of data. Advocacy and awareness actions linking to governance, especially to enhance the regional profile, understanding, valuation and appreciation of wetland birds. Site conservation actions were informed through IWC data to ensure that monitoring becomes a key tool for conservation of West Africa's coastal wetland birds.

**3- Title:** From Arctic to Africa; - **Donor:** Arcadia Foundation; - **Value:** € 297,776; **Period:** 2013-2015; **Activities description:** The project contributed to the conservation of migratory water birds by improving the conservation of sites with international importance in West Africa in the East Atlantic Flyway. Using a participatory approach, a strategic plan for the conservation of migratory waterbirds was developed. Additionally, a formal cooperation framework was established between two main wintering sites (Djoudj and Diawling) in the Senegal Delta, and one main breeding site (Nenetsky State Natural reserve) in the Arctic region. Invasive species (aquatic plants) were removed from Djoudj National Park, Diawling National Park, and Tocc-Tocc Reserve (4,000 ha), resulting in improvements to water flow. Forty site managers were trained to promote the conservation of wetlands and water birds using the "flyway approach" (holistic approach across the flyway) to conservation.

**4- Title:** Strengthening the Resilience of Mangrove Dependent Communities in the Saloum Delta – Phase 1; **Donor:** Woodside Energy Senegal B.V.; **Value:** \$ 305,000; **Period:** 2023-2024; **Activities description:** Based on a combination of conservation/restoration and income-generating activities (livelihood), capacity building and influencing public policies. The project will achieve the following targets at its end:

- Improved income for over 50,000 people (direct and indirect beneficiaries),
- Set up cooperative of savings and credit groups (Geccom) in 2 district or municipalities,
- Creation of at least 4 business opportunities (honey, oyster, non-timber forest products and sustainable packaging),
- Restoration of 50 ha of degraded mangroves and monitoring of 20 ha restored in the pilot phase,
- Reclamation of 20 ha of saline land unsuitable for cultivation.

**AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*





**PARTICIPANT 14** *(use same partner numbering as on Submission System screens).***Legal name (short name):**

Tour du Valat (TdV)

**DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANT***Provide a short description of the participant, with an explanation on how it matches its main role and tasks in the proposal.*

The Tour du Valat is a research institute for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands based in the Camargue, southern France, under the status of a private foundation recognised as a public utility. Founded in 1954 by Dr. Luc Hoffmann, initially dedicated to the conservation of migratory birds, it is now at the forefront of multidisciplinary research, building bridges between science, management and public policy. It has adopted an ambitious mission: "Mediterranean wetlands are preserved, restored and enhanced by a community of actors mobilised in the service of biodiversity and human societies".

The Tour du Valat has developed an internationally recognised scientific expertise; it provides practical answers to the problems of conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. The Tour du Valat employs about 80 people, including about 15 researchers and as many project managers. It also hosts several other structures on its site, as well as numerous doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows, interns and/or volunteers during the summer season.

Tour du Valat supports the Pôle-relais lagunes méditerranéennes (Mediterranean Lagoon Centre), which is a consortium coordinated by the Tour du Valat in partnership with the Conservatoire d'espaces naturels d'Occitanie (Occitanie Conservatory for Natural Spaces) and the Office de l'Environnement (Environment Agency) of Corsica. The Pôle-relais lagunes méditerranéennes is part of the network of Wetland Centres, created in 2001 under France's First National Wetlands Action Plan. The institute has national Wetlands Centre certification which it uses to promote sustainable management and for its information dissemination and sharing actions. Its mission is to gain better recognition of Mediterranean lagoon wetland environments and encourage their sustainable management by coordinating a network of stakeholders, pooling knowledge and best practices, and raising awareness of elected officials and the general public. It mainly targets managers, local and national government agents, socio-economic players and scientists. It also works with other Atlantic and English Channel Wetland Centres. Its area of action covers 35 Natura 2000 sites along the Mediterranean coast containing habitats of Community interest type 1150 -Coastal Lagoons. The Pôle-relais lagunes méditerranéennes is therefore a key partner coordinating a network of coastal lagoon players dedicated to a marine habitat of priority Community interest.

As an innovative initiative working to serve lagoon environment stakeholders, it will play its part by developing a network of key players for this species and by helping managers implement initiatives to protect the species. The activities will be led in accordance with the French National species action plan coordinated by Bretagne Vivante and Dreal Bretagne.

**KEY STAFF***Provide a short description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed activities.*

**Jocelyn CHAMPAGNON, male, researcher, coordinator of the Conservation of Species theme** which runs and promotes the long-term monitoring programmes carried out by the Tour du Valat since its creation. He will be able to draw on the expertise and skills of the team, in particular the three bird ringing technicians that will be involved in the project (**Yves Kayser, Antoine Arnaud** and Thomas Blanchon), the research director (Arnaud Béchet) and the data management engineer (Christophe Germain). His expertise in ecology falls within the field of population dynamics applied to conservation. He is interested in the factors influencing survival and breeding of migratory birds, whether environmental or anthropogenic. He published more than 30 peer reviewed articles and supervised four PhD students, including currently one from Portugal on the conservation of Eurasian spoonbill and another from Morocco on the conservation of marbled teal. He is involved in several species experts groups, and including as the chair of the Eurasian spoonbill international expert group coordinating the international action plan for the species with Jelena Kralj from Croatia.

**Virginie Mauclert, female, project chief, coordinator of the Mediterranean Lagoons Centre.** Her role consists in coordinating the team made up of five members based in Arles, Montpellier, and Ajaccio. She plans the actions with the 15 technical and financial partners of the steering committee, and in particular with the French Biodiversity Agency, which coordinates the five French wetland centres.

**Yves Kayser, male, ringer ornithologist/ research engineer** and **Antoine Arnaud, male, ringer ornithologist/ research engineer** are professional ringers with a French permit from CRBPO. They both have decades of experience organising ringing operations, notably capturing waterbirds and passerines.

**Katia Lombardini, female, engineer, PACA Region Officer at the Mediterranean Lagoons Centre.** She works closely with the network of site managers in the PACA region, and interacts with the rest of the team in the Occitanie and Corsica regions to lead the Lagoon centres activities around sustainable lagoon management.

**Nathalie Chokier, female, Information Management Officer for the Mediterranean Lagoons Centre & Social Media Officer for Tour du Valat.** She collects all the network's information and posts it on the information portal [www.pole-lagunes.org](http://www.pole-lagunes.org) in the form of articles and a bibliographic database. She is also in charge of the social networks.

**Kamel El Bachir, male, accountant / financial reporting and Jean-Claude Pic, male, Chief accountant** will be in charge of administrative and financial reporting.

## PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES

*List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.*

**Life+ Envoll** (2013-2018), €3.6 m. Conservation project with a research component coordinated by the Tour du Valat, run by the Amis des Marais du Vigueirat, with participation of *Pôle-relais lagunes méditerranéennes*. The objective was to improve the breeding capacity of 9 species of colonial Laro-limicoles breeding on the French Mediterranean coast. This project was very successful with main achievements involving the construction or restoration of 29 nesting islands, 6 floating nesting rafts, 490.9 ha benefiting from restored hydraulic management and nearly 22,000 people reached by an awareness-raising message. This LIFE project has been followed by **LARIMED project 2019-2025 to follow up the monitoring of the population status of the species. Tour du Valat, in charge of the Sud-PACA monitoring, in collaboration with the CEN-LR (project coordinator) and the Pôle relais Lagunes méditerranéennes (monitoring network coordinator).**

Life **Marha** (2018-2025, €22.3 M) LIFE16 IPE/FR001\_MARHA : The Tour du Valat is an associate beneficiary of the Life Marha project, which aims to restore and maintain the good conservation status of natural marine habitats by supporting all players involved in the management of 162 Natura 2000 marine habitat sites and Mediterranean lagoons. In this project, the Pôle-relais lagunes méditerranéennes coordinates its network of coastal lagoon players dedicated to the marine habitat type 1150 -Coastal Lagoons.

Tour du Valat participates actively to a French project called **Migralion** (2021-2025), €4m aiming at acquiring knowledge on the spatio-temporal distribution of terrestrial and marine avifauna crossing the Mediterranean sea. The aim is to improve the implementation of public policies concerning offshore windfarms and preserving the species and their natural habitats. In particular Tour du Valat is in charge of the work package "Telemetry of terrestrial migrants and marine birds" that placed loggers on 40 species with telemetry technology adapted to the size of the species.

**Civil society organisations and sustainable wetland management in the Mediterranean** (2018-2021), €2.2m. Funding from the French Development Agency and the French Global Environment Facility. This project supports the work of two networks led by Tour du Valat: the "Mediterranean Waterbird Network" and the "Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands". It provides trainings and support to civil society organisations to improve management and conservation of wetlands.

The **RESSOURCE** Project (2017-2022), which stands for "Strengthening Expertise in South Sahara on Birds and their Rational Use for Communities and their Environment", aims to improve the sustainable use of natural resources, particularly waterbirds, in the wetlands of Egypt, Mali, Senegal, Sudan and Chad. The activities, coordinated by FAO, are implemented by technical partners recognised for their expertise, in collaboration with national authorities and local wildlife institutions. This project contributes to the implementation of the AEWA Africa Action Plan 2019-2027.

## AFFILIATED ENTITIES / ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

*Does the participant envisage that part of its work is performed by affiliated entities or associated partners? If yes, please describe the entity / partner, their link to the participant, and describe and justify the tasks foreseen to be performed by them.*

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).



29 August 2023

**DECLARATION OF SUPPORT**

**FOR THE LIFE PROJECT  
“AQUATIC WARBLERS ON THE MOVE (LIFE AWOM)”**

**To Whom it May Concern:**

**I am pleased to provide this Declaration of Support.**

**Name and legal status:**

CMS Secretariat, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (international, intergovernmental organization administered by the United Nations Environment Programme)

**Full address:** Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, D-53113 Bonn, Germany

**Tel:** +49 228 815 2401. **Fax:** +49 228 815 2449; **Email:** [cms.secretariat@cms.int](mailto:cms.secretariat@cms.int)

**Contact person (name and function):** Iván Ramírez, Head of Avian Species Team

**Why and how the CMS Secretariat supports this project:**

We hereby express our support for the LIFE project, “Aquatic Warblers on the Move (LIFE AWOM)”. This project aims to contribute to the recovery of the EU and the global population of Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) – a globally threatened species and the rarest passerine bird of mainland Europe. The specific project objectives (which will run until 2029) cover several work packages (WP), including:

- identifying and publishing a description of a coherent and comprehensive flyway site network using the best available scientific data to guide further site conservation efforts (WP2);
- demonstrating the restoration and management of 363 hectares of Aquatic Warbler (AW) staging habitats at 23 sites in Belgium, France, Portugal and Spain as well as one wintering site of 300 hectares in Senegal (WP3);
- providing updated information on each important AW site to the competent national authorities to support the update of the N2000 Standard Data Forms (SDFs), and to promote other forms of site designations in Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal (WP3);
- scaling up restoration of AW habitats through Member States’ national nature restoration plans (NNRPs), prioritised action frameworks (PAFs) and national programming documents under the Common Agricultural Policy Belgium, France, Portugal and Spain (WP3);
- raising awareness among the general public, reaching out to local stakeholders and decision makers, and sharing experiences among project partners, and with other projects and processes (WP4);
- improving the methods for the assessment of the extent and quality of habitats and importance of staging and wintering sites for the AW (WP5); and
- ensuring the sustainability of the project outcomes, and replicating and upscaling the project results (WP6).

The project is to be submitted under the 2023 LIFE Programme's call for proposals for the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme.

The project will be coordinated by Wetlands International Europe, Natuurpunt, Bretagne Vivante, Tour du Valat, Asociacion ACROLA, Maison de l'Estuaire (MdE), Groupe Ornithologique Normand (Normandy Ornithology Group; GONm), Fundación Global Nature, Donana Biological Station, Catalan Ornithological Institute, Fundación Migres, Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves (Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds; SPEA), University of Aveiro, Portugal, and Wetlands International Africa.

The Aquatic Warbler is listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species. It is an umbrella species for a very specific, species-rich and formerly widespread breeding habitat. It is also a flagship species for the conservation of many plant and animal species that are equally dependent on this kind of peatland habitat. The Aquatic Warbler migrates up to 12,000 km from Eastern Europe to sub-Saharan Africa. The migration strategy of the Aquatic Warbler requires the availability of many suitable autumn stop-over sites, the loss of which could be a potential bottleneck for the species. During its migration, the Aquatic Warbler is regularly recorded in 11 countries, mainly in the west and southwest of Europe as well as in Morocco. The species winters in West Africa, south of the Sahara. There are four confirmed Aquatic Warbler wintering sites. The most well studied is situated in the Senegal delta within and north of the Djoudj National Park (Senegal), where a major part of the global population winters.

The CMS Secretariat has been contributing for many years to the conservation of this species, including through the establishment of a *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola)*, and supporting the Signatories in implementing the MOU and its Action Plan. The MOU calls for cooperation among national authorities to promote the conservation of the species. It requires the strict protection of the species and the maintenance and restoration of its habitat. For more information, click on this [link](#).

The CMS Secretariat is interested and ready to be actively involved in steering project implementation and participating in the project's external advisory bodies: the Scientific Advisory Board and Strategic Policy Group. The CMS Secretariat also believes that this project can deliver concrete and measurable steps towards updating the species Action Plan, as well as helping to convene a new meeting of the Signatories of the CMS Aquatic Warbler MOU.

The CMS notes that this project is to be submitted in full coordination with the "Conservation of Europe's rarest continental passerine: a transboundary initiative for aquatic warbler population recovery (LIFE4AQUATICWARBLER)" to be coordinated by the Baltic Environmental Forum, with complementary objectives and actions that could, if jointly approved, mean a major boost in the understanding, conservation and management of this threatened species. We are convinced that both projects represent a major opportunity for enhancing the implementation of the MOU at global level, and we are committed to support them over the coming years.

We are certain that the large-scale habitat improvement measures and conservation translocations envisaged by the project will significantly benefit the conservation of the Aquatic Warbler at its wintering sites. Safeguarding the long-term future of the Aquatic Warbler as an umbrella and flagship species for wetland conservation requires urgent conservation and management action under a joint approach by CMS Parties, and Signatories of the MOU and their partners. Therefore, the CMS Secretariat fully supports the LIFE AWOM project.

*Signature and date*



Amy Fraenkel  
Executive Secretary

To Whom It May Concern

6 September 2023

**Subject: Support letter for the “Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM” project proposal**

On behalf of the Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF), as coordinator, and the consortium of the proposed LIFE Nature SAP project proposal “Conservation of Europe's Rarest Continental Passerine: A Transboundary Initiative for Aquatic Warbler Population Recovery (LIFE4AquaticWarbler)” we would like to support and welcome the initiative of the project “Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM” to be submitted in 2023 LIFE Programme call for Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme.

The project will be coordinated by the Wetlands International European Association and implemented together with 13 other partners from Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal and Senegal.

We are well informed about this project, and we have closely coordinated with the proponents in order to avoid possible overlaps and to strengthen synergies. If both projects are approved, we are ready to continue close cooperation with that project at its implementation stage by exchanging our experiences, information and jointly collaborate in action implementation to support objectives of both projects – LIFE4AquaticWarbler and LIFE AWOM. We see following synergies boosting project impact and express our cooperation commitment in following ways:

- i. We commit to make data exchange gathered during the project (e.g. birds ringing, tracking and monitoring data) in order to utilize it in various analytical work, such as the site network connectivity and climate change vulnerability analysis as well as in the gap filling surveys planned in LIFE AWOM project;
- ii. We see a great synergy to jointly develop the update of the International Species Action Plan for Aquatic Warbler, which has been foreseen in both projects. If both projects will be granted, we foresee to deliver input for the action plan for the breeding sites, while LIFE AWOM will provide input for the non-breeding range. Collaboration of both projects to deliver single analytical background information will deliver a most complete and up to date species action plan;
- iii. We see synergy to have intensive exchange and plan joint activities within communication actions of the project. This will elevate visibility of both projects as well as Aquatic Warbler to public and specific stakeholders on international scale;
- iv. We also foresee opportunities to collaborate with the LIFE4AquaticWarbler project concerning advocacy actions influencing the development of the national nature restoration plans, the new prioritised action frameworks and CAP strategic plans at the EU level.

In behalf of the project LIFE4AquaticWarbler, the Baltic Environmental Forum is interested in participating in the Project Steering Committee of the LIFE AWOM project.

Sincerley,

Žymantas Morkvėnas



Director





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## Support letter to LIFE AWOM “Protecting Aquatic Warblers on the Move”

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Tilburg, 05 September 2023

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned **Harm Schoten, Director**, on behalf of **Eurosite – the European Land Conservation Network**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Eurosite, as a Europe-wide membership network of site managers, also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM. In addition, as a network of wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the Aquatic Warbler habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

H.H. Schoten  
Director

Vereniging Natuurmonumenten  
Stationsplein 1  
3818 LE Amersfoort

Subject: Letter of support

5<sup>th</sup> of September

"Protecting Aquatic Warblers on the Move "

LIFE-AWOM

To whom it may concern,

I, **T.J. Wams**, the undersigned, **Director Nature Conservation**, on behalf of **Natuurmonumenten**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

drs. T.J. Wams

Director Nature Conservation Natuurmonumenten

"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"

*LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers on the Move*

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned Juan Pedro Castellano Domínguez, Director, on behalf of Espacio Natural de Doñana, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity is responsible for the management of the wetlands (Espacio Natural Doñana) where the actions (WP2, WP5) of the project are carried out in the Andalucía Community.

These monitoring and/or restoration actions are in line with the vegetation and hydric management of the wetlands, but all the activities will be supervised by the directors and staff of these sites, and notice must be given of the start of work.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

Sincerely,

Juan Pedro castellano Domínguez  
Director del Espacio Natural de Doñana



Espacio Natural de Doñana  
C.A. El Acebuche, 21760 Matalascañas. Huelva  
Tel. 959 439 627/ 959 439769  
[pnDonana.sgmaacc.cagpds@juntadeandalucia.es](mailto:pnDonana.sgmaacc.cagpds@juntadeandalucia.es)



FIRMADO POR	JUAN PEDRO CASTELLANO DOMINGUEZ	29/08/2023	PÁGINA 1/1
VERIFICACIÓN	Pk2jmAT2U26JF7MVBFBQ57E5QNT4W6	<a href="https://ws050.juntadeandalucia.es/verificarFirma">https://ws050.juntadeandalucia.es/verificarFirma</a>	



**Subject:** Letter of support

## **"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

### **LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers on the Move**

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned **Sergio Romero de Tejada, Director of the Natural Park of Aiguamolls de l'Empordà**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increase its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Many of the project actions to be carried out in Catalonia, are already implemented in the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park.

These monitoring and/or restoration actions are in line with the vegetation and hydric management of the wetlands, but all the activities will be supervised by the directors and staff of the Natural Park.

Our organisation is interested in increasing the degree of protection of this species, by supporting its inclusion as Vulnerable in the Autonomous Catalogue of Threatened Species and in the Spanish Catalogue of Threatened Species (CEEAA), and to promote the approval of a multi-species conservation strategy for endangered marshland bird species in the Autonomous Community of Catalonia and in Spain.

In addition, as wetland managers, we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can improve the AW habitat conditions for other marsh birds.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers following the developments of AWOM.

Sincerely,

Sergio Romero de Tejada  
Director of the Natural Park of Aiguamolls de l'Empordà  
Electronically signed



**Subject:** Letter of support to LIFE AWOM

Madrid, on the date of electronic signature

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers On the Move**

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned, María Jesús Rodríguez de Sancho, Director General of Biodiversity, Forests and Desertification of the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, hereby express my support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our Ministry coordinates, including through the implementation of the Strategic Plan on Wetlands to 2030, the national environmental policy for the conservation and restoration of wetlands. Actions of the project are planned to be carried out:

- Laguna de La Nava
- Laguna de Boada
- Laguna de Pedraza
- Charcas del Cruce
- PN. Albufera
- Marjal de Peñíscola
- PN. Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca
- Marjal de Nules
- Desembocadura del río Mijares
- Marjal dels Moros
- PN. Marjal de Pego-Oliva
- Laguna de Manjavacas
- Laguna Grande y Chica
- Laguna de El Longar
- Laguna Larga
- P.Nacional de Doñana
- PN. Aigüamolls
- PN del Delta del Ebro

Our Ministry also expresses interest in participating, where possible, in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks relating to communication and dissemination of the results to be achieved in the AWOM project.

In addition, guidelines and tools developed in the framework of this project would be useful for adequate management of wetlands in order to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

María Jesús Rodríguez de Sancho  
Director General of Biodiversity, Forests and Desertification





Molt Il·lustre  
Ajuntament de Nules

Ayuntamiento de Nules

Pl. Mayor, 2, 12520 Nules, Castellón

**subject:** Letter of support

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers On the Move**

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned **César Estañol Amiguet, Town Councillor**, on behalf of **Nules City Council**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

César Estañol Amiguet

Town Councillor

**subject:** Letter of support

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers On the Move**

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned José Benlloch Fernández, Presidente del Consorcio, on behalf of Consorcio Gestor del Paisaje Protegido de la Desembocadura del Río Mijares, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 - LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

José Benlloch Fernández  
Presidente del Consorcio.



Ayuntamiento de Peñíscola  
Pl. Ayuntamiento, 1,  
12598 Peñíscola, Castellón

**subject:** Letter of support

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM** - Aquatic Warblers On the Move

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned **Andrés Martínez Castellá, Mayor**, on behalf of **Peñíscola City Council**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

**Andrés Martínez Castellá**  
**Mayor of Peñíscola**



Ajuntament de Torreblanca  
Carrer Sant Antoni  
12596 Torreblanca, Castelló

**subject:** Letter of support

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM** - Aquatic Warblers On the Move

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned **Tania Agut, Mayor**, on behalf of **Torreblanca City Council**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

Tania Agut  
Torreblanca Mayor



**Endorsement Letter for the LIFE application of FGN**

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers On the Move**

15.08.2023

***To whom it may concern***

I, the undersigned Udo Gattenlöhner on behalf of GNF and the global **Living Lakes Network** with 112 partner lakes and some 130 associated partner organisations, hereby express my strong support for the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 (LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY). The aim of AWOM is to create a large migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would support this critically threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increase its survival. Furthermore, the restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create important carbon sinks and would hereby contribute to climate change mitigation.

**GNF, ELLA and Living Lakes** express their high interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks, i.e. communication and dissemination activities of the results of AWOM. As a water, lake and wetland organization, we are also interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the framework of the project to be used for adequate management of wetlands improving the habitat conditions for the Aquatic Warbler and other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "U. Gattenlöhner".

Udo Gattenlöhner

**Name: Udo Gattenlöhner**

**Position: Executive Director of GNF**

**Institutions: Global Nature Fund (GNF) and the global Living Lakes Network including the new ELLA Association (European Living Lakes Association)**



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament d'Acció Climàtica,  
Alimentació i Agenda Rural  
**Direcció General de Polítiques  
Ambientals i Medi Natural**

**subject:** Letter of support

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers on the Move**

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned Marc Vilahur, General Director for Environmental Policies of the Catalan Government, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey, increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our General Directorate is responsible for the management of the wetlands where the actions of the project are carried out in Catalonia, which involve both habitat restoration and bird monitoring in Aiguamolls de l'Empordà and Ebro Delta. These monitoring and restoration actions are in line with the vegetation and hydric management of the wetlands, but all the activities will be supervised by the directors and staff of these sites, and notice must be given of the start of work.

Our General Directorate is willing to study increasing the degree of protection of this species, by supporting its inclusion as Vulnerable in the Catalan Catalogue of Threatened Species and in the Spanish Catalogue of Threatened Species (CEEAA), or to promote the approval of a multi-species conservation strategy for endangered marshland bird species in Catalonia and in Spain.

At the same time, we are willing to support the inclusion of any other wetlands relevant for the Aquatic Warbler in the Catalan Inventory of Wetlands.

In addition, as wetland managers, we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of the wetlands, in order to improve habitat conditions for the Aquatic Warbler and for other marsh birds.

Our General Directorate also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results.

Sincerely,

Marc Vilahur Chiaraviglio

General Director for Environmental Policies of the Catalan Government

Electronically signed



Ajuntament de Sagunt  
C. Autonomia, 2,  
46500 Sagunt, Valencia

**subject:** Letter of support

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers On the Move**

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned **Darío Moreno, Mayor**, on behalf of **Sagunt City Council**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

Darío Moreno  
Sagunto Mayor

**subject:** Letter of support

## **"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

### **LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers on the Move**

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned **José Ángel Arranz Sanz, Director General de Patrimonio Natural y Política Forestal**, on behalf of **Castilla y León Government**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity is responsible for the management of the wetlands where the actions (**WP3**) of the project are carried out in the Castilla y León Community.

- Laguna de La Nava
- Laguna de Boada
- Laguna de Pedraza
- Venta de Valdemudo
- Charcas del Cruce

These restoration actions are in line with the vegetation and hydric management of the wetlands, but all the activities will be supervised by the directors and staff of these sites, and notice must be given of the start of work.

Our organisation is willing to study increasing the degree of protection of this specie, by supporting its inclusion as Vulnerable in a future Autonomous Catalogue of Threatened Species and in the Spanish Catalogue of Threatened Species.

Our organisation is also willing to improve the legal protection of its migratory wetlands through the incorporation of the Boada and Pedraza lagoons in the Autonomous Catalogue of Wetlands of Castilla y León, and their declaration as RAMSAR wetlands through the extension of Ramsar site nº 1260 La Nava de Fuentes.

At the same time, to support the communication of these two wetlands and all the Catalogued Wetlands (ZHC) of Castilla y León to the Spanish Inventory of Wetlands (IEZH).

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

Sincerely,

José Ángel Arranz Sanz, Director General de Patrimonio Natural y Política Forestal



# Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats on its staging and wintering areas

LIFE AWoM: Aquatic Warblers on the move

**Fechas de ejecución:** enero de 2025 a diciembre 2030

**Coordinador:** Wetlands International-Europe

**Socios beneficiarios:** Fundación Global Nature, SPEA, Tour du Valat, Natuurpunt, BirdLife

**Afiliados Españoles:** Estación Biológica de Doñana, Instituto catalán de ornitología y Fundación Migres.

**Programa:** Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

## JUSTIFICACIÓN:

El carricerín cejudo (AW) es una especie de ave globalmente amenazada (Vulnerable), incluida en el Anexo 1 de la Directiva sobre Aves (Directiva 79/409/CEE), en el Apéndice I de la Convención sobre Especies Migratorias (CMS), en la Categoría A del Anexo 3 del Plan de Acción para las Aves Terrestres Migratorias de África y Eurasia de la CMS, y en el Apéndice II de la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre y los Hábitats Naturales de Europa. También es objeto de un Memorando de Entendimiento en el marco de la CMS que extiende los esfuerzos de conservación también a sus zonas de descanso e invernada en África.

La especie ha sido objeto de una serie de Planes de Acción de la UE (así como de la CMS y el Convenio de Berna) para las Especies desde 1996. Figura en la lista de especies de aves de la UE prioritarias para la financiación en el marco de LIFE acordada por el Comité Ornithológico en abril de 2022.

Gracias a la implementación de proyectos LIFE exitosos, la población reproductora en la UE ha aumentado en los últimos 10 años (principalmente en Polonia y Lituania), por lo que ha sido clasificada como Casi Amenazada en la UE en 2021. Sin embargo, la contracción del área de distribución de la especie ha continuado y la especie se ha extinguido de Hungría, Letonia y cerca de la extinción también en Alemania.

El 98% de la población mundial de AW se reproduce en tres países: 3.200-4.500 parejas en Polonia (33% de la población europea y mundial), 2.900-5.500 parejas en Bielorrusia (35%) y 3.000-4.000 parejas en Ucrania (30%).

En otoño, la AW migra hacia Europa Occidental a lo largo de las costas del Báltico y el Atlántico, mientras que la migración primaveral sigue una ruta más oriental a través del Mediterráneo y Europa Central. Los estudios de anillamiento y geolocalización indican que el suroeste de Francia, España y el norte de Marruecos son importantes zonas de parada y repostaje antes de que las aves crucen el Sáhara hacia sus zonas de invernada.

En Europa hay 130 Zonas de Especial Protección para las Aves (ZEPA) en las que la AW está registrada en el formulario de datos estándar (FDS) de Natura 2000 de los lugares como concentración de tipo de población (c, 127 lugares), paso (p, 1 lugar) o (incorrectamente)



invernada (w, 2 lugares). Es muy difícil observar la especie fuera de la época de reproducción debido a su comportamiento furtivo. Por lo tanto, es probable que las zonas de descanso e invernada sigan estando infrarrepresentadas en la red de zonas protegidas. Por ejemplo, la especie está registrada en los FDS de 6 lugares de Portugal, pero la importancia de la población no se evalúa para ninguno de ellos. No se ha designado ninguna ZPE para la especie en Bélgica ni en la República Checa. ADD FRANCIA

Las principales zonas de invernada conocidas para la especie son el delta del río Senegal y el delta interior del Níger. Se sospecha que existen otras zonas de hibernación a lo largo del río Senegal sobre la base de modelos de distribución espacial.

Por ejemplo, la zona de invernada conocida por albergar el mayor número de ejemplares en el delta del Senegal se encuentra principalmente fuera del Parque Nacional del Djoudj. Además, tanto las zonas de descanso en el norte y el sur del Mediterráneo como las zonas de invernada en el Sahel ya se ven afectadas negativamente por los cambios climáticos y se prevé que la situación empeore aún más, lo que puede poner en peligro la recuperación de la población de AW en la UE.

### **OBJETIVOS:**

Como ya se ha mencionado, los proyectos LIFE han desempeñado un papel importante en la recuperación de la población de la UE.

El objetivo de este proyecto es establecer una red coherente y exhaustiva de lugares de paso para AW a partir de los resultados y las experiencias de anteriores proyectos LIFE en España y Francia con otros países de paso de la UE (Portugal, Bélgica, Chequia y Hungría) y países de invernada de África (Marruecos, Mauritania y Senegal). También pretende complementar los esfuerzos que se van a realizar en el marco de otra propuesta LIFE para los países de cría (Lituania, Polonia, Alemania y Ucrania) y realizar así una conservación de la especie a escala de corredor aéreo.

- Identificar y proteger las zonas críticas de parada e invernada del AW en cada uno de los países participantes en el proyecto.
- Restaurar los lugares críticos para el AW en Portugal, Bélgica, Francia, Chequia y Hungría e integrar la restauración de hábitats adicionales en los planes nacionales de restauración de la naturaleza y en la programación de la Política Agrícola Común.
- Elaborar planes de acción nacionales nuevos o actualizar los existentes para el AW en Portugal, Bélgica, Francia, Chequia, Hungría, Marruecos y Senegal.
- Sensibilizar a las principales partes interesadas, como propietarios de tierras, gestores de recursos hídricos y autoridades responsables de la conservación, sobre los requisitos de conservación del AW.

Valladolid

El Director General de Patrimonio Natural y Política Forestal  
José Ángel Arranz Sanz



## **PAÍSES Y ENTIDADES:**

Coordinador: Wetlands Internacional-Europa

- España: FGN, EBD, MIGRES, ICO
- Portugal: SPEA
- Chequia, CSO (BirdLife in CZ)
- Francia: Tour du Valat
- Bélgica,
- Senegal, university (Saint-Louis)
- Marruecos: Migres

## **ZONAS DE ACTUACIÓN EN ESPAÑA:**

### **COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA:**

- Marjal de Peñíscola
- Prat de Cabanes Torreblanca
- Marjal de Nules
- Desembocadura del Río Mijares
- Marjal dels Moros
- Albufera
- Marjal de Pego-Oliva

### **CASTILLA Y LEÓN**

- Laguna de la Nava, Boada y Pedraza
- Lagunas asociadas al Canal de Castilla

### **CASTILLA LA MANCHA**

- Laguna de Manjavacas
- Laguna Chica de Villafranca
- Laguna Larga de Villacañas
- El Longar de Lillo

### **ANDALUCÍA**

- Parque Nacional de Doñana

### **CATALUÑA**

- PN del Delta del Ebro
- PN dels Aiguamolls de l'Empordà







Ayuntamiento de Boada de Campos  
Plaza Mayor, 1  
34305 Boada de Campos  
Palencia

**subject:** Letter of support

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and  
wintering grounds"**  
**LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers On the Move**

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned Luis Carlos Castañeda Lopezuazo, **Mayor**, on behalf of **Boada de Campos City Council**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

**Luis Carlos Castañeda Lopezuazo**  
**Mayor of Boada de Campos**



## AYUNTAMIENTO DE CASTROMOCHO

Ayuntamiento de CASTROMOCHO (Palencia)

Plaza de España Nº 6

34305 CASTROMOCHO (Palencia)

**SUBJECT: Letter of support**

**RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT OF AQUATIC WARBLER HABITATS IN THEIR STAGING AND WINTERING GROUNDS**

LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers On the Move

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned DON FLORENCIO CABALLERO DE LA TORRE Mayor, on behalf of CASTROMOCHO City Council, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate



## AYUNTAMIENTO DE CASTROMOCHO

change mitigation.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

FLORENCIO CABALLERO DE LA TORRE

Mayor of CASTROMOCHO (Palencia)

LOGO SIGNATORY ENTITY

Ayuntamiento de Husillos  
Calle Mayor nº 13  
Husillos 34419  
Palencia

asunto: Carta de apoyo

"Restauración y gestión de los hábitats del carricerín cejudo en sus zonas de parada e invernada"

LIFE AWOM - Carricerín cejudo en movimiento

A quien corresponda

El que suscribe D. JUAN JESUS NEVARES HEREDIA, Alcalde, en nombre del Ayuntamiento de HUSILLOS (PALENCIA), expresa su apoyo decidido al proyecto AWOM que se prevé presentar a la Convocatoria LIFE 2023 - LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURALEZA Y BIODIVERSIDAD.

El objetivo de AWOM es crear un gran corredor migratorio de humedales en buen estado a lo largo de la ruta migratoria del carricerín cejudo (AW) desde Europa hasta África, que cubra sus zonas de descanso e invernada. Esto permitiría a esta especie globalmente amenazada completar con éxito su viaje anual y aumentar su supervivencia anual. La restauración y mejora de la gestión de los humedales también crearía sumideros de carbono y contribuiría así a mitigar el cambio climático.

Nuestra entidad también manifiesta su interés en participar en los módulos de formación para gestores de humedales y en otras tareas del proyecto de comunicación y difusión de los resultados que se establezcan en el proyecto para seguir los desarrollos de AWOM.

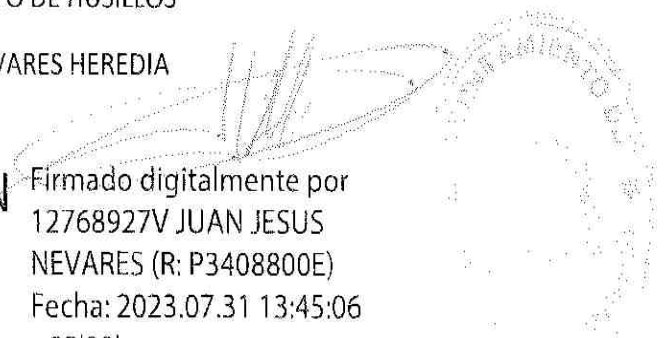
Además, como gestores de humedales estamos interesados en las directrices y herramientas desarrolladas en el proyecto que puedan ser utilizadas para una adecuada gestión de los humedales para mejorar las condiciones del hábitat del carricerín cejudo AW y para otras aves palustres.

ELALCALDE DEL AYTO DE HUSILLOS

D. JUAN JESUS NEVARES HEREDIA

12768927V JUAN  
JESUS NEVARES  
(R: P3408800E)

Firmado digitalmente por  
12768927V JUAN JESUS  
NEVARES (R: P3408800E)  
Fecha: 2023.07.31 13:45:06  
+02'00'





Ayuntamiento de Mazariegos  
Calle San Miguel 2  
34170 Mazariegos  
Palencia

**subject:** Letter of support

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers On the Move**

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned **Anastasio Morate Fernández, Mayor**, on behalf of **Mazariegos City Council**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,



**Anastasio Morate Fernández**  
**Mayor of Mazariegos**



Ayuntamiento de Pedraza de Campos  
Calle Transquintana, 10  
34170 Pedraza de Campos  
Palencia

**subject:** Letter of support

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers On the Move**

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned **D<sup>a</sup> ANABEL GARCÍA ARISTÍN, Mayor**, on behalf of **AYUNTAMIENTO DE PEDRAZA DE CAMPOS City Council**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

**Pedraza de Campos, 27/07/2023**

**ANABEL GARCÍA ARISTÍN**

**Vlaamse overheid**

Havenlaan 88 bus 75

1000 Brussel

-

T 02 553 81 02

E anb@vlaanderen.be

Date : *04-09-2023*

**LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Protecting Aquatic Warblers on the Move  
LIFE AWOM

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned, Goedele Van Der Spiegel, on behalf of the Agency for Nature and Forests, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,

Goedele Van der Spiegel

Administrateur-generaal van het Agentschap Natuur en Bos



asunto: Carta de apoyo

"Restauración y gestión de los hábitats del carricerín cejudo en sus zonas de parada e invernada"

LIFE AWOM - Carricerín cejudo en movimiento

A quien corresponda

El que suscribe D. Carlos Gutiérrez Rodríguez Alcalde, en nombre del Ayuntamiento de Fuentes de Nava, expresa su apoyo decidido al proyecto AWOM que se prevé presentar a la Convocatoria LIFE 2023 - LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURALEZA Y BIODIVERSIDAD.

El objetivo de AWOM es crear un gran corredor migratorio de humedales en buen estado a lo largo de la ruta migratoria del carricerín cejudo (AW) desde Europa hasta África, que cubra sus zonas de descanso e invernada. Esto permitiría a esta especie globalmente amenazada completar con éxito su viaje anual y aumentar su supervivencia anual. La restauración y mejora de la gestión de los humedales también crearía sumideros de carbono y contribuiría así a mitigar el cambio climático.

Nuestra entidad también manifiesta su interés en participar en los módulos de formación para gestores de humedales y en otras tareas del proyecto de comunicación y difusión de los resultados que se establezcan en el proyecto para seguir los desarrollos de AWOM.

