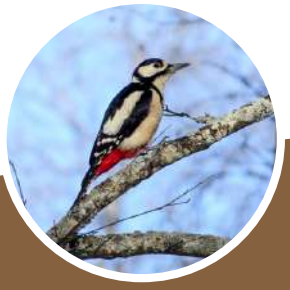
LIFE17 NAT/ES/000568 - LIFE BIORGEST

Innovative forest management strategies to enhance biodiversity in Mediterranean forests. Incentives and management tools



After-LIFE Communication Plan
September 2023

1. Executive summary of the After-LIFE Communication Plan

This document provides an overview of the Life Biorgest project's achievements, with emphasis on those which are most important in terms of their practical application, and details the manner in which the project is expected to continue once it ends, both in terms of monitoring the demonstrative stands and disseminating and communicating the project's results and products. It will describe the activities planned for the five years after the end of the project (October 2023 to September 2028), outlining when, by whom and with which sources of funding they will be conducted. The objective is to expand the impact of the project beyond the original funding period.

2. The LIFE Biorgest project

2.1. Project partners

The project has brought together different actors, experts from the sphere of conservation and forest management, under the premise of joining efforts to improve the biodiversity of our forests. It represents forest property (Forestry Consortium of Catalonia), project coordinator; administration (Forest Ownership Centre and National Centre for Forest Owners of France); research centres (Forest Sciences and Technology Centre of Catalonia and Ecological and Forestry Applications Research Centre); and conservation entities (Nature Conservation Network).

In addition, the following public institutions also took part as co-financers: the Government of Catalonia and the Girona Provincial Council.

2.2. Project objectives

The main objective of the project was to enhance the biodiversity of Mediterranean forests by incorporating specific measures and innovative practices into the planning and forest management tools, as well as through new financing and compensation measures. The aim was make biodiversity enhancement compatible with the economic sustainability of the forest management tasks, ensuring forest conservation while adapting the forests to climate change.

The specific objectives of the project were:

- **To improve the biodiversity of the most representative Mediterranean forests** by incorporating innovative practices into forest management, **balancing these forests' environmental, social, and economic assets**, and guaranteeing their adaptation to climate change.
- **To demonstrate the applicability** of the measures proposed with on-field implementation.
- To create a revised, accepted version of the **Biodiversity Potential Index** for Catalonia (PBI_Cat) to be used as a diagnostic and forest management and planning support tool.
- To develop new **funding mechanisms** to provide private forest owners with incentives to apply biodiversity improvement measures.
- **To incorporate the measures developed into the regional policies and standards** which govern Mediterranean forest management.
- **To transfer the results to all parties involved** in forest management, and raise **societal awareness** of the importance of improving biodiversity through sustainable and multifunctional forest management.

2.3. Project duration and actions

The project covered a period of five years (October 2018 to September 2023), during which time a total of 32 actions divided into the following 6 groups were carried out:

- **Preparatory actions (A):** Meetings with the owners of the selected stands and the signing of intervention agreements; definition and harmonisation of the baseline biodiversity indicators; initial diagnosis of each stand and design of conservation measures and forestry operations; and analysis of innovative funding mechanisms.

- **Compensation action (B):** Compensation for land owners in exchange for usage rights.

- **Conservation actions (C):** Innovative management models for enhancing biodiversity and preparation for natural dynamics in Mediterranean forests dominated by *Quercus ilex, Quercus humilis/faginea* and *Pinus halepensis*; application of the Potential Biodiversity Index and specific conservation measures; and integration of biodiversity promotion measures into the regulations and policies governing the management of Mediterranean forests.

- **Project impact monitoring actions (D):** Creation of an Expert Advisory Committee; evaluation of action areas and areas selected for natural dynamics from the point of view of the forestry operations, biodiversity and other ecosystemic functions; socioeconomic assessment of the project and project progress; and economic assessment of the implemented biodiversity enhancement measures and owner compensation mechanisms.

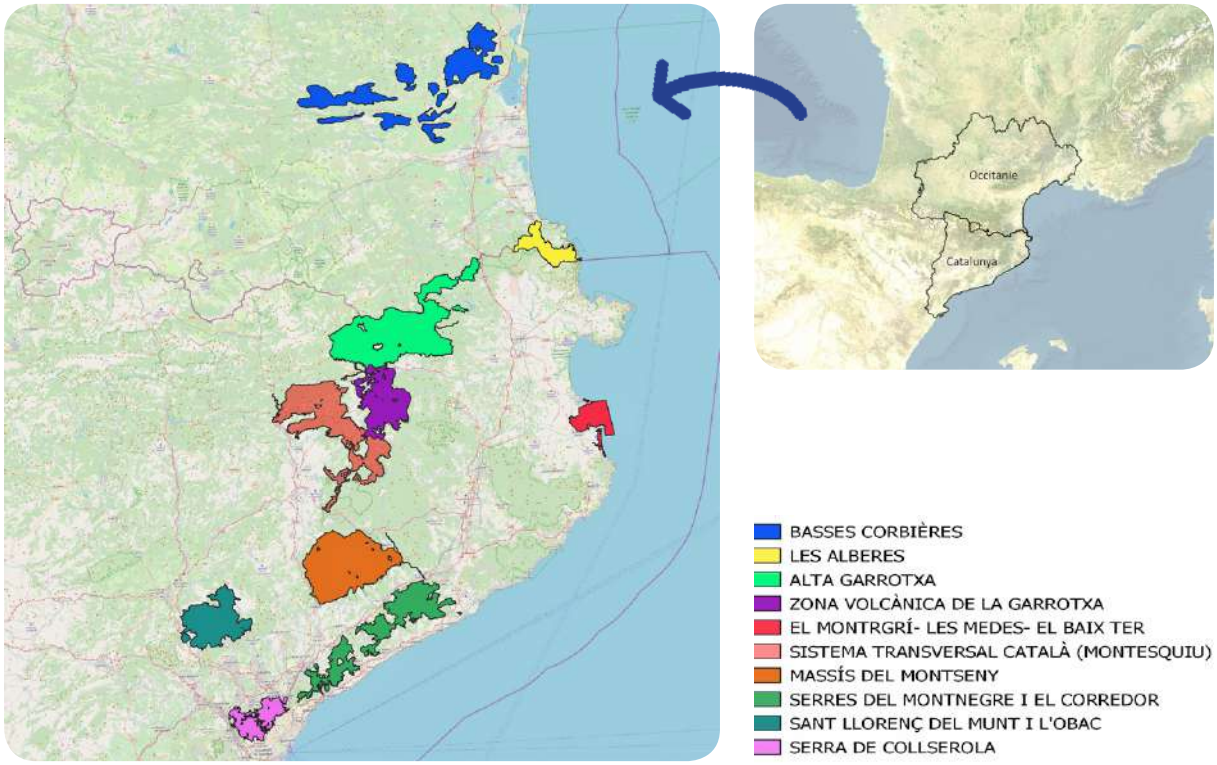
- **Communication and dissemination actions, particularly those referring to knowledge and technology transfer (E):** Actions targeting various audiences (owners, technical team members and managers, administration, local politicians and the general public), at a local, regional, national and international level.

- **Management and follow-up actions (F):** The aim of these actions was to ensure the adequate development of the project from a technical, administrative and financial standpoint.

2.4. Action areas

The project was carried out in Mediterranean forests, both in pure stands (>80% of the same species) and mixed **pine** (*Pinus halepensis*), **holm oak** (*Quercus ilex*) and **Mediterranean oak** (*Quercus humilis, Quercus canariensis and/or Quercus petraea*) formations, identified as Habitats of Community Interest (HCIs) in Annex I of the Habitats Directive.

In these formations, different demonstration stands have been chosen, most of them included in Natura 2000 Network, in which innovative measures to improve biodiversity have been implemented. Each action stand has an area of 8 hectares and a control plot of 1 hectare in which no action is taken and which serves as a control area.



3. Description of the forestry operations applied

In the project, three approaches to forest management were applied, based on: baseline forestry models; close-to-nature management (naturalistic forestry); and preparation for natural dynamics, preserving and enhancing mature forest characteristics. These management approaches were applied during the 2020-2021 dormant period in 22 stands, which altogether cover a surface area of 163 hectares, each of which incorporated biodiversity conservation and enhancement measures.

An additional 6 stands were also used for natural dynamics, with a total surface area of 57 ha. These were stands with certain mature forest characteristics, in which no forestry operations were performed.

Furthermore, in 23 of the selected stands (with a total surface area of 234 ha), imminent cutting work had already been scheduled by the owners. Here, project participants provided the owners technical support in the form of advice as to which conservation measures to incorporate into the management approach and follow-up on implementation.