Además, como gestores de humedales estamos interesados en las directrices y herramientas desarrolladas en el proyecto que puedan ser utilizadas para una adecuada gestión de los humedales para mejorar las condiciones del hábitat de la AW y para otras aves palustres.

En Fuentes de Nava a fecha de firma electrónica.

El Alcalde.- Carlos Gutiérrez Rodríguez



Julio Gómez Vivo, Director General de Medi Natural i d'Avaluació Ambiental, hereby express my support to the AWOM project ("Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds") that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity is responsible for the management of the wetlands where the actions (**WP3**) of the project are carried out in the Valencian Region (E Spain).

- Marjal de Peñíscola
- Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca
- Marjal de Nules
- Desembocadura del Río Mijares
- Marjal dels Moros
- Albufera
- Marjal de Pego-Oliva

These restoration actions are in line with the management plans of the wetlands but all the activities will be supervised by the directors and staff of these sites, and notice must be given of the start of work.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.

In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,



Ayuntamiento de Lillo

**subject:** Letter of support

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers on the Move**

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned Julián Sánchez Casas, Alcalde del Ayuntamiento de Lillo (Toledo), on behalf of **Ayuntamiento de Lillo** hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 - LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of LIFE AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity is implied in the management of the following wetland where the actions (**WP3**) of the project are carried out in the Comunidad de Castilla-La Mancha:

- Reserva Natural de la laguna de El Longar (Lillo, Toledo).

The monitoring and restoration actions are aligned with the vegetation and water management strategies of the wetlands that we oversee in our municipality. Additionally, we concur that the communication and awareness-raising campaign will be advantageous for the residents of Lillo.

Our organisation is willing to support increasing the degree of protection of *Aquatic Warbler* (AKA Carricerín Cejudo in Spain), by supporting its inclusion as Vulnerable in the Autonomous Catalogue of Threatened Species and in the Spanish Catalogue of Threatened Species (CEEA), or to promote the approval of a multi-



species conservation strategy for endangered marshland bird species in the Autonomous Community and in Spain.

In addition, we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of LIFE AWOM.

Sincerely,



Julián Sánchez Casas  
Alcalde del Ayuntamiento de Lillo.

Lillo a 14 de agosto de 2023



Ayuntamiento de Villacañas

**subject:** Letter of support

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM** - Aquatic Warblers on the Move

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned Juan Ángel Almonacid Gallego, Alcalde del Ilustrísimo Ayuntamiento de Villacañas (Toledo), on behalf of **Ayuntamiento de Villacañas**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of LIFE AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity is implied in the management of the following wetland where the actions (**WP3**) of the project are carried out in the Comunidad de Castilla-La Mancha:

- Reserva Natural de la laguna de Villacañas (Toledo).

The monitoring and restoration actions are aligned with the vegetation and water management strategies of the wetlands that we oversee in our municipality. Additionally, we concur that the communication and awareness-raising campaign will be advantageous for the residents of Villacañas.



Our organisation is willing to support increasing the degree of protection of *Aquatic Warbler* (AKA Carricerín Cejudo in Spain), by supporting its inclusion as Vulnerable in the Autonomous Catalogue of Threatened Species and in the Spanish Catalogue of Threatened Species (CEEAA), or to promote the approval of a multi-species conservation strategy for endangered marshland bird species in the Autonomous Community and in Spain.

In addition, we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate

management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of LIFE AWOM.

Sincerely,



Juan Ángel Almonacid Gallego

Alcalde del Ilustrísimo Ayuntamiento de Villacañas.



Villacañas a 14 de Agosto del 2023





**subject:** Letter of support

**"Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler  
habitats in their staging and wintering grounds"**

**LIFE AWOM - Aquatic Warblers on the Move**

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned **NOMBRE Y APELLIDO, CARGO**, on behalf of **Ayuntamiento de Villafranca de los Caballeros** hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 - LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of LIFE AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity is implied in the management of the following wetland where the actions (**WP3**) of the project are carried out in the Comunidad de Castilla-La Mancha:

- Reserva Natural Lagunas Grande y Chica de Villafranca de los Caballeros (Toledo).

The monitoring and restoration actions are aligned with the vegetation and water management strategies of the wetlands that we oversee in our municipality. Additionally, we concur that the communication and awareness-raising campaign will be advantageous for the residents of Villafranca de los Caballeros.

Our organisation is willing to support increasing the degree of protection of *Aquatic Warbler* (AKA Carricerín Cejudo in Spain), by supporting its inclusion as Vulnerable in the Autonomous Catalogue of Threatened Species and in the Spanish Catalogue of





AYUNTAMIENTO DE LA M. L. Y F. VILLA DE  
VILAFRANCA DE LOS CABALLEROS (Toledo)

C.I.F.P. - 4518800 - J

R.E.L. 0141875

Threatened Species (CEEAA), or to promote the approval of a multi-species conservation strategy for endangered marshland bird species in the Autonomous Community and in Spain.

In addition, we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of LIFE AWOM.

Sincerely,

Firma, Nombre y Cargo



JULIAN BOLAÑOS POZO

ALCALDE .

Lugar y fecha.

Villafranca de los Caballeros, 18 Agosto 2023 .

# Letter of Intent

Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas  
Av. da República, 16 a 16B, 1050-191 Lisboa, PORTUGAL  
TEL (351) 21 350 79 00  
geral@icnf.pt

## LETTER OF SUPPORT

The Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests, I. P. (ICNF), as national authority for Nature Conservation and responsible for the implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network will support the **LIFE AWoM – Aquatic Warblers on the Move**, since this project will contribute for the identification of critical staging sites for the species in Portugal and produce a national action plan for the aquatic warbler. Furthermore, it is expected that the project can contribute for the identification of threats and management priorities and raise awareness amongst key stakeholders, such as landowners and managers. ICNF/CEMPA will be available to provide logistical support in the organisation of the ringing campaigns and actively participate in the delineation of a national action plan for the species.

The results of this project will support the gathering of key data regarding the Aquatic Warbler in Portugal, which include migratory population numbers and the identification of main staging areas and threats, also contributing for the restoration, management and proper protection of those areas.

This support doesn't mean, in any case, any financial or legal commitment from ICNF.

Carlos Albuquerque  
(Diretor, Department of Nature Conservation and Biodiversity)



The Department of National Parks (DPN),  
located in the Forest and Zoological Park of Hann,  
route des Pères Mariste Dakar, BP: 4055, Dakar/Senegal

Subject: Letter of support

28<sup>th</sup> August, 2023

"Protecting Aquatic Warblers on the Move "

LIFE-AWOM

To whom it may concern,

I undersigned **Colonel Bocar THIAM, Director**, on behalf of the **Directorate of National Parks of Senegal (DPN)**, hereby express my strong support to the AWOM project that is planned for submission to the Life Call 2023 – LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-NATURE: NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY.

The aim of AWOM is to create a great migratory corridor of wetlands in good condition along the flyway of the Aquatic Warbler (AW) from Europe to Africa, covering their staging and wintering grounds. This would allow this globally threatened species to successfully complete its annual journey and increasing its annual survival. The restoration and improved management of wetlands would also create carbon sinks and would thus contribute to climate change mitigation.

Our entity also expresses interest in participating in training modules for wetland managers and in other project tasks of communication and dissemination of the results to be established in the project to follow the developments of AWOM.


In addition, as wetland managers we are interested in the guidelines and tools developed in the project that can be used for an adequate management of wetlands to improve the AW habitat conditions and for other marsh birds.

Sincerely,



## COFINANCING DECLARATION

*(To be filled in and signed by the cofinancers, assembled by the coordinator and uploaded in a single file in the Portal Submission System as part of the application (or at the latest during grant agreement preparation).)*

<b>COFINANCER</b>	
Legal name:	Ministère de la transition écologique et de la cohésion des territoires
Legal address:	Tour Séquoia 1 place Carpeaux 92055 La Défense Cedex France
<b>FINANCIAL COMMITMENT</b>	
Name of the project to which we contribute:	LIFE Aquatic Warbler on the Move
Amount to be contributed:	145 000€
Status of the financial commitment:	Confirmed
Comments:	
<b>SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORISED PERSON</b>	
Name and function:	Célia de LAVERGNE / Directrice de l'eau et la biodiversité
Date of signature:	30/08/2023 La directrice de l'eau et de la biodiversité
Signature and stamp:	 CÉLIA DE LAVERGNE

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).

**COFINANCING DECLARATION**

*(To be filled in and signed by the cofinancers, assembled by the coordinator and uploaded in a single file in the Portal Submission System as part of the application (or at the latest during grant agreement preparation).)*

<b>COFINANCER</b>	
<b>Legal name:</b>	Consortio Gestor del Paisaje Protegido de la Desembocadura del Río Mijares.
<b>Legal address:</b>	Centro de Educación Ambiental el Termet. 12540 Vila-real. Castellón España 964525563
<b>FINANCIAL COMMITMENT</b>	
<b>Name of the project to which we contribute:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats on its staging and wintering areas</li> <li>LIFE Aquatic Warblers on the move (AWOM)</li> </ul>
<b>Amount to be contributed:</b>	98.846 EUR
<b>Status of the financial commitment:</b>	confirmed
<b>Comments:</b>	Contributions will be made during the years 2025 (32.949 €), 2026 (32.949 €), 2027 (32.949 €).
<b>SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORISED PERSON</b>	
<b>Name and function:</b>	José Benlloch Fernández. Presidente del Consorcio.
<b>Date of signature:</b>	August 31 2023
<b>Signature and stamp:</b>	

<b>HISTORY OF CHANGES</b>		
<b>VERSION</b>	<b>PUBLICATION DATE</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).



**COFINANCING DECLARATION**

*(To be filled in and signed by the cofinancers, assembled by the coordinator and uploaded in a single file in the Portal Submission System as part of the application (or at the latest during grant agreement preparation).)*

<b>COFINANCER</b>	
<b>Legal name:</b>	Ayuntamiento de Peñíscola
<b>Legal address:</b>	Pl. Ayuntamiento, 1, 12598 Peniscola, Castellón Spain secretaria@peniscola.org
<b>FINANCIAL COMMITMENT</b>	
<b>Name of the project to which we contribute:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats on its staging and wintering areas</li> <li>LIFE Aquatic Warblers on the move (AWOM)</li> </ul>
<b>Amount to be contributed:</b>	84,395 EUR
<b>Status of the financial commitment:</b>	confirmed
<b>Comments:</b>	Contributions will be made during the years 2025 (28,132 €), 2026 (28,132 €), 2027 (28,132 €).
<b>SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORISED PERSON</b>	
<b>Name and function:</b>	Andrés Martínez Castellá Alcalde- Presidente del Ayuntamiento de Peñíscola (Castellón)
<b>Date of signature:</b>	August 2023
<b>Signature and stamp:</b>	

<b>HISTORY OF CHANGES</b>		
<b>VERSION</b>	<b>PUBLICATION DATE</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).

## COFINANCING DECLARATION

*(To be filled in and signed by the cofinancers, assembled by the coordinator and uploaded in a single file in the Portal Submission System as part of the application (or at the latest during grant agreement preparation).)*

COFINANCER	
<b>Legal name:</b>	Ajuntament de Torreblanca
<b>Legal address:</b>	Carrer Sant Antoni, 11 12596 Torreblanca Spain alcaldia@torreblanca.es
FINANCIAL COMMITMENT	
<b>Name of the project to which we contribute:</b>	Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats on its staging and wintering areas "LIFE Aquatic Warblers on the move (AWOM)"
<b>Amount to be contributed:</b>	84,000 EUR
<b>Status of the financial commitment:</b>	confirmed
<b>Comments:</b>	Contributions will be made during the years 2025 (21.000 €), 2026 (21.000 €), 2027 (21.000 €) 2028 (21.000 €). These amounts will come from the collaboration agreement between the FGN and the City Council. <b>It does not represent an extra contribution to the annual total of the agreement.</b>
SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORISED PERSON	
<b>Name and function:</b>	Tania Agut Torreblanca Mayor
<b>Date of signature:</b>	August 2024
<b>Signature and stamp:</b>	

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).

**COFINANCING DECLARATION**

*(To be filled in and signed by the cofinancers, assembled by the coordinator and uploaded in a single file in the Portal Submission System as part of the application (or at the latest during grant agreement preparation).)*


<b>COFINANCER</b>	
<b>Legal name:</b>	Ayuntamiento de Nules
<b>Legal address:</b>	Pl. Mayor, 2, 12520 Nules, Castellón
<b>FINANCIAL COMMITMENT</b>	
<b>Name of the project to which we contribute:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration and management of Aquatic Warbler habitats on its staging and wintering areas</li> <li>• LIFE Aquatic Warblers on the move (AWOM)</li> </ul>
<b>Amount to be contributed:</b>	43.295 EUR
<b>Status of the financial commitment:</b>	confirmed
<b>Comments:</b>	Contributions will be made during the years 2025 (14.435 €), 2026 (14.430 €), 2027 (14.430 €).
<b>SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORISED PERSON</b>	
<b>Name and function:</b>	Cesar Estañol Amiguet Nules Town Councillor for town development, agriculture and the environment
<b>Date of signature:</b>	August 2023
<b>Signature and stamp:</b>	César Francisco Estañol Amiguet

<b>HISTORY OF CHANGES</b>		
<b>VERSION</b>	<b>PUBLICATION DATE</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).



**COFINANCING DECLARATION**

*(To be filled in and signed by the cofinancers and uploaded as part of the application (or at the latest during grant agreement preparation). To insert additional cofinancing declarations, copy the table as many times as necessary)*

<b>COFINANCER</b>	
<b>Legal name:</b>	Alive Fundació
<b>Legal address:</b>	Port de la Clota s/n 17130 L'Escala Spain 00 34 747 459 773 / info@alivefund.org
<b>FINANCIAL COMMITMENT</b>	
<b>Name of the project to which we contribute:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Amount to be contributed:</b>	25.000 EUR
<b>Status of the financial commitment:</b>	confirmed
<b>Comments:</b>	Alive Fundació is considering the possibility of increasing its co-financial contribution but 25.000€ are already confirmed
<b>SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORISED PERSON</b>	
<b>Name and function:</b>	Bernat Garrigòs, President
<b>Date of signature:</b>	31/08/2023
<b>Signature and stamp:</b>	

<b>HISTORY OF CHANGES</b>		
<b>VERSION</b>	<b>PUBLICATION DATE</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).

**COFINANCING DECLARATION**

*(To be filled in and signed by the cofinancers, assembled by the coordinator and uploaded in a single file in the Portal Submission System as part of the application (or at the latest during grant agreement preparation).)*

<b>COFINANCER</b>	
<b>Legal name:</b>	Parc Natural dels Aiguamolls de l'Empordà
<b>Legal address:</b>	El Cortalet s/n 17486 Castelló d'Empúries Spain sromero@gencat.cat
<b>FINANCIAL COMMITMENT</b>	
<b>Name of the project to which we contribute:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Amount to be contributed:</b>	15000 EUR (3000€/year)
<b>Status of the financial commitment:</b>	to be confirmed
<b>Comments:</b>	commitment depending on financial availability
<b>SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORISED PERSON</b>	
<b>Name and function:</b>	Sergio Romero de Tejada. Director of the Aiguamolls natural park
<b>Date of signature:</b>	01/09/2023
<b>Signature and stamp:</b>	

<b>HISTORY OF CHANGES</b>		
<b>VERSION</b>	<b>PUBLICATION DATE</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).

## MAPS

*(Merge all requested maps into one file and upload it as part of the application. Maps should be of high quality and high resolution, preferably in colour. They should be easy to read and include a scale and legend. To insert additional site maps, copy the table as many times as necessary.)*

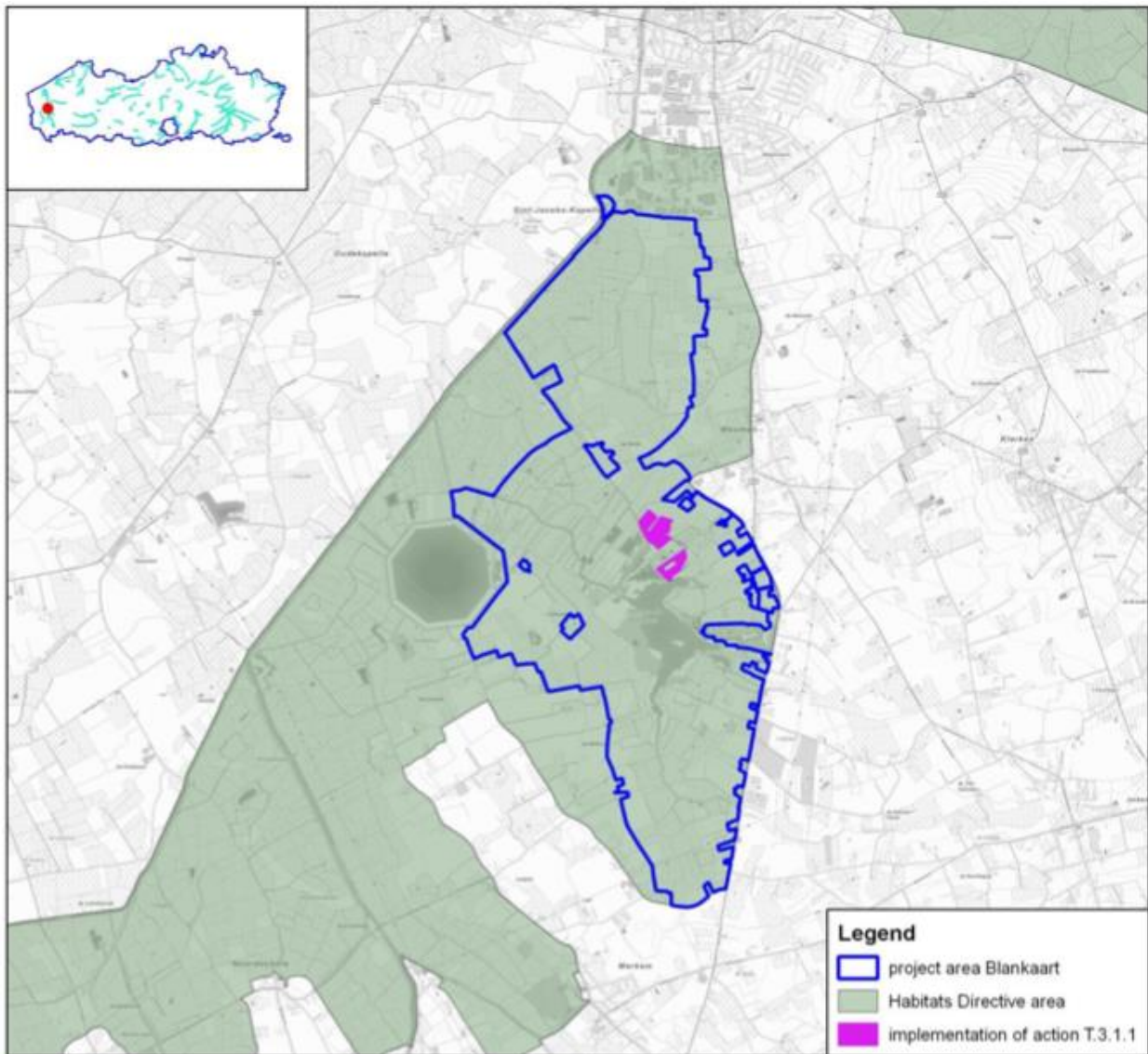
### BELGIUM

#### MAP OF THE GENERAL LOCATION

*Provide a map of the general location of the project area(s). Locate the project area(s) within the country and, if necessary, within the region(s) concerned. If your project does not target a defined area, indicate, as clearly as possible, where the project is implemented (city, area, region, etc.).*

*Maps can be provided in an A4 or A3 format.*

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Belgium, Flanders
<b>Map name:</b>	Location of the “Blankaart” pilot site

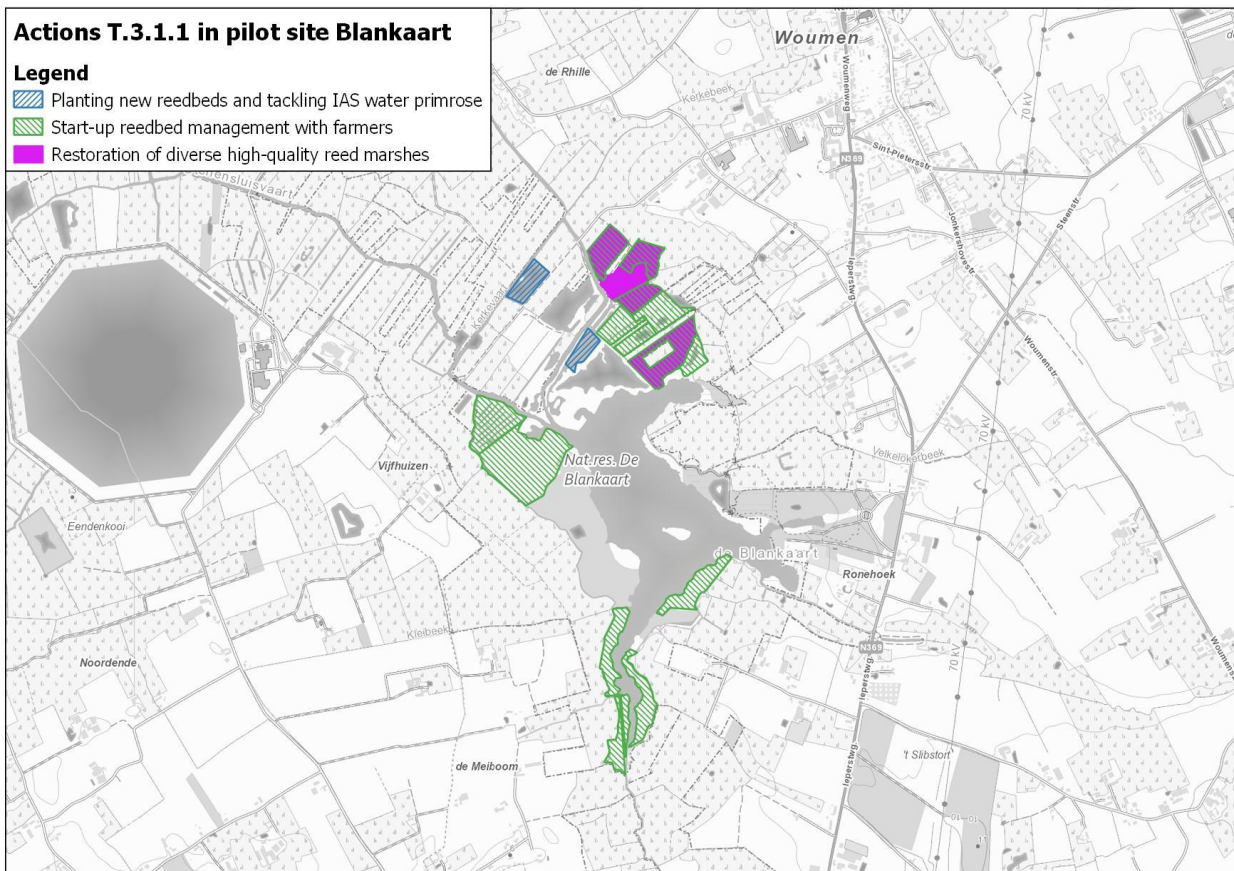


### MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

- the location of the main habitats / species targeted by the project
- the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal
- a legend with all project activities that have been located on the map and an explanation of the habitats (official names and codes).
- the boundaries of Natura 2000 sites, if relevant. If the proposal includes actions targeting species / habitats of the Habitats Directive, indicate also SCI / SAC boundaries; if it includes actions targeting bird species of the Birds Directive, indicate also SPA boundaries.
- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Belgium, Flanders
<b>Map name:</b>	Location of the actions under T3.1.1 at the Blankaart site



**FRANCE**

*Seine Estuary*

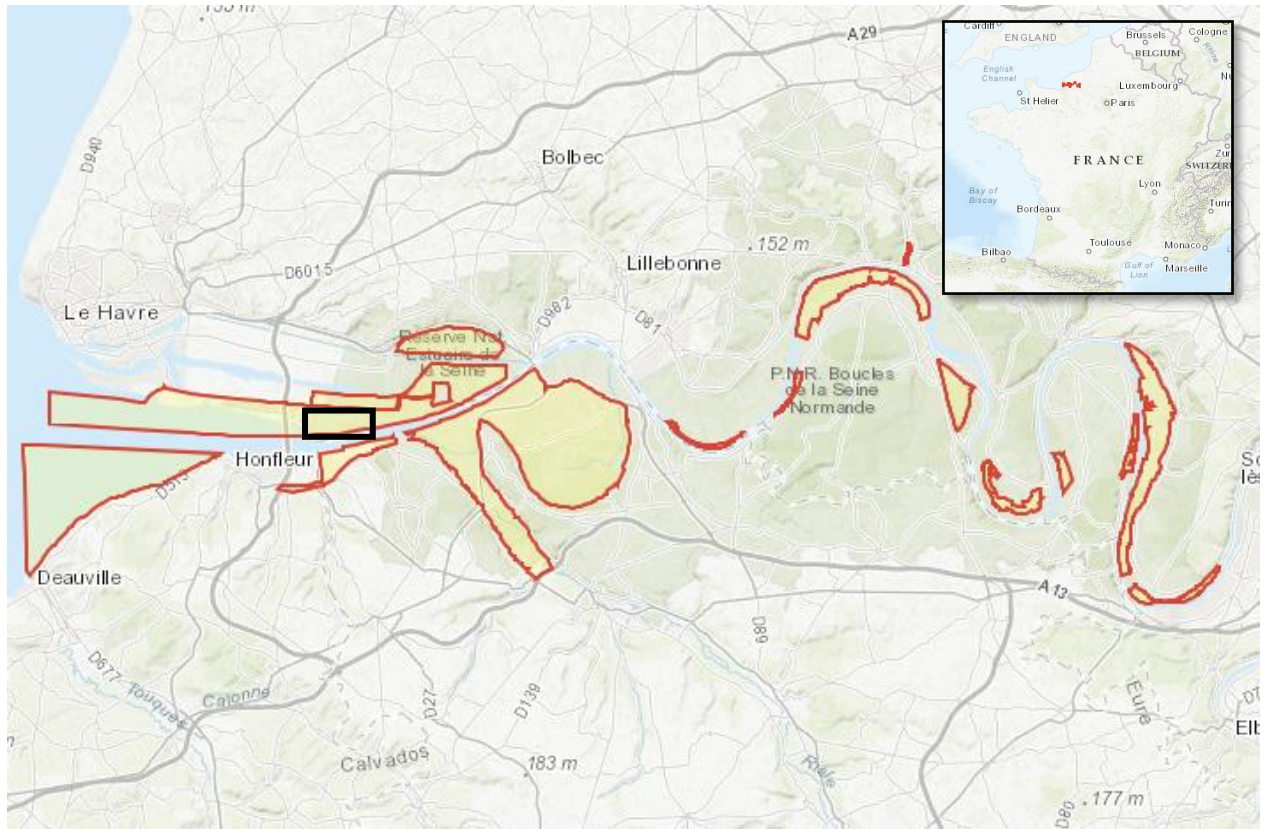
**MAP OF THE GENERAL LOCATION**

Provide a map of the general location of the project area(s). Locate the project area(s) within the country and, if necessary, within the region(s) concerned. If your project does not target a defined area, indicate, as clearly as possible, where the project is implemented (city, area, region, etc.).

Maps can be provided in an A4 or A3 format.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	FRANCE, Normandie
<b>Map name:</b>	General location of the Seine Estuary and boundaries of the SPA FR2310044 Estuaire et marais de la Basse Seine

Black rectangle indicates the project area



**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

- the location of the main habitats / species targeted by the project
- the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal
- a legend with all project activities that have been located on the map and an explanation of the habitats (official names and codes).
- the boundaries of Natura 2000 sites, if relevant. If the proposal includes actions targeting species / habitats of the Habitats Directive, indicate also SCI / SAC boundaries; if it includes actions targeting bird species of the Birds Directive, indicate also SPA boundaries.
- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	FRANCE, Normandie
<b>Map name:</b>	Map of areas to be restored in the National Nature Reserve of the Seine Estuary under Activity T.3.1.3.1

Map of areas currently identified as priorities for restoration; these may evolve based on the condition of habitats before the first cut in 2025



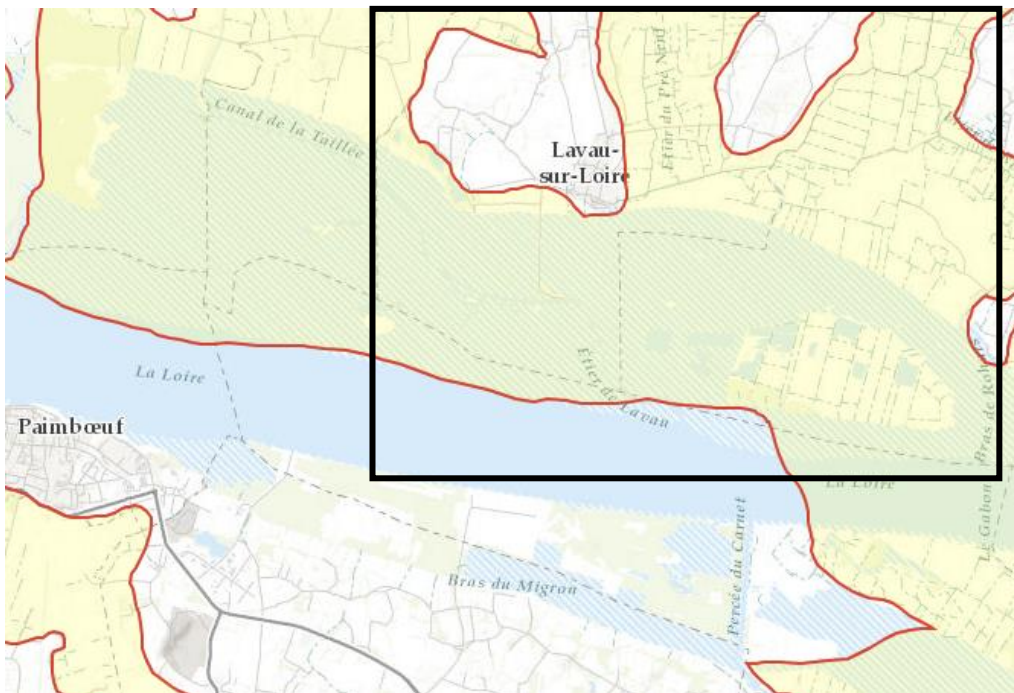
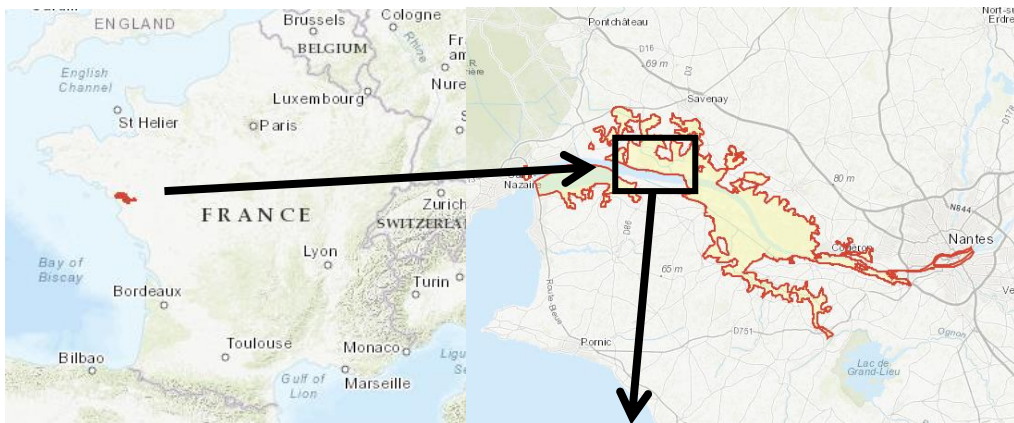
*Pipy Island*

**MAP OF THE GENERAL LOCATION**

Provide a map of the general location of the project area(s). Locate the project area(s) within the country and, if necessary, within the region(s) concerned. If your project does not target a defined area, indicate, as clearly as possible, where the project is implemented (city, area, region, etc.).

Maps can be provided in an A4 or A3 format.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move (LIFE AWOM)
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	France, Pays de la Loire
<b>Map name:</b>	General location of the Pipy Island within the SPA FR5210103 - Estuaire de la Loire



Black rectangles indicate the locations of the more detailed maps on this and the next page.

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

- the location of the main habitats / species targeted by the project
- the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal
- a legend with all project activities that have been located on the map and an explanation of the habitats (official names and codes).
- the boundaries of Natura 2000 sites, if relevant. If the proposal includes actions targeting species / habitats of the Habitats Directive, indicate also SCI / SAC boundaries; if it includes actions targeting bird species of the Birds Directive, indicate also SPA boundaries.
- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

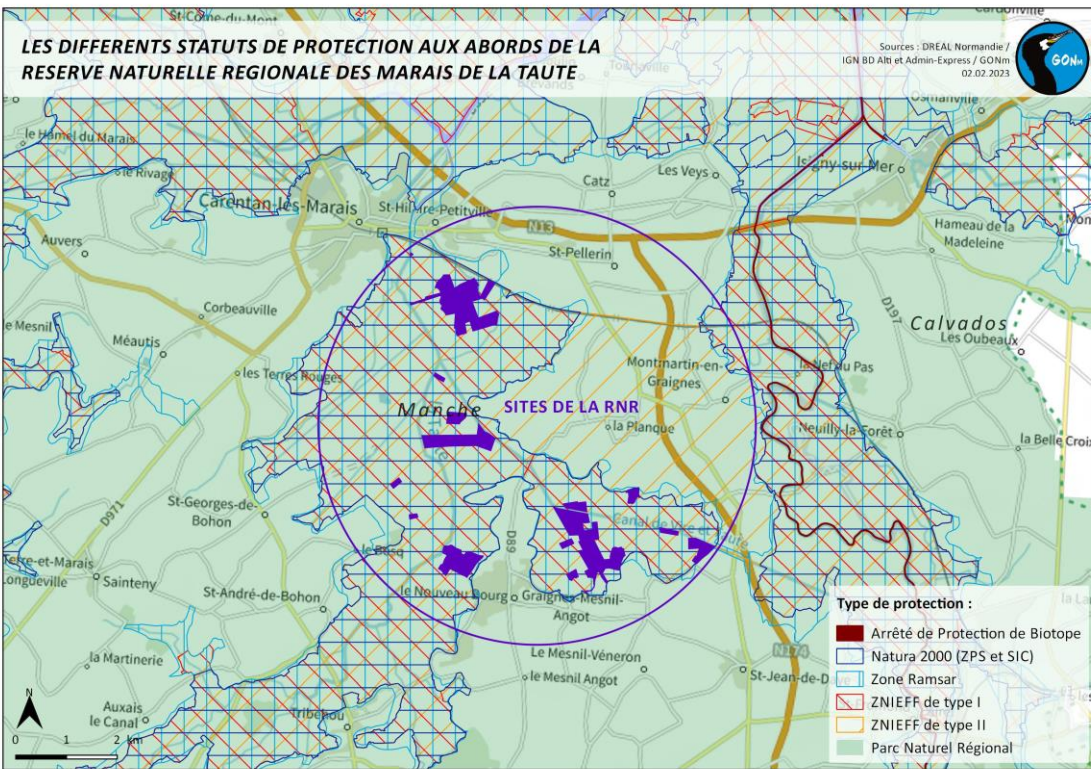
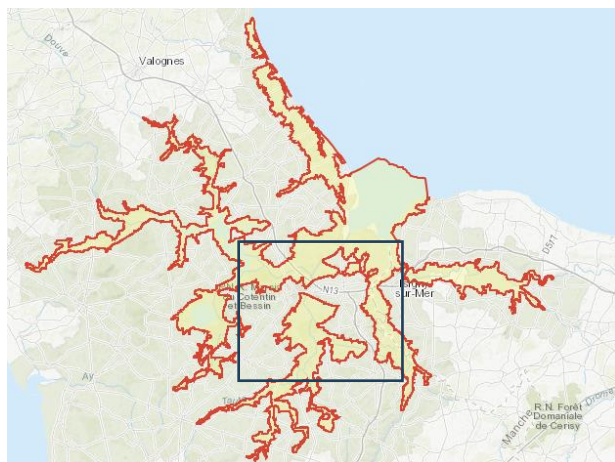
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	France, Pays de la Loire
<b>Map name:</b>	Location of the area to be restored under Activity T.3.1.3.2





**Marais de la Taute**

<b>MAP OF THE GENERAL LOCATION</b>	
<p>Provide a map of the general location of the project area(s). Locate the project area(s) within the country and, if necessary, within the region(s) concerned. If your project does not target a defined area, indicate, as clearly as possible, where the project is implemented (city, area, region, etc.).</p> <p>Maps can be provided in an A4 or A3 format.</p>	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move – LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	France, Normandy
<b>Map name:</b>	Location of the Réserve Naturelle Régionale des Marais de la Taute within France and in the SPA FR2510046 Basses Vallées du Cotentin et Baie des Veys



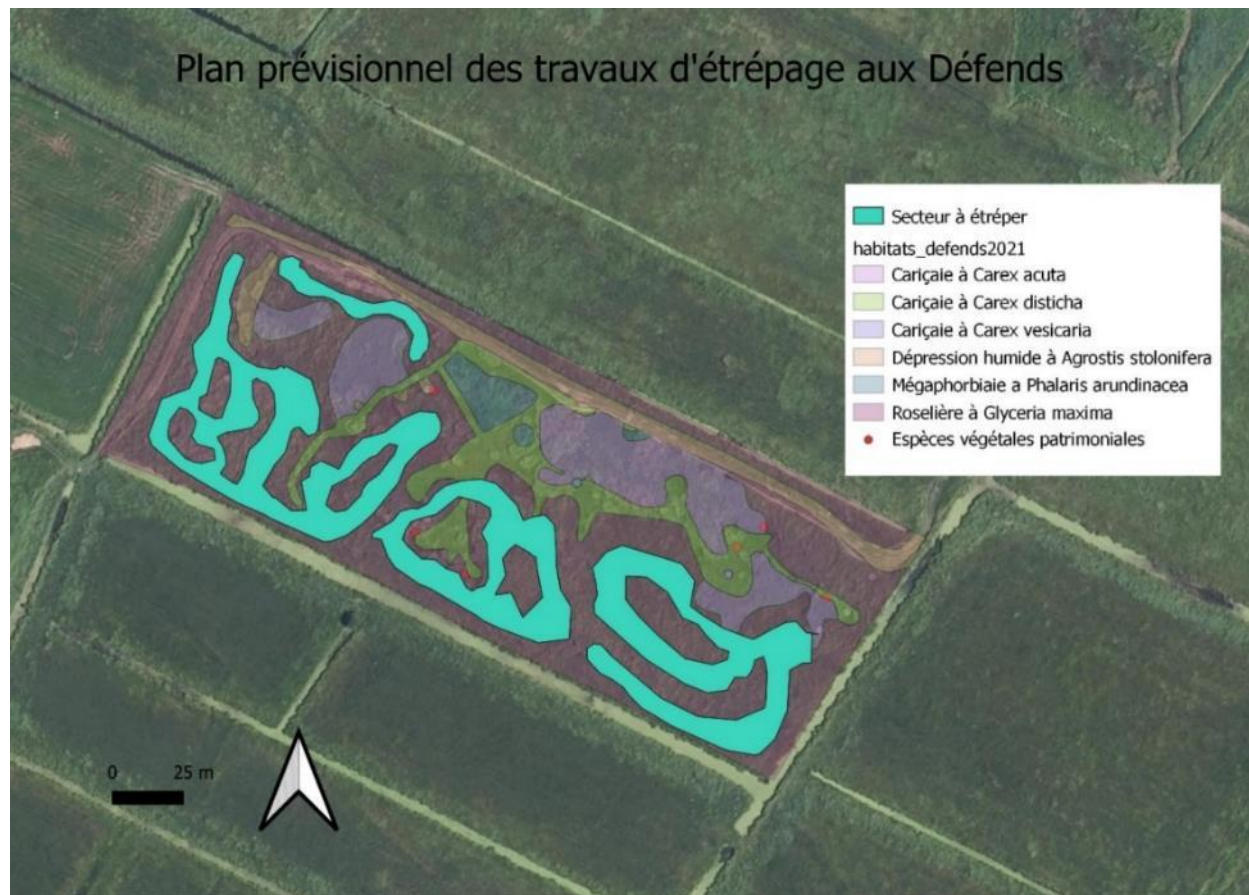
## MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

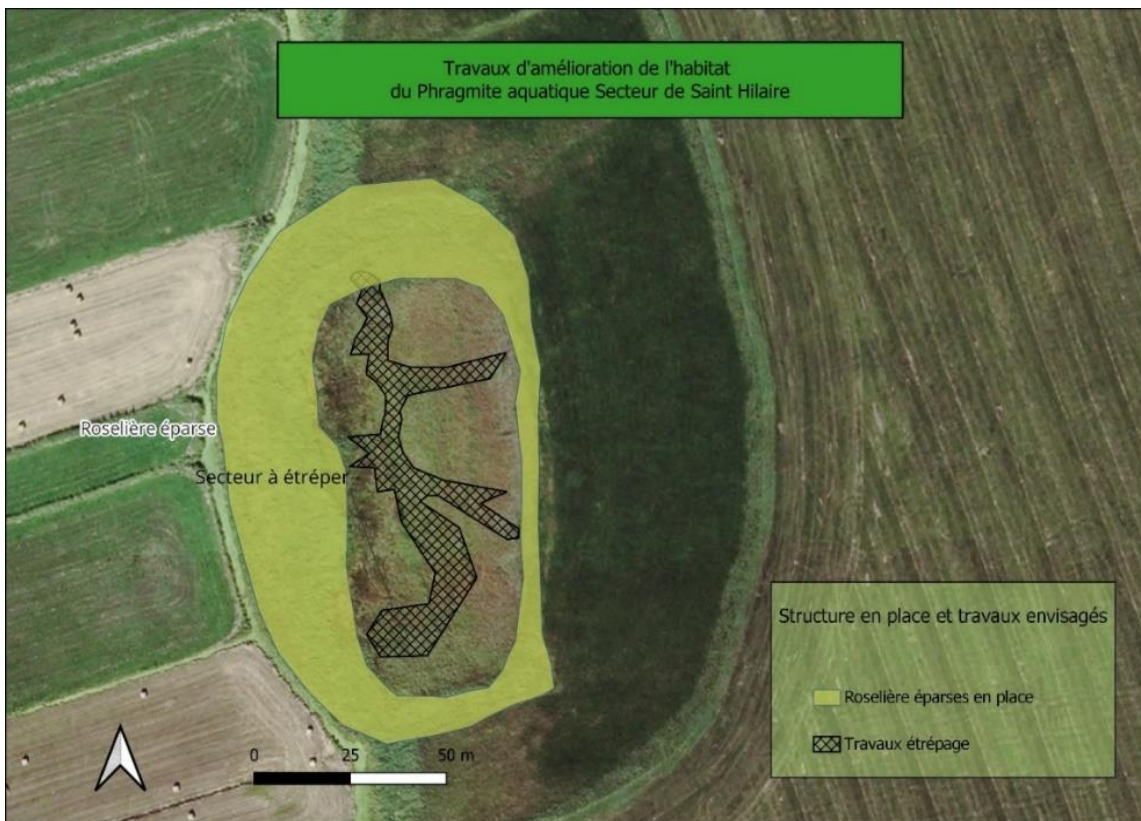
- the location of the main habitats / species targeted by the project
- the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal
- a legend with all project activities that have been located on the map and an explanation of the habitats (official names and codes).
- the boundaries of Natura 2000 sites, if relevant. If the proposal includes actions targeting species / habitats of the Habitats Directive, indicate also SCI / SAC boundaries; if it includes actions targeting bird species of the Birds Directive, indicate also SPA boundaries.
- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move – LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	France, Normandy
<b>Map name:</b>	Locations of subsites and activities within the Réserve Naturelle Régionale des Marais de la Taute

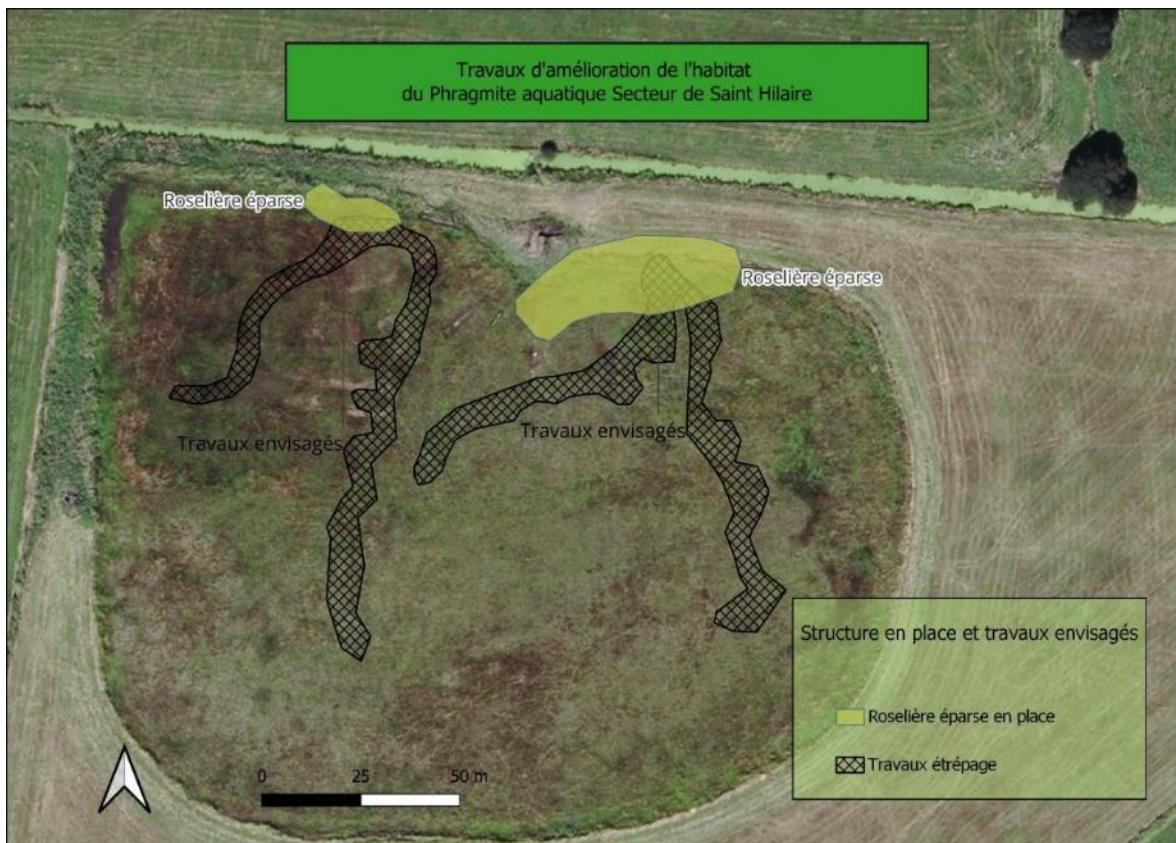
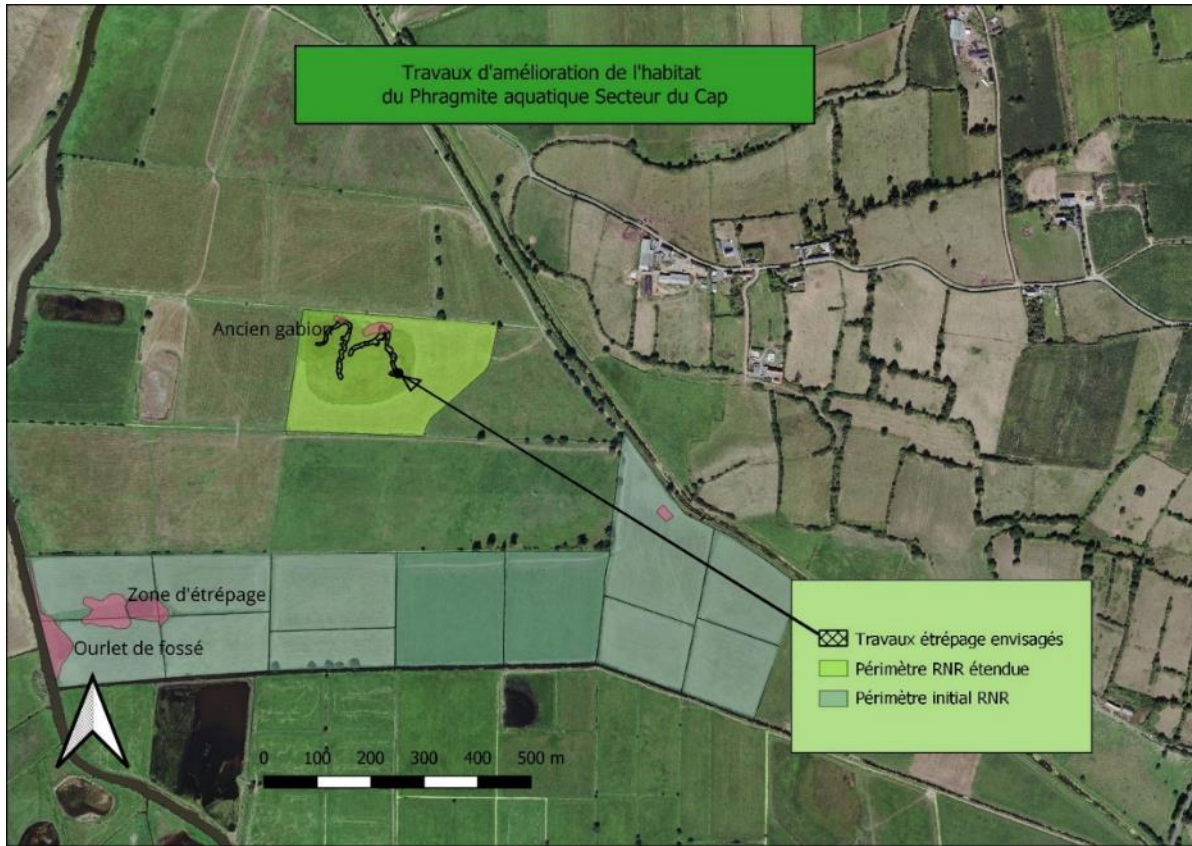
T.3.1.3.3.1 Défends (49°16'10.89"N/1°13'11.54")



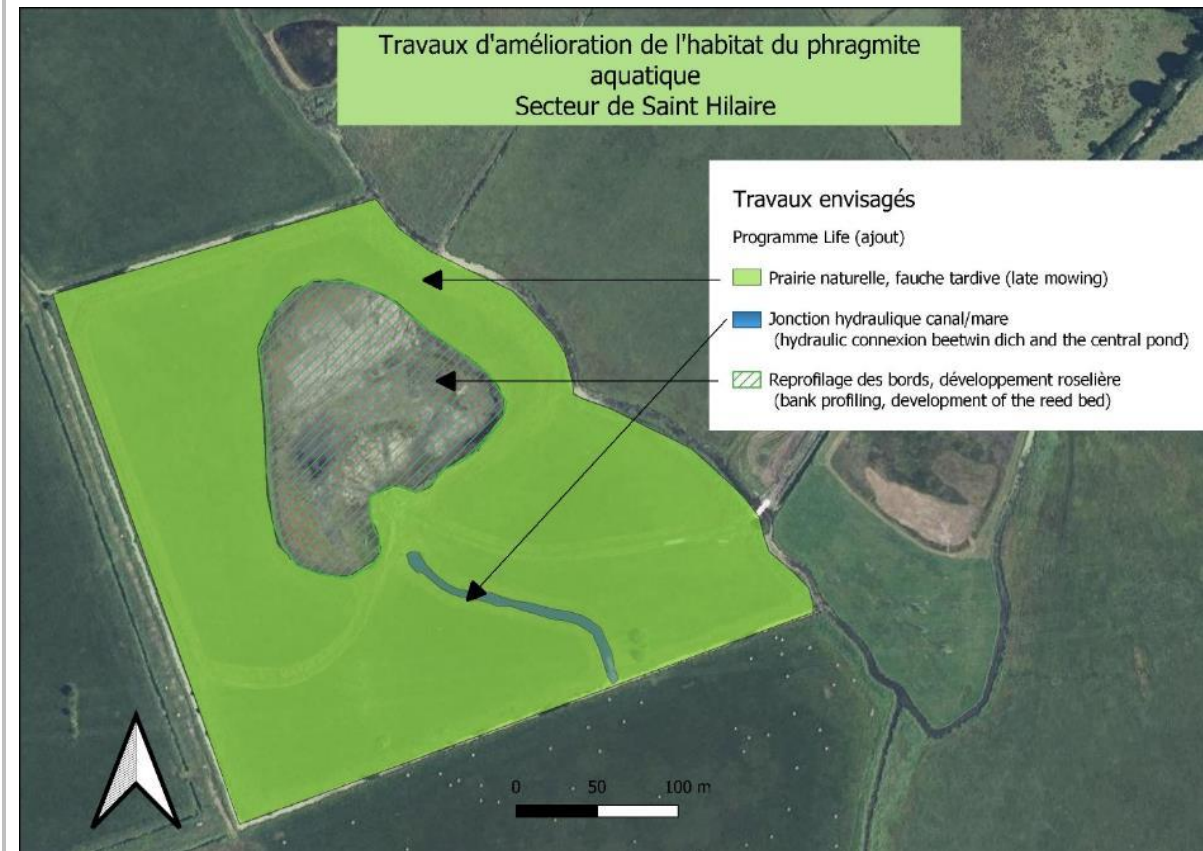
T.3.1.3.3.2 Marais de Saint-Hilaire (49°17'24.98" N / 1°13'27.59")



T.3.1.3.3.2 Marais du Cap (49°14'39.58"N/1°13'27.59")



T.3.1.3.3.3 Marais de Saint Hilaire (49°17'21.83"N / 1°12'49.42"O)



**SPAIN**

**Andalusia**

*Doñana*

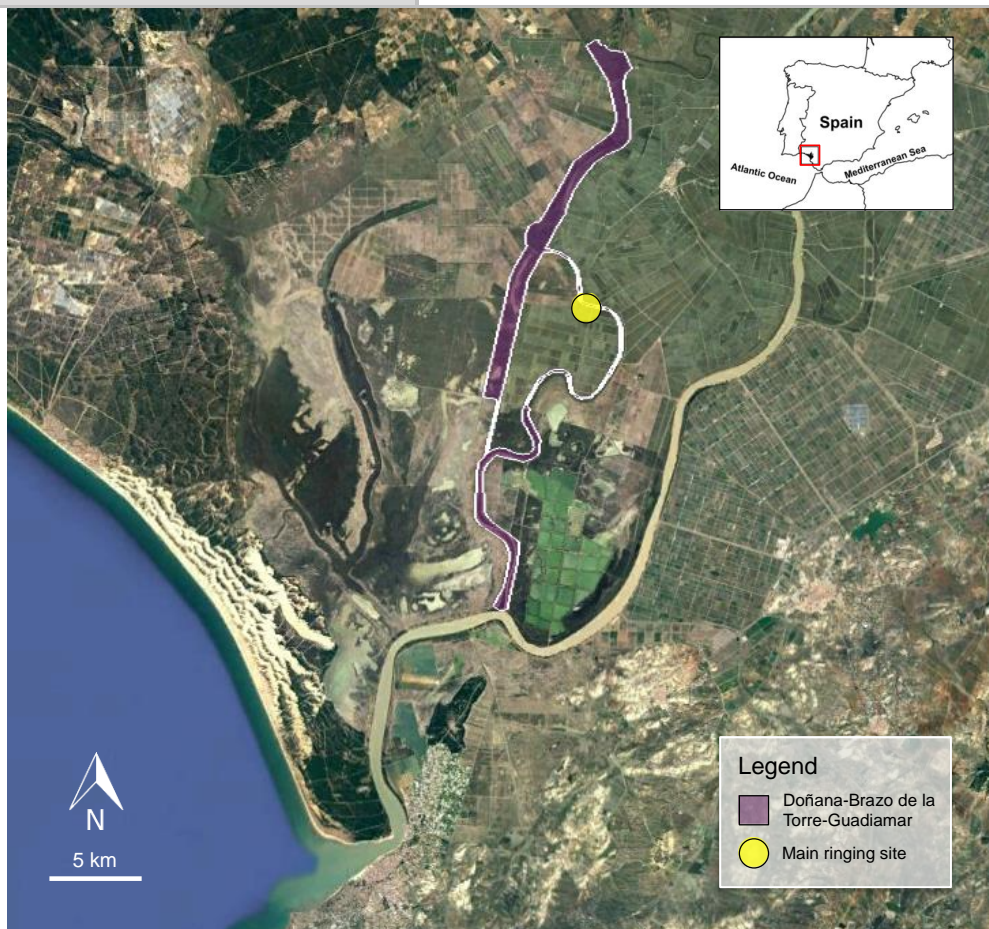
MAP OF THE GENERAL LOCATION	
<p><i>Provide a map of the general location of the project area(s). Locate the project area(s) within the country and, if necessary, within the region(s) concerned. If your project does not target a defined area, indicate, as clearly as possible, where the project is implemented (city, area, region, etc.).</i></p> <p><i>Maps can be provided in an A4 or A3 format.</i></p>	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Andalucía
<b>Map name:</b>	Overview map of Doñana with the boundaries of the SPA ES0000024

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

- the location of the main habitats / species targeted by the project
- the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal
- a legend with all project activities that have been located on the map and an explanation of the habitats (official names and codes).
- the boundaries of Natura 2000 sites, if relevant. If the proposal includes actions targeting species / habitats of the Habitats Directive, indicate also SCI / SAC boundaries; if it includes actions targeting bird species of the Birds Directive, indicate also SPA boundaries.
- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country</b>	Spain, Andalucia
<b>Map name:</b>	Location of subsite “Doñana: Brazo de la Torre-Guadamar” with main ringing location

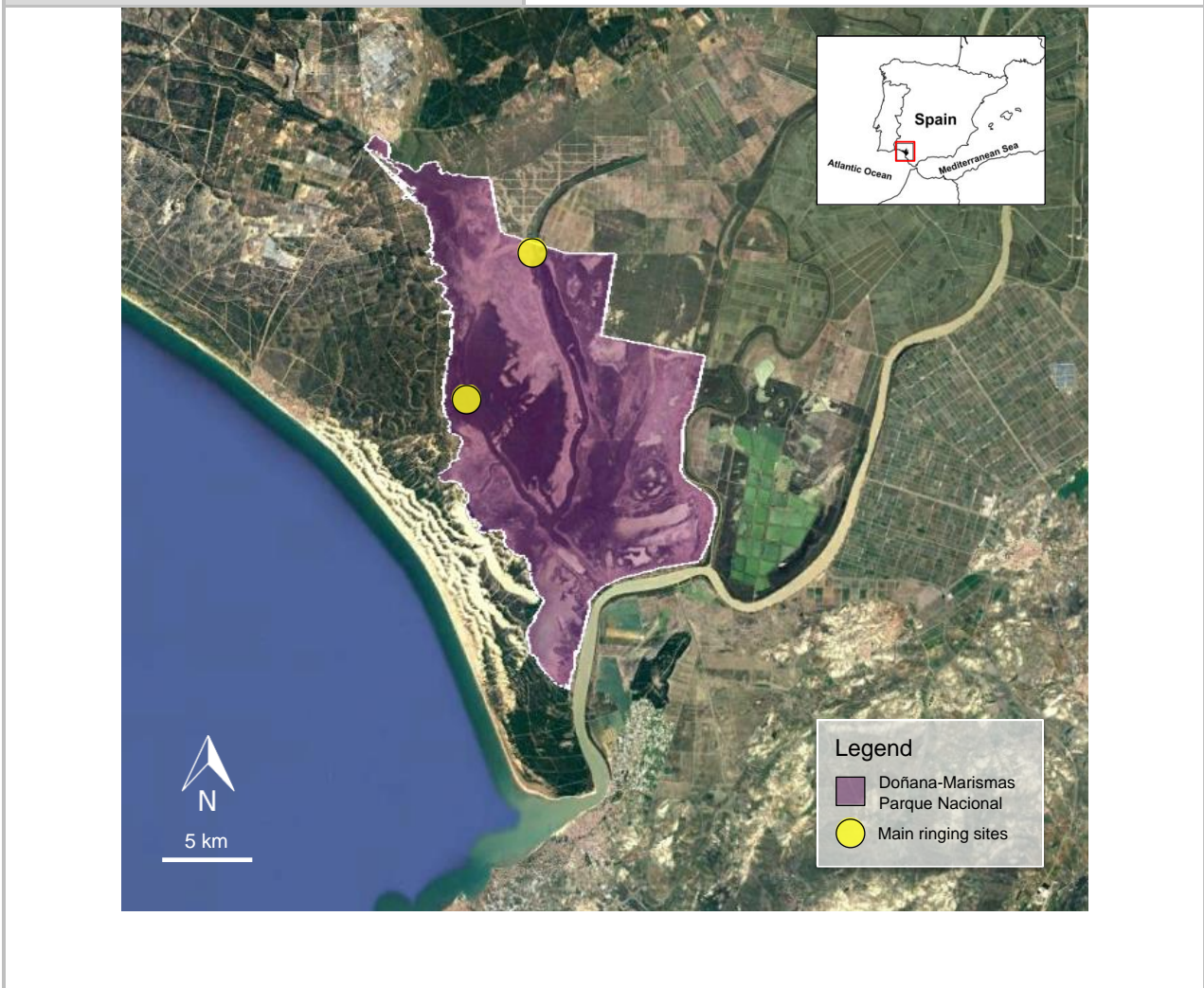


**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

- the location of the main habitats / species targeted by the project
- the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal
- a legend with all project activities that have been located on the map and an explanation of the habitats (official names and codes).
- the boundaries of Natura 2000 sites, if relevant. If the proposal includes actions targeting species / habitats of the Habitats Directive, indicate also SCI / SAC boundaries; if it includes actions targeting bird species of the Birds Directive, indicate also SPA boundaries.
- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

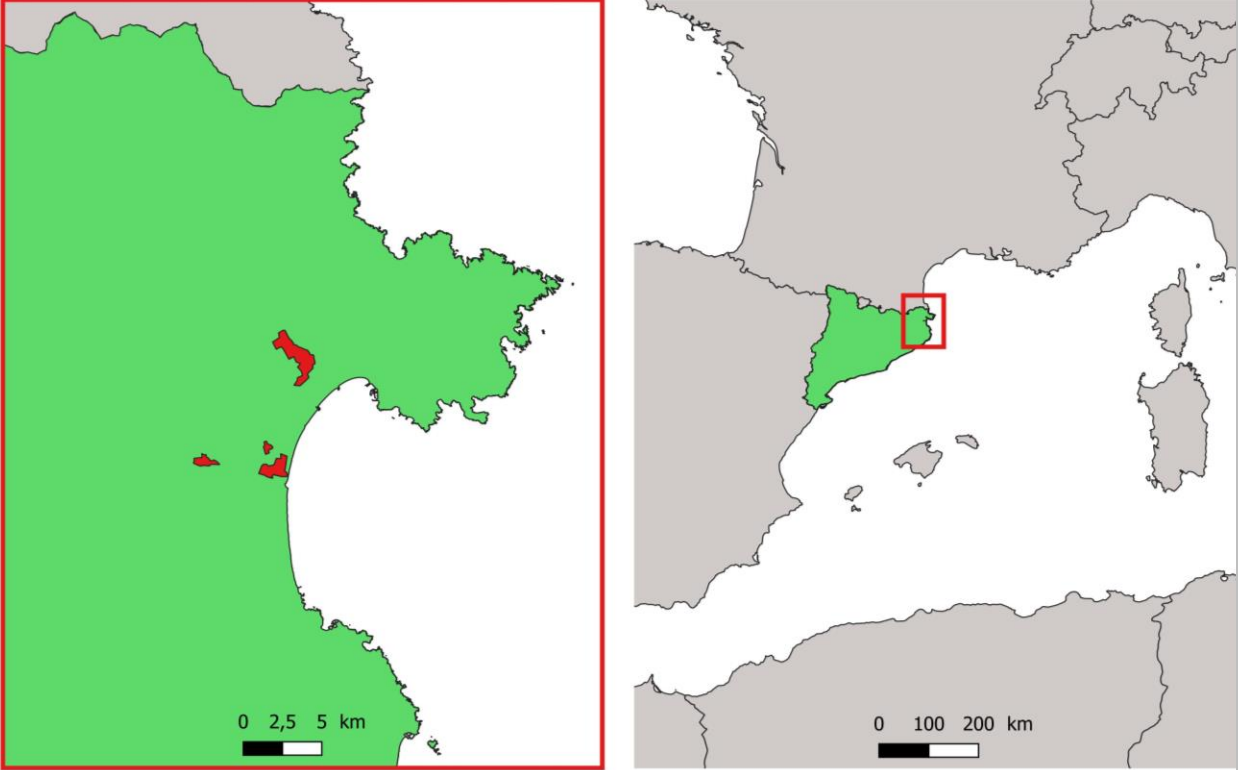
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country</b>	Spain, Andalucia
<b>Map name:</b>	Location of subsite “Doñana: Marismas Parque Nacional” with main ringing sites





**Catalonia**

*Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park*

MAP OF THE GENERAL LOCATION	
<p><i>Provide a map of the general location of the project area(s). Locate the project area(s) within the country and, if necessary, within the region(s) concerned. If your project does not target a defined area, indicate, as clearly as possible, where the project is implemented (city, area, region, etc.).</i></p> <p><i>Maps can be provided in an A4 or A3 format.</i></p>	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Catalonia
<b>Map name:</b>	Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park
 <p>The restoration site is located at the NE part of Catalonia (NE Spain), and it's divided in 4 different subareas (see below). The site belongs to the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park (PNAE).</p>	

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

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- the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal
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- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Catalonia
<b>Map name:</b>	Removal of invasive plant species and planting of native plants in the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park



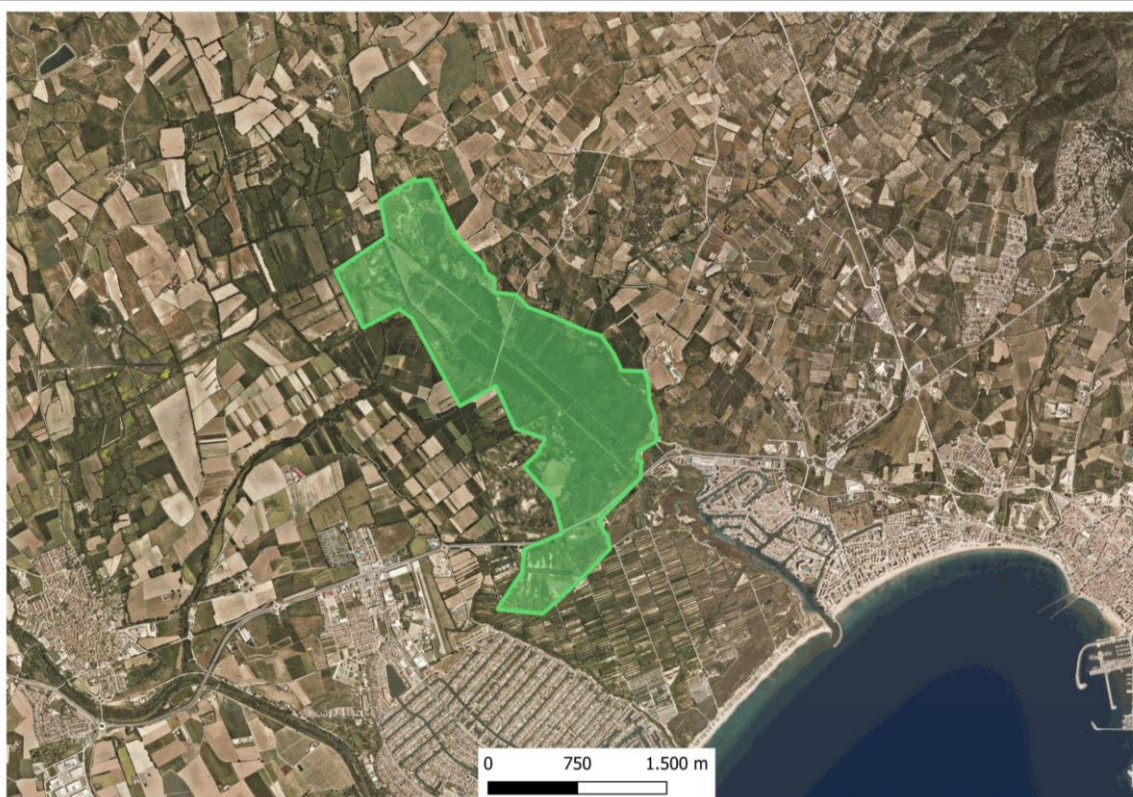
The areas in red (all the ones considered for the restoration actions at PNAE) show those areas where populations of invasive plants (*Arundo donax* and *Paspalum distichum*) have been identified. These areas will be restored by removing the invasive species and planting native ones.

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

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- the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal
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- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move – LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Catalonia
<b>Map name:</b>	GeoFencing implementation in the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park



The area in green shows the subarea in which the GeoFencing system to improve grazing by cattle will be conducted.

**Valencia**

<b>MAP OF THE GENERAL LOCATION</b>	
<i>Provide a map of the general location of the project area(s). Locate the project area(s) within the country and, if necessary, within the region(s) concerned. If your project does not target a defined area, indicate, as clearly as possible, where the project is implemented (city, area, region, etc.).</i>	
<i>Maps can be provided in an A4 or A3 format.</i>	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Comunidad Valenciana
<b>Map name:</b>	Project sites in Valencia

*Aquatic Warblers on the Move – LIFE AWOM*  
**GENERAL LOCATION: Region of Valencia**



Marjal de Peñíscola

MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE

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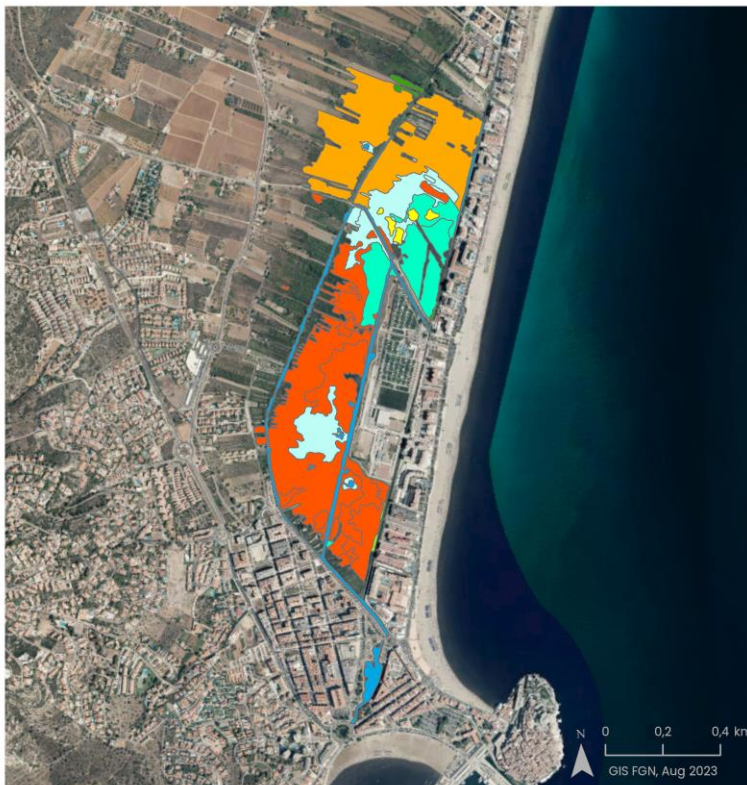
**Project name and acronym:** Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM

**Country(ies)/region(s):** Spain, Comunidad Valenciana

**Map name:** Habitats and activities at Marjal de Peñíscola

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

MARJAL DE PEÑÍSCOLA



INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA; Gobierno de España, Maxar, Microsoft



**HCI: Natural habitat types of community interest <sup>(1)</sup>**

- 1150 \* Coastal lagoons
- 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)
- 1420 Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (S. fruticosi)
- 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation
- 6420 Medit. tall humid herb grasslands of the Molinio-Holoschoenion
- 6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities
- 7210\* Calcareous fens with C. mariscus and species of Caricion davallianae
- 92A0 "Salix alba" and "Populus alba" galleries

<sup>(1)</sup> The available detailed scale mapping of HCIs in the Region of Valencia is represented.

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWoM)

MARJAL DE PEÑÍSCOLA



Gobierno de España, Maxar, Microsoft/INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA



**RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS**

- T.3.1.2.1.1. Alien fauna species removal  
Points to be determined during the project
- T.3.1.2.1.2. Alien flora species removal  
■
- T.3.1.2.2.1. Replanting of native flora  
■
- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration  
■
- T.3.1.2.2.3. Biomass management  
To be implemented in municipal facilities
- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration hydraulic infrastructure  
■
- T.3.1.2.3.2. New waterbodies
- T.3.1.2.5.1. Green infrastructure  
■
- T.3.1.2.5.3. Wetland delimitation

**Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca**

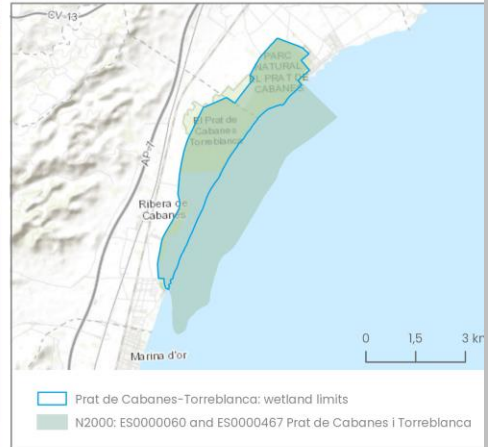
**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

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- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Comunidad Valenciana
<b>Map name:</b>	Habitats and activities at Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)  
**PRAT DE CABANES-TORREBLANCA**

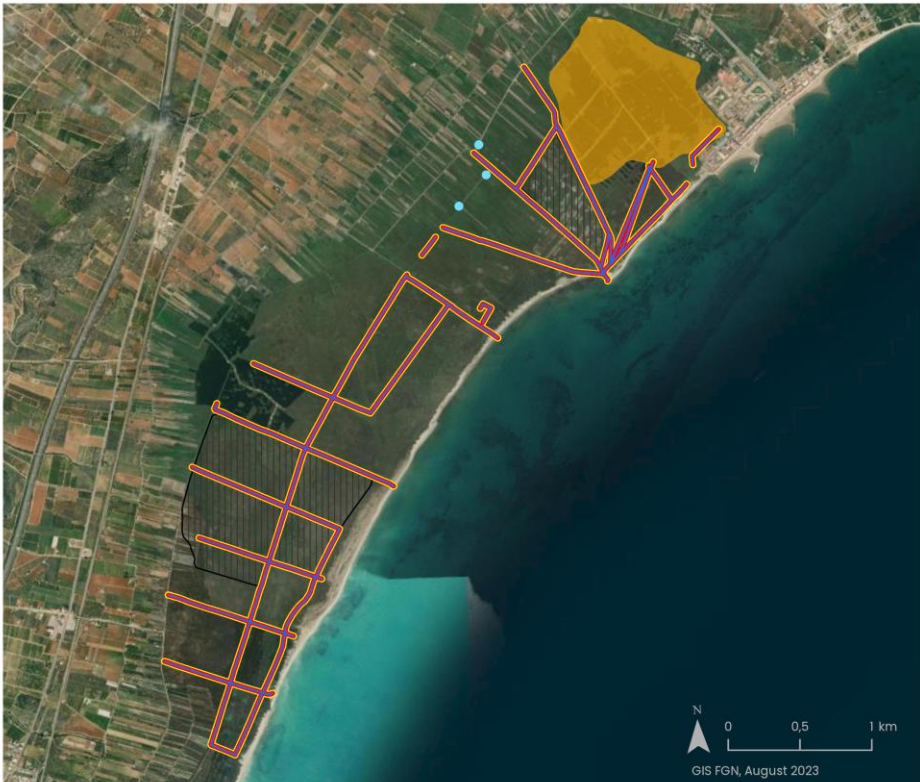


**HCI: Natural habitat types of community interest (1)**

- 1160 \* Coastal lagoons
- 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines
- 1240 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Mediterranean coasts with
- 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)
- 1420 Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (S. fruticosi)
- 2250 \* Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.
- 2260 Clisio-Lavenduletalia dune sclerophyllous scrubs
- 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic veg. of "Chara" spp.
- 6420 Medit. tall humid herb grasslands of the Molinio-Holoschoenion
- 6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities
- 7210\* Calcareous fens with C. mariscus and species of Caricion davallianae

(1) The available detailed scale mapping of HCIs in the Region of Valencia is represented.