The biodiversity conservation and restoration measures are based on conserving elements which are key to biodiversity in the stand and restoring other key elements in a more critical state.

Key element retention measures

The minimum condition required for sustainable forest management in terms of biodiversity is **to identify and maintain the structural elements that are relevant** for the biodiversity existing in the stand, such as:

- Protected species, prioritizing threatened ones
- Companion or sporadic tree species
- Fruit-producing species
- Floricultural species
- Various vegetation strata, and in particular the shrub layer
- Large living trees
- Live trees with tree related microhabitats (TreMs), especially those with large and/or rare TreMs in the stand
- Large standing and ground deadwood

Measures to restore key elements and enhance biodiversity

It is considered that the measures that actively restore key elements and promote forest diversification should:

- Favour the permanence and accelerate the development of the key elements that already exist in the stand
- Favour the presence of open spaces with flower species or regenerated trees and shrubs
- Generate large deadwood
- Recover or generate new aquatic and rocky environments

4. Main project outcomes

In addition to monitoring and assessing the action areas (through forest inventories and the sampling of bioindicator organisms or organisms of particular interest), the effects on the following were also evaluated: dasometric variables, ground cover, the capacity to host biodiversity, maturity indicators and biodiversity. The socioeconomic assessment undertaken as part of the project also made it possible to evaluate the effects on the economic balance.

It may be concluded that the project has succeeded in achieving the specific objectives proposed at the outset and proving that forest management is capable of conserving and enhancing biodiversity and accelerating and incorporating processes associated with natural dynamics.

The project's layman's report (https://lifebiorgest.eu/documentacion-y-productos) outlines the effects of the activities on all aforementioned variables. As a result, only the most relevant effects shall be discussed in the following sections.

4.1. Effects of the interventions on the dasometric variables, ground cover and vulnerability to fire

The actions, of moderate intensity, led to an overall decrease in competition, increased the proportion of large trees in most stands and helped maintain and enhance the diversity of tree species, liberating individuals from complementary tree species.

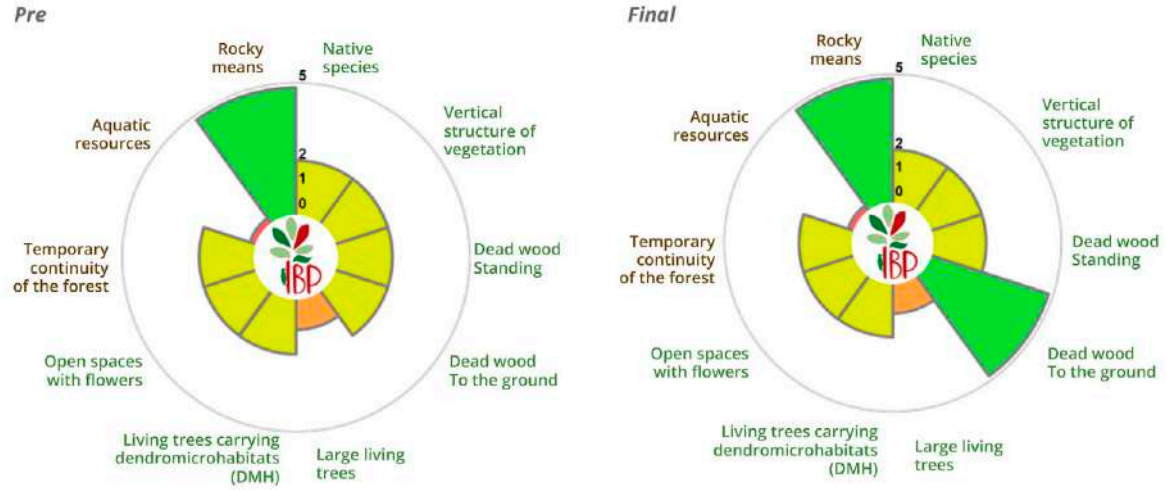
The amount of fallen deadwood increased in most stands as a result of cutting and not removing certain stems.

Overall, the actions reduced the ground cover and, despite the fact that the aim of the forestry operations was to create more complex structures, the cutting and clearing operations reduced the risk of crown fire in virtually all formations.

4.2. Effects of the interventions on the capacity to host biodiversity

The capacity to host biodiversity has been analysed using the Potential Biodiversity Index (PBI), adapted to the Mediterranean context within the framework of the project (PBI v.3; Baiges et al. 2022).

The capacity to host biodiversity has been maintained in 40% of the stands and has improved in 40% of them, mainly through the generation of deadwood and the retention of structural elements that are important for biodiversity. However, in the remaining 20% it has been reduced due to the decrease in vertical strata and the reduction of deadwood and/or large trees.



Evolution of PBI in a pure pine forest stand managed under the principles of close to nature forestry

4.3. Effect of interventions on maturity indicators

Maturity of most stands has been slightly improved by the implemented management, especially in mixed stands. The decrease in structural complexity values derived from the actions have been compensated by the increase in senescence (mainly due to the generation of deadwood), which has improved the overall maturity value of the forest.

4.4. Effects of interventions on biodiversity

No significant differences have been found before and after the treatments in any of the taxonomic groups analysed, since the actions have low intensity and therefore the structural change in a single intervention is low. Only pine forests show a tendency to increase in heliophilous vascular plants, attributable to the opening of the canopy. However, a positive response in the medium term from beetles and saproxylic fungi is expected, due to the increase in deadwood, and from birds and bats, due to the increase in the number and variety of cavities.

Author: Xavier Florensa

No significant differences have been detected between habitats, except for bryophytes, which prefer broadleaves due to the stability of the bark and because they have greater environmental humidity conditions.

As for threatened species, there is proven presence of forest bat (*Barbastella barbastellus*), which takes refuge in tree cavities. Shelter boxes are a medium-term resource to provide shelter for arboreal bats when there are not enough natural cavities.

The flight interception traps have allowed the identification of 20,074 specimens of 390 species of beetles, of which 288 are saproxylic, belonging to 61 families of beetles.

No impact by Scolytidae has been detected, so it can be concluded that **generated deadwood has not increased the risk of pests.**

4.5. Effects on the economic balance

The project has analysed opportunity costs derived from the implementation of management itineraries to improve biodiversity. As direct costs, those associated with the application of the PBI have been taken into account: field marking of additional actions (which are not exclusively for wood extraction, understorey clearings...), field workers training, project management, and silvicultural actions themselves: girdling of trees to create standing deadwood and cuttings to create lying deadwood. As indirect costs, wood value that is no longer extracted (income forgone by the property) and it is left to create deadwood, to maintain large trees and/or to maintain trees with tree related microhabitats, has been considered.

Based on cost, the actions may be distributed as follows:

5. Plan for communication and dissemination during the project

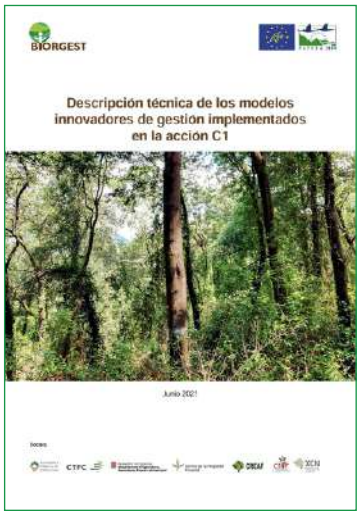
During the project, a large number of communication and dissemination activities were organised for both the general public and the main stakeholders involved in forest management (owners, managers, forest administration, conservation institutions and forestry companies). The main activities were:

5.1. General dissemination

- Project website (www.lifebiorgest.eu) in 4 languages (Spanish, Catalan, French and English)
- Informational brochure
- 9 newsletters
- 21 articles in technical journals
- 1 article in a scientific journal
- 51 media publications (TV, radio, podcasts, written press, digital press, online platforms and YouTube)
- 18 information panels
- Informational video

5.2. Main publications in technical sources

Technical description of the innovative management models implemented in stands dominated by *Quercus ilex*.



Technical description of the innovative management models implemented in stands dominated by *Pinus halepensis*.

Technical description of the innovative management models implemented in stands dominated by Mediterranean oaks.

Technical description of the management models used in preparation for natural dynamics.

Conservation action follow-up and assessment reports by habitat and management method.

Guides (simple and complete) for assessing maturity and biodiversity in Mediterranean forest stands.

Guide on recommendations and technical measures for enhancing biodiversity in Mediterranean forests: Integration into forest planning and management.