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)  
 PRAT DE CABANES-TORREBLANCA



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

- T.3.1.2.1.2. Alien flora species removal
- T.3.1.2.2.1. Replanting of native flora
- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration
- T.3.1.2.2.3. Biomass management  
 To be implemented in municipal facilities
- T.3.1.2.2.4. Livestock as vegetation management tool
- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration hydraulic infrastructure
- T.3.1.2.3.2. New waterbodies



**Desembocadura del Río Mijares**

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

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- the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal
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- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

**Project name and acronym:**

Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM

**Country(ies)/region(s):**

Spain, Comunidad Valenciana

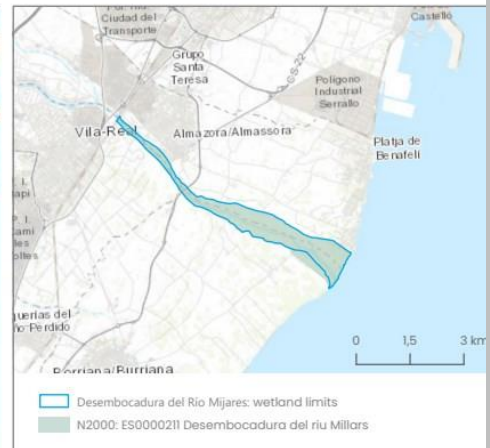
**Map name:**

Habitats and activities at Desembocadura del Río Mijares

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)  
**DESEMBOCADURA DEL RÍO MIJARES**



Mapax, Microsoft, INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA



**HCI: Natural habitat types of community interest <sup>(1)</sup>**

- 1130 Estuaries
- 1150 \* Coastal lagoons
- 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines
- 3170 \* Mediterranean temporary ponds
- 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)
- 6220 \* Pseudo-steppe with grasses/annuals of the Thero-Brachypodietea
- 6420 Medit. tall humid herb grasslands of the Molinio-Holoschoeniet
- 6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities
- 7210\* Calcareous fens with C. mariscus and species of Caricion davallianae
- 92A0 "Salix alba" and "Populus alba" galleries

(1) The available detailed scale mapping of HCIs in the Region of Valencia is represented.

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)  
 DESEMBOCADURA DEL RÍO MIJARES



Maxar, Microsoft, Earthstar Geographics, INE, Instituto Geografico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

- T.3.1.2.1.1. Alien fauna species removal
- T.3.1.2.1.2. Alien flora species removal
- T.3.1.2.2.1. Replanting of native flora
- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration
- T.3.1.2.3.2. New waterbodies
- T.3.1.2.5.3. Wetland delimitation

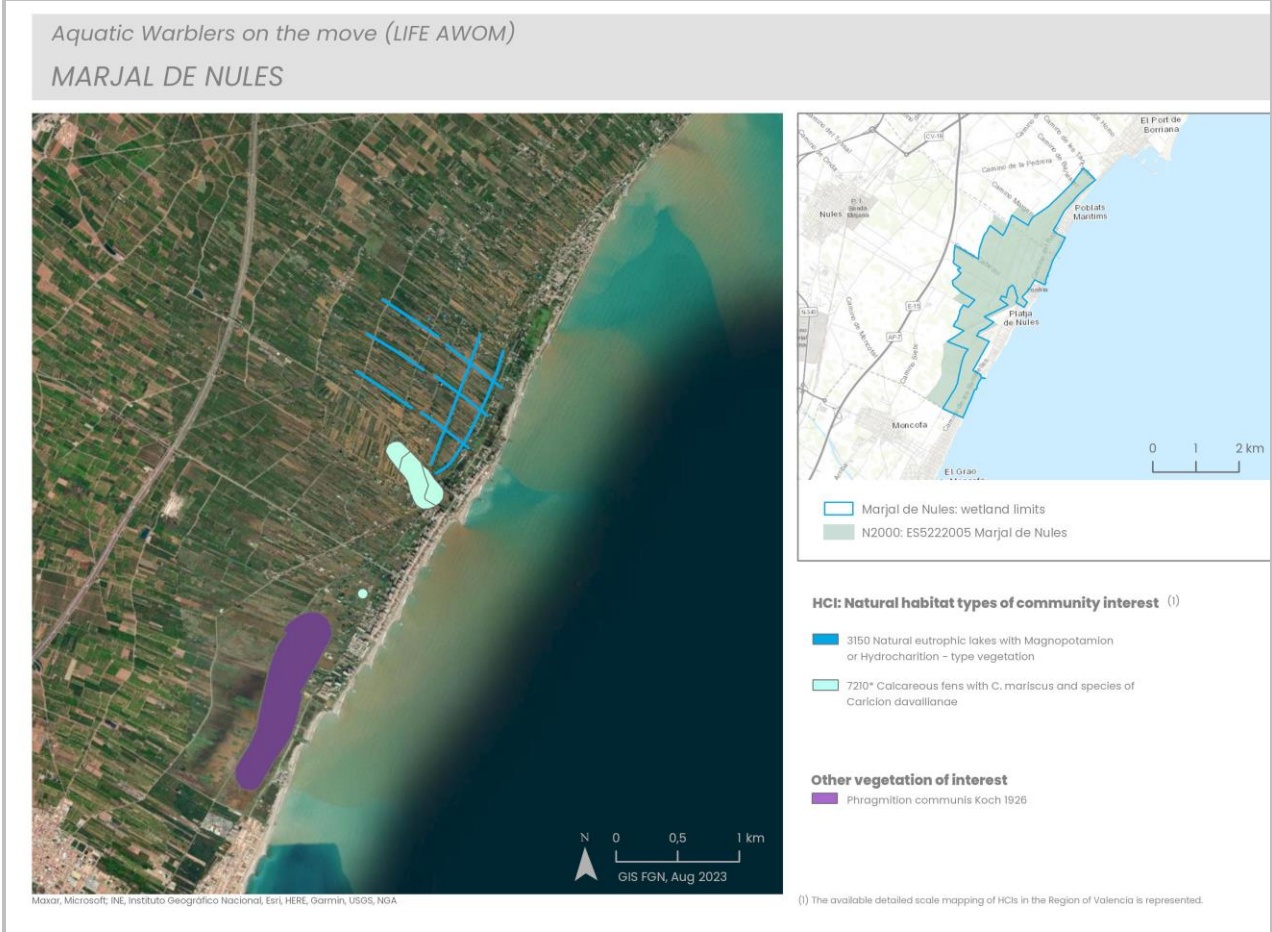
**Marjal de Nules**

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

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<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Comunidad Valenciana
<b>Map name:</b>	Habitats and activities at Marjal de Nules



Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)







MARJAL DE NULES



Maxar, Microsoft, Earthstar Geographics, INE, Instituto Geografico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

- T.3.1.2.1.1. Alien fauna species removal  

- T.3.1.2.1.2. Alien flora species removal  

- T.3.1.2.2.1. Replanting of native flora  

- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration  

- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration hydraulic infrastructure  

- T.3.1.2.3.2. New waterbodies  


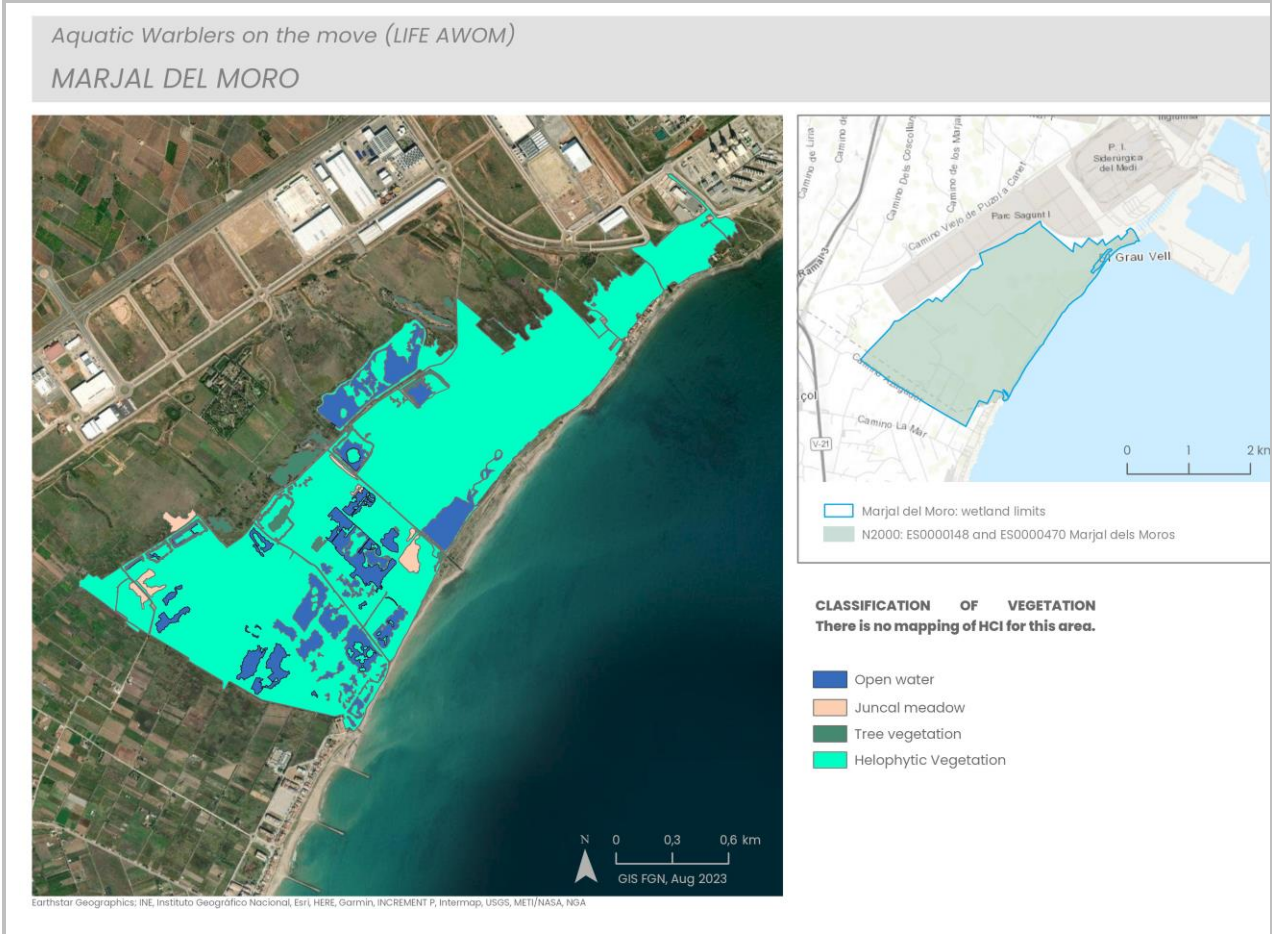
**Marjal del Moro**

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

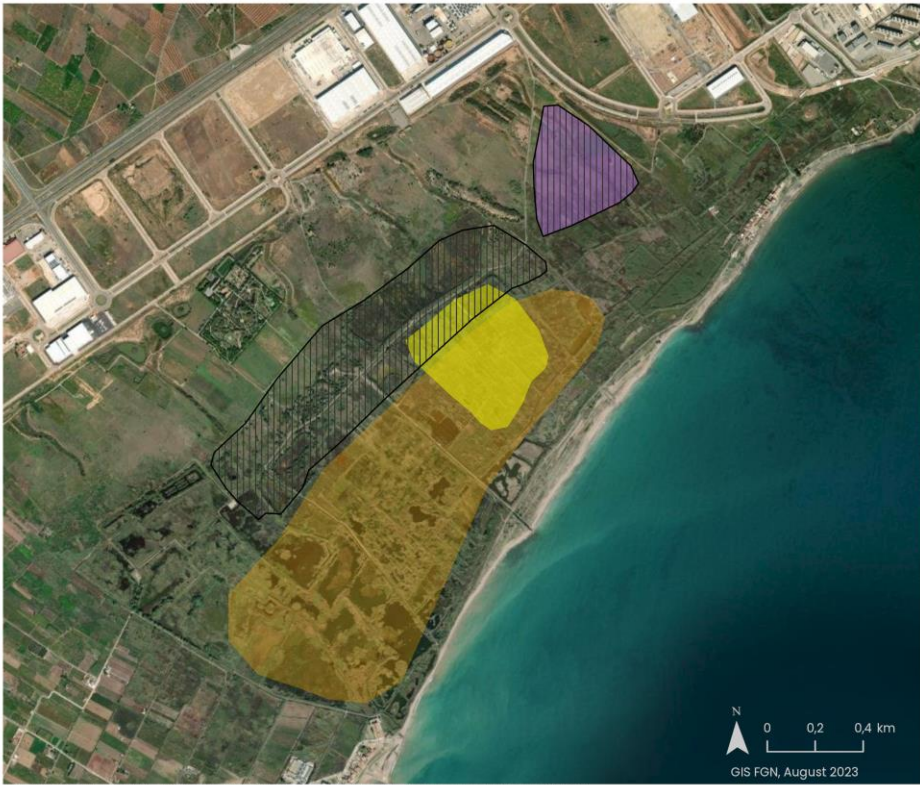
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- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Comunidad Valenciana
<b>Map name:</b>	Habitats and activities at Marjal del Moro



Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

MARJAL DEL MORO



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration



T.3.1.2.2.3. Biomass management



T.3.1.2.2.4. Livestock as vegetation management tool



T.3.1.2.4.1. Topsoil removal



Maxar, Microsoft, Earthstar Geographics, INE, Instituto Geografico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA

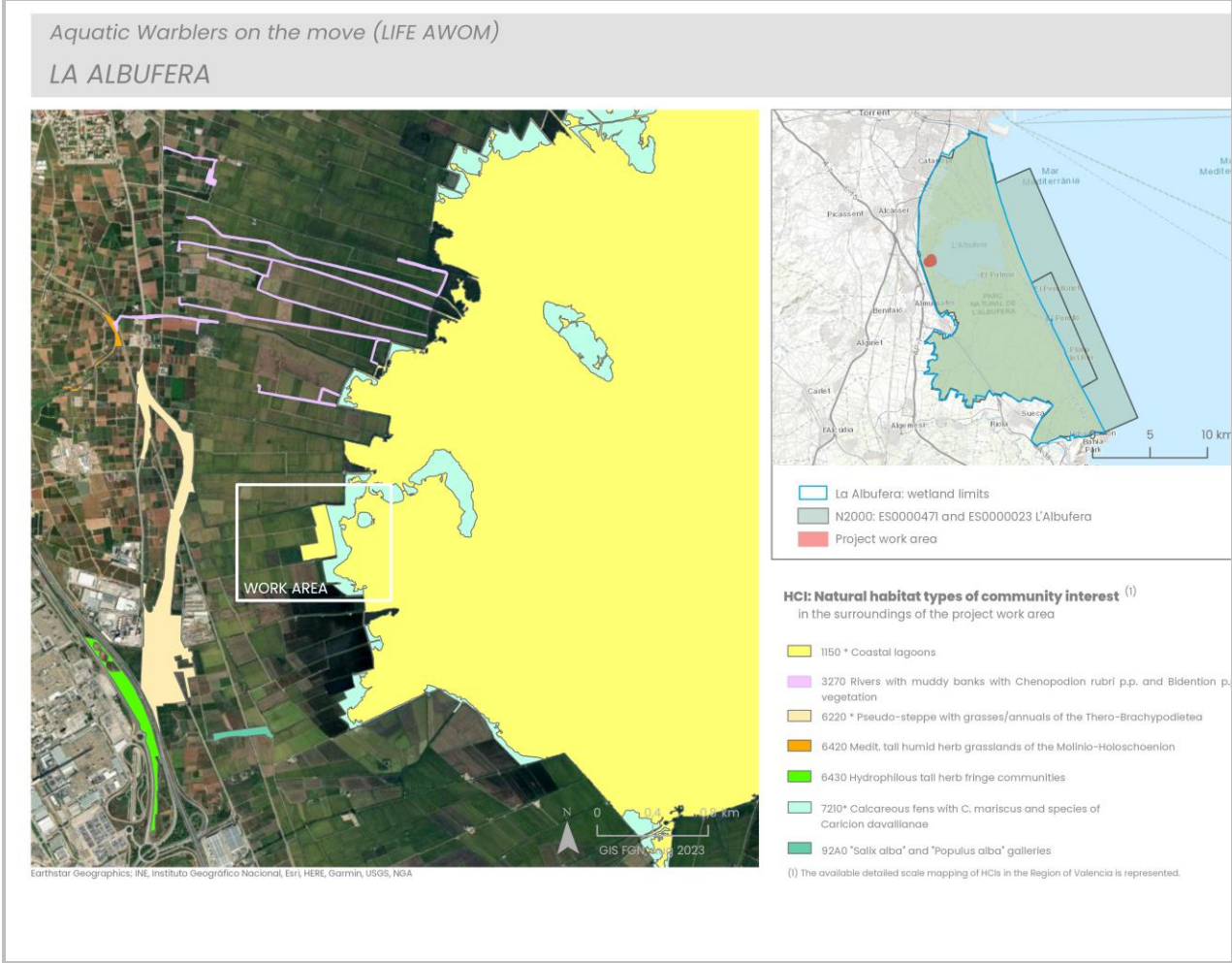
La Albufera

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

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<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Comunidad Valenciana
<b>Map name:</b>	Habitats and activities at La Albufera



Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

ALBUFERA



Maxar, Microsoft, Earthstar Geographics, INE, Instituto Geografico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneratio





**Marjal de Pego-Oliva**

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

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**Project name and acronym:**

Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM

**Country(ies)/region(s):**

Spain, Comunidad Valenciana

**Map name:**

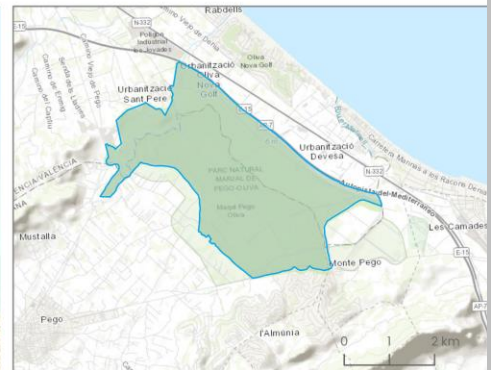
Habitats and activities at Marjal de Pego-Oliva

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

**MARJAL DE PEGO-OLIVA**



Earthstar Geographics; INE, Instituto Geografico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA



■ Marjal de Pego-Oliva: wetland limits  
■ N2000: ES0000147 and ES0000487 Marjal de Pego-Oliva

**CLASSIFICATION OF VEGETATION**  
 There is no mapping of HCI for this area.

- Open water
- Pastureland
- Tree vegetation
- Helophytic Vegetation

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

MARJAL DE PEGO-OLIVA



Maxar, Microsoft, Earthstar Geographics, INE, Instituto Geografico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

T.3.1.2.2.1. Replanting of native flora



T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration



T.3.1.2.2.4. Livestock as vegetation management tool



T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration hydraulic infrastructure



## Castilla–La Mancha

### MAP OF THE GENERAL LOCATION

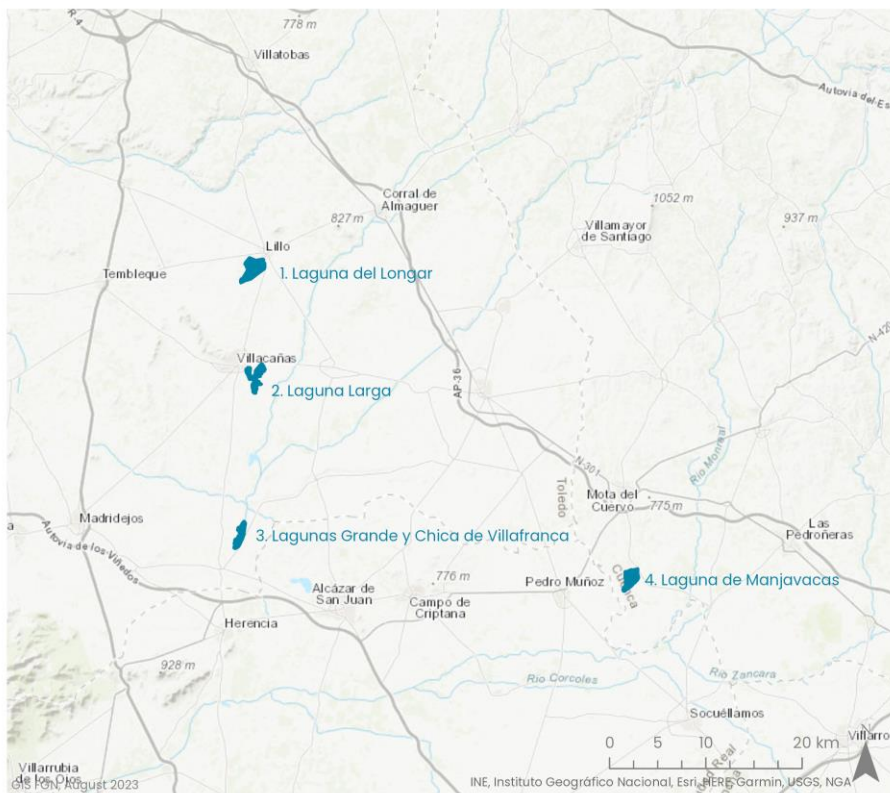
Provide a map of the general location of the project area(s). Locate the project area(s) within the country and, if necessary, within the region(s) concerned. If your project does not target a defined area, indicate, as clearly as possible, where the project is implemented (city, area, region, etc.).

Maps can be provided in an A4 or A3 format.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Castilla-La Mancha
<b>Map name:</b>	Project sites in Castilla–La Mancha

Aquatic Warblers on Move – LIFE AWOM

### GENERAL LOCATION: Region of Castilla-La Mancha



Project area in the Region of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain.



Project wetlands in the province of Toledo and Cuenca, Region of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain.

Laguna de El Longar

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):

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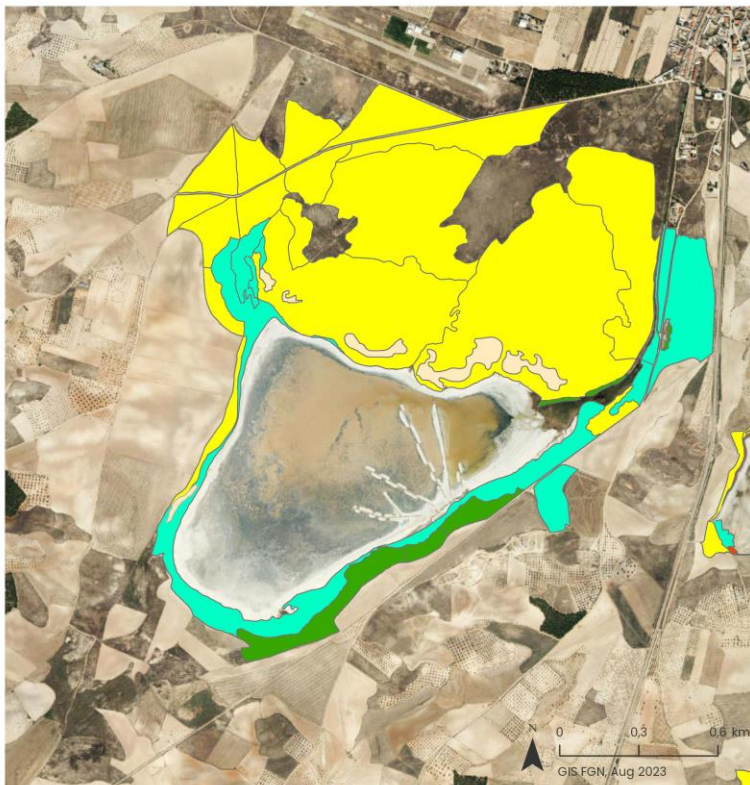
**Project name and acronym:** Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM

**Country(ies)/region(s):** Spain, Castilla-La Mancha

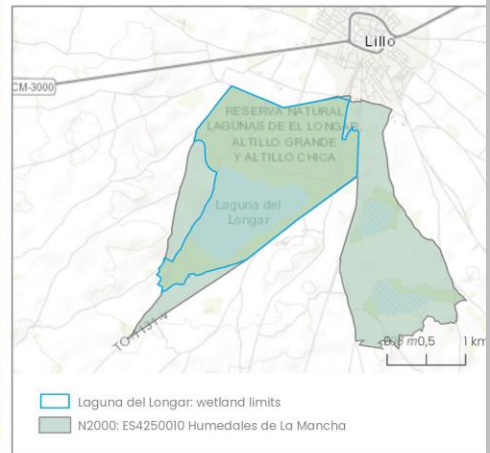
**Map name:** Laguna de El Longar 2 and Laguna de El Longar 3

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

**LAGUNA DEL LONGAR**



INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, Gobierno de España, Maxar, Microsoft



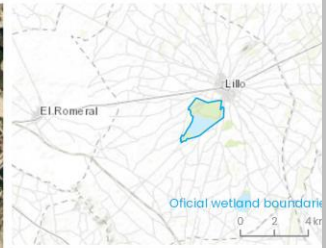
**HCI: Natural habitat types of community interest <sup>(1)</sup>**

- 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- 1420 Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*S. fruticosus*) with 1510\*
- 1510\* Mediterranean salt steppes (*Limonietalia*)
- 92D0 Southern riparian galleries and thickets (*Nerio-Tamaricetea* and *Securinegion tinctoriae*)

(1) The available detailed scale mapping of HCIs in the Region of Castilla-La Mancha is represented.

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

LAGUNA DE EL LONGAR



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

T.3.1.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration



T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration hydraulic infrastructure



**Laguna Larga de Villafranca**

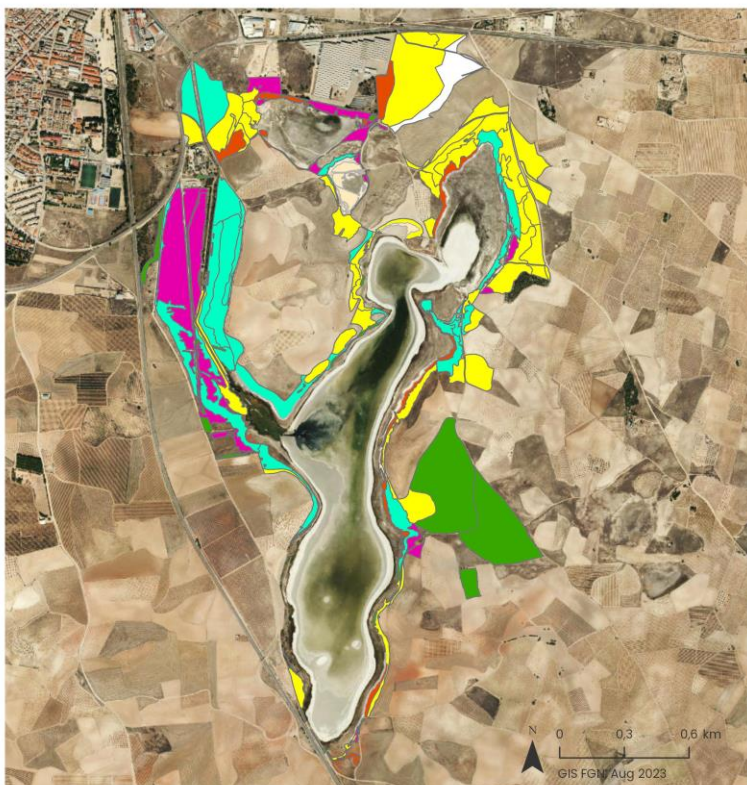
**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

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- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

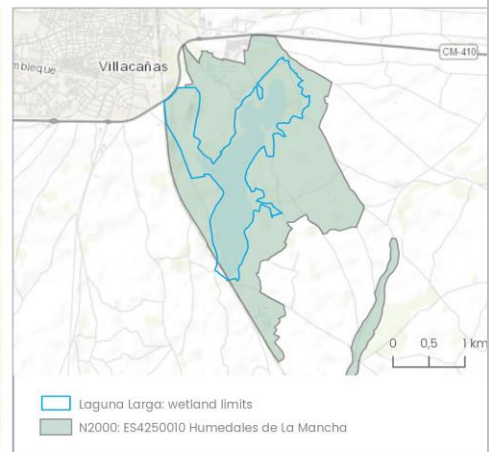
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Castilla-La Mancha
<b>Map name:</b>	Habitats and activities at Laguna Larga da Villafranca

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

**LAGUNA LARGA**



Gobierno de España, Maxar, Microsoft; INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA



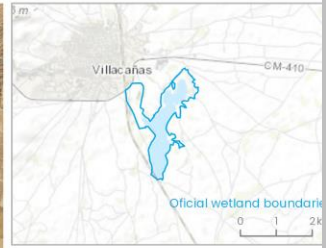
**HCI: Natural habitat types of community interest<sup>(1)</sup>**

- 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- 1420 Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*S. fruticosi*)
- 1420 Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*S. fruticosi*) with IS10\*
- 1510\* Mediterranean salt steppes (*Limonietalia*)
- 1430 Halo-nitrophilous scrubs (*Pegano-Salsotetea*)
- 92D0 Southern riparian galleries and thickets (*Nerio-Tamaricetea* and *Securinegion tinctoriae*)

<sup>(1)</sup> The available detailed scale mapping of HCIs in the Region of Castilla-La Mancha is represented.

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

LAGUNA LARGA



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration



T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration hydraulic infrastructure



T.3.1.2.4.1. Topsoil removal



T.3.1.2.4.2. Debris removal



Earthstar Geographics; Gobierno de España, Maxar, Microsoft; INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA

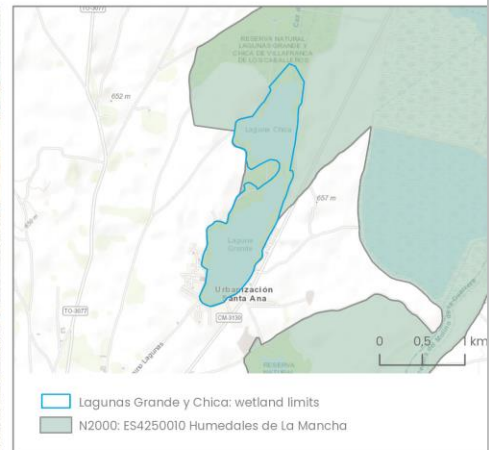
**Lagunas Grande y Chica de Villafranca de los Caballeros**

<b>MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):</li> <li>– the location of the main habitats / species targeted by the project</li> <li>– the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal</li> <li>– a legend with all project activities that have been located on the map and an explanation of the habitats (official names and codes).</li> <li>– the boundaries of Natura 2000 sites, if relevant. If the proposal includes actions targeting species / habitats of the Habitats Directive, indicate also SCI / SAC boundaries; if it includes actions targeting bird species of the Birds Directive, indicate also SPA boundaries.</li> <li>– the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.</li> </ul>	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Castilla-La Mancha
<b>Map name:</b>	Habitats and activities at Lagunas Grande y Chica de Villafranca de los Caballeros

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)  
**LAGUNAS GRANDE Y CHICA**



INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, Gobierno de España, Maxar, Microsoft



**HCI: Natural habitat types of community interest<sup>(1)</sup>**

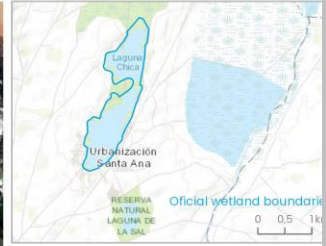
- 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- 1420 Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*S. fruticosi*)
- 1420 Mediterranean thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*S. fruticosi*) with 1510\*
- 1430 Halo-nitrophilous scrubs (*Pegano-Salsotetea*)
- 1510\* Mediterranean salt steppes (*Limonietalia*)
- 6420 Medit. tall humid herb grasslands of the *Molinio-Holoschoenion*
- 9200 Southern riparian galleries and thickets (*Nerio-Tamaricetea* and *Securinegion tinctoriae*)

<sup>(1)</sup> The available detailed scale mapping of HCIs in the Region of Castilla-La Mancha is represented.



Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

LAGUNAS GRANDE Y CHICA



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

T.3.1.2.1.2. Alien flora species removal



T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration



T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration hydraulic infrastructure



Earthstar Geographics; Gobierno de España, Earthstar Geographics; INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, GIS FGN, August 2023

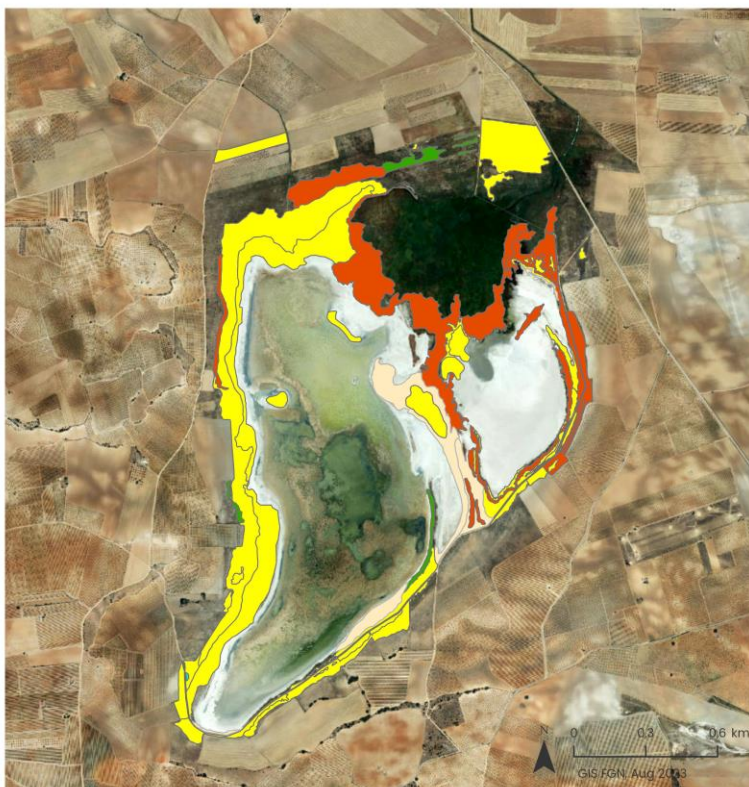
**Laguna de Manjavacas**

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

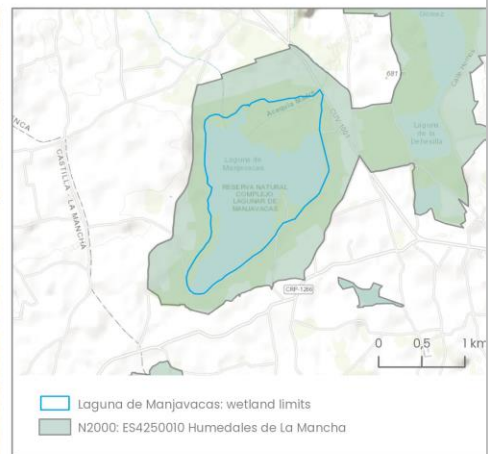
- For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):
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- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Castilla-La Mancha
<b>Map name:</b>	Habitats and activities at Laguna de Manjavacas

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)  
LAGUNA DE MANJAVACAS



INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, Gobierno de España, Maxar, Microsoft



Laguna de Manjavacas: wetland limits  
 N2000: ES4250010 Humedales de La Mancha

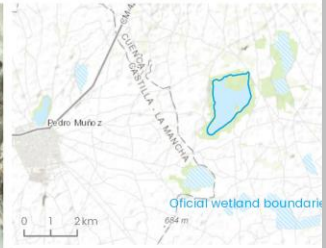
**HCI: Natural habitat types of community interest <sup>(1)</sup>**

- 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- 1510\* Mediterranean salt steppes (*Limonietalia*)
- 92D0 Southern riparian galleries and thickets (*Nerio-Tamaricetea* and *Securionegion tinctoriae*)

<sup>(1)</sup> The available detailed scale mapping of HCIs in the Region of Castilla-La Mancha is represented.

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

LAGUNA DE MANJAVACAS



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration



## Castilla y León

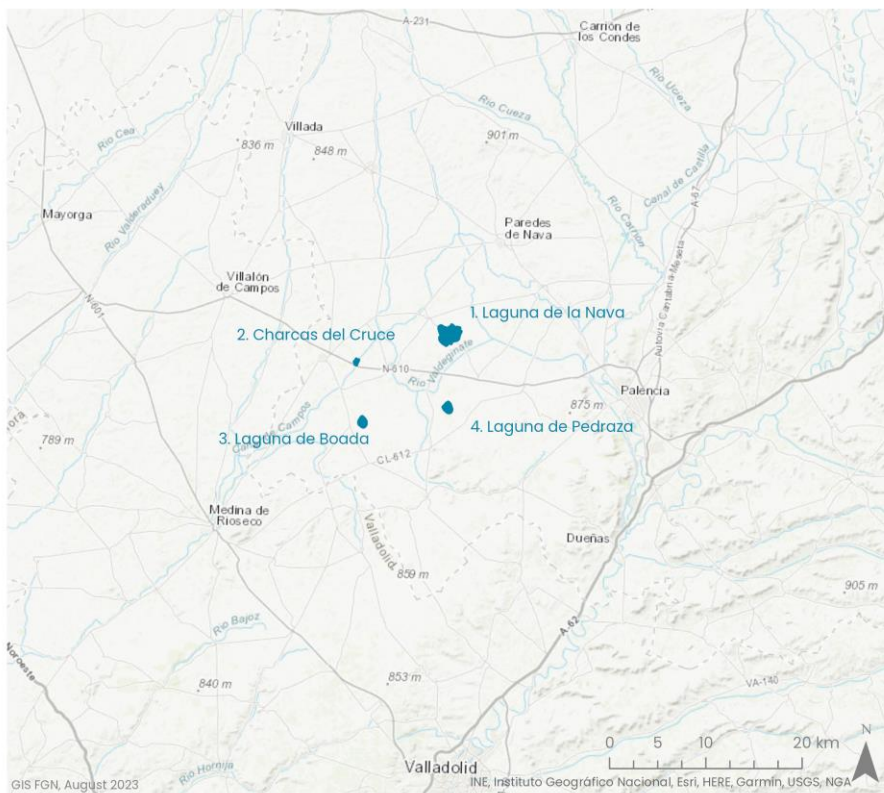
### MAP OF THE GENERAL LOCATION

- Provide a map of the general location of the project area(s). Locate the project area(s) within the country and, if necessary, within the region(s) concerned. If your project does not target a defined area, indicate, as clearly as possible, where the project is implemented (city, area, region, etc.).
- Maps can be provided in an A4 or A3 format.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Castilla y León
<b>Map name:</b>	Project sites in Castilla y León

Aquatic Warblers on Move – LIFE AWOM

### GENERAL LOCATION: Region of Castilla y León



Project area in the Region of Castilla y León, Spain.