Data sheets and application protocols for the Potential Biodiversity Index.

Guide on recommendations for signing agreements for biodiversity enhancement activities with forest owners.

Guide on innovative funding tools and incentives for integrating biodiversity conservation into forest management: Compilation of applicable tools and recommendations.

Socioeconomic assessment report on the Life BIORGEST project.

Technical proposal concerning regulations, instructions and applications for integrating biodiversity into forest management.

5.3. Other publications and means of transfer

Products for publicising and disseminating the project

- The Potential Biodiversity Index (PBI) as a support tool for forest management. Paper at the 8th Spanish Forestry Congress
- Our forests are full of life: The Potential Biodiversity Index (PBI)
- Lessons from LIFE on ecological connectivity towards a coherent, functional and resilient network of protected areas
- Report on the networking trip to Florence (Italy): Good practices in forest management through biodiversity conservation
- Report on the Combined Life MixForChange + Life Biorgest Trip - Southern France: Forest management, biodiversity and adaptation to climate change
- Poster "*Vers un outil commun à l'échelle européenne et du bassin méditerranéen pour prendre en compte la biodiversité dans la gestion forestière: l'IBP*"
- Poster "Skidding channels and implementation of models for integrating biodiversity into forest management"

Education, training and capacity building

The project included 16 training and capacity building sessions:

- 1 academic training session
- 3 specialisation courses
- 4 training sessions in the Transfer Classrooms
- 7 transfer workshops
- 1 final seminar

Project participants took part in 19 conferences and technical congresses.

Two papers were also written on topics related to the project.

6. After-LIFE (2023-2028)communication and dissemination plan

Once the Life Biorgest project is over, the project beneficiaries will continue to work for an additional period of at least five years, from October 2023 to September 2028, to ensure that the gains are preserved. The aim is to continue to share and highlight the results of the project, in addition to raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity and forest management on a local, regional, national and European level. The target audience is as follows: private and institutional forest owners, forest managers and forestry companies, technical professionals, scientists and researchers, public institutions related to forest and environmental administration and the general public.

The following sections describe the actions proposed to ensure preservation of the results achieved as part of the Life Biorgest project.

6.1. Demonstrative stand monitoring actions

The 96 sample plots established during the project (including plots in both action and control stands) are permanent, making it possible to monitor changes in the demonstrative stands in the long term.

During the period 2023-2028, the following aspects are expected to be monitored:

- ecological and dasometric variables of a selection of demonstrative stands
- the capacity to host biodiversity of a selection of demonstrative stands
- the bat boxes installed in 17 stands
- the fungi and mycorrhizae, through soil samples collected in all stands
- the degree of maturity of the stands prepared for natural dynamics
- the ring-barked stems

The steps taken will help generate baseline information for future articles, seminars and other transfer and dissemination activities.

Action 1.
Ecological and dasometric monitoring

Of the 4 action stands under the responsibility of the Centre for Forest Ownership (CPF), we have selected those which are most relevant from the standpoint of ecological, dasometric and biodiversity element monitoring (Can Buscastell) and the most relevant in terms of their potential for training (the two stands at Can Planes) to form part of the CPF's network of demonstrative plots (NDP). This will ensure the continuity of the measures necessary to assess changes in the stands and the actions' long-term impact on diversity over time. The continuity of the NDP also ensures the dissemination of any results that may be obtained.

Forest inventories will be conducted every 5 years in the permanent plots established during the project in the 3 selected stands, which correspond to both control and action stands.

Partner responsible
CPF

Frequency of the measures
Once during the period 2023-2028

Source of funding
Own resources

Target audience
Forest owners, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities

Impact indicator
Number of plots inventoried

Action 2.
Monitoring of the capacity to host biodiversity

In the 3 aforementioned stands (Can Buscastell and the two at Can Planes), the Potential Biodiversity Index (PBI) will once again be applied after 10 years to assess changes in the capacity to host biodiversity. This follow-up activity will be supplemented with new complementary PBI inventories from: other European projects, the CPF's NDP and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Forest Projects (PROMACCS) in which preliminary PBI inventories have already been performed.

Partner responsible
CPF

Frequency of the measures
1 or 2 inventories in the period 2023-2028

Source of funding
Own resources or co-funding from European projects.