Project wetlands in the province of Palencia, Region of Castilla y León, Spain.

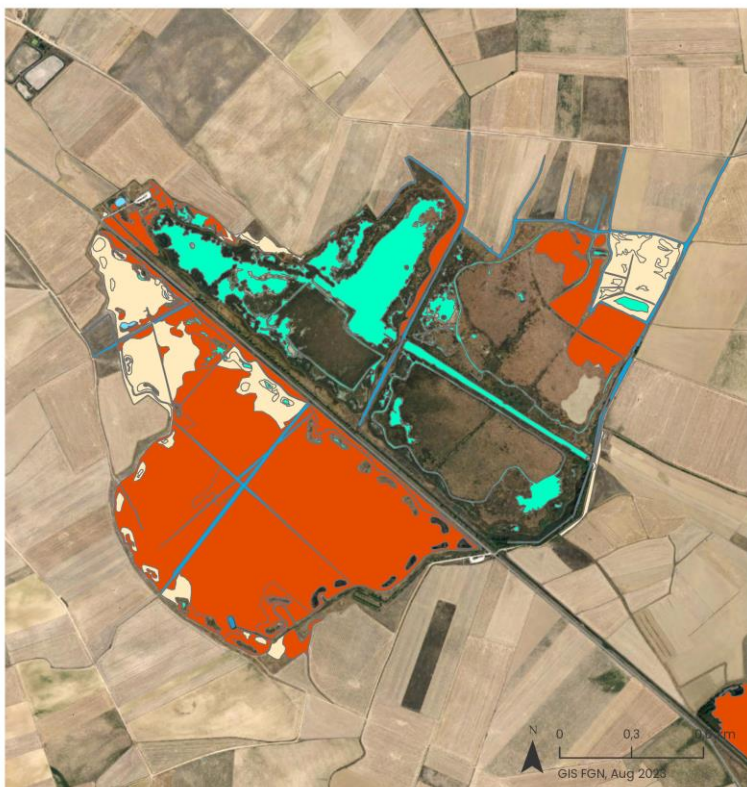
Laguna de La Nava

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

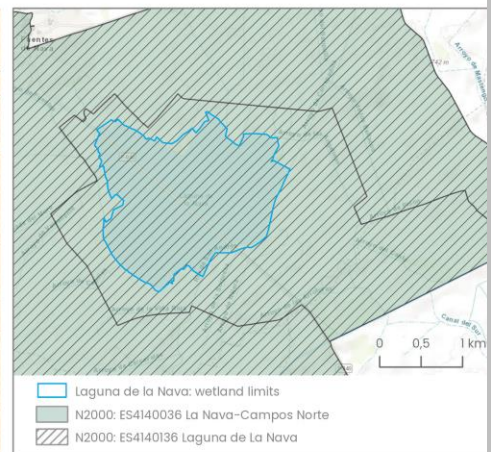
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<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Castilla y León
<b>Map name:</b>	Habitats and activities at Laguna de La Nava

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)  
LAGUNA DE LA NAVA



INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, Gob. España, C. y León, Maxar, Microsoft



Laguna de la Nava: wetland limits  
 N2000: ES4140036 La Nava-Campos Norte  
 N2000: ES4140136 Laguna de La Nava

**HCI: Natural habitat types of community interest<sup>(1)</sup>**

- 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic veg. of "Chara" spp.
- 3170 \* Mediterranean temporary ponds
- 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation

(1) The available detailed scale mapping of HCIs in the Region of Castilla y León is represented.

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

LAGUNA DE LA NAVA



Earthstar Geographics; Gob. España, C. y León; Maxar; Microsoft; INE; Instituto Geográfico Nacional; Esri; HERE; Garmin; INCREMENT P; Intermap; USGS; METI/NASA; NGA



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

T.3.1.2.2.4. Livestock as vegetation management tool



**Charcas del Cruce**

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

- For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):
- the location of the main habitats / species targeted by the project
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- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Castilla y León
<b>Map name:</b>	Habitats and activities at Charcas del Cruce

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)  
**CHARCAS DEL CRUCE**



Gob. España, C. y León, Maxar, Microsoft, INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA



**HCI: Natural habitat types of community interest<sup>(1)</sup>**

6420 Medit. tall humid herb grasslands of the Molinio-Holoschoenion

<sup>(1)</sup> The available detailed scale mapping of HCIs in the Region of Castilla y León is represented.

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

CHARCAS DEL CRUCE



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration hydraulic infrastructure



T.3.1.2.5.1. Construction of green infrastructure



T.3.1.2.5.2. Construction of vegetation barrier



Gob. España, C. y León, Earthstar Geographics; Gob. España, C. y León, Maxar, Microsoft, INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA



**Laguna Boada and Laguna de Pedraza**

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

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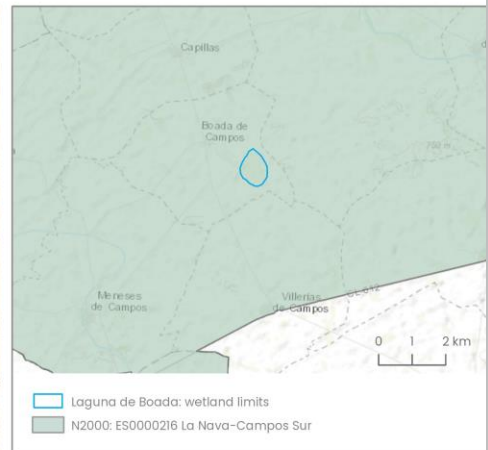
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Castilla y León
<b>Map name:</b>	Habitats and activities at Laguna de Boada including location of a water intake

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

**LAGUNA DE BOADA**



Gob. España, C. y León, Maxar, Microsoft; INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA



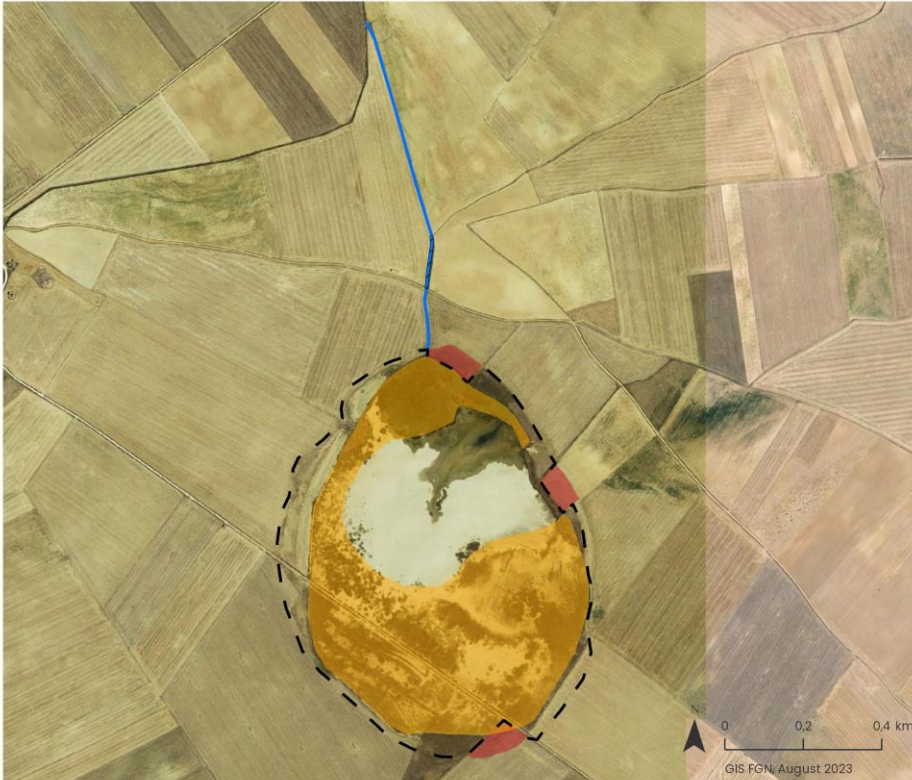
**HCI: Natural habitat types of community interest<sup>(1)</sup>**

- 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- 3170 \* Mediterranean temporary ponds

<sup>(1)</sup> The available detailed scale mapping of HCIs in the Region of Castilla y León is represented.

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

LAGUNA DE BOADA - Main area



Earthstar Geographics; Gob. España, C. y León; Maxar; Microsoft; INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional; Esri; HERE; Garmin; USGS; NGA



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration and
- T.3.1.2.4.1. Topsoil removal
- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration hydraulic infrastructure
- T.3.1.2.4.2. Debris removal
- T.3.1.2.5.3. Wetland delimitation
- T.3.1.2.6.1. Land Purchase

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

LAGUNA DE BOADA - Canal water intake



INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional; Esri; HERE; Garmin; INCREMENT P; Intermap; USGS; METI/NASA; Earthstar Geographics; Gob. España, C. y León; Maxar; Microsoft



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

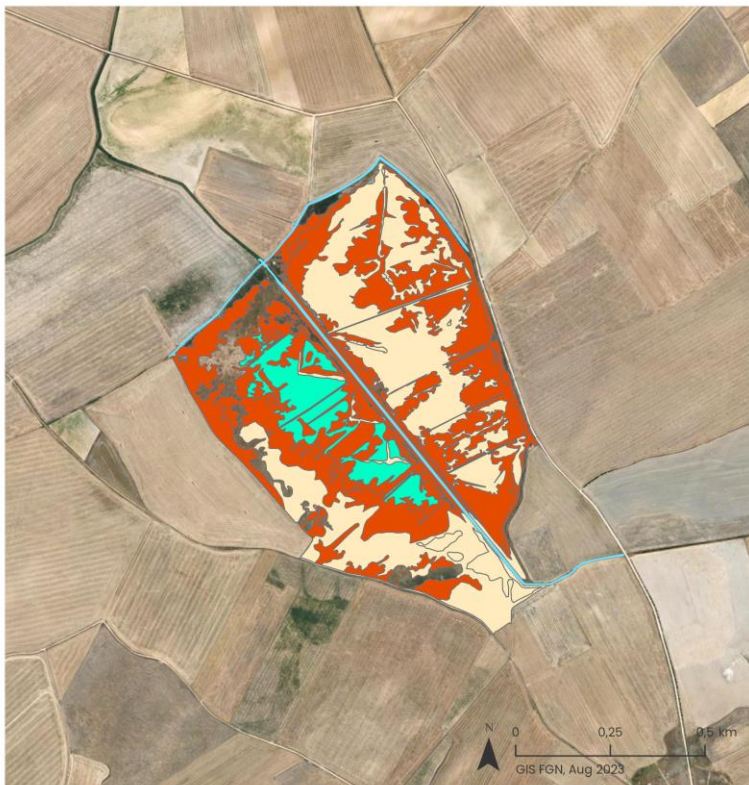
- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration hydraulic infrastructure
- Intake repair
- Pipe from the water intake

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

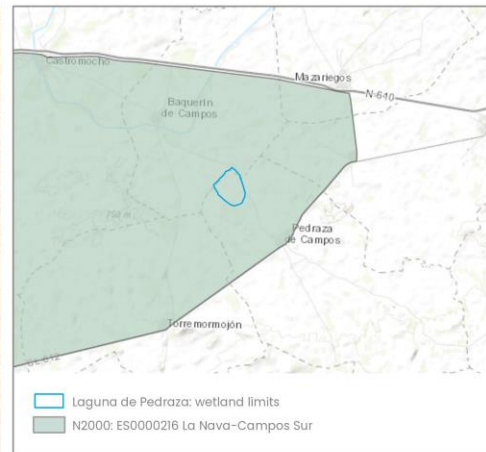
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<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Country(ies)/region(s):</b>	Spain, Castilla y León
<b>Map name:</b>	Habitats and activities at the Laguna de Pedraza

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)  
LAGUNA DE PEDRAZA



Gob. España, C. y León, Maxar, Microsoft, INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA



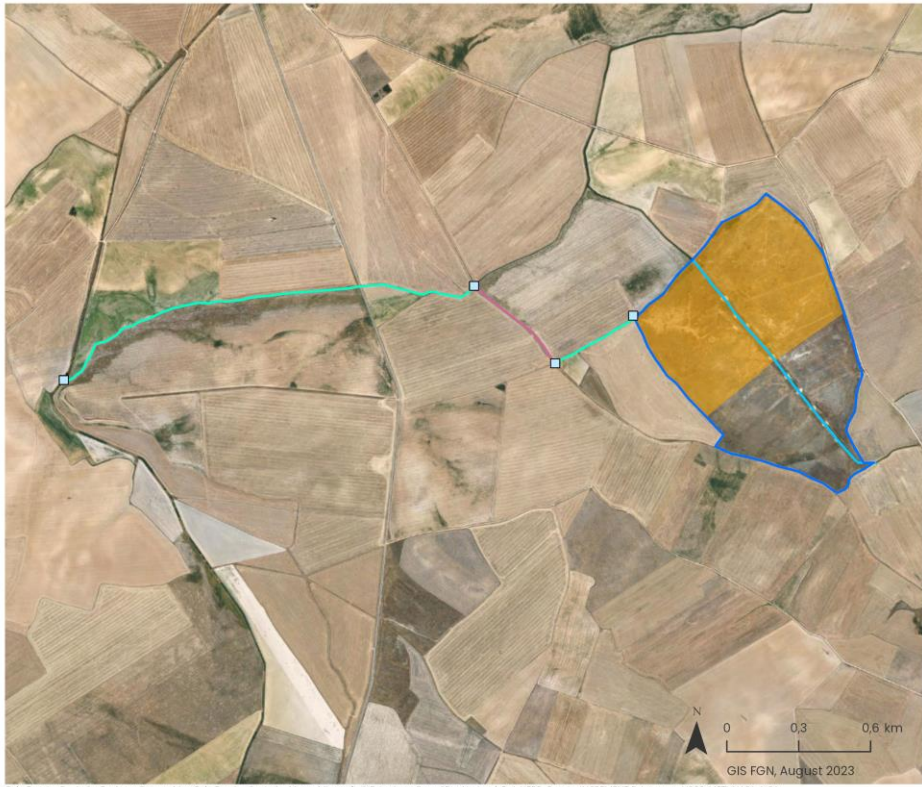
**HCI: Natural habitat types of community interest<sup>(1)</sup>**

- 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic veg. of "Chara" spp.
- 3170 \* Mediterranean temporary ponds

<sup>(1)</sup> The available detailed scale mapping of HCIs in the Region of Castilla y León is represented.

Aquatic Warblers on the move (LIFE AWOM)

LAGUNA DE PEDRAZA



RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TASKS

- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration and
  - T.3.1.2.4.1. Topsoil removal
  - T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration hydraulic infrastructure
- Central channel
  - Gates and weirs
  - Perilagoon dikes
  - Stream
  - Tubed section

Gob. España, C. y León, Earthstar Geographics; Gob. España, C. y León, Maxar, Microsoft; INE, Instituto Geográfico Nacional, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA

## PORTUGAL

### Lagoa de Santo André

#### MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE

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- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

**Project name and acronym:**

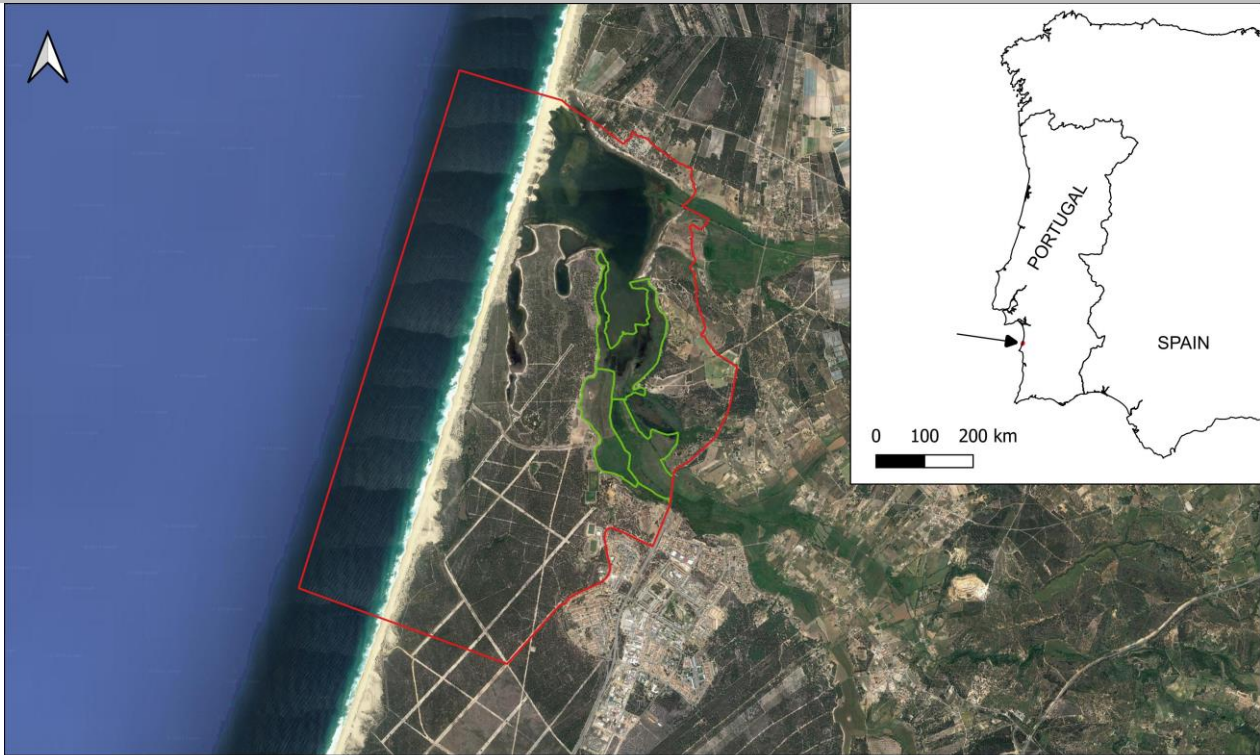
Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM

**Country(ies)/region(s):**

Portugal, Santiago do Cacém

**Map name:**

Lagoa de Santo André



0 1 2 km

PTZPE0013

- Lagoa de Santo André SPA
- Project area - Lagoa de Santo André

*Lagoa Pequena*

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

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**Project name and acronym:**

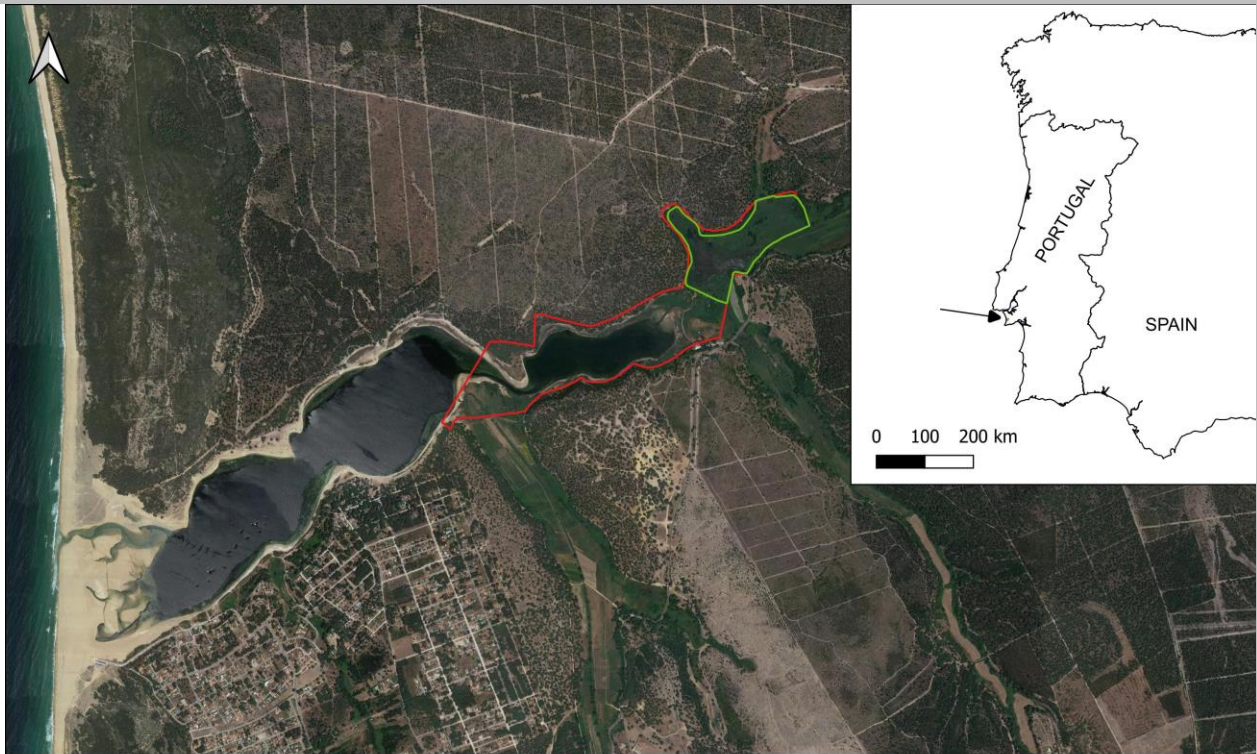
Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM

**Country(ies)/region(s):**

Portugal, Sesimbra

**Map name:**

Lagoa Pequena



0 0,5 1 km

Lagoa Pequena SPA  
 Project area - Lagoa Pequena

PTZPE0049

Ria de Aveiro

**MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE**

- For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):
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- the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.

**Project name and acronym:**

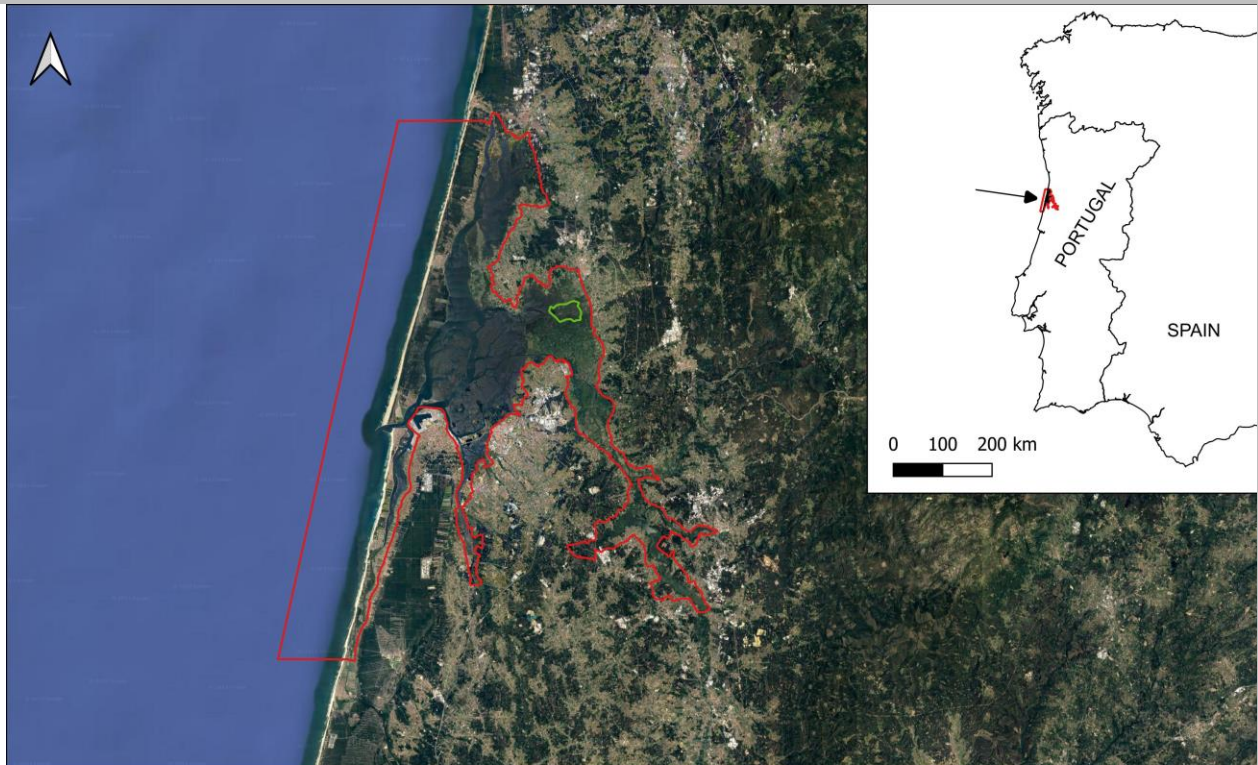
Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM

**Country(ies)/region(s):**

Portugal, Aveiro

**Map name:**

Ria de Aveiro



0 5 10 km

Ria de Aveiro SPA  
 Project area - Ria de Aveiro

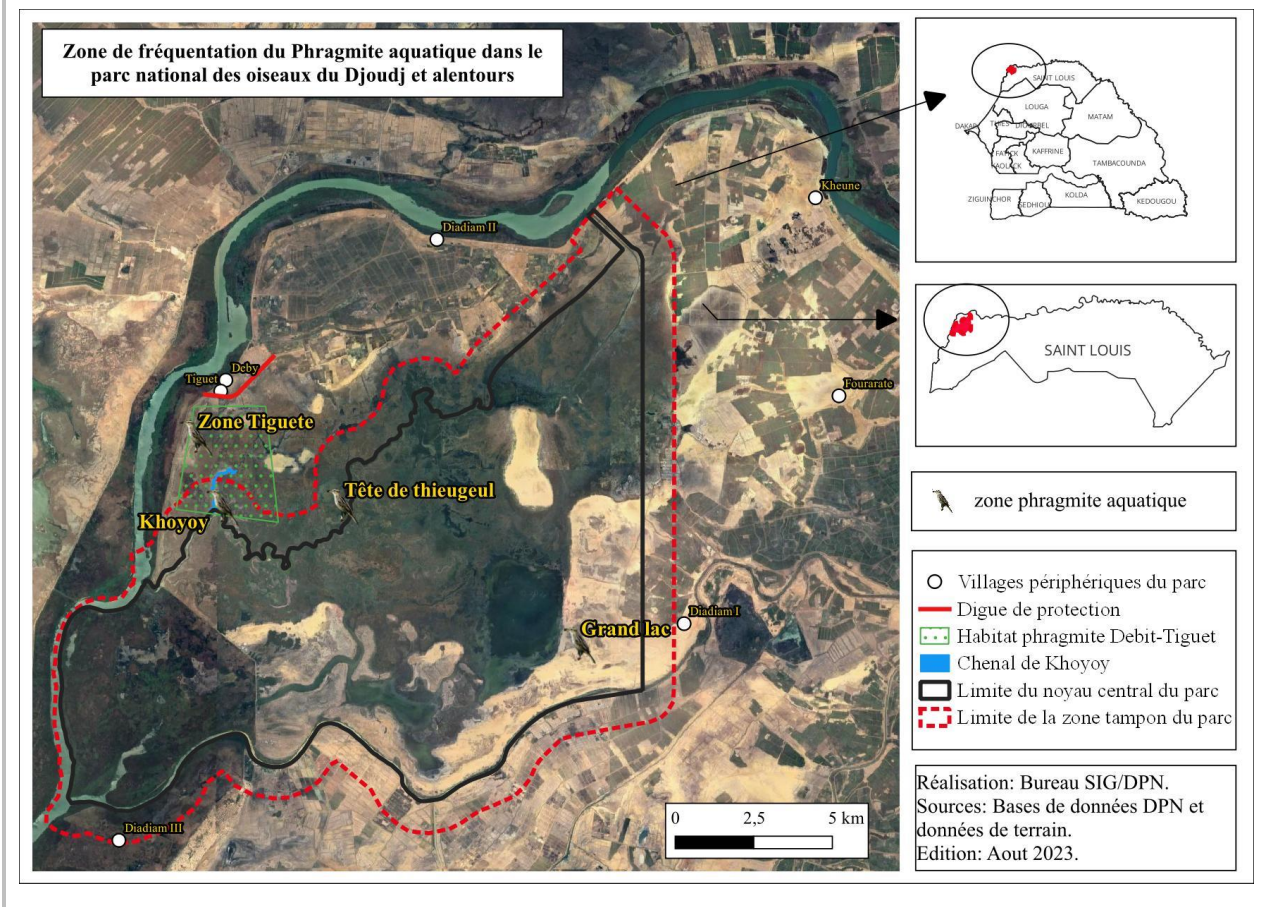
PTZPE0004

**SENEGAL**

*Djoudj*

MAP OF THE PROJECT SITE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– For projects with area-based activities, provide one map per project site (sub-area). Each map should include (as appropriate):</li> <li>– the location of the main habitats / species targeted by the project</li> <li>– the location of the different area-based activities, as planned in the proposal</li> <li>– a legend with all project activities that have been located on the map and an explanation of the habitats (official names and codes).</li> <li>– the boundaries of Natura 2000 sites, if relevant. If the proposal includes actions targeting species / habitats of the Habitats Directive, indicate also SCI / SAC boundaries; if it includes actions targeting bird species of the Birds Directive, indicate also SPA boundaries.</li> <li>– the boundaries of the project area(s), if they are different from the Natura 2000 site boundaries.</li> </ul>	
Project name and acronym:	Aquatic Warbler on the Move — AWOM
Country(ies)/region(s):	Senegal , Saint-Louis
Map name:	Location of the project area and project interventions in the context of the country, the region and the Djoudj National Park (PNOD)

The project targets the area marked with green dots (Zone Tiguete). The red line indicates the small dyke to build at Tiguete and Deby. The blue line from Khoyoy indicates the channel to be restored.





HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).

## DESCRIPTION OF SITES

*(Describe the areas and / or site(s) targeted by your project and upload as part of the application. If your project involves several distinct sub-areas / sub-sites, please fill in one form for each (copy table as many times as necessary). Please note that maps are mandatory for projects with area-based activities.)*

### BELGIUM

DESCRIPTION OF SITES	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Blankaart
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	870 ha
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>
	<b>SAC</b>
	<b>SPA</b> BE2500831
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	<p>The Blankaart project area is part of the 2,360 ha Ramsar site "De IJzerbroeken te Diksmuide en Lo-Reninge" (site number 329). This makes it one of the 9 wetlands designated in Belgium under the Ramsar Convention. The site was designated due to its "international importance for breeding, staging and wintering birds; nesting species include ducks."</p> <p>Part of the project area, 365 ha, is also recognised as a nature reserve by the Flemish government. The nature reserve is managed by Natuurpunt.</p> <p>The project area is also entirely designated as GEN (Major Nature Unit) within the Flemish ecological network.</p>
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b>	
<i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>	
<p>The Blankaart project area is part of the SPA 'BE2500831 - IJzervallei' located in the province of West Flanders in the municipalities of Vleteren, Lo-Reninge, Houthulst, Diksmuide and Kortemark. Most of the area consists of the so-called 'broeken', which are low-lying, naturally floodable permanent grasslands with micro-relief. Due to its floodable nature, there has traditionally been a very low level of cultivation and arable farming is limited to the higher-lying plots that only exceptionally flood. The valley grasslands were traditionally managed as hay meadows (hay cut followed by post-grazing). The brooks are intersected by an intricate network of watercourses that provide drainage. There are also two large ponds in the Yserbroeken: the Blankaartvijver, created by peat extraction, and the highly artificial drinking water reservoir De Blankaart.</p> <p>The Yserbroeken and the Blankaart are largely located in the polders' ecoregion. This ecoregion is characterised by the flat and low-lying landscape with inversion relief created by repeated marine floods resulting from sea level rises after the ice ages. The typical polder microrelief is reinforced by local large scale peat extractions such as in the Blankaart.</p> <p>In summary, the project area (870 ha) consists of 45 ha of open water (5,2%), 40 ha of reedbeds with willow scrub (4,6%), 35 ha of marshland (4,0%), 30 ha of arable land (3,4%) and 720 ha of relief-rich floodplain grassland with ditches (82,8%).</p>	

Given the extremely high nature values of the Blankaart and the Yserbroeken, it is not surprising that the area was one of Natuurpunt's first major land purchases (in 1978) with a view to establishing a nature reserve.

Natuurpunt currently manages over 370 ha (43%) in the project area as a recognised nature reserve. The majority of the land is owned by the association, a small part of the area is owned by the Agency for Nature and Forests of the Flemish government and managed long-term by Natuurpunt. The managed nature reserve forms a fairly contiguous whole. The remaining land (57%) is largely still privately owned and in agricultural use.

**Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)**

*Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.*

Within SPA BE2500831, large contiguous reedbeds and marsh vegetations are mainly located around the Blankaart project area. Recently, the Flemish government (nature development project) and Natuurpunt carried out a number of restoration works to develop 20-30 ha of additional reedbeds and other marsh vegetations. There are also many reedbeds and wet marshes on the banks of watercourses and field ditches.

In addition, former small duck hunting ponds are scattered in the project area. These shallow ponds were usually created at the lowest places in the landscape and are thus embedded in wet floodplain grassland areas. Such species-rich open and low marsh zones require annual intensive mowing management in full summer (late July - early August) aimed at favouring smaller marsh plants (sedges, annuals, etc.). Often such small marshes are a mixture of reedbeds, open water, wet grassland and tall sedge vegetation.

Together, these habitats form a very important foraging and resting area for the AW during the migration period. Every year, dozens of specimens of this species are caught in the project area through ring catching. This makes the Blankaart the most important area for AW in Flanders during its migration period.

The approved conservation objectives report for SPA BE2500831 therefore considers the area to be very important for this species in Flanders and sets expansion of suitable habitat and improvement of quality as concrete objectives.

Objectives relevant for AW are include: maintain and where possible expand the current area of marsh vegetation and reed and big sedge vegetation in particular, in addition to the proposed additional areas of European protected habitats and habitat of other European protected species and the general quality improvement as a result of current environmental policies.

Measures for expansion and quality enhancement of AW habitat will also have a very positive impact on the following Annex I breeding species in the project area for which the project area is designated and for which conservation objectives have been set: marsh harrier (very important), spotted crake (very important), bluethroat (important), bittern (very important) and little bittern (currently irregular breeding bird).

In addition, these reed and marsh vegetations in combination with open water also form an important foraging area for the following Annex I species in the Blankaart: spoonbill, little egret (both breeding species) and hen harrier and great white egret (wintering).

In summary, the Blankaart project area is the most important natural cluster in the Yser Valley for reedbeds and marsh vegetations and one of the most important in Flanders. In particular, for AW, the area is essential in Flanders and beyond as a resting and foraging area during its migration along the East Atlantic Flyway. The restoration and realisation of optimal AW habitat will also benefit other Annex IV bird species such as marsh harrier, spotted crake, bluethroat, bittern, spoonbill and little egret.

The implementation of the Life -project AWOM will have significant positive impact on the realisation of the Flemish conservation objectives for the target species AW and other Annex IV species of the Birds Directive.

## FRANCE

### Seine Estuary

DESCRIPTION OF SITES	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Seine Estuary
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	8 ha of project within a potential area of 208 ha within a reed bed of 1,000 ha and a nature reserve of 8,500 ha
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b> FR2300121
	<b>SAC</b> FR2300121
	<b>SPA</b> FR2310044
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	<i>National nature reserve</i>
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>	
<b>Land use:</b> 100 % of ZPS and ZSC are protected areas, so there is no hunting or farming in the natural reserve and no human activity other than that of the manager. <b>Ownership:</b> The area is 100 % owned by HAROPA (Ports du HAVRE de ROUEN et PARIS).	
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>	
<b>Context</b> The aim is to conserve and restore the environments present in the nature reserve in order to improve the conservation status of key species such as the AW. The Seine estuary is one of the main post-nuptial migration sites for this species in France. The very large surface area of wetlands and reedbeds in the Seine estuary, with its large mosaic of habitats, provides good conditions for this species. Unfortunately, the gradual closure of the estuary as a result of peripheral industrialisation and port developments is causing conversion of the habitat to dry land. The reed beds are deteriorating and becoming more shrubby, and the areas of water are becoming less and less accessible. The mosaic of habitats is no longer as marked. Consequently, the manager proposes to rejuvenate the habitat over a maximum of 8 ha. The reedbed will be cut, exported and milled over several consecutive years. The aim is to restore transitional environments and habitats that are more favourable to the AW.	
<b>Description</b> The manager will cut back the vegetation annually in areas of reedbeds identified as ageing and less functional for paludicolous birds. These cuttings, with export of the plant material, will rejuvenate the environment and maintain the	

mosaic of habitats favourable for the AW.

The manager will assess the areas to be restored, which will correspond to a maximum surface area of 8ha. An initial cut will be made to open up and restore the area, with the material being exported (currently at a cost of €0.65/m<sup>2</sup>). Maintenance cuttings will then be carried out either several times a year or every year depending on the regrowth of vegetation and the evolution of the environment. The manager will regularly assess the state of development of the restored environment in order to determine the course of action to be taken. Maintenance cuts without exporting vegetation currently cost €0.11/m<sup>2</sup>. On average, the manager will spend €30,000 a year restoring these habitats.

The restoration of these 8 ha (maximum annual surface area) will make it possible to conserve a wide variety of habitats, with areas of pristine and ageing reedbeds, areas of young reedbeds with little litter, areas of grassland opened up by extensive grazing, areas of salt meadows, margins of ponds, wet meadows, etc. This is very favourable for a number of heritage issues, and in particular for the migrating AW.