Target audience
Forest owners, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities

Impact indicator
Number of plots in which the PBI has been applied

Action 3.
Monitoring of bat boxes

The 5 different types of bat boxes that were installed in Life Biorgest stands during the spring of 2021 (139 boxes altogether) will be monitored in the coming years. This follow-up activity will form part of a programme for monitoring bat roosts associated with several projects and will be conducted by the CTFC's Biology Group. The monitoring activities will be carried out in the autumn of the various years, with a frequency that will be determined based on resource availability.

Partner responsible
CTFC

Frequency of the measures
The bat boxes will be revised at least once during the period 2023-2028

Source of funding
Own resources

Target audience
Forest owners, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities

Impact indicator
Number of bat boxes revised

Action 4.
Monitoring of saprophytic fungi and mycorrhizae

As part of the project's various sampling campaigns, soil samples were taken for use in genomics research to see the immediate effect

of the treatments on the community of fungi; pending additional resources from outside the Life Biorgest project.

Soil samples were taken in all stands, before and after the treatments. During After-Life, these samples are expected to be used to analyse the saprophytic fungi and mycorrhizae through metabarcoding.

Partner responsible
CTFC

Frequency of the measures
2023-2028

Source of funding
Funding from other projects

Target audience
Forest owners, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities

Impact indicator
Analysis of the saprophytic fungi and mycorrhizae

Action 5.
Monitoring of damage caused by bark beetles

Samples will once again be taken during a period of 2 years in the 6 Aleppo pine stands (pure and mixed: GOPhp, GOPhm, GpNPhp, GpNPhm, GNPhp, GNPhm) in which the post-activity monitoring of bark beetle colonisation was performed. In other words, samples will be taken from the 15 pine stems closest to the centre of the plot in the 3 plots from each stand (45 stems/stand x 4 stands = 180 pines) to assess the damage caused by bark beetles in living Aleppo pine stems. The sampling will be conducted in January and will be repeated in 2024 and 2025.

Partner responsible
CREAF

Frequency of the measures
2024 and 2025

Source of funding
Own resources

Target audience
Forest owners, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities

Impact indicator
Number of plots sampled

Action 6.
Expert monitoring of the degree of maturity

In the 6 stands prepared for natural dynamics (Action C4), an expert survey will be conducted to assess the degree of maturity. This will help determine whether and when further action is required to ensure that the maturity and associated biodiversity elements are sustained in the medium term (15 years). In the event funding from new projects is secured, samples will once again be taken in the permanent plots (5 plots x 6 stands = 30 plots) to quantify the degree of maturity more precisely.

Partner responsible
CREAF

Frequency of the measures
Once in 2027

Source of funding
Own resources or funding from other projects

Target audience
Forest owners, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities

Impact indicator
Number of expert surveys conducted

Action 7.
Monitoring of ring-barked and felled stems

In the 6 stands prepared for natural dynamics (Action C4), samples from ring-barked (295 trees) and felled (583 trees) trees will be taken every 3 years to assess the mortality rate, the wood's degree of decay and the quantification of new microhabitats. This monitoring activity will be supplemented by the monitoring of ring-barked and felled trees in other Mediterranean and sub-Alpine habitats (Scots pine, mountain pine and fir groves), carried out by the CREAF as part of other European projects.

Partner responsible	CREAF
Frequency of the measures	2026 and 2029
Source of funding	Own resources or funding from othe European projects
Target audience	Forest owners, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities
Impact indicator	Number of ring-barked and felled trees revised

6.2. Expansion of the bioindicator and PBI databases

Action 8.
Collection of data on direct and indirect bioindicators

Entry of all data on direct and indirect bioindicators into a database that is currently under construction (Access format) by the CTFC's Conservation Biology Group. This database will include information on bioindicators, forest structure and forest management from the various projects in which the CTFC's Conservation Biology Group has been involved. In coordination with the CTFC's Sustainable Forest Management Group, the database will be used by CTFC's pre- and post-doc fellows to obtain results associated with their doctoral theses and/or publications.

Partner responsible	CTFC
Execution period	Mainly 2024 and 2025
Source of funding	Own resources
Target audience	Scientists and researchers and public authorities
Impact indicator	Database created, with the data on project bioindicators entered

Action 9.
Expansion and enhancement of the PBI database

Over the next few years, information will continue to be added to the PBI database. The necessary updates will also be performed to make it easier to use and facilitate data processing. This task will entail updating and writing new reports, as well as exploring the possibility of drafting reports in conjunction with other countries in which the PBI is applied.

Partner responsible
CPF

Execution period
During the five-year period 2023-2028

Source of funding
Own resources

Target audience
Scientists and researchers and public authorities

Impact indicator
Updates performed in the PBI database

6.3. Continuous improvement of PBI and other applications

Action 10.
Expansion of the PBI

Efforts will continue to be made to validate the PBI. More specifically, there will be cooperation with the Life GOPROFORMED project to help expand the PBI to the rest of Spain. PBI calibration studies will also be completed with the CNPF and other experts.

Application of the PBI in forests to improve forestry planning in terms of correctly prioritising biodiversity enhancement.

Partner responsible
CPF-IDF France

Execution period
Between 2023 and 2025

Source of funding
Own resources or co-funding from European projects (Life GoProForMed)

Target audience
Forest owners, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities

6.4. Replicability of the integration of biodiversity into forest management

Action 11.
Advice for technical staff and forest owners

Depending on the calls for aid (integration and reserves) that are launched in the coming years to integrate biodiversity into productive management, the aim is to continue to provide advice to technical staff and owners on how to carry out the integration process and assess the outcome of this work. This advice will be supplemented by some of the actions due to take place as part of the Life GOPROFORMED project, the aim of which is to generate documentation and training to facilitate the application of the PBI by the various forestry sector stakeholders.

Follow-up will involve monitoring at least one property per year over the next three years. The data produced as a result of these PBI applications will be entered into the CPF's PBI inventory database.

Partner responsible
CPF

Execution period
Between 2023 and 2025

Source of funding
Own resources or co-funding from European projects (Life GoProForMed)

Target audience
Forest owners, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities

Impact indicator
Number of advisory activities performed

6.5. Communication and dissemination actions

Action 12.
Website maintenance

Maintaining the website is essential for raising awareness of the LIFE BIORGEST project, even after the project is over. At the end of the project, the structure and contents of the website will be revised and updated to highlight the most relevant products generated over the course of the project. Regular updates will also be carried out as the after-project communication plan develops. The domain www.lifebiorgest.eu will remain active for a period of at least 5 years following the end of the project.

Partner responsible CFC
Execution period During the five-year period 2023-2028
Source of funding Own resources
Target audience General public, forest owners and managers, forestry companies, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities
Impact indicator Number of unique users who visit the website during the after-LIFE period

Action 13.
Dissemination of the technical material published during the project

Dissemination of the publications and material created during the project will remain a priority, with a primary focus on those produced in the final months and which include the final results, such as the guides published as part of Action E7. Importance will also be given to disseminating any new technical articles that are published.

These dissemination tasks will be carried out through various channels, including:

- The project website.
- The websites and social media of the various beneficiaries.
- Papers at conferences and congresses.
- Technical meetings and networking activities.
- Technical transfer seminars and other training activities.

This will help ensure that the results of the project and the knowledge developed reach a broad and diverse audience.

Partner responsible CFC
Execution period Mainly 2024 and 2025
Source of funding Own resources
Target audience General public, forest owners and managers, forestry companies, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities
Impact indicator Distribution of all project materials, number of times each product is downloaded in electronic format

Action 14.
Printing of the Guide of technical recommendations and measures for the enhancement of biodiversity in Mediterranean forests. Integration in forest planning and management

Within the framework of the project, a guide of recommendations and technical measures for the improvement of biodiversity has been published, which includes a compilation of successful cases carried out in the project. This publication is only available in Spanish and in digital format. In the After-Life, the CPF undertakes to translate the publication into Catalan, English and French and to print 300 copies of the Guide in Catalan and 100 copies of the Guide in Spanish.

Partner responsible
CPF

Execution period
Year 2024

Source of funding
Own budget

Target audience
Forest owners and managers, forestry companies, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities

Impact indicator
Guide in Catalan, English and French published in digital format on the project website. And Guide in Spanish and Catalan published and distributed in paper format.

Action 15.
Publication of technical-scientific articles

The project's final results, as well as any new information that arises once the project is over, will be used to draft articles for technical and scientific journals. We expect to publish the following:

- 1 article based on the results of the monitoring of saproxylic beetles and their relationship with indirect biodiversity and maturity indicators
- 1 article based on the monitoring of the mortality rate, decay rate and appearance of microhabitats in ring-barked and felled trees by species, based on the attributes of the trees: size, height, width of the band, climate...
- 1 article related to the application of the PBI

Partner responsible
CREAF (the first two articles) and CPF-IDF France (the third article)

Execution period
Mainly 2025 and 2026

Source of funding
Own budget, Final Master's Degree Project (TFM) and co-funding from European projects.