**Pipy Island**

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move (LIFE AWOM)	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Pipy Island	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	4 ha	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	FR5200621
	<b>SAC</b>	FR5200621
	<b>SPA</b>	FR5210103
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	Marine Protected Area since 1997	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
Land use: 100% Nature conservation Ownership: 100% Conservatoire du Littoral		
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>		
<p>The marshes of the Loire Estuary, and more widely those of the Loire-Atlantique region, are known to host a significant proportion of the migrating AW population. These brackish marshes, which are subject to marine submersion during high tidal coefficients, are threatened by landfill caused by the deposit of mud during the tides, which is exacerbated by the artificial channelisation of the Estuary.</p> <p>Numerous studies (ringing surveys, radiotracking, diet and entomofauna) carried out in the Loire Estuary have identified the preferred habitats of the AW, in this case the tall wet meadows, and more particularly the <i>Scirpaides</i>. The area proposed for restoration is located in the commune of BOUEE (44260), near the Pipy Island. This island is no longer an island, since like its neighbours, the former Loire islands, it is now linked to the mainland. The former arms of the Loire that separated these islands have gradually filled in, turning into very wet marshes. In 2012-2013 our ringing campaigns showed exceptional densities of AW in these marshes.</p> <p>Since then, the many scorching summers and the lack of fresh water have accelerated the landfall, and the area is gradually being transformed into <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> grassland, a much more xeric biotope that is highly unsuitable for the AW.</p> <p>The proposed area represents approximately 4 ha and corresponds roughly to the area of the bulrush in 2012. Today, this same area shows a low, patchy vegetation dominated by <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>.</p> <p>The aim of the restoration is therefore to rejuvenate the area by removing the layer of sediment that was deposited in the last 20-30 years. In similar operations on adjacent sites, the average landfall was estimated at around 2cm/year. Taking these values into account, it would therefore be necessary to remove 40 to 60cm of topsoil if the ecological functions of the wet meadow are to be restored. With regard to the sprigging method, we can refer to the <i>Scirpaides</i> restoration operations carried out at DONGES EST.</p> <p>To summarise, the most important thing for bulrushes is to have complete drainage during each submersion to avoid asphyxiation, and fresh water in winter to allow them to develop. It is also essential to remove excavated soil to avoid</p>		

encroachment on wetland areas. Given the volume  $(60 \text{ cm} * 4 \text{ hectares}) * 2$  (coefficient of expansion of the extracted soil) this part represents the largest costs.

**Marais de la Taute**

<b>DESCRIPTION OF SITES</b>	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move – LIFE AWOM
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Marais de la Taute
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	250 ha
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b> FR2500088
	<b>SAC</b> FR2500088
	<b>SPA</b> FR2510046
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	<i>Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin, Baie des Veys Ramsar Site (Nr 516) since 1991</i> <i>Réserve Naturelle Régionale des Marais de la Taute since 2011</i>
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>	
<p>The GONm owns 100% of the land. About 20 farmers work in these lands. The main land use on the wetlands is hay mowing (95 %) and grazing (5%).</p> <p>Status: 147 ha has a Regional Natural Sanctuary's status in a partnership with the Normandy's County. 103 ha should reach the same status in 2024 and are currently under private sanctuary status.</p> <p>Standards of protection include no hunting, no fishing, restricted area unless authorised, environmental driven agriculture (late mowing, low density of cattle, field management).</p>	
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>	
<p>The land involved in the GONm's project belongs to the SPA FR2510046 Basses Vallées du Cotentin et Baie des Veys. This Natura 2000 site includes 336,830 ha of floodplain and coastal areas.</p> <p>The project area is important for the AW on autumn migration with tens caught annually. It is also important for the Eurasian curlew (11 pairs in 2022), western marsh harrier (2 pairs 2022), whinchat (+70 pairs), western yellow wagtail (±45 pairs). Savi's warbler (&gt;3 pairs) and lapwing (9 pairs). Ringing campaigns have proven that Le Cap is an important area during the AWs post nuptial migration. Up to 43 individuals were caught in 2013 while the mean value was 28 individuals between 2011 and 2015.</p> <p>Botanical habitats are of a great interest with several habitats listed in the EU like 6410-6 and 6410-8 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clay-silt and 7240 habitat code listed as alkaline fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and sedges. The habitat composition started to change in 2022 as a result of stripping of the top soil over 6,000 square meters to create a mixed habitat with islets of vegetation surrounded by small ditches. The water level is monitored by GONm using simple tools such as a nozzle with a valve which allows water to fill the network of field ditches, and keeping the water inside the area.</p>	



**SPAIN****Andalusia***Doñana*

<b>DESCRIPTION OF SITES</b>	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Doñana
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	31,417 ha of the two subsites
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b> ES0000024
	<b>SAC</b> ES0000024
	<b>SPA</b> ES0000024
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	National Park – Declared in 1969 UNESCO Biosphere Reserve – Designated in 1981 RAMSAR Site n. 234 – Doñana – Added in 1982 Natural Park – Declared in 1989 UNESCO World Heritage Site – Signed up in 1994 Included in the National Catalogue of wetlands of Spain (Decree 435/2004) – IH615020 Included in the Regional Catalogue of wetlands of Andalucía (Decree 98/2004) – IHA615020
<b>Mainland uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>	
<p><b>Subsite Brazo de la Torre-Guadamar (3,417 ha)</b></p> <p>According to the Natural Resources Management Plan of Doñana Natural Area (Decree 142/2016), the Brazo de la Torre and Entremuros (Guadamar) sites are Reserve Zones of Doñana National and Natural Parks, primarily aimed at improving conservation of the environment and conducting research and environmental education activities.</p> <p>Land uses: Conservation, research, environmental education: 100%</p> <p>Ownership status: Public: 3,417ha, 100%</p> <p>Project activities will be carried out in public areas. The regular management is carried out by the regional Administration (Ministry of the Environment of the Junta de Andalucía)</p> <p>Hunting and fishing are not allowed in the area.</p> <p><b>Subsite Marisma Parque Nacional (28,000 ha)</b></p> <p>According to the Natural Resources Management Plan of Doñana Natural Area (Decree 142/2016) the Marisma of the National Park is a Reserve Zone and Restricted Use Zone of Doñana National Park, aimed mainly at conserving and improving the environment, researching, and at the same time traditional uses and activities of environmental</p>	

education compatibles with the conservation of natural values.

Land uses: Conservation, research: 30%, Traditional uses, environmental education: 70%.

Ownership status: Public: 26,000 ha, 92.86%, Private: 2,000 ha, 7.14%.

Project activities will be carried out mainly in the public areas. The regular management is carried out by the regional administration (Ministry of the Environment of the Junta de Andalucía)

Hunting and fishing are not allowed in the entire area.

**Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)**

*Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.*

Doñana area is a key zone for biodiversity in Europe. It has 34 Habitats of Community Interest, 10 of them being priority habitats. Its flora is one of the richest of southern Spain with around 1,400 species, 23 of them included as threatened in the Andalusian Red List of Threatened Species.

In terms of fauna, more than 400 species of birds have been spotted, as well as around 50 mammals, 25 reptiles, 11 amphibians and more than 70 fish. Some of these species are of great value as being globally threatened, such as the Iberian lynx *Lynx pardinus*, the Greek tortoise *Testudo graeca*, the 'salinete' fish *Aphanius baeticus* or the Spanish imperial eagle *Aquila adalberti*.

Doñana is the most important area for the AW in Southern Spain. From the 80 records of this species in the Andalusia region, 46 were observed or ringed in the Doñana area. During ten postnuptial ringing campaigns carried out from 2000 to 2009, 35 birds were trapped at Brazo de la Torre, Doñana Natural Area. It is therefore clear that the species regularly uses the area during postnuptial migration. On the other hand, there are only 4 records of the AWs in spring. This might at first glance suggest a low importance of Doñana during prenuptial migration. Nevertheless, in the report of the AW Geolocator Study of the breeding population in Lithuania and Northern Belarus (Flade, 2021) Doñana is considered as one of the most important stopover sites for the species during spring migration based on the presence in Doñana of 2 out of 19 geolocator-tagged birds for 41–53 days during spring, plus another one spending 13 days during postnuptial migration. This recent information shows that the marshes of Doñana, with more than 15,000 ha of potential habitat for the species, could play a crucial role in spring as a stopover site, before reaching the breeding sites. Hence, LIFE AWOM could be an extraordinary opportunity to unravel the importance of Doñana for the life cycle of AWs.

## Catalonia

### Aiguamolls de l'Alt Empordà

DESCRIPTION OF SITES	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Aiguamolls de l'Alt Empordà
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	578.23 ha
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b> n/a
	<b>SAC</b> n/a
	<b>SPA</b> ES0000019
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	<i>Ramsar Site, Wetland of International Importance since 1993</i> <i>Natural Park since 1983</i>
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>	
<p><u>Land uses:</u> Farming: 15%, Nature conservation: 85%.</p> <p><u>Ownership:</u> Private: 15%, State: 85%.</p>	
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>	
<p>Aiguamolls de l'Alt Empordà Natural Park is the main known site for AW migration in Catalonia, especially during spring migration. The species is detected annually even if it's not targeted. In several occasions there have been records of several individuals at the same time, as well as evidence of stopover with some individuals staying over several days.</p> <p>At the same time, the proposed restoration sites also hold important populations of highly important conservation species for the Natural Park, which would benefit directly from the proposed actions. Among them, it should be highlighted the most numerous breeding population of moustached warbler <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>, with over 100 breeding pairs. Also, this is one of the last resorts of breeding Eurasian bitterns <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>. The following list indicates which endangered species could benefit from the proposed action (taking the Endangered Species legislation from the Government of Catalonia as main reference, Decret 172/2022). Each line includes the scientific name, the status of the species in the area, and an abundance estimate (pp= breeding pairs):</p> <p><u>Birds</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Ardea purpurea</i> (Vulnerable) 70 pp</li> <li>- <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> (Critically Endangered) 1-2 pp</li> </ul>	

- *Zapornia pusilla* (Vulnerable) 5-40 pp
- *Acrocephalus melanopogon* (Vulnerable) 100 pp
- *Locustella luscinioides* (Critically Endangered) 2 pp

#### Mammals

- *Myotis capaccinii* (Critically Endangered) Not quantified , only foraging
- *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* (Vulnerable) Not quantified , only foraging

#### Reptiles

- *Emys orbicularis* (Critically Endangered) Not quantified

#### Invertebrates

- *Hoplia coerulea* (Vulnerable) Not quantified
- *Vertigo moulinsiana* (Critically Endangered) Not quantified
- *Aeshna afinis* (Vulnerable) Not quantified

#### Flora

- *Ceratophyllum submersum* (Critically Endangered) Not quantified
- *Elatine macropoda* (Vulnerable) Not quantified
- *Euphorbia palustris* (Vulnerable) Not quantified
- *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (Critically Endangered) Not quantified
- *Rumex hydrolapathum* (Vulnerable) Not quantified
- *Utricularia australis* (Vulnerable) Not quantified

**Valencia***Marjal de Peñíscola*

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on Move – LIFE AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Marjal de Peñíscola	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	105 ha	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	ES5222002
	<b>SAC</b>	
	<b>SPA</b>	n/a
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	ZH (Zona húmeda /Wetland) year 2002. Wetland in the Valencian Catalogue of Wetlands (approved by Decision of the Valencian Government in September 2002 in accordance with the provisions of Law 11/1994, on Protected Natural Spaces of the Valencian Community).  Flora microreserve	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>45% of the surface area of this wetland is public and belongs to Peñíscola Town Council. This percentage is all dedicated to habitat conservation. The rest is private.</p> <p>The site is divided into 80% wetland area and the remaining 20% is dedicated to agricultural fields and residential uses. The crops found in this area are small plots of citrus fruits and vegetable gardens for self-consumption.</p> <p>This small wetland is surrounded by a summer tourism area, so public use by visitors is common from spring to autumn.</p>		
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>		
<p>The Peñíscola marshland is a coastal wetland area with fine sediments rich in organic matter and abundant springs that give rise to permanent pools of varying size. This wetland still conserves its natural characteristics, but the numerous urban and tourist projects, infrastructures and the pressure of horticultural crops have brought it to a critical situation.</p> <p>The extraction of water in the area of the marsh has led to the salinisation of the aquifers and the marsh itself, as well as the appearance of high levels of radon gas.</p> <p><b>Characteristics</b></p> <p>In the 1950s, rice was cultivated and therefore a large number of drainage channels were built. Among them, the "Sangonera irrigation channel" stands out, this is the closest to the sea; it extended almost to the border with Benicarló. Half of its route has been buried and another part has been repaired with a concrete base and embankments. The "Acequia Templera", in the centre of the wetland, with the highest flow since the Acequia del Rey was diverted in 1987.</p>		

Finally, the "Acequia del Rey", which is the furthest from the sea. The three channels drain into a common ditch that carries the water to the Ullal de l'Estany, an urban lagoon in the middle of a park, and finally reaches the coast.

### Habitats and species

The local ornithological group has reported a great number of birds, some of them listed as Endangered, such as the marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*), squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), collared pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*), Audouin's gull (*Larus audouinii*), little tern (*Sternula albifrons*) and common tern (*Sterna hirundo*),

This wetland, although small, has flooded meadows with *Scirpus* sp. and *Cladium mariscus* vegetation that is very favourable for AW. Although there is only one AW ringing record, this is because there have been no continuous ringers for more than 20 years.

The SCI contains the following habitats, with an indication of the relative area they occupy:

- 30% 1150 Lagoons
- 20% 1410 Mediterranean saline grasslands (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- 20% 1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilic scrub (*Arthrocnemeta fruticosae*).
- 20% 3140 Calcareous oligotrophic-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation with *Characeae* species.
- 10% 6420 Mediterranean tall-grass and sedge meadows (*Molinion-Holoschoenion*).

Protected species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC are permanently found in this wetland. It contains valuable fish populations, including Valencia toothcarp (*Valencia hispanica*) and Spanish toothcarp (*Aphanius iberus*) with more than 10,000 individuals in both cases. In addition, there are populations of *Emys orbicularis* (with an estimated population of between 92-177 specimens) and *Mauremys leprosa* (more than 120 estimated specimens). Those are two turtle species listed as rare and in constant recession due to the appearance of invasive turtles.

### Current events

Since 2004, the Peñíscola marsh has been included in the Samaruc and Fartet Recovery Plans, to prevent the extinction of two endemic fish species that are threatened by the presence of invasive species such as: the eastern mosquitofish (*Gambusia holbrooki*), the red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), red-rimmed melania (*Melanoides tuberculata*), a snail of Asian origin, the red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) and the common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). These invasive alien species are responsible for the decline in habitat quality and food availability in the wetland.

These recovery plans have been at a minimum for many years due to the fact that the City Council was in conflict with the Valencian Government. In 2020 the municipality contacted FGN to develop conservation actions at this site and the Valencian Government has reactivated these species conservation plans. Therefore, the site is in a favourable moment for the Valencian Government to include the AW as another species to be taken into account in the management plans for this site.

For the last 3 years FGN has had regular contracts with the municipality to restore canals, so there is already a previous sampling work in this wetland and an interest of the municipality to restore the wetland.

Restoration works in Peñíscola have never been part of any other previous LIFE projects. LIFE AWOM aims to replicate successful actions from previous projects in other areas, following the after-LIFE strategy and applying recommendations from the AW conservation strategies drafts. The Peñíscola wetland only has one record of AW, but it is a place where scientific ringing monitoring is very scarce. However, the vegetation conditions and flood levels during the pre-nuptial migration period make this wetland *a priori* a good migratory stopover site for the AW and for other marshland bird species.

The main threats to this Mediterranean coastal wetland are related to vegetation control, a problem associated with the high nutrient load in the waters that reach this wetland and the absence of wild animals or livestock. This plant growth causes a significant accumulation of organic matter, clogging and homogenisation of habitats, especially expansion of suboptimal habitats for the AW: dense and homogeneous masses of reeds of the genus *Phragmites*. Among other aspects, in these vegetation stands the abundance of arthropod prey is very low for the AW. To combat this threat, the main action is mowing with an amphibious machine, and the by-product is intended to be used as compost. Other threats to the AW such as habitat loss, uncontrolled burning, expansion of suboptimal habitats or habitat alteration due to urban sprawl are combated.

Restoration of the hydraulic infrastructures in the marshes by restoring channels, repairing sluice gates and creating new bodies of free water would improve the flooding of the wetland, as well as increase the availability of food (abundance of invertebrates), which would benefit the AW. Also, the delimitation of the wetland will help to respect the wetland boundaries and ensure the good evolution of the habitats around the perimeter of the wetland. This will also act against the effects of climate change caused by decreasing rainfall, water pollution and adverse changes in the water regime.

It is also intended to combat the presence of exotic species of flora and fauna that affect the quality of the habitat of the AW and affect the functioning of the entire ecosystem by controlling turtles and exotic plants. As a counterbalance to improve habitats, plantations with endangered flora are planned. In addition, in the Peñíscola Marsh, the creation of green infrastructures as natural barriers protects the wetland from coastal phenomena aggravated by climate change and rising sea levels. Threats such as: alteration of habitats, decrease in the availability of food, expansion of dense and homogeneous reed beds and rising sea levels due to the effects of climate change are combated.

The following tasks outlined in WP3 need to be implemented in this wetland;

- T.3.1.2.1.1 Removal of alien fauna species
- T.3.1.2.1.2. Removal of alien plant species
- T.3.1.2.2.1. Replanting of native flora.
- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation management
- T.3.1.2.2.3 Making compost from management residues
- T.3.1.2.3.1 Restoration of water management infrastructure
- T.3.1.2.3.2 Construction of new waterbodies for AW and other fauna and flora
- T.3.1.2.5.1 Construction of green infrastructure as natural defence
- T.3.1.2.5.3 Wetland delimitation

*Prat de Cabanes i Torreblanca*

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on Move – LIFE AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Prat de Cabanes i Torreblanca	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	1,939.98 ha (43,7% Terrestrial and 56,3% marine area)	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	ES0000060
	<b>SAC</b>	
	<b>SPA</b>	ES0000467
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	<p>List of Wetlands of International Importance, established under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971).</p> <p>ES10. Natural Park.</p> <p>ZH (<i>Zona húmeda</i> /Wetland) year 2002. Wetland in the Valencian Catalogue of Wetlands (approved by Decision of the Valencian Government in September 2002 in accordance with the provisions of Law 11/1994, on Protected Natural Spaces of the Valencian Community).</p> <p>There are two flora micro-reserves “la platja del Quarter Vell” and “la de la Torre de la Sal”</p>	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b>		
<i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>Ownership: Municipal (38%), private (57%) and state (5%).</p> <p>The uses of this wetland include <b>conservation and biodiversity management</b> in Decree 4/2003 of January 21<sup>st</sup> (DOGV núm. 4427 de 28.01.2003).</p> <p>The high salinity of the soil together with the difficulty of regulating water levels were factors which, on their own, led to the disappearance of a large part of the irrigated <b>agriculture</b> in this wetland. Today there are still citrus crops and a few vegetable gardens for self-consumption. There are initiatives that want a denomination of origin for products grown organically within the natural park.</p> <p>One of the most active land uses in the wetland is <b>peat extraction</b>. Two licences have been granted for this activity, but only one of them is active in the municipality of Cabanes.</p> <p><b>Hunting</b> is also a current use; the whole of the land is included in private hunting reserves, belonging to the Sociedad de Cazadores de Torreblanca (CS-10052) and to the Cámara Agraria de Cabanes (CS-10153).</p> <p>The Prat Wetland was one of the most important <b>grazing areas</b> for wild cattle until the declaration of a Natural Park limited its access and gradually cattle farming disappeared. Today, with projects led by FGN, this livestock activity is returning to the wetland in a regulated manner.</p> <p><b>Tourism</b> is a high impact activity for this area as the wetland is located next to an urban area with beaches that are very popular with tourists. Torreblanca has a small airport and access to a motorway that runs along the Mediterranean coast from France to Cadiz. This means that from spring to autumn the wetland receives many visitors.</p>		



### **Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)**

*Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.*

The Prat de Cabanes Torreblanca natural park is a marshy meadow of high ecological value in the Valencian Community. It was formed because of the appearance of a string of gravels that isolated part of the sea, turning it into a lagoon. The process of silting up of the lagoon caused the decomposition of the vegetation, which was transformed into peat, a material which has been extracted for years for and which has led to the appearance of the lagoons.

The area also stands out as a relevant example of sustainable use of natural resources. The mining activity, centred on peat extraction, extensive livestock farming and agriculture, is carried out in an orderly manner and is compatible with the conservation of the valuable natural heritage.

#### **Characteristics**

The emission of greenhouse gases during the decomposition of vegetation, the existence of grazing cattle in areas close to the lagoon, agricultural production, the great quantity of information extracted from previous actions and the old infrastructures of the rice paddy means this natural area is an ideal place for the studies and actions that we propose in this project.

From 2018 to 2021, the LIFE Paludicola project was developed, in which ringing of the species began to be constant at this site. Subsequently, the campaign has continued with other projects due to the importance of this wetland in the spring migration route of the AW and other marsh species. Until spring 2022 the FGN has ringed 30 AW in this site, of these, 17 specimens during the specific LIFE campaigns.

With LIFE Paludicola and LIFE Wetlands4Climate, restoration of hydraulic infrastructures and vegetation management actions were carried out, removing reeds, planting macrophytes and removing alien plants, which led to an increase in the diversity of species.

The problem is that in April the wetland areas are without water because there are areas that have been converted to cultivation and are currently abandoned. These old, abandoned irrigation infrastructures mean that no water can be put in or taken out. A few years ago, the water authority declared the water borehole with which the farmers flooded these lands illegal, and therefore they are now dependent on rainfall. The solution is to adapt these infrastructures to distribute and deliver water to these areas. FGN has already invested in this restoration with different projects but there are still many canals and irrigation ditches to be restored.

#### **Habitats and species**

Protected species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC are permanently found in this wetland. It contains valuable fish populations of Valencia toothcarp (*Valencia hispanica*) and Spanish toothcarp (*Aphanius iberus*). In addition there are populations of *Emys orbicularis*, a species in constant decline due to the appearance of invasive turtles.

The natural park has very different habitats: the coastal range, the dunes, the salt marsh, the lagoons, the ditches and the reedbeds, which allows the existence of a great variety of birds, many of them endangered and whose migrations depend on habitat conservation. The Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca is one of the main wetlands for the ringing of species during pre-nuptial migration among Mediterranean coastal wetlands, but given its enormous size and favourable habitat conditions, it is also key stopover wetland for the AW.

#### **Current events**

Mediterranean coastal wetlands are among the most altered ecosystems, increasing their vulnerability to climate change threats. Proper management and AW habitat restoration to improve their adaptation to climate change is essential to maintain and recover their ecological values and ecosystem services.

Previous works within the frame of LIFE projects (LIFE Paludicola, LIFE W4C) have been carried out at Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca. The proposed actions for AWOM are the result of the needs identified in the previous LIFE projects. Given the success of the preliminary LIFE actions, this proposal intends to extend actions to new areas within the same site and new actions in the same areas based on new needs, responding to e.g., the evolution of the vegetation as areas that previously did not need management, now do. All will be done following LIFE strategies and applying recommendations from the AW conservation strategies drafts.

The main threats to this Mediterranean coastal wetland are related to vegetation control, a problem associated with the high nutrient load in the waters that reach this wetland and the absence of wild animals or livestock that in the past exercised this control in a natural way. This plant growth causes a significant accumulation of organic matter, clogging and homogenisation of habitats, especially expansion of suboptimal habitats for the AW: dense and homogeneous masses of reeds of the genus *Phragmites*. Among other aspects, in these vegetation stands the abundance of arthropod prey is very low for the AW. To combat this threat, the main action is mowing by amphibious machine and the intention is to use the by-product as compost. In addition to these actions, a method of natural and traditional

vegetation control is envisaged through the continuation and study of extensive grazing in the wetland, as this activity is closely related to the opening of vegetation clearings and the growth of smaller vegetation formations, which are very attractive as a feeding area for the AW. Other threats to the AW such as habitat loss, uncontrolled burning, expansion of suboptimal habitats or habitat alteration due to urban growth are being combated.

Restoration of the hydraulic infrastructures in the marshes by restoring channels, repairing sluice gates and creating new bodies of free water would improve the flooding of the wetland and increase the availability of food (abundance of invertebrates) to the benefit of the AW. This will also act against the effects of climate change caused by decreasing rainfall, water pollution and adverse changes in the water regime.

It is also intended to combat the presence of exotic species of flora and fauna that affect the quality of the habitat of the AW and affect the functioning of the entire ecosystem by controlling turtles and exotic plants. In counteraction to improve habitats, plantations with endangered flora are intended to be carried out. Threats such as: habitat alteration, reduced food availability, expansion of dense and homogeneous reed beds and rising sea levels due to climate change are being combated.

The following tasks outlined in WP3 need to be implemented in this wetland.

- T.3.1.2.1.2. Removal of alien plant species
- T.3.1.2.2.1. Replanting of native flora.
- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration
- T.3.1.2.2.3. Making compost from management residues
- T.3.1.2.2.4. Grazing
- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration of water management infrastructure
- T.3.1.2.3.2. Construction of new waterbodies for AW and other fauna and flora

*Desembocadura del riu Mijares*

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on Move – LIFE AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Desembocadura del riu Millars	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	345.85 ha	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	ES0000211
	<b>SAC</b>	ES0000211
	<b>SPA</b>	ES0000211
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	ZH (Zona húmeda /Wetland). Wetland in the Valencian Catalogue of Wetlands (approved by Decision of the Valencian Government in September 2002 in accordance with the provisions of Law 11/1994, on Protected Natural Spaces of the Valencian Community).  ES21. Paisaje protegido / protected landscape	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>The Estuary has been designated as a protected landscape since 2005 and covers an area of 424 hectares, including the riverbed and some riparian areas in the municipalities of Almassora, Borriana, and Vila-real.</p> <p>Its uses are regulated by Decree 192/2014 of November 14<sup>th</sup>. Regional Government.</p> <p>90% of the protected land is publicly owned and dedicated to conservation, while the rest of the area overlaps industrial and agricultural activities.</p> <p>This protected area is managed by a consortium of three town councils (Vila-real, Burriana and Almazora). In 2023 FGN was invited to participate in the advisory board. Due to political elections this invitation is still pending.</p>		
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>		
<b>Characteristics</b> <p>The River Millars is the most important river in the province of Castellón, both in terms of flow and length. Its source is located at an altitude of over 1,600 metres, in the province of Teruel. In the Valencian Community, it flows through the regions of Alt Millars and Plana Baixa, capturing waters from the slopes of the Penyagolosa massif. It flows into the Mediterranean Sea, between the municipalities of Almazora and Burriana, constituting in its final stretch the inter-county limit.</p> <p>It is a river with a typically Mediterranean regime, therefore subject to intense flow fluctuations between the dry and rainy seasons.</p> <p>The river is strongly embedded in Mesozoic geological structures. The mouth of the river is formed by an alluvial cone, superficially enclosed by a gravel ridge, broken only by the effects of easterly storms on the coastline.</p>		

In the final stretch of the river, between the town of Almazora and the mouth into the sea, the course of the river acquires notable ecological importance due to the formation of shallow lagoons, rich in aquatic and underwater vegetation and helophytic communities, together with species and communities more typical of riverbanks and riverbeds. The latter, as they get closer to the coast, turn into reed beds, wet meadows and psammophilous communities.

The permanent presence of water has allowed the existence of a fauna with a high diversity of species, some of which are of great conservation interest. There are abundant and varied communities of birds: ducks, ardeids, lizards, waders and marsh passerines are present in the different environments generated by the salinity gradients caused by the occasional entry of seawater.

For these reasons, this final stretch of the river is included, with the name Desembocadura del Millars, in the Catalogue of Wetlands of the Valencian Community, approved by the Agreement of 10 September 2002, of the Consell de la Generalitat.

### **Habitats and species**

The site hosts nesting populations of 5 Annex I waterbird species, and regularly overwinters up to 5 Annex I species. It has been of regional importance for *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Himantopus himantopus* and *Porphyrio porphyrio*, although recent changes in the morphology of the riverbed have reduced the nesting characteristics of these birds since 2003. It is a passage and wintering area for various species of waterbirds,

Plant species such as reeds, as well as submerged hydrophilic vegetation are present. Habitat heterogeneity of this protected area is favourable for the AW and there is evidence of the species in this area. Local ornithologists have records of observations and hearings. The problem is that there is no constant ringing station for capturing passing birds. Only 4 birds have been ringed in this site.

In addition, this area has three artificial lagoons filled with water from the wastewater treatment plant, which serve as resting areas for migrating birds as they always have water.

These lagoons are re-naturalised with native vegetation and have a rich entomofauna that serves as food for many birds. For this reason, one of AWOM's actions is to build other permanent water points on the riverbed to favour resident and migratory birds.

### **Current events.**

The river, given its great capacity to accumulate water, ensures the safety of the human populations through which it flows, by considerably reducing the risk of flooding, and is also a good indicator of the changes caused by climate change.

At present and for some time now, the river has had very little water flow, which has allowed shrub vegetation to advance, as well as trees and exotic species.

On the site there are flood meadows, which are very favourable habitats for the AW and near them the Consortium has built the artificial lagoons.

The Valencian Government, given the interest in these habitats and with European funds Next Generation, has started the project "Desencanyar" to remove *Arundo donax* and shrubs within the riverbed as a measure to restore the riverbed. This project started in 2023 and will last until 2025. The enormous differences between this protected area and the rest of the habitats selected for the project make the Desembocadura del río Mijares one of the most interesting sites to work on, as it allows the comparison of results in different wetland modalities.

Restoration work in Mijares has never been part of any other previous LIFE projects. LIFE AWOM aims to replicate successful actions from previous projects in other areas, following the after-LIFE strategy and applying recommendations from the AW conservation strategies drafts.

The main threats to this Mediterranean coastal wetland are related to vegetation control, a problem associated with the high nutrient load in the waters that reach this wetland and the absence of wild animals or livestock. This plant growth causes a significant accumulation of organic matter, clogging and homogenisation of habitats, especially expansion of suboptimal habitats for the AW: dense and homogeneous masses of reeds of the genus *Phragmites*. Among other aspects, in these vegetation stands the abundance of arthropod prey is very low for the AW. To combat this threat, the main action is mowing with amphibious machines. As a complement to this, strimming is intended. Other threats to the AW, such as habitat loss, uncontrolled burning, expansion of suboptimal habitats or habitat alteration due to urban sprawl, are also combated.

Restoration of the hydraulic infrastructures in the marshes by restoring channels, repairing sluice gates and creating new bodies of free water would improve the flooding of the wetland, as well as increase the availability of food (abundance of invertebrates), to the benefit of the AW. Also, the delimitation of the wetland will help to respect the wetland boundaries and ensure the good evolution of the habitats around the perimeter of the wetland. This will also act against the effects of climate change caused by decreasing rainfall, water pollution and inappropriate changes in the water regime.

It also aims to combat the presence of exotic species of flora and fauna that affect the quality of the AW's habitat and

affect the functioning of the entire ecosystem by controlling turtles and exotic plants. In counteraction to improve habitats, plantations with endangered flora are intended to be carried out. Threats such as: habitat alteration, reduced food availability, expansion of dense and homogeneous reed beds and rising sea levels due to the effects of climate change are combated.

The following tasks outlined in WP3 need to be implemented in this wetland.

- T.3.1.2.1.1 Removal of alien fauna species
- T.3.1.2.1.2. Removal of alien plant species
- T.3.1.2.2.1. Replanting of native flora.
- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration
- T.3.1.2.3.2. Construction of new waterbodies for AW and other fauna and flora
- T.3.1.2.5.3 Wetland delimitation

**Marjal de Nules**

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on Move – LIFE AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Marjal de Nules	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	528.75 ha	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	ES5222005
	<b>SAC</b>	ES5222005
	<b>SPA</b>	n/a
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	ZH (Zona húmeda /Wetland). Wetland in the Valencian Catalogue of Wetlands (approved by Decision of the Valencian Government in September 2002 in accordance with the provisions of Law 11/1994, on Protected Natural Spaces of the Valencian Community).  Paraje natural municipal (Municipal nature site).	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>The entire area of the reserve area closed to the public is in public ownership and constitutes 20% of the wetland area. The remaining area is privately owned.</p> <p>The rest of the protected area is mainly used for agriculture, especially citrus. This wetland has a large number of canals and ditches with high water quality, which means that underwater macrophytes proliferate in a large part of these infrastructures.</p> <p>Hunting is permitted in part of this wetland, which has a significant impact on birdlife.</p> <p>This site has a central path that divides it and makes it a walking area for tourists and runners.</p>		
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>		
<b>Characteristics</b> L'Estany de Nules is a small coastal lagoon (3150 natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> vegetation), formed by the abundant upwelling of groundwater in the marsh, which previously also received surface runoff. This enclave is a historical witness that has survived the agricultural transformations and the urbanisation of the coast.		
<b>Habitats and species</b> It is a refuge for aquatic birds, being an important resting place for migratory birds and a breeding place for nesting birds.  This ornithological group (GER) is aware of the presence of AW with observation and listening records in the surroundings of the reserve areas. There are also 2 AW ringing records at this site, but there is no constant ringing station to assess AW records. The heterogeneity of habitats and the level of waterlogging during the pre-nuptial migration period make the Nules wetland <i>a priori</i> a good migratory stopover site for the AW and other marshland bird.		

species.

According to reports from the local ornithological group, it is very remarkable that during the few periods that it contains water, it is visited by a great number of birds, some of them categorised as Endangered, such as the marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) with a continuous presence in the area or the red kite (*Milvus milvus*), sporadically. In addition, there are many species categorised as Vulnerable (ORDER 6/2013, of 25 March), such as: purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*), squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), kentish plover (*Charadrius alexandrius*), black-crowned plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*), Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), collared pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*), Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*), little tern (*Sternula albifrons*), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and little bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*).

Among the fish, as well as several exotic species, the presence of *Cobitis taenia* is known.

In terms of vegetation, there are interesting, submerged communities, with *Myriophyllum spicatum* and *M. verticillatum*, *Potamogeton nodosus*, as well as the exotic species *Elodea canadensis*. The banks are mainly populated by reedbeds with some presence of the exotic reed *Arundo donax*.

As regards turtles, there is still a small population of *Emys orbicularis* in the area despite the fact that the invasive *Trachemys scripta* were captured. There are signs of breeding of the exotic pond turtle due to the presence of hatchlings, although the nesting area has not been located.

The reserve areas have a high number of carp which makes the water quality poor, so it is necessary to remove this species from these areas in order to improve the quality of this site.

#### Current events.

Restoration works in Nules have never been part of any other previous LIFE projects. LIFE AWOM aims to replicate successful actions from previous projects in other areas, following the after-LIFE strategy and applying recommendations from the AW conservation strategies drafts.

The main threats in Nules wetland are related to vegetation control, a problem associated with the high nutrient load in the waters that reach this wetland and the absence of wild animals or livestock. This plant growth causes a significant accumulation of organic matter, clogging and homogenisation of habitats, especially expansion of suboptimal habitats for the AW: dense and homogeneous masses of reeds of the genus *Phragmites*. Among other aspects, in these vegetation stands the abundance of arthropod prey is very low for the AW. To combat this threat, the main action is mowing by amphibious machines. Other threats to the AW such as habitat loss, uncontrolled burning, expansion of suboptimal habitats or habitat alteration due to urban sprawl are combated.

Restoration of the hydraulic infrastructures in the marshes by restoring channels, repairing sluice gates and creating new bodies of free water would improve the flooding of the wetland and increase the availability of food (abundance of invertebrates) to the benefit of AW. This will also act against the effects of climate change caused by decreasing rainfall, water pollution and inappropriate changes in the water regime.

It is also intended to combat the presence of exotic species of flora and fauna that affect the quality of the habitat of the AW and affect the functioning of the entire ecosystem by controlling turtles and exotic plants. To improve habitats, plantations with endangered flora are intended to be carried out. Threats such as: habitat alteration, reduced food availability, expansion of dense and homogeneous reed beds and rising sea levels due to climate change are being combated.

This wetland regulates the salinity generated by marine intrusion, provides water for the agriculture that grows around it and is an important refuge for fauna, justifying the AWOM actions.

The following tasks outlined in WP3 need to be implemented in this wetland:

- T.3.1.2.1.1 Removal of alien fauna species
- T.3.1.2.1.2. Removal of alien plant species
- T.3.1.2.2.1. Replanting of native flora
- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation regeneration
- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration of water management infrastructure
- T.3.1.2.3.2. Construction of new waterbodies for AW and other fauna and flora

*Marjal del Moros*

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on Move – LIFE AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Marjal del Moros	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	619.45 ha	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	ES0000148
	<b>SAC</b>	ES0000148
	<b>SPA</b>	ES0000470
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	<p>DECREE 127/2015, of 31 July, of the Consell, declaring as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) the Sites of Community Importance (SCI) Lavajos de Sinarcas, Marjal de Nules and Marjal dels Moros, and approving the management rules for these SCIs and for the Special Protection Area for Birds (SPA) Marjal dels Moros. 2015/6980 DOCV (Diario Oficial de la Comunidad Valenciana) nº 7586 de 5/08/2015.  <a href="http://www.docv.gva.es/datos/2015/08/05/pdf/2015_6980.pdf">http://www.docv.gva.es/datos/2015/08/05/pdf/2015_6980.pdf</a></p> <p>There are three flora micro-reserves (Marjal dels Moros A, Marjal dels Moros B, Camfii de Rampete and els Cucs) and two fauna micro-reserves.(els Cucs and Balsa Rampetes).</p>	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b>		
<p><i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i></p> <p>Between Puzol and Sagunto we find a jewel of nature. The Marjal dels Moros, which has been saved from the agricultural and urban voracity of the 20th century.</p> <p>A small marsh, close to the port of Sagunto and the land occupied by a steelwork, it is owned by the Valencia Regional Government.</p> <p>The wetland is owned by the Valencian Government (beneficiary), and at least 70% of its 620 hectares of area are dedicated to the conservation of the natural environment.</p> <p>The other part of the area is dedicated to crop fields, and although they are public property, they are ceded to farmers who carry out this activity in organic farming.</p> <p>Another of the wetland's current uses is livestock farming, which has returned thanks to projects such as LIFE Paludicola, in which plots of land were dedicated to controlled grazing with sheep.</p>		



### Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)

*Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.*

#### Characteristics

In recent years, land that had previously been drained has been reclaimed with the creation of new lagoons and the demolition of the last existing buildings in the marshland. Hunting and fishing are now prohibited. The only activity permitted in the protected area is livestock farming in some parts of the marsh. All this has made it possible to conserve the natural values of the area despite the expansion of the Sagunto industrial park, which has kept the natural area literally cornered between the industrial estate and the buildings on Puzol beach.

The Marjal dels Moros, formed part of the old marshlands that stretched from the Albufera to the northern border of the province of Valencia.

It is one of the most important areas in the Valencian Community for the observation of aquatic birds.

#### Habitats and species

The marshland contains the following relative surface areas in terms of habitat types under Directive 92/43/EEC:

1210 Pioneer vegetation on accumulated marine waste

1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)

1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Arthrocnemetalia fruticosae*)

1510\* Saline steppes (*Limonietalia*)

3170\* Mediterranean temporary ponds

5330 Shrub communities surrounding Mediterranean temporary ponds

6420 Mediterranean tall-herb and rush beds (*Molinion-Holoschoenion*)

7230 Lowland alkaline fens

It is an area of great importance for aquatic fauna, with populations of threatened samaruc (*Valencia hispanica*) and fartet (*Aphanius iberus*) and European pond turtles (*Emys orbicularis*). It is also important for aquatic birds: noteworthy species include *Acrocephalus melanopogon*, *Acrocephalus paludicola*, *Chlidonias hybridus*, *Fulica cristata*, *Glareola pranticola* and *Sternula albifrons*

From 2018 to 2021, the LIFE Paludicola project was developed, in which ringing of the species began to be constant at this site. Subsequently, the campaign has continued with other projects due to the importance of this wetland in the spring migration route of the AW and other marsh species. Until spring 2022 the FGN has ringed 74 AW in this site. In fact, the Moro marsh is the main wetland in terms of captures of the species during pre-nuptial migration among the Iberian Mediterranean coastal wetlands; 31 AW were captured during the LIFE Paludicola ringing campaigns alone, which shows the importance of the improvement actions carried out during the project and of the specific monitoring of this globally endangered species.

With LIFE Paludicola and the LIFE Wetlands4Climate, restoration of hydraulic infrastructures and vegetation management actions were carried out, removing reeds, which led to an increase in the diversity of species and catches of AW in the last years.

FGN has already invested in this area with other LIFE or private projects due to the collaboration agreement that FGN and the Valencian Government have for the management of wetlands. but there is still a lot of area to be restored.

Due to FGN's interest in this space, recommendations have been made to improve the hydraulic infrastructures, reed mowing, riverside vegetation plantations and adequacy of pasture areas that the Valencian Government will soon implement with Next Generation European funds.

#### Current events

Previous works within the frame of LIFE projects (LIFE Paludicola, LIFE W4C) have been carried out at Prat del Moro. The proposed actions for AWOM are the result of the needs identified in the previous LIFE projects. Given the success of the preliminary LIFE actions, this proposal intends to extend actions to new areas within the same site and new

actions in the same areas based on new needs, responding to e.g., the evolution of the vegetation as areas that previously did not need management, now do. All will be done following LIFE strategies and applying recommendations from the AW conservation strategies drafts.

The main threats to this Mediterranean coastal wetland are related to vegetation control, a problem associated with the high nutrient load in the waters that reach this wetland and the absence of wild animals or livestock. This plant growth causes a significant accumulation of organic matter, clogging and homogenization of habitats, especially expansion of suboptimal habitats for the AW: dense and homogeneous masses of reeds of the genus *Phragmites*. Among other aspects, in these vegetation stands the abundance of arthropod prey is very low for the AW. To combat this threat, the main action is mowing by amphibious machine and the intention is to use the by-product as compost. In addition to these actions, a method of natural and traditional vegetation control is envisaged through the continuity and study of extensive grazing, as this activity is closely related to the opening of vegetation clearings and the growth of smaller vegetation formations, which are very attractive as a feeding area for the AW. As a complement, the aim is to carry out stripping as a soil action. Other threats to the AW such as habitat loss, uncontrolled burning, expansion of suboptimal habitats or habitat alteration due to urban growth are being combated.

The following tasks outlined in WP3 need to be implemented in this wetland;

- T.3.1.2.2.2 Mowing
- T.3.1.2.2.3 Making compost from management
- T.3.1.2.2.4 Grazing
- T.3.1.2.4.1 Topsoil removal

*l'Albufera*

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on Move – LIFE AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	l'Albufera	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	27,538 ha (74.57 % terrestrial and 24.43% marine)	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	ES0000023
	<b>SAC</b>	
	<b>SPA</b>	ES0000471
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	<p>l'Albufera Natural Park, approved by Decree 89/1986.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wetland of the Valencian Catalogue of Wetlands (approved by Decision of the Valencian Government in September 2002 in development of the provisions of Law 11/1994, on Protected Natural Spaces of the Valencian Community).</li> <li>- Flora micro-reserves: Llacuna del Samaruc (02/12/2002), Muntanyeta dels Sants (11/09/2006).</li> </ul>	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b>		
<i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>In the past, l'Albufera was a brackish environment where several activities were carried out: hunting, fishing, gathering herbs and plants, stockbreeding and salt production.</p> <p>Nowadays, three are the most important traditional uses of the area: <b>fishing, hunting and agriculture</b>, linked to the cultivation of rice. 90% of the wetland area corresponding to the rice fields is privately owned. Only a few Tancats (rice field plots that manage water jointly) belong to the Valencian government and small plots to the municipalities. It is in one of these Tancats, the Tancats de la Ralla, where the restoration actions will be carried out and where the LIFE Paludicola was carried out.</p> <p>The richness of fish farming in l'Albufera has attracted mankind for centuries, specialising in this activity. <b>Fishing</b> was legally recognised in 1250, when the fishing regulations were drawn up for the Community of Fishermen of El Palmar (residents of Russafa who settled permanently on the island of El Palmar to make fishing easier), which would later be applied to those of Silla and Catarroja. Until the industrialisation of the lagoon's area of influence, fishing provided important economic returns, as the lake's clean waters offered an abundance of species ("gambeta", "petxinot", eel, sea bass, etc.). Nowadays, fishing for sea bass and eel has diminished considerably and that for mullet and American crab (a species introduced in the 1980s) has increased.</p> <p><b>Hunting</b>, this hunting tradition dates back to the period of Arab occupation, and since the 13th century it has been an important source of income for the Crown, as well as a great leisure resource. Nowadays, the hunting of waterfowl is still carried out exclusively in this area, based on the Cotos and Vedats in the rice fields.</p> <p>Hunting takes place in winter when, once the rice harvest is over, l'Albufera recovers its lost space with the Perelloná (winter flooding of the rice fields), and the birds come to look for food. The hunting season is adjusted so that it does not</p>		

interfere with rice cultivation practices, nor with the beginning of the migratory passage of the birds that arrive at the Natural Park in spring.

**Rice** is one of the most recent traditional uses (15th century), although it was introduced by the Arabs more than 800 years ago. The crop is of great economic and environmental importance. In addition to its important role as a green filter, as it purifies the water of the 14,000 hectares surrounding the lagoon, it is also a refuge and pantry for the birds of the natural park, thanks to the considerable population of aquatic invertebrates and small macrophytes that serve as food for these birds, and which have disappeared in l'Albufera.

The final and most economically significant land use is **tourism**. An annual average of 40,000 people visit the Natural Park every year, causing great impacts due to traffic and waste that is left behind.

### Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)

*Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.*

The origin of the current l'Albufera Natural Park dates back thousands of years, when a marine gulf that extended between the mouths of the rivers Túria and Xúquer was first isolated from the Mediterranean Sea and, little by little, partially filled in with sediments from the two rivers. Within the sandy bar formed, a large brackish lagoon remained which, as it filled in, progressively reduced its surface area and formed an extensive marshy area. From the 15th century onwards, with the introduction of rice cultivation, two fundamental human-induced changes took place: the disappearance of the natural Mediterranean coastal marshes and an acceleration of the transformation of the primitive marshlands, to obtain a larger and better cultivated land: filling of the lake shores with stones and mud to make rice fields.

### Characteristics

It is the most important wetland area in the Valencian Community and one of the most important in Spain. It contains more than 2% of the "lagoons" habitat and more than 15% of the "calcareous oligo-mesotrophic waters". It is important for the conservation of numerous aquatic birds and contains several endemic plants. In some of the "ullals" or springs it includes, there are populations of samaruc (*Valencia hispanica*). The mixed colonies of ardeids (with more than 4000 pairs) and larolimicolas (3000 pairs) stand out. It is also important for wintering ducks, which in some years exceed 70,000 specimens, which is why it has been included in the list of the International Ramsar Convention.

### Habitats and species

Scientific description of the area:

l'Albufera contains the following percentages in terms of surface area of non-marine habitats:

- 22,00 % 1150 Lagoons
- 1,00 % 1210 Pioneer annual vegetation on accumulated marine litter
- 1,00 % 1410 Mediterranean salt grasslands (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- 1,00 % 2110 Mobile dunes with embryonic vegetation
- 1,00 % 2120 Coastal mobile dunes with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)
- 1,00 % 2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)
- 1,00 % 2250 Juniper thickets (*Juniperus* spp.)
- 1,00% 2260 Dunes with sclerophyllous vegetation (*Cisto-Lavanduletalia*)
- 1,00% 3120 Oligotrophic waters with a very low mineral content of the Western Mediterranean sandy plains with Isoetes
- 22,00% 3140 Calcareous oligotrophic-mesotrophic calcareous waters with benthic vegetation with *Characeae* species
- 1,00% 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition vegetation
- 1,00% 3170 Mediterranean temporary ponds
- 2,00% 5330 All types
- 1,00% 7210 Calcareous peatlands with *Cladium mariscus* and *Carex davalliana*

In 2016 FGN started monitoring AW in this Natural Park. In the first campaign, 13 birds were caught and one of them was recaptured. Until then, the number of birds caught in the park did not exceed 5 birds. In 2017 the campaign was carried out again with the same methodology and no AW were captured. From 2018 until 2021, 4 spring ringing campaigns were carried out as part of the LIFE Paludicola project and FGN has continued ringing with funds from other projects after the end of that project. Until 2022, 50 AW have been trapped in this site showing the importance of the area during spring migration: 22 of the records of the species, almost half of the total in the wetland, were made during the LIFE Paludicola campaigns, which shows the importance of this type of monitoring and the restoration actions carried out.

With LIFE Paludicola, restoration of hydraulic infrastructures and vegetation management actions were carried out, removing reeds, which led to an increase in the diversity of species and catches in the last years of the project.

The problem for the AW in this natural park is that in April the rice fields are without water and the water points in the

park are very dense with reeds and access to the water is very difficult.

The ideal solution would be to purchase land for flooding, but this is very expensive due to the high rice production that takes place there.

Previous works within the frame of **LIFE projects** (LIFE Paludicola, LIFE W4C) have been carried out at Albufera. The proposed actions for AWOM are the result of the needs identified in the previous LIFE projects. Given the success of the preliminary LIFE actions, this proposal intends to extend actions to new areas within the same site and new actions in the same areas based on new needs, responding to e.g., the evolution of the vegetation as areas that previously did not need management, now do. All will be done following LIFE strategies and applying recommendations from the AW conservation strategies drafts.

#### **Current Events**

The main threats to this Mediterranean coastal wetland are related to vegetation control, a problem associated with the high nutrient load in the waters that reach this wetland and the absence of wild animals or livestock that in the past exercised this control in a natural way. This plant growth causes a significant accumulation of organic matter, clogging and homogenisation of habitats, especially expansion of suboptimal habitats for the AW: dense and homogeneous masses of reed of the genus *Phragmites*. Among other aspects, in these vegetation stands the abundance of arthropod prey is very low for the AW. To combat this threat, the main action is mowing by amphibious machines. Other threats to the AW such as habitat loss, uncontrolled burning, expansion of suboptimal habitats or habitat alteration due to urban sprawl are combated.

The following task outlined in WP3 need to be implemented in this wetland.

- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing

*Marjal de Pego-Oliva*

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on Move – LIFE AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Marjal de Pego-Oliva	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	1,252.04 ha	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	ES0000147
	<b>SAC</b>	ES0000147
	<b>SPA</b>	ES0000487
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	DECREE 192/2014, of 14 November, of the Consell, declaring ten Sites of Community Importance coinciding with protected natural areas as Special Areas of Conservation and approving the management rules for these sites and for ten Special Protection Areas for Birds. DOCV (Official Journal of the Valencian Community) nº 7406 of 19/11/2014: <a href="http://www.docv.gva.es/datos/2014/11/19/pdf/2014_10634.pdf">http://www.docv.gva.es/datos/2014/11/19/pdf/2014_10634.pdf</a>	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>We cannot fully understand the landscape of the Pego-Oliva marshland without considering human intervention. Although marshy areas have been considered hostile environments by people, there are elements that allow us to corroborate the anthropic presence since ancient times. In the Andalusian period, the Muslims introduced rice cultivation in the marshland. However, it was not until the 18th century that the area underwent an important process of transformation due to agricultural activity. The actions can be summarised as the control of water levels and the progressive drying out of the wetland. An irrigation system with its characteristic orthogonal network of irrigation ditches and canals was designed for rice cultivation. Other uses of the marshland have been as a grazing area for livestock, fishing in the Bullent rivers and the water springs and handicrafts made from the reeds of the wetland.</p> <p>35% of the site's surface area is public property. It is divided into different plots. A few years ago, the Valencian Government started to negotiate with the private owners a change to group this 35% into a single plot and declare it as a conservation area within the site. The other part of the site is private.</p> <p>The uses on this site are mainly agricultural. Rice cultivation is 75% of the agricultural land, while the rest is devoted to citrus and vegetable crops for self-consumption.</p> <p>Waterfowl hunting is another permitted use within the site. Lately, the proliferation of wild boars has led hunters to carry out continuous hunting, which is causing disturbance to the birdlife.</p>		
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>		

The marshes of Pego and Oliva stand out for the quantity and quality of fresh water from which they are supplied, which is exceptional on the Spanish Mediterranean coast. These characteristics give rise to the existence in the area of extraordinarily rare habitats, the conservation of which is essential for the conservation of the area. Its interest for birds is the reason for its inclusion in the International Ramsar Convention. It is also home to one of the best natural populations of samaruc (*Valencia hispanica*). However, despite the fact that it is a protected natural area, it has recently suffered serious alterations in order to put it under cultivation, alterations which have affected 70% of the wetland area and which have led to a notable decrease in the nesting of numerous species of interest.

### Characteristics

Formerly a clogged lagoon, today it is one of the most interesting marshes on the Valencian coast. It is bounded to the north and south by two rivers, "Bullent" and "Molinell", which contribute to its water supply, and is crossed by numerous canals and irrigation channels.

### Habitats and species

These characteristics give rise to the existence around aquatic habitats that are extraordinarily rare in the region, as well as favouring the density of species such as the samaruc (*Valencia hispanica*). However, it was the interest of its avifauna that led to its inclusion in the International Ramsar Convention. It has the largest breeding colonies of purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*) and whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) in the Valencian Community, with 33.9% and 22.3% of the total number counted respectively, as well as 15.9% of the breeding population of black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*). There is evidence of nesting of little bitterns *Ixobrychus minutis*. It is home to one of the largest wintering populations of little bittern in Valencia Region, with 27.9% of the regional total. The wintering of the little egret is also relevant, with 9.2% of the total numbers. The bird population ranges shown in section 3.2 show the minimum and maximum quotas recorded in the period 2003-2008, based on official censuses.

From 2018 to 2021, the LIFE Paludicola project was developed, in which ringing of the species began to be constant at this site. Subsequently, the campaign has continued with other projects due to the importance of this wetland in the spring migration route of the AW and other marsh species. Until spring 2022 the FGN has ringed 17 AW in this site, of these, 7 specimens during the specific LIFE campaigns, which shows the importance of carrying out specific monitoring to improve knowledge of migration in Iberian wetlands.

With LIFE Paludicola and LIFE Wetlands4Climate, restoration of hydraulic infrastructures and vegetation management actions were carried out, removing reeds, planting macrophytes, introducing cows for vegetation management and removing alien plants, which led to an increase in the diversity of species.

### Current events

Previous works within the frame of LIFE projects (LIFE Paludicola, LIFE W4C) have been carried out at Marjal de Pego-Oliva. The proposed actions for AWOM are the result of the needs identified in the previous LIFE projects. Given the success of the preliminary LIFE actions, this proposal intends to extend actions to new areas within the same site and new actions in the same areas based on new needs, responding to e.g., the evolution of the vegetation as areas that previously did not need management, now do. All will be done following LIFE strategies and applying recommendations from the AW conservation strategies drafts.

The main threats to this Mediterranean coastal wetland are related to vegetation control, a problem associated with the high nutrient load in the waters that reach this wetland and the absence of wild animals or livestock. This plant growth causes a significant accumulation of organic matter, clogging and homogenisation of habitats, especially expansion of suboptimal habitats for the AW: dense and homogeneous masses of reeds of the genus *Phragmites*. Among other aspects, in these vegetation stands the abundance of arthropod prey is very low for the AW. To combat this threat, the main action is mowing with amphibious machines. In addition to these actions, a method of natural and traditional vegetation control is contemplated through the continuity and study of extensive grazing, as this activity is closely related to the opening of vegetation clearings and the growth of smaller vegetation formations, which are very attractive as a feeding area for the AW. Other threats to the AW such as habitat loss, uncontrolled burning, expansion of suboptimal habitats or habitat alteration due to urban growth are combated.

As a counter-plantation to improve habitats, the aim is to plant endangered flora. Threats such as: habitat alteration, reduced food availability, expansion of dense and homogeneous reed beds and rising sea levels due to climate change are being combated.

The following tasks outlined in WP3 need to be implemented in this wetland;

- T.3.1.2.2.1. Replanting of native flora.
- T.3.1.2.2.2. Moving
- T.3.1.2.2.4. Grazing

- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration of water management infrastructure



**Castilla–La Mancha***Laguna de El Longar*

<b>DESCRIPTION OF SITES</b>	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on Move – LIFE AWOM
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Laguna de El Longar
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	98.79 ha
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b> ES0000091
	<b>SAC</b>
	<b>SPA</b> ES4250010
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	<p>Wetland included in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Humedales de La Mancha (La Mancha Wetlands).</p> <p>Wetland from the Spanish Inventory of Wetlands - Wetland IH425023 – El Longar Lagoon.</p> <p>Public Utility Area – Resolution 17/03/2010. Published in the Official Gazette of Castile-La Mancha (DOCM) No 74 of 20 of April 2010, p. 19803.</p> <p>Wildlife Refuge – El Longar Lagoon Wildlife Refuge. Decree 39/1994, of May 17th, declaring the El Longar in the municipality of Lillo, Province of Toledo, as a hunting refuge (DOCM no. 27, May 20th, 1994).</p> <p>Nature Reserve – El Longar Lagoon Nature Reserve. Decree 85/2006, dated 23/06/2006, approving the Management Plan and declaring the Nature Reserve of the Manjavacas Lagoon Complex (DOCM no. 28, June 21st, 1996).</p>
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b>	
<p><i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i></p>	
<p>Ownership: Basin wetland – 100% Local Government.</p> <p>Land use: Water use (surrounded by agriculture)</p> <p>According to the Management Plan for Natural Resources, it is possible to use the wetland and surrounding area for the following purposes.</p> <p>a. Research activities, including the capture, collection, or marking of fauna or flora specimens for scientific purposes, as well as the sampling of water, benthos, or sediments, and the collection of soil, geological, or paleontological material.</p> <p>b. The conditioning and improvement of existing constructions, infrastructures, facilities, and buildings in force at the time of the Plan's enforcement, provided there is no increase in height or occupied area, including periodic maintenance work on the drainage weir.</p> <p>c. Placing signs and other informational signs, except in cases regulated by other legislation.</p> <p>d. Environmental education, ecological tourism, or nature interpretation activities, programmed or carried out by</p>	

individuals or legal entities with a collective nature or for profit, including the establishment of routes.

**Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)**

*Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.*

**Characteristics**

Designated as a Nature Reserve, it boasts unique saline steppe vegetation. The present "albardinales" (salt marshes) are considered one of the best-preserved and most extensive in the province of Toledo. The lagoon is located within the central saline endorheic (the largest and most significant in the Iberian Peninsula). As in other wetlands in La Mancha, it exhibits the characteristic landscape dominated by plains. El Longar is a permanent lagoon as it receives water input from Lillo, which causes it to lose two of its natural characteristics: seasonality and the formation of salt crusts during the summer. However, by maintaining water during the summer, it becomes a refuge for numerous waterfowl seeking landscapes with water.

FGN restored Habitat 1510 in this lagoon and promoted its conservation through the LIFE10 NAT/ES/000563 project, where El Longar was one of the 27 lagoons restored within that project (as well all the CLM wetlands included in this proposal). The reed beds in El Longar, just like those in laguna Larga (Villacañas), may be small in comparison to other lagoons within this proposal. Nevertheless, they are small oases that provide resting places in an extensive area that currently lack of refuge. The ongoing activity of FGN in the area ensures a continuation of the achievements made in this initiative. Also, conservation works in its surrounded steppe area was included in the LIFE15 NAT/ES/000734

**Habitats and species**

The lagoon includes the following habitats listed in the Habitat Directive: 1510\*, 1310, 1410, 1420, 92DO. The main faunal value of the area is represented by waterfowl, mainly during the breeding period in El Longar Lagoon, where the majority of birds gather, while the other two lagoons act as satellite locations. The presence of threatened steppe birds and interesting terrestrial halophilic invertebrates is also noteworthy.

**Current events**

Final recommendations from the previous LIFE Paludicola project include to further increase the suitable habitat for the AW. El Longar is an optimal site to implement such guidelines due to its habitat conditions.

El Longar is a seasonal lagoon as it receives water input from Lillo, which causes it to lose two of its initial characteristics: seasonality and the formation of salt crusts during the summer. However, the input of freshwater has created an ideal habitat for the refuge of the AW, as it allowed the formation of an extensive helophyte patch, represented by the reed bed. Proper management of the reed bed will be necessary to diversify the habitat and ensure the proper maintenance of the channel for treated wastewater. These mowing tasks need to be carried out in the lagoon basin, where the work should be done using manual mowing tools rather than heavy machinery.

The reed beds of El Longar, as well as those of Laguna Larga, are small patches compared to other wetlands in this proposal. They are small oases that provide resting places in an extensive area that currently lacks refuge. The ongoing activity of FGN in the area ensures a continuation of the achievements made in this initiative.

Over the past decades, there has been a significant increase in the understanding of passage phenology, migratory routes, and stopover sites on the Iberian Peninsula. During AW migration, it has also been observed that the species is a high habitat specialist, occupying wetlands with a specific level of waterlogging and marsh vegetation physiognomy. In other words, it prefers shallow water areas with a few centimetres of depth covered by low and medium-sized grasses and helophytes.

The most recent ornithological report in the Toledo province (2014-2018), which includes the El Longar (Longar), Grande, and Chica de Villafranca de los Caballeros, and Larga (Villacañas) wetlands, records the presence of the AW in the lagoons of Villafranca de los Caballeros and Villacañas. Although no sightings have been made at El Longar, improvements in the management of its current marsh vegetation would contribute to turning the wetland into a migratory stopover zone for the species. The inclusion of these lagoons, along with Manjavacas, will enhance our knowledge of the areas and habitats the species uses during its migrations. Thus, a better understanding of its distribution and habitat preferences will facilitate the development of more effective conservation measures, particularly for a species that relies on wetlands embedded in landscapes heavily altered by agricultural intensification and changes in land use, such as the case in this area of the South Plateau of the Iberian Peninsula.

The main threats to this wetland are related to vegetation control (associated with the high nutrient load in the water income). The vegetation overgrowth causes a significant accumulation of organic matter, clogging and homogenization of habitats, especially the expansion of suboptimal habitats for the AW: dense and homogeneous masses of Phragmites, with very low abundance of prey arthropods for AW. Mowing will be used to avoid it, using a self-propelled machine. Thus, other threats affecting AW will be tackled secondarily, such as the loss of habitats, uncontrolled burning, the expansion of suboptimal habitats or the alteration of habitats due to urban growth.

The restoration of the hydraulic infrastructure by restoring canals would improve the flooding capacity of the wetland,

as well as increase the availability of food (abundance of invertebrates) to the benefit of the AW. In this way, actions will also contribute to fight the effects of decreased rainfall caused by climate change, water pollution and inappropriate changes in the water regime.

The following tasks outlined in WP3 need to be implemented in this wetland:

- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing
- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration of water management infrastructure.

*Laguna Larga de Villafranca*

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on Move – LIFE AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Laguna Larga de Villacañas	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	84 ha (130 including their small lagoons Redondilla and Gramosa)	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	ES0000091
	<b>SAC</b>	
	<b>SPA</b>	ES4250010
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	Wetland included in the Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO Humedales de La Mancha (La Mancha Wetlands). Wetland from the Spanish Inventory of Wetlands - Wetland - IH425047 Larga Lagoon.	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>This steppe wetland provides numerous resources and services to local populations, and in its surroundings, activities such as agriculture, livestock farming, hunting, and tourism take place.</p> <p>Ownership: Basin wetland: 100% Local Government.</p> <p>Land Use: Main land use surround area of the wetland is Agriculture.</p>		
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>		
<b>Characteristics</b> Laguna Larga is part of the "Humedales de La Mancha" SPA and SCI, along with two other lagoons, La Gramosa and La Redondilla, within the Natura 2000 network. Laguna Larga is not very deep but generally maintains a permanent water level throughout the year, thanks to the input of wastewater and treated water from a sewage treatment plant that flows into the lagoon's wide basin. The lagoon basin is situated on fluvial Quaternary deposits, with surrounding soils composed of clays, marls, and gypsum-bearing limestones. The average annual temperature in the area is 14°C, with annual maximums reaching 34°C and minimums dropping to 1°C. For years, the area that these pleasant wetlands now occupy was used as a landfill and dumping ground for local factories. However, the recent economic crisis, which led to the closure of a significant part of Villacañas' industry, brought some positive consequences for this Toledo locality, such as the recovery of this unique landscape. The natural value of this environment was restored through the initiative of FGN under the LIFE99 NAT/E/006339 project, creating a completely different landscape in this municipality. Even the perception of the local residents has changed, as they now proudly witness the arrival of species such as flamingos and other species, which have found in this restored natural environment a perfect resting place during their migration southwards. Thanks to these previous efforts, a new restoration phase started in 2010 with the LIFE10 NAT/ES/000563 project (coordinated by FGN), where Laguna Larga was one of the 27 wetlands restored within that project (including all the other CLM wetlands included in this proposal). Thanks to this project, Habitat 1510* was restored, and the socio-environmental aspect of the wetland was also enhanced. Also, conservation works in its surrounded steppe area was included in the LIFE15		

NAT/ES/000734

**Habitats and species**

The Larga Lagoon in Villacañas has two types of habitats listed as priority habitats in the European Union's Habitat Directive: Limonium salt steppes (Limonietalia) 1510\* and Mediterranean temporary ponds 3170\*. It also includes other habitats listed in Annex I of the mentioned Directive: 1310, 1410, 1420, 1430, 92DO. The presence of unique species such as *Limonium costae*, *Limonium latebracteatum*, *Limonium tournefortii*, *Limonium carpetanicum*, and *Microcneum coralloides* is noteworthy, all of which are Iberian endemics found in inland salt marshes of the central Iberian Peninsula. Another present species, *Lepidium cardamines*, is included in the National Catalogue of Endangered Species.

Another characteristic of this saline lagoon is the large number of microcrustaceans and algae that inhabit its waters, which makes the wetlands very attractive to birds such as the flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and the northern shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*), as they feed on these small organisms. In the surrounding area, where there are crops and some fallow areas, one can find one of the most unique bird species of La Mancha Húmeda, the collared pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*). Among the bird species present, some are listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, such as the white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*), gull-billed tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) and common crane (*Grus grus*) among others.

The lagoons of Villacañas have a special importance as an alternative habitat to other wetlands in La Mancha, as their water levels (aquifer 20) tend to be more constant than those in the wetlands of Ciudad Real (aquifer 23), which have been nearly dry in recent years, as is the case of Las Tablas de Daimiel.

AW is not listed within the Standard Data Forms of the SPA. However, the most recent ornithological report in the Toledo province (2014-2018) does record its presence in the area of the SPA and AWs have been ringed in other wetlands of the same SPA during the monitoring activities carried out by the LIFE Paludicola project in 2021. Improvements in the habitat would contribute increase the extent of suitable habitats for the AW in an area where it is limited, following the recommendations from the aforementioned project.

**Current events**

The main threats to this wetland are related to vegetation control (associated with the high nutrient load in the water income). The vegetation overgrowth causes a significant accumulation of organic matter, clogging and homogenization of habitats, especially the expansion of suboptimal habitats for the AW: dense and homogeneous masses of Phragmites, with very low abundance of prey arthropods for AW. Mowing will be used to avoid it, using a self-propelled machine. Thus, other threats affecting AW will be tackled secondarily, such as the loss of habitats, uncontrolled burning, the expansion of suboptimal habitats or the alteration of habitats due to urban growth.

Thanks to the water input from the village's wastewater treatment plant, Laguna Larga does not dry up completely, and the freshwater supply has led to the emergence of a large patch of reed beds that serve as a refuge for the AW and other species, both vertebrates and invertebrates. This wetland requires a topsoil removal to eliminate the excess nutrients it receives, which remain from its first ecological restoration in 1999 (LIFE99 NAT/E/6339). Additionally, it needs management of the reed bed and the channel that carries water from the wastewater treatment plant to the lagoon. Its values have not always been recognised, and a lack of understanding of their importance has led to, as other wetlands, its abandonment or degradation in some cases, for this reason, a debris removal will be needed in this wetland. The proposed actions for AWOM are the result of the needs identified in the previous LIFE project and were either not included in the proposal or not needed at the time and follow the recommendations result of LIFE Paludicola.

The following tasks outlined in WP3 need to be implemented in this wetland:

- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation management
- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration of water management infrastructure
- T.3.1.2.4.1 Topsoil removal.
- T.3.1.2.4.2 Removal of debris removal

*Lagunas Grande y Chica de Villafranca de los Caballeros*

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on Move — LIFE AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Lagunas Grande y Chica de Villafranca de los Caballeros	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	180 ha	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	ES0000091
	<b>SAC</b>	
	<b>SPA</b>	ES4250010
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	<p>Wetland included in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Humedales de La Mancha (La Mancha Wetlands).</p> <p>Wetland from the Spanish Inventory of Wetlands - Wetland IH425058 - Grande Lagoon &amp; IH425057 Chica Lagoon.</p> <p>Wildlife Refuge – Grande &amp; Chica Lagoons Wildlife Refuge. Decree 158/1988, of December 13<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Nature Reserve – Grande y Chica Lagoon Complexes Nature Reserve. Decree 83/2006, dated 23/06/2006, approving the Management Plan and declaring the Nature Reserve of the Grande y Chica Lagoon Complexes (DOCM no. 28, June 22<sup>st</sup>, 1996).</p>	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b>		
<p><i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i></p> <p>Ownership: Basin wetland: 100% Local Government.</p> <p>Land Use: Water use. Main land use for surrounding area: 20% Urban; 80% Agriculture</p> <p>According to the Plan for the Management of Natural Resources, the uses of the lagoon are those that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the conservation of the flora, water, soil, landscape, fauna, and atmosphere of this natural space, as well as the structure, dynamics, and functionality of their respective ecosystems and geosystems, with special attention to the protected communities and species in the area and the hygrophilous ecosystems.</li> <li>Restore the areas and natural resources that have been degraded by human activities, especially the vegetation around the lagoon and the trophic characteristics of the system.</li> <li>Ensure the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, in a manner compatible with the conservation of other natural values.</li> <li>Facilitate, to the extent that it is compatible with other traditional uses, the non-consumptive and sustainable use of the natural values of the area by the public.</li> <li>Promote research applied to the conservation of nature.</li> </ol> <p>In particular in the southern sector of Laguna Grande, recreational bathing and the use of non-motorized boats are</p>		

allowed. It is the only area in the entire SPA-SCI Humedales de La Mancha where this tradition is maintained.

### Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)

Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.

#### Characteristics

The Grande and Chica lagoons of Villafranca de los Caballeros cover an area of approximately 180 hectares of permanent wetlands. These lagoons are located in the basin of the Gigüela River, which flows to the north of them, belonging to the hydrographic basin of the Guadiana River. They are endorheic lagoons, originally hypersaline.

Like all steppe lagoons, they receive water input from runoff and rainfall, in addition to contributions from an aquifer. However, the geological origin of the lagoons is fluvial. Nowadays, they are artificially connected to the Cigüela River with a flow rate established based on a permanent flow of the river, an average annual precipitation of 380 mm, a lagoon surface area of 140 hectares, and an annual decrease in water level caused by filtration and evaporation of 90 cm resulting in the drainage of some basin areas. With these data, a water concession of 40 litres per second was established (concession approved on June 9, 1979).

The site was part of the LIFE LIFE10 NAT/ES/000563 project (as well all the wetlands in CLM included in this proposal). Also, they were included in the LIFE Paludicola project (LIFE 16 NAT/ES/000168), where mowing work was carried out to enhance the habitat for the AW in the northern area of the lagoon. Conservation works in its steppe area were included in the LIFE15 NAT/ES/000734. Nowadays, FGN is working in this wetland and also in Manjavacas wetland to establish management guidelines for Mediterranean wetlands so that they function as carbon sinks through the LIFE19 CCM/ES/00123.

#### Habitats and species

The lagoons have the following habitats: 1510\*, 1310, 1410, 1420, 1430, 6420, 92DO.

The natural richness of the area is concentrated in Laguna Chica, as Laguna Grande is used for recreational purposes, leading to some modifications in its natural characteristics. Regarding flora and vegetation, the subaquatic meadows of *Chara galioides* and *Chara hispida* stand out. Different types of marginal vegetation are well represented and preserved in Laguna Chica and the northern part of Laguna Grande, distributed in extensive bands. Following the gradient of increasing to decreasing humidity, we find reed beds of *Phragmites australis* and *Typha domingensis*, formations of bulrush (*Scirpus maritimus*), subhalophytic and halophytic rush meadows of *Juncus gerardi* and *Juncus subulatus*, and perennial grass meadows of saltmarsh grass (*Aeluropus littoralis*). Other present communities characteristic of these brackish environments are the annual halophytic formations of succulent plants and the nitrophilous communities of annual prostrate plants colonizing the bare soils. *Suaeda vera* emerges in the clearings among the vegetation.

From a faunal perspective, the lagoons of Villafranca de los Caballeros stand out for their population of birds, mainly waterfowl, which find these lagoons as the ideal habitat for their development. During migration, the lagoons host species such as *Oxyura leucocephala* and *Grus grus*, while during breeding season, nesting is notable for *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Porphyrio porphyrio*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Chlidonias hybridus*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Porzana pusilla*, *Aythya nyroca* and *Podiceps nigricollis*, among other species, all of which are included in the Regional Catalog of Endangered Species. As for raptors, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus pygargus*, and *Falco peregrinus* can be observed.

The AW is not listed within the Standard Data Forms of the SPA. However, the most recent ornithological report in the Toledo province (2014-2018) does record its presence in the area. Improvements in the management of its current marsh vegetation would contribute to turning the wetland into a migratory stopover zone for the species. The inclusion of these lagoons, along with Manjavacas (where species was ringed in 2021 within the LIFE PALUDICOLA project), will increase the extent of suitable habitats for the AW in an area where it is limited, following the recommendations from the aforementioned project.

#### Current events.

The main current threats in the area correspond to vegetation overgrowth due to nutrient polluted incoming waters, inadequate water infrastructure and exotic flora. All of them involve habitat losses for AW. Currently, the area occupied by the reed bed is estimated to cover over 60 hectares, which forms dense, homogenous stands. In addition, the canal that supplies water to the lagoons from the Cigüela River also being overgrown by reeds. Therefore, it is necessary to clear areas of the reeds to increase the structural diversity of habitats that favour

migratory (i.e. AW) and resident birds (i.e. *Panurus biarmicus*) as well as insects such as dragonflies and other plants typical of these aquatic systems, which have slower growth and high demand for direct sunlight to thrive. These mowing tasks need to be carried out in the wetland basin, where the work should be done using manual mowing tools rather than heavy machinery.

The restoration of the hydraulic infrastructure by restoring canals would improve the flooding capacity of the wetland, as well as increase the availability of food (abundance of invertebrates) to the benefit of AW. In this way, actions will also contribute to fight the effects of decreased rainfall caused by climate change, water pollution and inappropriate changes in the water regime.

The current project also intends to combat the presence of exotic species of flora that affect the quality of the habitat of the AW and the functioning of the entire ecosystem by controlling exotic plants in the Villafranca lagoons. Other threats are combated such as alteration of habitats, decrease in food availability, expansion of dense and homogeneous reed beds, and rise in sea level because of climate change.

The following tasks outlined in WP3 need to be implemented in this wetland.