Target audience
Forest owners and managers, forestry companies, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities

Impact indicator
Number of articles published

Action 16.
Applied training activities

Over the course of the project, technical seminars have proved to be an effective tool for sharing results. As a result, the plan is to continue organising this type of event in the future. The idea is to hold at least three technical seminars, which will either be organised directly by the partners or within the framework of existing transfer platforms, such as the CFC's Emili Garolera Technical Forestry Seminars or the Annual Technological Transfer Plan of the Government of Catalonia's Ministry of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda.

The following seminars are expected to take place:

- 2 project result feedback seminars in relation to how preparation for natural dynamics has been managed in project stands in natural parks controlled by the Barcelona Provincial Government and those run by the Government of Catalonia, which is also open to technical staff from other public authorities. The dissemination of the results is expected to encourage the bodies responsible for managing the parks to replicate this type of management in other stands with a certain degree of maturity.
- Depending on the calls for aid that are launched in the coming years to finance measures for integrating biodiversity into forest management and creating forest reserves, the aim is to continue to provide training and advice on how to assess forest maturity with a view to declaring forest reserves.
- 1 seminar or workshop related to the application of the PBI.

Partner responsible
All partners

Execution period
One seminar per year during the period 2023-2028

Source of funding
Own resources and funding from the Government of Catalonia's Ministry of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda.

Target audience
Forest owners and managers, forestry companies, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities

Impact indicator
Number of seminar participants

Action 17.
Participation in technical-scientific conferences and/or congresses

Project partners commonly take part in technical or scientific seminars, conferences and working groups. Seeing as these events are an excellent opportunity for sharing experiences about the projects on which they have worked or are currently working, the plan is to present the results of the Life BIORGEST project in at least two regional, national or European conferences or working groups.

Partner responsible
All partners

Execution period
Participation in two seminars between 2023 and 2028

Source of funding
Own resources and other resources related to participation in conferences and congresses

Target audience
Forest owners and managers, forestry companies, technical staff, scientists and researchers and public authorities

Impact indicator
Number of events in which they participate

Action 18.
Improvement of the Transfer Classrooms (Marteloscope Sites)

In the coming years, the Transfer Classrooms are expected to undergo a qualitative improvement, extending the concept to a larger learning area,

which may include: a static area in which to practise marking, inventories, etc., one or several action zones in which to discuss the effects of the management approach, areas of particular maturity, biodiversity itineraries, etc.

Partner responsible CPF
Execution period During the five-year period 2023-2028
Source of funding Funding from the Life GoProForMed and INFORMA projects
Target audience Technical staff
Impact indicator Number of Marteloscope Sites improved

Action 19.
Media appearances

At least 3 press releases are expected to be produced on the Life Biorgest project, leading to appearances in local, regional and national media.

Partner responsible All partners
Execution period 3 releases in 5 years (2023-2028)
Source of funding Own resources
Target audience General public
Impact indicator Number of press releases and media appearances

6.6. Monitoring actions on the adoption of the policy and regulatory tools generated in the project

Action 20.
Improvement of the regulations for integrating biodiversity into forest planning and management

A proposal will be written to amend ORDER ARP/122/2017, of 13 June, regulating forest management instruments, which will improve the stand diagnosis process and make it possible to integrate measures aimed at conserving and enhancing biodiversity. Furthermore, efforts will continue to be made to draft new ORGEST models that include multifunctional and close-to-nature management criteria and models which prioritise the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

Partner responsible CPF
Execution period 2023-2028
Source of funding Own budget, LIFE GOPROFORMED, LIFE UNCINATA and co-funding from other European projects.
Target audience Public authorities
Impact indicator Amendment of ORDER ARP/122/2017, of 13 June, regulating forest management instruments, and number of ORGEST models drafted

Contact:

CATALAN FORESTRY CONSORTIUM
C/ Jacint Verdaguer 3 • 17430 Santa Coloma de Farners • T. (+34) 972 84 27 08

www.lifebiorgest.eu • @LifeBiorgest

Partners

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