- T.3.1.2.1.2. Removal of alien plant species
- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing for vegetation management
- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration of water management infrastructure



*Laguna de Manjavacas*

DESCRIPTION OF SITES	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on Move – LIFE AWOM
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Laguna de Manjavacas
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	236.25 ha
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b> ES0000091
	<b>SAC</b>
	<b>SPA</b> ES4250010
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	<p>Wetland included in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Humedales de La Mancha (La Mancha Wetlands).</p> <p>RAMSAR Site n°: 594</p> <p>Wetland from the Spanish Inventory of Wetlands - Wetland IH423025 - Manjavacas Lagoon.</p> <p>Wildlife Refuge - Manjavacas Lagoon Wildlife Refuge. Decree 120/1989, of October 3rd, declaring the Manjavacas Lagoon in the municipality of Mota del Cuervo, Province of Cuenca, as a hunting refuge (DOCM no. 4, October 17th, 1989).</p> <p>Nature Reserve - Manjavacas Lagoon Complex Nature Reserve. Decree 185/2001, dated 02/10/2001, approving the Management Plan and declaring the Nature Reserve of the Manjavacas Lagoon Complex (DOCM no. 114, October 26th, 2001).</p>
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b>	
<i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>	
Ownership: Basin Wetland – 100% Regional Government	
Land Use: Main land use in the surrounding area is agriculture.	
The fundamentally limestone nature of the soils and the saline character of the waters have influenced the maintenance of traditional uses in the peri-lagoon area, among which vineyards and dryland cereal crops stand out. Some irrigated crops appear that use wastewater from the main channel. Tourism and birdwatching are also part of the usage of the lagoon, where human activity is completely prohibited within its basin.	
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b>	
<i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>	
<b>Characteristics</b>	
It represents a characteristic example of a seasonal, endorheic, and steppe-like lagoon, with a shallow and saline	

nature that mainly accumulates water based on precipitation, with annual cycles of flooding and drying. The surrounding area is used for agriculture, including the cultivation of vines, olive trees, and other crops. Precipitation in the area has decreased, and the input of treated wastewater into the lagoon has increased to maintain the water level, reducing its salinity and increasing nutrient input. In 2021, its boundaries were delineated more precisely, increasing its surface area by 30 hectares. Conservation works in its surrounded steppe area was included in the LIFE15 NAT/ES/000734. Nowadays, FGN is working in this wetland and also in Grande y Chica wetland to establish management guidelines for Mediterranean wetlands so that they function as carbon sinks through the LIFE19 CCM/ES/00123.

### Habitats and species

The site holds high faunal and floral interest, with 313 confirmed taxa (48 flora and 265 fauna), including numerous species of waterfowl such as the white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) and the marbled teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*). The site also holds a number of endemic (Criterion 3) and threatened species (Criterion 2). There are at least 3 confirmed endemic plant species associated with wetlands within the site.

Regarding wetland habitats, the presence of up to 6 types of Community Interest (Habitat Directive) is confirmed, included Mediterranean salt steppes (Limonietalia) (1510)\*, Pioneer annual vegetation with *Salicornia* (1310), and Thermo-Mediterranean riparian galleries and shrublands (92D0).

AW is not listed within the Standard Data Forms of the SPA. However, the most recent ornithological report in the Toledo province (2014-2018) does record its presence in the area. Three juvenile AWs were ringed at Manjavacas during the monitoring activities carried out by the LIFE Paludicola project in 2021. Improvements in the management of its current marsh vegetation would contribute to turning the wetland into a more suitable migratory stopover zone for the species. The inclusion of these lagoons will increase the extent of suitable habitats for the AW in an area where it is limited, following the recommendations from the aforementioned project.

The Manjavacas wetland, along with the Grande and Chica lagoons of Villafranca de los Caballeros, constitutes one of the two wetlands hosting the largest expanse of halophytic vegetation suitable for the AW in the region (HIC: 1310, 1410, 1510\*, 92D2). Sustaining the accomplished work, assessing also continue helping with the evolution of the habitat stands as a driving force for once again incorporating this lagoon into this proposal.

### Current events

This wetland is an endorheic saline lagoon which its hydrological regime depends on aquifers, rainfall, and surface waters included treated wastewater. Manjavacas receives water from the Mota del Cuervo Wastewater Treatment Plant, transitioning from temporary to semipermanent, which changes the water's salinity level and the communities of marginal vegetation at the freshwater inflow. Its heterogeneity is determined by the inflow of freshwater, which alters the conditions of the saline and temporary wetland, especially in its northern part, where helophytes grow along the channel and flood zone of these waters. The eastern basin, smaller in size and closer to the inflow of the wastewater treatment plant waters, also experiences changes due to this freshwater input.

Despite its shallow depth, it supports significant populations of waterfowl and marginal vegetation. The populations of *Lamprothamnium papulosum* are particularly noteworthy as well *Phragmites australis*.

Therefore, the main current threats in the area for the conservation of AW are vegetation overgrowth due to nutrient polluted incoming waters. Mowing actions are needed in the wetland basin, where the work should be done using manual mowing tools rather than heavy machinery. The proposed actions for AWOM are the result of the needs identified in the previous LIFE projects.

The following task outlined in WP3 need to be implemented in this wetland:

- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing

## Castilla y León

### Laguna de La Nava

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Laguna de La Nava	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	450 ha wetland (1012,97 ha SAC)	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	ES4140136
	<b>SAC</b>	ES4140136
	<b>SPA</b>	ES4140036
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	<p>RAMSAR site n. 1260 – Laguna de la Nava de Fuentes</p> <p>Included in the Regional Catalogue of wetlands Castilla and León (Decree 194/1994) – PA 6</p> <p>Natural landscape “La Nava y Campos de Palencia” – Included in the Regional Plan for Protected Natural spaces of Castilla and León (Ley 4/2015).</p>	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>According to the Basic management and conservation plan for the Natura 2000 Network Protected Area for the SAC ES4140136 - Laguna de La Nava, the total area of the protected space corresponds to 1,012.97 ha, of which:</p> <p>Land uses: Forest: 2.63ha, 0.26 %, Farming-agriculture: 647.29ha, 63.90 %, Water: 363.05ha, 35.84 %  Ownership status: Public: 334.27ha, 33.00 %, Private: 521.90ha, 51.52 %, Undetermined: 0.57ha, 0.06 %, Unknown: 156.25ha, 15.43 %</p> <p>Project activities will be carried out in public areas, owned by the Municipalities of Fuentes de Nava and Mazariegos. . The regular management is carried out by the regional Administration (Ministry of the Environment of the Junta de Castilla y León), which pays the owner in accordance with an Agreement, signed by both parties.</p> <p>The SAC includes 450ha of wetland divided into several sectors with different water and vegetation management, which allows a huge variety of habitats and have excellent conditions for pre- and postnuptial passages, in spring and summer and good wintering and breeding areas for water and marsh birds. Many of these areas are flooded during the summer as part of traditional management that generates summer grazing and forage mowing areas for sheep farming, providing ideal habitat for the use of the AW during postnuptial passage.</p> <p>Hunting and fishing are not allowed in the entire SAC and its immediate surroundings.</p> <p>Public use management: La Nava wetland is also a touristic, recreational, and educational resource. Public use is regulated through environmental surveillance, the Visitor Center (located in Fuentes de Nava), and different infrastructures, such as observatories, observation points, parking lots, pedestrian paths, and signage.</p>		
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b>		

*Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.*

The predominant Habitats of Community Interest in the La Nava lagoon are HCI 1310 annual pioneer vegetation with *Salicornia* and other species of muddy or sandy areas; HCI 3170\* Mediterranean Temporary Ponds; and HCI 1410 Mediterranean saline grasslands (*Juncetalia maritimi*).

Important flora species stand out, such as *Butomus umbellatus* L. and *Salsola soda*, included in the Catalogue of Protected Flora of Castilla y León; or singular species or species with a scarce distribution in the Iberian Peninsula such as *Utricularia australis*, *Hippuris vulgaris*, *Chara vulgaris* var. *oedophylla*, *Zannichellia obtusifolia*.

Regarding fauna, almost 300 species of vertebrates have been spotted, among them fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and especially birds, since this wetland constitutes one of the main wetlands of the Northern plateau.

Birds Annex I (Dir. 79/409/CEE). (In bold, priority funding species for the LIFE programme according to the Ornithology Committee (2014): *Ardea purpurea*, **Anser albifrons flavirostris**, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Gyps fulvus*, **Neophron percnopterus**, *Milvus milvus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Branta leucopsis*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Emberiza hortulana*. **Acrocephalus paludicola**, *Coracias garrulus*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Sternula albifrons*, *Pernis apivorus*, **Anser erythropus**, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Calidris pugnax*, *Elanus caeruleus*, *Pterocles orientalis*, *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Anthus campestris*, *Asio flammeus*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Charadrius morinellus*, *Sterna caspia*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Tringa glareola*, **Oxyura leucocephala**, *Pluvialis apricaria*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Himantopus himantopus*, **Otis tarda**, **Tetrax tetrax**, *Grus grus*, *Porzana porzana*, *Falco columbarius*, *Falco naumanni*, *Pandion haliaetus*, **Hieraaetus fasciatus** and *Gelochelidon nilotica*.

Amphibians and reptiles Annex II (Dir. 92/43/CEE): *Discoglossus galganoi*

Fish Annex II (Dir 92/43/CEE): *Rutilus arcasii*, *Chondrostoma polylepis*

La Nava wetland has been included in two previous LIFE projects aimed at improving the AW habitat: LIFE 2002/NAT/E/8616 "Conservation of the AW in the SPA Nava-Campos" (2002-2006), which set the baseline and served as a starting point to later extend the restoration actions and methodologies to 8 other Iberian wetlands from 2017 to 2021, within the frame of the LIFE 16/NAT/ES/000168 "Restoration of the pre- and post-breeding migratory habitat for the AW in the Iberian Peninsula". Thanks to these projects, habitat management and restoration actions were developed (for water, soil, and vegetation as well as control of exotic species). Such actions allowed the replication in other wetlands of the Spanish geography, where the current proposal intends to work further. These previous experiences also gave valuable base information about the AW use of habitat and about capture and census methodologies, which need further studies and to be updated with current technologies. The current proposal will benefit from large sets of previous local data to be analysed and upscaled to other working areas.

### Current events

The regional government of Castilla and León regularly carries on management and restoration actions in La Nava lagoon, mainly related to the management of vegetation to improve habitat quality. LIFE AWOM foresees to complement this by promoting livestock as a vegetation management tool (T.3.1.2.2.4, WP3).

La Nava wetland is one of the most important areas for AW for both pre and post-nuptial passages: a total of 992 AW were captured until 2022, together with 26 visual observations, out of the 3383 total registers of AW in Spain. On average, about 45% of the AWs registered in Spain correspond to the whole region of Castilla and León.

La Nava is also a reference bird ringing station for AW at a national level, with permanent AW ringing campaigns since 1999. The site is, therefore, an important pilot area to test and implement the methodologies developed during the project (WP2 and WP5).

The following tasks outlined in WP3 need to be implemented in this wetland.

- T.3.1.2.2.4 Grazing

*Charcas del Cruce*

DESCRIPTION OF SITES	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Charcas del Cruce
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	11,306 ha
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>
	<b>SAC</b>
	<b>SPA</b> ES4140036 NAVA – CAMPOS NORTE
Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):	Included in the Regional Catalogue of wetlands Castilla and León (Decree 125/2001) – PA 39  Natural landscape “La Nava y Campos de Palencia” – Included in the Regional Plan for Protected Natural spaces of Castilla and León (Ley 4/2015).
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>	
<p>According to the Basic management and conservation plan for the Natura 2000 Network Protected Area for the SAC ES0000205 Lagunas del Canal de Castilla, the total area of the protected space (Charcas del Cruce, PA-39) corresponds to 11.31 ha, of which:</p> <p>Land uses: Water: 11.31 ha, 100.00 %</p> <p>Ownership status: Public: 4.07 ha, 35.96 %, Private: 7.24 ha, 64.04 %</p> <p>The wetland is made up of a large group of waterlogged areas, a result of the contributions of the Lobera Stream whose passage, under the Canal de Castilla, is partially occluded. This same stream gives rise to the formation of large sheets of water that are subdivided into several basins, each surrounded by the corresponding areas of reed beds. This spatial arrangement results in high heterogeneity of habitats, including large, inundated areas of reedbeds suitable for the presence of the AW during migration.</p> <p>Charcas del Cruce is one of the main wetlands associated to the Canal de Castilla and the closest to the wetlands of La Nava, Boada and Pedraza. For this reason, it has an important role as an ecological corridor providing habitat connection for the AW with other wetlands in the territory.</p>	
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>	
<b>Characteristics</b> The Canal de Castilla is an artificial waterway built in the 18th century. It runs through 35 ponds across its 207 kilometres course. These ponds receive water from different sources: filtrations from the Canal de Castilla itself, contributions from runoff water and from small streams that have been cut by the Canal's slopes, resulting in the formation of the lagoons. The Canal de Castilla crosses the landscape from the north to south, providing a green corridor of great importance and where there is a network of wetlands of great importance such as the Charcas del	

Cruce, which is included in the La Nava-Campos Norte SPA and borders the La Nava-Campos Sur SPA.

The landscape is dominated by a cereal plain, with hardly any major watercourses except for the Canal de Castilla. Tree and shrub vegetation is very scarce, being limited to small poplar groves or copses in the vicinity of the river courses. The predominant crop is rain-fed cereals (barley and wheat), with approximately 10% of the area occupied by irrigated crops (alfalfa, beet and maize). The whole area is a very important habitat for the steppe bird community.

#### Habitats and species

The predominant Habitats of Community Interest in the Charcas del Cruce lagoon is HCI 6420 and HCI 1410 Mediterranean saline grasslands.

In terms of vertebrate fauna, these wetlands are particularly important for the conservation of birds linked to marshland environments. The main species considered to be of particular importance is the AW, which has been recorded in 17 ringing campaigns and which is considered as a regular migrant. **Charcas del Cruce is the third most important site in the province of Palencia (after La Nava and Boada) and amongst the most important sites in the region of Castilla y León in terms of AW records.**

Charcas del Cruce is also important for species such as bitterns (*Botaurus stellaris*) and other marshland species such as *Ardea purpurea*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Ixobrychus minutus* and the presence as breeders of rare marsh species such as *Locustella luscinioides*. The distribution of wetlands along a river course means that the presence of migratory birds is very abundant, with annual records of species included in Annex I of the Birds Directive such as *Ciconia nigra*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Calidris pugnax*, *Tringa glareola*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Chlidonias hybridus*, *Alcedo atthis* and *Luscinia svecica*. The presence of threatened steppe birds and interesting terrestrial halophilic invertebrates is also noteworthy.

The most outstanding aspect of these wetlands is the submerged flora, represented by genera such as *Chara*, *Zannichellia*, *Potamogeton*, *Nitella*, *Myriophyllum*, *Tolypella*, *Ranunculus* or *Utricularia*. Some of these species, such as *Hippuris vulgaris* or *Nitella mucronata*, have a very restricted distribution area in the Iberian Peninsula. Also, other wetlands with low-growing helophytic formations such as *Scirpus maritimus*, *Carex* spp. or reeds *Juncus* spp..

#### Current events

The regional government of Castilla and León does not regularly manage the Charcas del Cruce lagoon. In the period 2006-2010 this wetland was part of the work on 34 wetlands of the LIFE 06/NAT/E/000213 project Canal de Castilla, carrying out water management and bird monitoring actions. Since then, management has been insufficient, and the deterioration of the water infrastructures is evident. FGN has identified new current needs that LIFE AWOM aims to tackle as the importance of the site for AW and connectivity has been stated during the last ringing campaigns.

The main problem in this wetland, and therefore the main conservation threat for AW, is the lack of water availability due to insufficient water management. This has worsened due to the loss of water supplies that previously existed from the Canal de Castilla and the loss of water from drainage. LIFE AWOM actions focus on restoring the wetland flooding capacity through the development of water management infrastructures. This way, the project also tackles threats related to climate change (decreased rainfall, inadequate changes in the water regime, and the decrease in arthropod abundance caused by the long periods when the wetland is totally dry).

The low water quality of the income from Las Loberas stream is also an important problem. The stream brings in deficiently treated water from the Villarramiel treatment plant two kilometers upstream, which, together with the presence of sediments and pollutants accumulated over the past decades in the channel, directly affects the habitat and food availability for AW.

The wetland is also close to a road with high traffic load which causes non-natural mortality. The 300m vegetal shielding will avoid important noise disturbances and birds being run over. This action will not only benefit AW, but also the entire bird community in the wetland.

LIFE AWOM intends to solve such threats by carrying out the following habitat improvement actions:

- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration of water management infrastructure (by adapting and regulating the water intake of the Canal de Castilla, regulating the drainage at the crossing point between the Canal de Castilla and the Las Loberas stream and eliminating old irrigation infrastructures).
- T.3.1.2.5.1. Construction of green infrastructure as natural defence
- T.3.1.2.5.2. Construction of vegetation barriers

*Laguna de Boada and Laguna de Pedraza*

DESCRIPTION OF SITES	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Lagunas Boada and Pedraza
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	135 ha total surface of the project area
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>
	<b>SAC</b>
	<b>SPA</b> ES0000216
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	Natural landscape “La Nava y Campos de Palencia” – Included in the Regional Plan for Protected Natural spaces of Castilla and León (Ley 4/2015).
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>	
<p>According to the Basic management and conservation plan for the Natura 2000 Network Protected Area for the SPA ES0000216 – La Nava – Campos Sur the total area of the protected space corresponds to 39,209.87 ha, of which:</p> <p>Land uses of the SPA: Forest: 3.07%; Farming-agriculture: 95.73%; Water: 0.94%</p> <p>Ownership status of the project area: Boada lagoon: 57.6% public, 37.9% private (FGN), 4.5% unknown. Pedraza lagoon: 100% public.</p> <p>Boada and Pedraza lagoons do not have any national site protection themselves, but are part of the wider SPA La Nava – Campos Sur. The lagoon basins are owned by the two municipalities (Boada de Campos and Pedraza de Campos), but the space includes an extensive cereal plain located between the provinces of Palencia and Valladolid, mainly of dryland crops, together with 10% of the surface of the SPA that corresponds to irrigated crops.</p> <p>Boada and Pedraza lagoons are also a tourist, recreational, and educational resource. Public use is regulated through environmental surveillance, the Visitor Center (located in Boada de Campos and owned by Fundación Global Nature), and different infrastructures, such as observatories, observation points, parking lots, pedestrian paths, and signage.</p> <p>Project activities will be carried out in public areas, owned by the Municipalities. They also include land purchases to guarantee the conservation of the lagoon edges. Both sites are currently managed directly by FGN (conservation and management actions).</p>	
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>	
<b>Habitats and species</b>	
The predominant Habitats of Community Interest in the SPA include: 1310, 1410, 1510*, 1520*, 3140, 3150, 3170*,	

3260, 4090, 6220\*, 6420; 6430; 92A0, 9340.

The favourable habitats for AW are the entire surface of the Boada lagoon (60.66 ha) and Pedraza (9.00 ha): 1410, 3140, 3150, 3170, 3260, 6220, 6420, 6430 = 156.66 ha

Birds Annex I (Dir. 79/409/CEE). (In bold, priority funding species for the LIFE programme according to the Ornis Committee (2014): *Falco naumanni*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Coracias garrulus*, ***Acrocephalus paludicola***, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Milvus milvus*, ***Neophron percnopterus***, *Gyps fulvus*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Pterocles orientalis*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Pterocles alchata*, *Burhinus oedicephalus*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Milvus migrans*, ***Hieraaetus fasciatus***, *Elanus caeruleus*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Anthus campestris*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, ***Tetrax tetrax***, *Falco columbarius*, *Melanocorypha calandra* and ***Otis tarda***.

Amphibians and reptiles Annex II (Dir. 92/43/CEE): *Discoglossus galganoi*

### Current events

Both Boada and Pedraza lagoons were included in the previous LIFE project 16/NAT/ES/000168 "Restoration of the pre- and post-breeding migratory habitat for the Aquatic Warbler in the Iberian Peninsula", with only preliminary restoration actions being carried out. Those actions consisted only of initial hydrological restoration in both sites and a small topsoil removal in Pedraza. Due to eutrophication, the vegetation has developed very fast and additional restoration actions to control the vegetation are necessary to create suitable habitats for the AW.

Current main threats in both lagoons are related to the flooding capacity of the lagoon basins as well as the vegetation overgrowth and low water quality (linked to the highly polluted water input from runoff and the water network as both lagoons are surrounded by intensified agricultural fields).

LIFE AWOM actions will not only improve the water network and water quality, but also correct threats related to alteration of habitats, decrease in precipitation due to climate change, inappropriate changes in the water regime and the decline in the abundance of invertebrate populations.

The elimination of the old irrigation infrastructure and the removal of debris in channels or lagoon basins are complementary actions to correct these disturbances associated to the alteration of habitats. In addition, mowing and clearing will create new habitats to fight AW threats related to the habitat availability, improving habitat heterogeneity and biodiversity. Stripping will also allow the removal of sediments with high concentrations of organic matter responsible for eutrophication. Secondly, these actions will also allow us to act against other threats such as uncontrolled burning or expansion of suboptimal habitats (e.g., bush willows or dense and homogeneous masses of reeds).

In the case of Boada, the purchase of neighbouring properties will increase the wetland surface and work as buffer zones that protect the wetland from external disturbances related to agricultural activity. Also, the delimitation of the wetland will help farmers respect the limits of the wetland and guarantee the good evolution of the restored habitats on the perimeter of the wetland.

The following tasks outlined in WP3 will be implemented in this wetland.

### Laguna de Boada

- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing
- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration of water management infrastructure
- T.3.1.2.4.1 Topsoil removal
- T.3.1.2.4.2 Debris removal
- T.3.1.2.5.3 Wetland delimitation
- T.3.1.2.6.1 Land Purchase

### Laguna de Pedraza

- T.3.1.2.2.2. Mowing
- T.3.1.2.3.1. Restoration of water management infrastructure
- T.3.1.2.4.1 Topsoil removal

Boada and Pedraza lagoons are part of the same ecological unit of La Nava (see site description). Birds move among the three wetlands depending on the vegetation and flooding levels at each moment. Boada and Pedraza, along with La Nava, are the three most important postnuptial staging sites for AW in Castilla La Mancha. The sites are, therefore,



important pilot areas to test and implement the methodologies and actions developed during the project (WP2 and WP5).

## PORTUGAL

### Lagoa de Santo André

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Lagoa de Santo André	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	139.96ha	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	PTCON0034
	<b>SAC</b>	
	<b>SPA</b>	PTZPE0013
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	Reserva Natural das Lagoas de Santo André e da Sancha; Lagoa de Santo André (RAMSAR)	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>The total area of Lagoa de Santo André SPA is 2164.37 ha, mostly surface water bodies (41%), including the ocean and the coastal lagoon, and forests (31%). 98.48 ha (4.5%) and 105.13 ha (4.9%) are covered by arable land and pastures, respectively, while marshlands occupy 104.38 ha (4.8%).</p> <p>The project area of 139.96 ha is mainly covered by marshlands (mostly reedbeds) (58.33 ha), agricultural areas (42.30 ha) and pastures (39.33 ha). 42% of the project area is owned by the state while the remaining is private property.</p>		
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>		
<p>At a national level, this wetland has great importance as a passage and wintering place for the common coot <i>Fulica atra</i>, with average counts of c.a. 8,000 birds and maximum counts exceeding 20,000 birds. This is also the main wintering area for the red crested pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>, which also nests in this SPA. This area is also of great value during the autumnal migration for passerines and as a wintering area for many species of ducks.</p> <p>On the banks of the lagoon the vegetation is dominated by common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i>, saltmarsh bulrush <i>Scirpus maritimus</i>, true bulrush <i>Scirpus lacustris</i>, <i>Spartina versicolor</i> and African tamarisk <i>Tamarix africana</i>. The surrounding area is essentially occupied by pine trees (<i>Pinus pinaster</i> and <i>P. pinea</i>), pastures and cultivated fields.</p> <p>This area is suspected to be one of the most important stopover sites for the Aquatic Warbler in Portugal, although no ringing effort has been yet directed to the area to determine its importance for the species. Therefore, the Natura 2000 Standard Data Form records the species as rare and data deficient. The site is managed by the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forestry (ICNF) and it will benefit from habitat management actions and restoration actions in the project area. It is predicted that a small part of the project area will be restored (ca 2 ha) to improve the conditions for the AW's preferred habitats.</p>		

**Lagoa Pequena**

DESCRIPTION OF SITES		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	LIFE Aquatic Warblers on the move — AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Lagoa Pequena	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	18.62ha	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	PTCON0054
	<b>SAC</b>	
	<b>SPA</b>	PTZPE0049
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>	n/a	
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>The total area of Lagoa Pequena SPA is of 68.77 ha, being part of a larger coastal lagoon system named Lagoa de Albufeira.</p> <p>The area of the project is of 18.62 ha that mainly includes the Lagoa da Estacada, a smaller fresh water lagoon and surrounding reed beds. All the area of the project is public property, owned by the municipality and managed by the ICNF.</p>		
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>		
<p>This SPA has national importance for waterbirds, namely for breeding herons, such as the purple heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>, wintering common coots <i>Fulica atra</i> and several duck species and is used by a significant number of migrant passerines during the migratory passage. There are several reports of the AW in this area, but the area has not been managed for the species. The Natura 2000 Standard Data Form of the site list the species as rare and data deficient but assess the conservation importance of the site as B.</p> <p>In this small wetland it will be possible to implement habitat restoration actions that will benefit the AW and other migrant passerines. The involvement of the national authorities in the management and restoration actions will enhance the results and guarantee their long-term implementation. One of the planned actions is to construct a ditch and to restore a small area (2 ha) to improve the conditions for the AW's preferred habitats.</p>		

**Ria de Aveiro**

<b>DESCRIPTION OF SITES</b>		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM	
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>	Ria de Aveiro	
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>	276.78ha	
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	PTCON0061
	<b>SAC</b>	
	<b>SPA</b>	PTZPE0004
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>		
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>The total area of Ria de Aveiro SPA is of 51,446.21 ha, most of it covered by marine habitats (32%), coastal lagoons (18%) and saltmarshes (15%), but it also includes extensive areas of agriculture (15%), coastal sands and dunes (8%) and human settlements (3%). This is one of the most important wetlands at a national level, with the vast majority of the area subject to tides and with significant areas of reeds.</p> <p>The project area is 276.78 ha, composed by pastures (80%), recovered on former rice fields and rice fields (10%). The area is surrounded by marshland (mostly reedbeds) interspersed with small patches of agricultural and forest areas (&lt;10%). The majority of the project area (&gt; 90%) is private property.</p>		
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>		
<p>This SPA regularly supports more than 20,000 waterfowl, namely the dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>, with ca. 11,000 individuals and the Kentish plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>, which can reach 6,600 individuals in the winter. In the marine area, the common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> regularly occurs – 20,000 individuals in the winter and migratory periods.</p> <p>The project area is located in the most important stopover site known for the AW in Portugal. Therefore, it is important to establish adequate monitoring of the species during the post-breeding migratory passage and to implement habitat management actions for the benefit of the species.</p>		

**SENEGAL**

<b>DESCRIPTION OF SITES</b>		
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>		Aquatic Warblers on the Move — AWOM
<b>Name of the project area:</b> <i>The name must be used consistently on all maps and Part B</i>		Djoudj National Park (PNOD) and surrounding areas
<b>Surface area (ha):</b> <i>Indicate the total surface of the project area in hectares, rounded to two decimals</i>		23,677 ha
<b>EU protection status (if applicable)</b>	<b>SCI</b>	n/a
	<b>SAC</b>	n/a
	<b>SPA</b>	n/a
<b>Other protection status according to national or regional legislation (if applicable):</b>		Ramsar Site since 1977, Man & Biosphere Reserve since 2005, UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1981
<b>Main land uses and ownership status of the project area</b> <i>Indicate what are, at the project application date, the main uses made of the project site (e.g. farming, tourism, urban, nature conservation, etc.). Indicate the approximate percentages (in %) of the various uses, ensuring that the total reaches 100%. Indicate also the ownership status / types of the area at the project application date (e.g. private, state, etc.) and the approximate percentages (in %) of the different ownership status / types, ensuring that the total reaches 100%.</i>		
<p>Land use: the primary land use is nature conservation on c. 80% of the project area. Organised ecotourism is also allowed in part of the protected area mostly by boat on the river and on foot in the peripheral areas. Grazing can take place on c. 20% the area. Fishing and hunting is also permitted in the buffer zone. The PNOD was created by the Decree No. 71-411 of April 14, 1971. It has been enlarged from 12,000 hectares to 17,254 in 1975 by the Decree N° 75-1222 of December 10. A buffer zone of 1 kilometre surrounds the park except its western border formed by the Senegal River. The buffer zone covers an area of 6,423 hectares forming a complex of protected areas with a total extent of 23,677 hectares. The Djoudj National Park has been recognised as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site) since 1977 and as a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site since 1981.</p> <p>Ownership: 100% public land.</p>		
<b>Importance of the project area for biodiversity and/or for the conservation of the species /habitat types targeted at regional, national and EU level (give quantitative information if possible)</b> <i>Justify why you have selected this particular area for your project. Explain why your choice is the most appropriate to reach the project's objectives.</i>		
<p>The Djoudj National Park owes its international recognition due to its importance for bird species. According to BirdLife International, the site meets one or more Important Bird and Biodiversity Area selection criteria for 29 species. These include species that breed locally such as great white pelican <i>Pelicanus onocrotalus</i>, black crowned crane <i>Balearica pavonina</i> (globally Vulnerable), intra-African migrants such as lesser flamingo <i>Phoeniconaias minor</i> (globally Near Threatened), greater flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>, white-faced whistling duck <i>Dendrocygna viduata</i> and Palearctic migrants such as black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> (globally Near Threatened), garganey <i>Spatula querquedula</i>, northern shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i> and northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>. The AW was discovered in the Djoudj only in the 2000s. The first expedition to the Djoudj caught 56 AWs and it was assumed that the area may hold between 10% and 50% of the global population of the species. Subsequent studies indicated that there were 4,729 hectares of potentially suitable areas for the AW and the total wintering population size was estimated at 776 (95% credible interval: 260 – 4,057) individuals. Genetic studies suggest that the Djoudj is the probable wintering area of the highly threatened Pomeranian and Lithuanian breeding populations. In addition, geolocator studies show that many more individuals wintering at other areas in West Africa also stage at the Djoudj</p>		

during their post-nuptial migration. Hence, the Djoudj plays an important role in the conservation of the species both as a wintering and as a staging area. Under the current security situation, Senegal is the only wintering country where field work for AW can be carried out safely.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).

## DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

(To be filled in and uploaded as part of the application.)

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES AND HABITATS	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Aquatic Warblers on the Move — LIFE AWOM
<b>Species</b>	
For each of the <u>main</u> species <u>directly</u> targeted by the project, please indicate:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– scientific name (in Latin). If the species is a priority species according to Annex II of the Habitats Directive or is on the list of priority bird species, please mark with an asterisk</li> <li>– the Annex(es) of the EU Birds or Habitats Directive where the species is listed, if relevant</li> <li>– population size within the project area. In case the project does not include actions targeting a well-defined area, please indicate the population size at regional, national or multinational level, as relevant</li> <li>– the conservation status within the project area. Please provide quantitative details. In case the project does not include actions targeting a well-defined area, please indicate the conservation status at regional, national or multinational level, as relevant</li> <li>– for bird species, please indicate whether the project area (if relevant) is used for breeding, wintering or staging.</li> </ul>	
<p>The LIFE AWOM project focuses on the Aquatic Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>)* that is listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive (Directive 79/409/EEC). The species is also on the list of priority EU bird species for funding under LIFE agreed by the Ornithological Committee in April 2021.</p> <p>The species is threatened globally and in Europe and is considered Vulnerable. In the European Union it is “only” listed as Near Threatened thanks to its recent partial recovery in Lithuania and Poland (BirdLife International 2022).</p> <p>In addition, it is listed in Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), in Category A in Annex 3 of the CMS African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan, and Appendix II of the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. It is also the subject of a Memorandum of Understanding under the CMS that extends conservation efforts to its staging and wintering areas in Africa.</p> <p>The species has been subject of a series of EU (as well as CMS and Bern Convention) Species Action Plans since 1996 (Heredia, 1996, Flade, 1998, Flade &amp; Lachmann, 2008). The Flade &amp; Lachmann (2008) plan was commissioned by the European Commission and prepared by BirdLife International as subcontractor to the “N2K Group” in the frame of Service Contract N#070307/2007/488316/SER/B2 “<i>Technical and scientific support in relation to the implementation of the 92/43 ‘Habitats’ and 79/409 ‘Birds’ Directives</i>”. The plan was updated in 2010 and 2016, this version being available on the web page of the CMS Aquatic Warbler MoU (<a href="https://www.cms.int/aquatic-warbler/sites/default/files/document/Doc_10_Aquatic%20Warbler_Revised%20Action%20Plan.pdf">https://www.cms.int/aquatic-warbler/sites/default/files/document/Doc_10_Aquatic%20Warbler_Revised%20Action%20Plan.pdf</a>).</p> <p>The Aquatic Warbler breeds in Eastern Europe: 2,900–5,500 pairs in Belarus (35% of the European and global population) and 3,000–4,000 pairs in Ukraine (30%), 3,200–4,500 pairs in Poland (33%), 50–240 pairs in Lithuania (1%). The German, Hungarian and Latvian populations in the EU and the Russian population outside of the EU have recently gone extinct. The species migrates mainly through EU member states and North African countries to its wintering ground in West Africa. The latest version of the action plan recognises the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, France, Spain, Portugal, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Morocco as migratory and Senegal, Mauritania, Mali and Ghana as wintering range states.</p> <p>The LIFE AWOM project focuses mainly on the EU member states that support almost the entire global population of Aquatic Warbler during the post-nuptial migration (Jiguet <i>et al.</i> 2011, Le Neve <i>et al.</i> 2018, Salewski <i>et al.</i> 2019, Flade 2021), i.e., Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal in the EU. These efforts complement ongoing and planned conservation actions in the breeding countries (Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Hungary and Ukraine under the proposed LIFE4AquaticWarbler project). The LIFE AWOM project also complements the actions in the EU staging countries with further actions in Africa. Here, it focuses on the Djoudj National Park and its vicinity in Senegal that is an important wintering and staging area for the EU breeding population. It also aims to promote research, capacity building and protection measures in other African countries hosting important staging areas such as Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria or (if and when the security situation allows) wintering sites in Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria.</p> <p>In the EU, the project will target a total of 22 staging sites in Spain, Portugal, France and Belgium to demonstrate restoration and habitat management techniques (T.3.1), but the project aims to address the entire site network in a more strategic manner, aiming to integrate the species requirements into the management and further development of the Natura 2000 network, and promoting larger scale habitat restoration benefiting the Aquatic Warbler under the implementation of the new EU Nature Restoration Law.</p> <p>In Senegal, the project targets the Djoudj, the most important wintering and staging site that is accessible under the current security conditions, which supports 776 (95% credible interval: 260 – 4,057) wintering Aquatic Warblers. Gap</p>	

filling surveys in other African countries aim to locate and quantify the importance of other staging and wintering sites that were indicated by earlier geolocator studies (Salewski *et al.* 2019, Flade 2021) or by species distribution modelling to be carried out under T.2.1 of this project but not yet checked by field work.

**Habitats**

For each of the main habitats directly targeted by the project, please indicate:

- name and Natura 2000 code, as indicated in the EU Habitats Directive. If the habitat is a priority habitat (according to Annex I of the Habitats Directive), please mark with an asterisk
- the % of the cover of the habitat type over the whole project area and for each sub-area
- the conservation status within the project area. Please provide quantitative details.

Not applicable. The sedge and reed marshes targeted by the project are not listed in the EU Habitat Directive.

**HISTORY OF CHANGES**

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.04.2021	Initial version (new MFF).



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## List of abbreviations

AW: Aquatic Warbler

AW MoU: CMS Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)

AWCT: BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team

BEN: all project beneficiaries

CAP: Common Agricultural Policy

CCA: community conservation area

CCU: co-beneficiary coordination units

CLM: Castilla La Mancha

CMS: Convention on Migratory Species

CO: Project Communications Officer

COO: coordinating organisation

CyL: Castilla and León

CTF: Communications Task Force

CV: Autonomous Communities of Valencia

D: deliverable

DPN: Direction des Parcs Nationaux (Senegalese National Parks Department)

eDNA: environmental DNA

EC: European Commission

GFS: gap filling surveys

GHG: greenhouse gases

FGN: Fundación Global Nature

FMigres: Fundación Migres

IAS: invasive alien species

ICO: Institut Català d'Ornitologia (Catalan Ornithological Institute)

ISAP: International Species Action Plan for the Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*

KPI: Key Performance Indicator

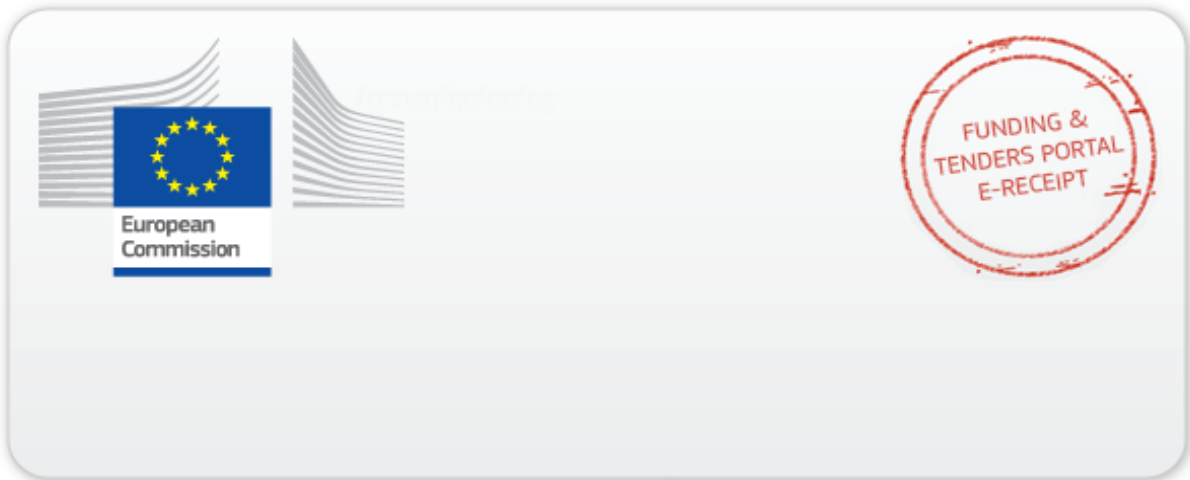
M: project month

MS: milestone

NNRP: national nature restoration plans

NWG: national working group

PAF: prioritised action framework  
PNOD: Parc national des oiseaux du Djoudj (Djoudj National Park)  
PM: Project Manager  
PCO: Project Communication Officer  
PSC: Project Steering Committee  
SAP: species action plan  
SDF: Natura 2000 Standard Data Form  
SDM: species distribution model  
SPA: Special Protection Area  
STEM: spatial-temporal models  
T: task/activity  
TdV: Tour du Valat  
TF: Task Force  
TOR: Terms of Reference  
TRS: Transferability and Replicability Strategy  
UAveiro: University of Aveiro  
Y: project year  
WI Africa: Wetlands International Africa Coordination Office  
WI-EA: Wetlands International European Association  
WP: work package



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